

RESOLUTION
OF THE SIXTH PLENARY SESSION
THE 12TH PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE
on the protection, care and improvement of people's health
in the new situation

I- SITUATION AND CAUSES

1 - After 25 years of implementation of the Resolution of the fourth plenary session of the 7th Party Central Committee, the Party's guidelines and State's policies and laws, many important results in the protection, care and improvement of the people's health have been achieved, making a great contribution to the cause of national construction and defense.

The system of policy and legislation has been improved. The network of health facilities has been expanded around the country. The quantity and quality of physicians and health workers have increased. State budget and social resources for investment in protection, care and improvement of people's health have increased. Health financing policy has been clearly reformed; the coverage of health insurance is expanding. Household out-of-pocket expenditure on health care services has declined rapidly. The application of information technology has been gradually stepped up.

Preventive medicine has been strengthened, preventing dangerous diseases and large epidemics. Factors affecting health such as environment, food, fitness training, spiritual life ... have been paid more attention. The capacity and quality of health care services have been improved, reaching the most advanced techniques in the world. Pharmacy and medical equipment have progressed. The model of military-civilian health care has been promoted and worked effectively, especially in remote, border and island areas.

The health indicators, life expectancy have been improved. Viet Nam is considered by the international organizations as a bright spot for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Ethics, service style, service attitude, qualification of health workers have been better. Many examples of physicians and health workers have been socially respected for their dedicated service to patients.

2- However, the protection, care and improvement of people's health has many limitations and shortcomings. The quality of living environment and working environment, nutrition, fitness training, spiritual life ... in many places have not been paid much attention. Many bad habits and behaviors have not been eliminated basically.

The organizational structure of health sector is still unstable, working not really effective, especially preventive medicine, local health facilities and primary health care. The quality of services, especially at the lower levels, does not meet the requirements. The overcrowding in some higher-level hospitals has slowly been solved. Bad attitude and behavior of some health workers along with a number of incidents, medical cases have caused discomfort and pressing in the society. The advantages of traditional medicines, traditional herbal medicine have not been promoted effectively.

State management on private health care, drug supply and medical equipment has many weaknesses. The work of ensuring food hygiene and safety and environmental hygiene has many limitations. Pharmaceutical industry, medical equipment production have developed very slowly. Renovation of the mechanism of operation and management in public health facilities remains confusing. Training, use, structure, compensation and benefits package of health workers are inadequate.

There have been large differences in the health indicators from region to region. The rate of stunting is high. Vietnamese stature has been slowly improved. The number of healthy life years has not increased correspondingly with life expectancy.

3- The above limitations and shortcomings are due to objective and subjective reasons, of which the main causes are:

- The capacity of the implementation of resolutions of the Party and law of the State is still limited. The awareness on the role and position of the work of protection, care and improvement of the people's health is sometimes incomplete and deep; this work is not considered as a pillar in the rapid and sustainable development of the country.

- In awareness and action, local health facilities and preventive medicine have not really been considered as basic matters. The thinking of being dependent on state subsidies is still heavy, lack of synchronous and suitable mechanism for people to participate in health insurance and strongly attract non-state resources for health care development.

- The economic development of our country is low. Financial resources do not meet the requirements of health care development, health care for the people. State budget is still limited, people's income is low, economic potentials are not strong, while the demand for health care of people is higher and more diversified; Investment requirement for health care is great. Pharmaceuticals and medical equipment must be imported in the international plan of cost price.

- The renovation of public non-business agencies is slow, confusing, lack of drastical leadership. Mechanisms and policies on health insurance, service charges, organizational structure, staffing ... reflect a lack of synchronism.

- Negative impact of market mechanism, unequal competition; there are also large disparities in incomes between public and private health care facilities

and between divisions in a unit. Medical ethics education has been relaxed in many places. In some places, the market mechanism is considered a unique manner, in which patients are only customers.

