

**Briefing**  
on the  
**Seventeenth Meeting of the  
Regional Consultative Committee**  
and on the  
**Fortieth Session of the  
Regional Committee for the  
Eastern Mediterranean**



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean  
Alexandria, Egypt  
October 1993

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# REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

## Functions of the Regional Consultative Committee

The Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) was first established following a resolution adopted by the Thirtieth Session of Regional Committee in 1983. It is composed of eight members, designated by the Regional Director, acting in their own personal capacity, that is, they do not represent their governments. The terms of reference of the RCC include advising the Regional Director on policy and strategy in the Region for the development of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), preparing the programme budget, reviewing methods of work of the Regional Committee, and any other matters referred to it by the Regional Director. Membership is initially for two years for half of the members, and three years for the other half. The RCC meets once a year, usually in late August/early September<sup>1</sup>.

## Seventeenth meeting of the RCC

The seventeenth meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee was held in the Regional Office, Alexandria, Egypt, on 1 and 2 October 1993. The RCC reviewed the follow-up actions taken on the recommendations of its previous meeting.

The topics discussed included

- the Ninth General Programme of Work Covering the Period 1996-2001,
- the usefulness of visits of senior national officials to the Regional Office,
- World Bank involvement in the field of health,
- Cost-sharing in health systems,
- Promoting the PHC approach, focusing on catchment areas of health facilities, and
- the use of traditional medicine in health care systems

In addition, the Regional Director briefed the Committee on the work of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Changes, and on an important resolution (WHA46.35) of the Forty-sixth World Health Assembly, calling for budgetary reform and a simplified presentation of the Proposed Programme Budget.

The RCC was impressed by the clarity of thought and style of the Ninth General Programme of Work (9th GPW), the conciseness in the presentation of concepts, and its greater flexibility and adaptability at all levels, and recommended regional inputs to the 9th GPW document for consideration by the Regional Committee.

The action taken by the Regional Office to evaluate the usefulness of the visits of senior national officials to the Regional Office assessing the achievement of objectives and the cost-effectiveness of such meetings was welcomed. The RCC's recommendations included *ad hoc* visits to the Regional Office by newly appointed key national officials, allocation of a certain

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<sup>1</sup> Should there be a need for the RCC to meet more often, the Regional Director could convene *ad hoc* meetings.

percentage of country funds for activities involving intersectoral collaboration, organization of workshops and meetings invited to discuss appropriate means of intersectoral coordination, etc

It was recommended that WHO develop guidelines for Member States on conducting negotiations with World Bank teams during the formulation of health and other national development projects that have health implications for funding by the Bank. Member States were urged to use WHO as an advisory body during negotiations concerning these projects for funding by the Bank.

The importance of cost containment and cost-sharing mechanisms in the future development of health care delivery was emphasized. These mechanisms should be viewed as one of the means of improving the quality of health services and should take into consideration (a) basic health care services and their accessibility to all, and (b) appropriate technology in line with the values and ethics of the regional culture.

The RCC recommended the establishment of a regional body to advise on policy choices in health economics, conduct by countries, in collaboration with WHO, of cost analyses at various health care levels and development of national mechanisms to sensitize health providers, as well as the public, to the cost of health care services, promotion of bulk procurement of various medical supplies at national, sub-regional and regional levels, development of national mechanisms to coordinate the health services provided by various institutions at national level, and collaboration by Member States with WHO in developing national lists of essential equipment, basic laboratory tests, and other basic health supplies.

The RCC supported innovative approaches that strengthen PHC and community development, and recommended that health workers be trained to play a leading role in community motivation and mobilization, and catchment areas, whenever considered, be clearly defined for each facility and appropriate referral systems should be developed and enforced. Furthermore, a good system of keeping records should be developed to control the patient's movements, to avoid transfer between various catchment areas and by-passing of first levels of health care.

The importance of use of traditional medicine in health care systems and the need for a practical approach to use benefits from the existing practices of traditional medicine to support the overall objectives of HFA was emphasized. It was recommended, *inter alia*, that efforts be made to carry out situation analyses of the status of traditional medicine in the Region and generate more quantitative data on its actual trends of utilization and WHO convene a meeting of an expert group to discuss various technical issues raised in the RCC discussions.

