



# Skin Diseases as Global Public Health Priority

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The **78th World Health Assembly (WHA)**, for the **first time**, recognised **skin health** as a **global priority** by adopting the resolution ‘**Skin diseases as a global public health priority**’.

- This resolution was led by countries like **Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, and Togo**, redefining **skin health** as a **global public health, equity, and dignity issue**, shifting it beyond **cosmetic concerns** and spotlighting a burden affecting **1.9 billion people**, especially in [low- and middle-income nations \(LMICs\)](#).

## Key Highlights of WHA Resolution on Skin Health

- **Global Action Plan:** A **Global Action Plan** will be developed by **WHA-80 (2027)** with a focus on **prevention, early detection, treatment, and enhancing environmental resilience**.
- **Surveillance & Diagnostics:** Emphasises strengthening **disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity**, and addressing [Antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#) and **climate-linked skin conditions**.
- **Global Cooperation:** [WHO](#) resolution urges **integration of skin disease care** into **primary health systems**, promotion of **inclusive research** (especially for **skin of colour** and [neglected diseases](#)), improved **access to treatments**, and development of **national registries and frontline capacity**.
  - **India**, with its **high skin disease burden**, can leverage this to strengthen **public dermatologic care**, boost **research**, expand **primary care training**, and advocate for **insurance coverage**.

## World Health Assembly (WHA)

- It is the **decision-making body of WHO** which meets **annually in Geneva** to set policies, oversee **financial administration**, and approve the **programme budget**, playing a vital role in shaping **global health priorities** and coordinating **international health responses**.

# Common Skin Disorders & Diseases



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