II- VIEWPOINTS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Viewpoints

- Health is the most valuable asset of every person and the whole society. protection, care and improvement of people's health is the duty and responsibility of all people, the entire political system and the whole society, which requires the active participation of Party Committees and government at all levels, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, sectors in which the health sector plays a key role.

- Investment for the protection, care and improvement of the people's health is the investment for development. The State prioritizes budget for investment and adopts mechanisms and policies to mobilize and efficiently use resources to protect, care for and improve people's health; provides public services, ensures basic services, and promotes public-private partnerships, private investment, and provides on-demand services.

- Build a national Vietnamese medicine of science and public nature. Establish a health system which is equitable, quality, effective and internationally-integrated under the concept prevention is better than cure; preventive medicine is the key factor, the system of local health facilities is the foundation; specialized medicine is synchronized and balanced with community health; link traditional medicine with modern medicine, military medicine and civil medicine. Development of pharmaceutical materials, pharmaceutical industry and medical equipment.

- Towards a comprehensive coverage of health care and universal health coverage; all people are medically managed and provided health care services; ensure equality in rights and obligations in access to health insurance and health care services. Prices of health care services must be correctly and adequately calculated and adopt price mechanism, co-payment mechanism to firmly develop the system of local health facilities.

- Health care is a special profession. Human resource in the health sector must meet professional and ethical requirements; they should be recruited, trained, used and behaved in a special manner; the health care network must be expanded and close to people; to be directed uniformly on profession from the Central to local levels throughout the country, simultaneously, ensure the leadership and direction of local Party committees and government.

2- Objectives

Overall objectives

Improve both physical and mental health, stature, longevity, life quality of the Vietnamese. Establish a health care system which is equitable, quality, effective and internationally-integrated. Build a national Vietnamese medicine of

science and public nature. Ensure all people are medically managed and provided health care services. Build the team of health workers towards the motto "a good doctor is like an affectionate mother" with good professional capability approaching international level. Improve competitiveness in the chain of production, supply of pharmaceuticals and health care services.

Specific objectives

Until 2025:

- Life expectancy is about 74.5 years, the number of healthy life years is at least 67 years.
- The rate of participation in health insurance reaches 95% of the population. The share of household out-of-pocket expenditure for health care is reduced to 35%.
- The expanded vaccination rate is at least 95% with 12 vaccines. Reduce child mortality: under 5 years old: 18.5‰; under 1 year: 12.5‰.
- The stunting rate for under-five children is under 20%. The rate of obesity in adults is below 12%. The average height of the 18-year-old people: 167 cm for men and 156 cm for women.
- Strive for over 90% of the population to be medically managed; 95% of commune, ward and township health stations perform preventive measures, management and treatment of some non-communicable diseases.
- Achieve the rates: 30 hospital beds, 10 doctors, 2.8 university pharmacists, 25 nurses per 10,000 people. The proportion of private hospital beds is 10%.
- The rate of people's satisfaction with health care services is over 80%.

Until 2030:

- Life expectancy is about 75 years, with the number of healthy life years of at least 68 years.
- The rate of participation in health insurance achieves over 95% of the population. The share of household out-of-pocket expenditure for health care is reduced to 30%.
- The expanded vaccination rate is 95% with 14 vaccines. Reduce child mortality: under 5 years old: 15‰; under 1 year: 10‰.
- The stunting rate for under-five children is under 15%. The rate of obesity in adults is below 10%. The average height of the 18-year-old people: 168.5 cm for men and 157.5 cm for women.
- Strive for over 95% of the population to be medically managed; 100% of commune, ward and township health stations perform preventive measures, management and treatment of some non-communicable diseases.
- Achieve the rates: 32 hospital beds, 11 doctors, 3.0 university pharmacists, 33 nurses per 10,000 people. The proportion of private hospital beds is 15%.

- The rate of people's satisfaction with health care services is over 90%.
- Basically end AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis and eliminate malaria.

III- MAJOR TASKS AND SOLUTIONS

1. Enhance the leadership of the Party and State management, promote the participation of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations and the entire society in the protection, care and improvement of people's health.