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# REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

## Functions of the Regional Committee

The Regional Committee (RC) for the Eastern Mediterranean is the main governing body on policy matters for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. It also supervises the activities of the Regional Office. Its functions include:

- a) to formulate policies governing matters of an exclusively regional character,
- b) to supervise the activities of the Regional Office,
- c) to suggest to the Regional Office the convening of technical conferences, and such additional work or investigation in health matters as in the opinion of the Regional Committee, would promote the objectives of the Organization within the Region,
- d) to cooperate with other WHO regional committees and with those of other United Nations specialized agencies and with other regional international organizations having interests in common with the Organization,
- e) to tender advice—through the Director-General—to the Organization on international health matters that have wider-than-regional significance,
- f) to recommend additional regional appropriations by the governments of countries in the Region if the proportion of the central budget of the Organization allotted is insufficient to carry out regional functions,
- g) such other functions as may be delegated to the Regional Committee by the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board or the Director-General. The EMR Regional Committee consists of all Member States forming the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The Regional Director is the ex-officio Secretary of the Regional Committee.

The Regional Committee meets annually (first Saturday of October) either in one of the EMR Member States or in the Regional Office, in accordance with the invitation received.

## Fortieth Session of the RC

The Fortieth Session of the Regional Committee was held in Alexandria, Egypt, from 2 to 5 October 1993. The Regional Committee elected H.E. Dr Alireza Marandi (Islamic Republic of Iran) as its Chairman, and Dr Khalifa Ahmed Al-Jaber (Qatar) and Dr Walid Ammar (Lebanon) as its Vice-Chairmen. For the Technical Discussions, Dr Moncef Sidhom (Tunisia) was elected Chairman.

Palestine was welcomed as a member in the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The RC considered various topics, including the Ninth General Programme of Work Covering the Period 1996-2001, progress reports on AIDS, malaria and WHO-sponsored research activities in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee and the Joint Government/WHO Programme Review Missions in 1993.

The Technical Discussions were on the subject of "the Role of Women in Support of Health for All" and the technical papers were on leishmaniasis and abuse of narcotics and psychoactive drugs

The Fortieth Session of the Regional Committee adopted 16 resolutions. It also agreed on 6 decisions

The following is a list of the resolutions and decisions adopted, along with the text

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# LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

## PROGRAMME MATTERS

### **EM/RC40/R.1 Annual Report of the Regional Director**

All the representatives of the Member States commended the Regional Director on his Report for 1992 on the Work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and sought WHO's assistance and advice on various proposals. The resolution urges Member States that are economically more secure to donate the whole or a part of their country allocations to support those Member States of the Region that have greater need.

### **EM/RC40/R.3 Regional Strategy for Health and Environment**

The Regional Committee adopted the draft strategy drawn up at an intercountry consultation in Amman in June 1993.

### **EM/RC40/R.4 Report of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change**

The Regional Director explained in detail the report and the recommendations of the Executive Board Working Group WHO Response to Global Change. The Director-General said that the activities for the implementation of the recommendations were to be grouped together since they had common purposes, namely the rationalization of the work of governing bodies and their subcommittees or improvement in certain managerial aspects of WHO's work. He provided a time-frame for fulfilling the recommendations, noting that a number had already been met. Regarding the procedure for selecting the Regional Director, the Regional Committee decided, after considerable discussion, to continue with the existing practice, and to seek the views of the Regional Consultative Committee on the report.

### **EM/RC40/R.5 The Role of Women in Support of Health For All**

All those who participated in the discussions were in complete agreement that further training of women was essential in order to enhance their potential role in support for Health for All in the family, community and the society at large.

### **EM/RC40/R.6 Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) - Progress Report**

The delegates who took part in the discussions on this topic expressed their concern at the possibility of AIDS becoming a serious threat at a later date, although it was not one at present. They agreed that the number of AIDS cases and HIV infections currently reported may not truly reflect the actual situation, and cautioned against any complacency. In countries that face security and refugee problems, there were no data concerning the magnitude of the disease and infection. The Committee therefore urged Member States to collect reliable data and, in the absence of any drugs or vaccines, to continue to provide effective education and information about the infection.



and the disease and to develop integrated control programmes for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

#### **EM/RC40/R.7 Leishmaniasis**

The present status of leishmaniasis was described. The use of insecticide-impregnated bednets was a preferred approach to achieving control of the disease. While zoonotic foci were difficult to control, anthroponotic foci could be brought under control. The possibilities of integrating malaria and leishmaniasis control programmes deserved close examination, since the control of leishmaniasis has frequently been a side-effect of malaria control activities.

#### **EM/RC40/R.8 Poliomyelitis Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

The Committee reiterated its goal of eradication of poliomyelitis from the Region by the year 2000 and called upon Member States to take appropriate steps necessary to ensure attaining the goal, including self-sufficiency in vaccine production, surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis, and ensuring availability of resources for strengthening of national laboratories for diagnosis.

