

PREFACE

The study was undertaken to prepare an inventory of pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmaceutical packaging plants in the developing member countries of the Commonwealth. Some basic economic indicators and health-related statistics have also been included in the study. In addition, pharmaceutical data in respect of qualified personnel, educational institutions, distribution channels, total and state sector consumption and production figures have been obtained and/or estimated for each country.

The study has revealed the gross disparities on health expenditures, drug consumption and pharmaceutical production in the low income developing countries compared with those in the industrialised countries. Similar disparities were seen in relation to the various regional groups.

Recommendations are made for action on the part of individual countries. Proposals have also been made for regional co-operation where it can be productive and results-oriented. Specific attention has been drawn to the role of the Commonwealth Secretariat for taking action to organise and assist the countries and regions in the implementation of the recommendations.

The overall objective of the study is that the material is used as a basis for in-depth discussion by the decision-makers in pharmaceutical management, administration and profession in the Commonwealth countries in order to develop pharmaceutical policies. The data from the 49 Commonwealth countries can also be used for planning the development of the pharmaceutical industry in other developing countries.