- Party committees and government at all levels focus the direction on the work of the protection, care and improvement of people's health, considering it one of the most important political tasks. Unity of cognition and determination of the whole political system and the people in protecting, caring and improving the health of themselves, their families and the community.

- Enhance the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of state management in the protection, care and improvement of the people's health. Include health objectives and targets and factors affecting health such as the environment, fitness training, sports and culture ... into socio-economic development programs and plans of all sectors and levels. Strengthen the supervision, inspection of the implementation of health regulations and policies and health-related fields.

- Strongly promote the role of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, mass organizations and the entire community in the work of protection, care and improvement of people's health. Clearly and specifically assign responsibilities to each sector, each agency and mass organization in implementing the objectives and solutions for protection, care and improvement of health, firstly in ensuring food hygiene and safety, environmental protection, fitness training, building a civilized lifestyle, participating in universal health insurance and implementing regulations on epidemic prevention, disease prevention and treatment.

- Renew and raise the effectiveness of propaganda, emulation movements and campaigns with contents and criteria related to the work of protection, care and improvement of health. Promote the supervisory role of the people and create favorable conditions for the mobilization of social organizations and religions to participate in the protection, care and improvement of people's health according to the provisions of law.

2- Improvement of people's health

- Focus on raising awareness, changing behavior, raising the responsibility of the entire political system, the whole society and each person; Develop and implement projects and programs on improving the health and stature of Vietnamese people. Pay attention to the conditions for protection, care and improvement of the people's health, especially in rural, mountainous and island areas.

- Recommend, disseminate nutrition, diet rations suitable for each group of populations as well as materials, taste of the Vietnamese. Packaged food products must contain sufficient information on ingredients, energy and health warnings on

the package. Implement necessary micronutrients programs for pregnant women, breastfeeding women, children and the elderly.

- Urgently complete the system of standards and indicators on food safety. Implement food safety control based on risk assessment, chain production, traceability of the origin.

- Concentrate on drug prevention and control and treatment for drug addicts. Implement measures to reduce consumption of alcohol, beer, cigarettes.

- Basically renovate physical and psychological education, increase the number of elective subjects in schools, closely combining with training outside schools. Strongly promote the movements of fitness training. Strengthen school health.

- Implement synchronous measures to minimize negative impacts from environmental pollution and climate change on health. Focus resources on building and upgrading water supply and drainage systems; ensure access to clean water and hygienic latrines; waste treatment; overcome pollution of rivers and production facilities. Strengthen the improvement of canals and ponds; and limit the leveling and filling of canals and ponds; prevent the abuse of chemicals in aquaculture.

- Promote the effectiveness of cultural and sport facilities, organize cultural and sport activities. Strengthen propaganda and mobilization to build a civilized, healthy lifestyle, keep good hygienic habits; eliminate backward practices that negatively affect health.

- Synchronously implement measures to prevent and control disasters, ensure traffic order and safety, labor safety; prevent and control accidents, injuries, fires, explosions, occupational diseases.

3- Enhance the capacity of disease prevention and control associated with reform of local health facilities.

- Ensure medical security, strengthen and improve the effectiveness of disease prevention and control, prevent epidemics from occurring. Timely response to emergencies. Increase domestic resources for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Firmly strengthen the vaccination system. Increase the number of vaccines in the expanded vaccination program in line with the budget.

- Development of family medicine. Synchronously implement prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; focus on preventive medicine, improve capacity for screening, early detection and control of diseases; promote the management and treatment of non-communicable diseases, chronic diseases, long-term care at local health facilities. Promote military-civilian health cooperation and health care services in border areas and islands. Link local health facilities with private clinics, oriental medicine clinics.

- Strongly reform the mechanism and mode of operation of commune-level health care so that commune-level health care would play the frontline role in

disease prevention and health care. Synchronously implement a system of information technology in management of commune health stations, vaccination, disease management, people's medical records associated with health insurance card management and health insurance payment.

