

Closing Remarks by Mr. E. C. Anyaoku Assistant Secretary-General

After the experience of the last nine days and judging from the report finally adopted at yesterday's session, I think it can be said without contradiction that this Conference has thoroughly covered its agenda.

Both in the plenary sessions and in the Committees, there has been full participation by the Conference community.

Food and nutrition have been provided for us in abundance, through the generous hospitality we have received.

Co-operation between Health Ministries and representatives of medical schools has been close and fruitful.

Changes in health care delivery systems in member countries have, I am sure, been stimulated.

And Commonwealth collaboration in the health sector has without doubt been enhanced.

Mr. Chairman, may I say a special word of thanks to you as Conference Chairman for conducting this meeting so efficiently, so helpfully and so genially – and to the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees, not only for their sustained hard work and valuable expertise which have contributed so much to the success of the Conference, but also for the understanding assistance they have given their Committee staff.

Planning and preparing the arrangements for this Conference, Mr. Chairman, began both in the Secretariat and in your own Department many months ago. And we both received considerable guidance from delegates at the Pre-WHA Meeting in Geneva last May.

The Secretariat is most appreciative of the generous support and co-operation we have received from the Government of New Zealand. For the splendid organisation and all the work so cheerfully and unstintingly contributed by all your officers – our New Zealand colleagues who have so quickly become our friends – we owe a large debt of gratitude.

Mr. Chairman, this Conference has arrived at many conclusions and recommendations which will be far-reaching in their effect. It has also provided an opportunity for important decisions by representatives meeting in regional groups.

May I pledge, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the determination of the Secretariat to apply itself fully to the task of implementing them.

At the same time, I should like to acknowledge with thanks the compliments kindly paid to the Secretariat by delegates during the course of this meeting. We shall endeavour to be worthy of them in the months to come and will in this respect no doubt be sustained by the encouragement and promise of new resources that have flowed from the deliberations of the Conference.

Perhaps before concluding I should refer to the question of the venue for the next Conference, now to be called the Sixth Meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers. The Secretariat has been glad to note the offers to host the meeting made, either in their speeches or in communications to the Secretariat, by the Governments of Ghana, Swaziland and Sierra Leone. As is customary, these and other offers that may be received will be followed by consultations in the expectation that in due course a decision will be reached at a Pre-WHA Meeting on the matter.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, may I on behalf of the Secretary-General and all my colleagues in the Secretariat, offer our sincere thanks for all the help and hospitality we have been so freely given.