#### **EM/RC40/R.9 Abuse of Narcotics and Psychoactive Drugs**

The technical paper provided basic information on the subject and suggested a strategy to combat drug abuse based on identified resources. It also contained information about international organizations engaged in dealing with the problem.

There was consensus that abuse of narcotics and psychoactive drugs was becoming a menace in the Region, and that all efforts should be made to tackle the problem.

#### **EM/RC40/R.10 Malaria Control**

Concern was expressed at the current malaria situation, particularly in those countries where no nationwide control programmes exist. Instability, insecurity, movement of populations, lack of resources, high prices of insecticides, development of resistance by vectors and parasites, all contributed to the present situation. Use of mechanical and biological control methods is preferred to chemical methods.

#### **EM/RC40/R.11 Report on the Progress of WHO-sponsored Research Activities in the EMR**

The Regional Committee felt that health systems research required further expansion in all countries. There should be closer cooperation between ministries and universities. National coordinating bodies for research should be established, and strengthened where they already exist.

#### **EM/RC40/R.14 Report of the Regional Consultative Committee (Seventeenth Meeting)**

The Regional Committee endorsed the report of the Regional Consultative Committee and requested Member States to implement its recommendations. One of the recommendations was for *ad hoc* visits to the Regional Office by newly appointed key national officials. (See also the earlier section of this briefing.)

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**EM/RC40/R 15 Ninth General Programme of Work Covering the Period  
1996-2001**

The Regional Consultative Committee reviewed the Ninth General Programme of Work (9th GPW) at its seventeenth meeting in September 1993 and was impressed by the clarity of thought and style of the Programme, the conciseness in the presentation of concepts, and its greater flexibility. The representatives found the 9th GPW clear and concise, and suggested that the Executive Board be requested to include more information on resource mobilization.

**COUNTRY-RELATED MATTERS**

**EM/RC40/R.2 Membership of Palestine in the Regional Committee**

Following a statement by the Director-General of WHO of the consultations held with Israel on the subject, Palestine was invited as a member in the Regional Committee under Article 47 of the WHO Constitution.

**EM/RC40/R 13 Health Conditions of the Arab Population in the Occupied Arab  
Territories, Including Palestine**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**EM/RC40/R.12 Report of the Ministerial Committee on Methods of Raising  
Extrabudgetary Funds for the Promotion of Health Initiatives in  
the Eastern Mediterranean Region.**

The creation of an association was proposed by the Ministerial Committee pursuant to EM/RC39/R 1 to mobilize funds from private and other sources in the support of health development in the Region, including Member States and EMRO. This would be independent from WHO.

**EM/RC40/R.16 Place and Date of the Forty-first Session of the Regional  
Committee, 1994**

The Regional Committee decided to hold its Forty-first Session in Alexandria, in case no other invitation is received, from 1 to 4 October 1994, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

## LIST OF DECISIONS

- Decision 1 Election of Officers
- Decision 2 Adoption of the Agenda
- Decision 3 Nomination of a Member State to the Global Programme on AIDS Management Committee
- Decision 4 Nomination of a Member State to the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction
- Decision 5 Nomination of a Member State to the Management Advisory Committee of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs
- Decision 6 Closing of the Session

# RESOLUTIONS

## **EM/RC40/R 1 Annual Report of the Regional Director**

### *The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the Annual Report<sup>1</sup> of the Regional Director, on the work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for the year 1992, and having noted his statement thereon

- 1 THANKS the Regional Director for his comprehensive report, which reflects the close cooperation between the Regional Office and the Member States,
- 2 ADOPTS the Annual Report of the Regional Director,
- 3 CALLS UPON governments of the Region
  - 3 1 to emphasize the link between health and national economic development,
  - 3 2 to collaborate with the Regional Office in seeking new ways of involving communities in planning and decision-making in respect of local health care services,
  - 3 3 to make use of the potential within communities to provide support, in cash or in kind, to complement government inputs for health care and health-promoting activities,
- 4 FURTHER CALLS UPON governments of the Region to enhance activities aimed at controlling communicable diseases,
- 5 REQUESTS the Regional Director to continue his efforts to provide timely and appropriate assistance to population groups suffering disruption of normal health care services due to natural and man-made disasters, and
- 6 URGES Member States that are economically more secure to donate the whole or a part of their country allocations in support of those Member States of the Region that have a greater need, this being considered a health investment that is also beneficial to the donor country

## **EM/RC40/R 2 Membership of Palestine in the Regional Committee**

### *The Regional Committee,*

Recalling its resolution EM/RC39/R 3, concerning the membership of Palestine in the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean,