- Form an electronic health record system to each person. Update information, health indicators during medical visits. Develop a proper mechanism and roadmap, step by step implement this so that everybody will be medically monitored, managed and provided periodical health examination.

- Pay special attention to maternal and child health, especially in mountainous, remote, difficulty areas, border and island areas. Provide health care for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with war-caused complications and the priority populations; develop appropriate models for the elderly care.

4- Improve the quality of health care services, basically overcome the hospital overcrowding

- Develop a complete system of health care services and rehabilitation in each provinces and cities under the Central Government, along with the system of hospitals of the armed forces; strengthen military-civilian health coordination.

- Complete the system of treatment regimens, procedures and guidelines unified throughout the country. Issue evaluation criteria, conduct independent testing and classify hospitals according to quality in conformity with international practices.

- Implement the roadmap for inter-level health insurance and services; the roadmap for accepting test results across health facilities in association with raising the quality of services and adopting policies to encourage people to use services at lower levels.

- Develop the network of satellite hospitals; strengthen training, rotate health workers, transfer technology to lower levels. Promulgate the list of technical services at all levels, which must be fully capable of implementation, ensure the quality of each technical service evenly among the levels.

- Develop and implement programs on development of traditional medicine, intensively combining with modern medicine in disease prevention, medical examination and treatment, functional rehabilitation and improvement of health.

- Develop comprehensively and create an equal environment in technical support and transfer among public and private health care facilities.

- Renew service style and attitude, improve medical ethics; build green, clean, beautiful, safe and civilized hospitals aiming to provide comprehensive care for patients.

- Accelerate administrative reform, apply information technology in hospital management, health insurance assessment, electronic medical records, remote diagnosis, testing, medical examination and treatment.

- Strengthen health care services for beneficiaries of welfare. Promote the advantages of health care of the armed forces; implement flexible models suitable to the conditions of each place so as to ensure the provision of health care services for people in remote, border and island areas.

5- Promote the development of the pharmaceutical sector and medical equipment

- Ensure that medicines are of sufficient in quantity, good in quality with reasonable prices, meeting the demand for disease prevention and treatment, functional rehabilitation, encourage the use of home-made medicines.

- Strengthen concentrated bidding, reduce the prices of drugs, equipment, chemicals and medical supplies, ensuring publicity and transparency. Perfect the mechanism of investment, procurement and strict control of quality, prevent losses and waste.

- Strictly manage imported medicines. Strengthen the drug distribution system, ensuring discipline, efficiency, professionalism. Strictly abide by the provisions on the right of drug distribution, prevent unpermitted enterprises from distributing drugs. Focus the management on wholesalers, retailers, pharmacies in and outside hospitals. Implement synchronous solutions to trace the origin of drugs, correct the situation of selling drugs without prescriptions. Apply information technology, network connection, ensure origin control, prices of drugs purchased, sold at each drugstore nationwide.

- Raise the capacity of research and production of drugs and vaccines. Invest enough resources in mastering the technology of producing new generation vaccines, combination vaccines or multiple vaccines, basically meeting the demand for expanded vaccination in the country and proceeding to export. Encourage businesses to invest in the production of medicines, vaccines, biologicals, medical equipment and supplies, and deepen their participation in the pharmaceutical value chain in the region and in the world.

- Promote research, testing, justification of the effect of treatment methods, drug-free treatment, prescriptions and traditional medicines. Assist in detecting, registering, recognizing intellectual property and commercializing traditional medicines; honor and guarantee the interests of famous physicians.

- Adopt specific policies in the development of pharmaceutical materials, especially rare and precious pharmaceutical materials; prioritize investment and development of specialized farming areas, forming linkages in the production, preservation and processing of pharmaceutical materials.

- Step up the prevention and control of smuggling, production and trading of fake and poor-quality medicines and foodstuffs. Strictly control functional foods and goods which may cause harms to health. Strengthen the quality control of imported pharmaceutical materials; gradually reduce dependence on the sources of foreign pharmaceutical materials.

6- Development of human resources and medical science and technology

- Renovate fundamentally and comprehensively the work of training human resources for health, meeting both ethical and professional requirements in conditions of proactive and active integration into the world. Urgently complete the law provisions and implement the framework of the national education system as well as the national level framework for training human resources for health, bring into play the responsibilities and role of hospitals in training and development of university hospitals.

- Establish the national medical councils, organize examinations and grant practice certificates with definite term in conformity to international practice. Piloting an independent organization to issue certification of medical practices.

- Improve the capacity of research on medical, pharmaceutical, biomedical science and technology. Promote the application and transfer of advanced techniques and develop human resources specialized in medical equipment. Adopt a mechanism of assigning responsibilities and honoring hospitals, research institutes, doctors and scientists who participate in training human resources for health.

- Provide health workers with good compensation and benefits package. Determine the starting salary in accordance with training time. Adopt policies that are strong enough to encourage qualified people to work in local health facilities, in remote and isolated areas, border areas, islands and in preventive medicine, forensic medicine, mental health, TB, leprosy, ...

- Enhance the training and upgrading of professional qualifications and ethics for health workers. Strictly handle acts of violating professional regulations and professional ethics, acts of harming dignity and health of physicians; ensure the security, order and safety of health facilities.

7- Renovation of the provision of health care services and management system

- Continue renovating and perfecting the system of organizational structure of health sector towards streamlined, efficient and effective, internationally-integrated. Ensure the unified direction on profession from the Central to local levels throughout the country, simultaneously, ensure the leadership and direction of local Party committees and government.

- Continue arranging the centers and units performing preventive medicine tasks at central and provincial levels, establish a system of disease control centers at all levels and link it to the disease control network in the world.

- Rearrange testing units to form a system of agencies controlling pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs and medical equipment, performing international integration.

- Organize the system of health care service provision at 3 professional levels. Organize the system of commune, ward and township health stations in

association with school health and suitable to the characteristics of each locality. Strongly develop the emergency system in the community and before entering the hospital.

- Basically, Ministries (except Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Public Security), ministerial-level agencies do not manage hospitals; The Ministry of Health only manages a few leading hospitals. Concentrate on perfecting provincial general hospitals before establishing new specialized hospitals at provincial level. Adjust and arrange hospitals so that the people can have access to hospitals conveniently in geography. Piloting the chain of hospitals. Encourage the strong development of non-public hospitals, health care facilities, nursing facilities, especially non-profit facilities.

- Raise the efficiency and effectiveness of state management, continue perfecting the legal system on protection, care and improvement of the people's health. Strengthen the inspection and strict handling of violations. Promote administrative reform, apply information technology in management, service provision, reduce troubles, create favorable conditions for people.

8. Strongly renovate health financing

- Increase investment and step up the process of restructuring the state budget in the health sector so as to mobilize resources for the comprehensive implementation of protection, care and improvement of the people's health, beneficiaries of welfare, ethnic minority people, mountainous, border and island areas.

- Prioritize the budget allocation, ensuring the increase rate of expenditure on health higher than that of the State budget. Concentrate state budget on preventive medicine, local health facilities, hospitals in difficulty areas, border and islands, leprosy, TB, mental health ...; spend at least 30% of the health budget on preventive medicine.

- Increase excise taxes on goods harming health such as alcoholic beverages, carbonated drinks and cigarettes to limit consumption.

- Implement the principle that public health is mainly funded by state budget. Health care services are paid by people and health insurance. Primary health care is paid by health insurance, people and state budget; health insurance for employees must be jointly contributed by employer and employees; state budget guarantees for some beneficiaries of welfare. Issue "basic health service package paid by health insurance" in line with the payment ability of the health insurance fund and the "basic health service package paid by the state" in line with the state budget; simultaneously, mobilize resources to provide primary health care and manage people's health.

- The state budget, health insurance will ensure the payment for services at base rate; service users pay for excess amounts. Develop a mechanism for service charges and appropriate co-payment mechanism in order to encourage people to

pay medical visits to lower-level health facilities, higher-level health facilities provide services which can not be provided by lower-level health facilities.

- Strongly renovate the management and operation of public non-business units in health sector. Promote the autonomy on professional tasks, organizational structure, personnel and finance in association with accountability, publicity and transparency. Apply administration model like business administration for public non-business units in health sector in ensuring regular expenditures and investment expenditures. Adopt preferential policies on land, credit ... to encourage expanding, upgrading and modernizing of health facilities, meeting the people's medical examination and treatment requirements, including high-income earners and foreigners.

- Step up the socialization and mobilization of resources for the development of the health system. Diversify forms of public-private partnership, ensuring transparency, publicity and fair competition, regardless of public-private health facilities in the provision of health services. Encourage organizations and individuals to invest in building health facilities (including primary health care), focusing on providing high quality services, on-demand services. Non-profit health facilities and elderly care establishments shall enjoy tax exemption and reduction according to the provisions of law.

- Strengthen state management, build and implement synchronous solutions to prevent, control and stop the abuse of socialization policy in order to abuse public resources for “group benefits” that creates inequalities in access to health services.

- Step by step transfer regular expenditures from the state budget directly allocated to health facilities to support the health insurance participants in joining the roadmap to calculate health service costs correctly and fully. Raise the effectiveness of the medical fund for the poor. Step up the mode that the state assigns tasks, order and implement price mechanisms in association with the quality of services and encourage the use of health services at the lower-level health facilities.

- Implement synchronous solutions for universal health insurance. Adjust the rates of payment suitable to the conditions of economic development, income of people and quality of services. Diversify health insurance packages. Strengthen linkages and cooperation between social health insurance and commercial health insurance. Raise the quality and capacity of health insurance assessment, ensuring objectivity and transparency. Implement synchronous solutions to prevent the abuse, selfish gain, ensuring the balance of the health insurance fund and the interests of health insurance participants and health facilities.

9- Actively integrate in the world and enhance the efficiency of international cooperation

- Strengthen cooperation and active integration, take advantage of technical, training and financial assistance of other countries and international organizations.

Strengthen international cooperation in the prevention and combating of crimes in the medical – pharmaceutical field.

- Actively negotiate and effectively implement bilateral and multilateral medical cooperation agreements. Actively participate in developing policies, addressing regional and global health issues, and enhancing the role and international status of Vietnamese medicine. Promote the spread of traditional medicines and pharmacy to other countries in the world.

- Harmonize procedures and processes of health care with ASEAN and the world. Strengthen the development and application of in-country health norms and standards by updating information from the world and the region. Strive to achieve the UN's sustainable development goals for health; Pre-completion of some goals.

IV- IMPLEMENTATION

1- The Appointed Party Committee of the National Assembly, the Appointed Party Committee of the Government shall lead and guide the perfection of legislation related to the protection, care and improvement of the people's health. Enhance the supervision of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Council for Ethnic Affairs and the Committees of the National Assembly in this field.

2- Party committees of provinces and cities, Central Committee commissions, Appointed Party committees and Party committees directly under the Central Committee shall draw up plans with specific tasks, solutions and schedules in line with their respective functions and duties to implement the Resolution.

3- The Central Commission for Propaganda and Education shall assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with the Appointed Party committees of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Information and Communications to organize the study and thorough dissemination of the content and results of the implementation of the Resolution.

4- The Appointed Party Committee of the Government shall assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with Central Committee commissions, Appointed Party committees and Party committees directly under the Central Committee to monitor, inspect, supervise, review, sum up regularly, periodically report to the Politburo, Secretariat on the results of implementation of the Resolution./.

**ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL
COMMITTEE
GENERAL SECRETARY**

Recipients:

- Party committees of provinces and cities,
- Central Committee commissions, Appointed Party committees and Party committees directly under the Central Committee,

- Party committees of Central non-business units,
- Members of the Party Central Committee
- Archives: Cabinet of the Party Central Committee

Nguyen Phu Trong