Bearing in mind Article 47 of the WHO Constitution and resolution WHA2 103,

Having noted the statements of the Regional Director and the Director-General on the results of the consultations prescribed to in the aforesaid resolution,

WELCOMES Palestine as a member in the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/2

### **EM/RC40/R 3 Regional Strategy for Health and Environment**

#### *The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the draft strategy for health and environment, which was prepared during the Regional Consultation held in Amman in June 1993,

Recalling the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ("Earth Summit"), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,

- 1 ADOPTS the regional strategy for health and environment for the Eastern Mediterranean, and
- 2 URGES Member States to implement the strategy

### **EM/RC40/R 4 Report of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change**

#### *The Regional Committee,*

Recalling resolutions WHA46 16, WHA46 35, EB92 R2, and EM/RC35/R 2<sup>1</sup>,

Having noted the report of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change<sup>2</sup>,

Having considered the Regional Director's comments on that report,

Commending efforts to make WHO more responsive to changing needs at the global, regional and country levels and to improve dialogue between the various Regional Offices and between them and headquarters,

Mindful that the Regional Committees adopt their own rules of procedure<sup>3</sup>,

Mindful also that the first function of a regional committee is to formulate policies governing matters of an exclusively regional character<sup>4</sup>,

Mindful further that the Regional Office shall carry out within the Region the decisions of the Health Assembly and of the Board<sup>5</sup>,

Recognizing that the present global health policy must be adapted to match global change,

Believing that any new organizational and managerial processes must respect the principles of decentralization and must strengthen regional offices in their ability to meet the specific needs of their respective Member States and regions,

- 1 COMMENDS the Executive Board Working Group on its report,
- 2 AGREES that "Health for All" is still a valid and timeless goal,
- 3 AFFIRMS that the process established in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for nominating a candidate for Regional Director is appropriate and should continue to be followed, and

<sup>1</sup> Refers to Regional Consultative Committee reports the specific recommendations are in Section 5 9, page 10 of EM/RCC8/2

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change, EB92/4 of 16 April 1993

<sup>3</sup> WHO Constitution Article 49

<sup>4</sup> WHO Constitution Article 50(a)

<sup>5</sup> WHO Constitution Article 51

4 REQUESTS the Regional Director

- 4 1 to forward the views of the Regional Committee on the report of the Executive Board Working Group to the Executive Board,
- 4 2 to seek the views of the Regional Consultative Committee on the Report of the Working Group,
- 4 3 to report to the Regional Committee at its Forty-first Session on the WHO response to global change

**EM/RC40/R.5 The Role of Women in Support of Health For All**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report on the Role of Women in Support of Health for All,<sup>1</sup>

Noting with great interest the important role that women can play in protecting and promoting the health both of the family and the community,

Noting, with satisfaction, the increasing trend to utilize the potential of women to support Health for All,

Noting that women still need more concerted action and support to develop their innate potential to fully undertake their role as agents of change in health and development,

1 URGES Member States

- 1 1 to establish or strengthen national committees or councils concerned with promoting the role of women in health development,
- 1 2 to promote health awareness among women through formal and non- formal approaches, utilizing the local education system, the mass media and social marketing,
- 1 3 to assign a national focal point in the ministry of health to address issues related to Women, Health and Development, and

2 REQUESTS the Regional Director

- 2 1 to extend technical support to national committees or councils for the promotion of the role of women in health and development,
- 2 2 to establish a Regional Steering Committee on Women that would develop a regional strategy for advancing the status of women,
- 2 3 to convene a regional conference on Women and Health

**EM/RC40/R 6 Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) - Progress Report**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the Regional Director's progress report<sup>2</sup> on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/Tech Disc /1

<sup>2</sup> Document EM/RC40/11(a)

Considering the increasing spread of HIV infection in the Region,  
Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to prevent the further spread of AIDS,

- 1 THANKS the Regional Director for his report and for the efforts made in implementing the earlier resolutions of the Regional Committee on AIDS,
- 2 URGES Member States
  - 2 1 to ensure a high level of national commitment to AIDS prevention and control and to provide adequate human and financial resources to implement national AIDS programmes,
  - 2 2 to enlist the active involvement of all national sectors, as well as nongovernmental bodies, concerned in the fight against AIDS,
  - 2 3 to collect reliable data on HIV infection and AIDS, and to submit regular reports to WHO,
  - 2 4 to continue to provide effective education and information about HIV infection and AIDS to the general public, as well as to those at increased risk of infection,
  - 2 5 to continue to provide adequate care to persons with HIV infection and AIDS, respecting their human rights and dignity, and avoiding any stigmatization or discrimination,
  - 2 6 to develop an integrated control programme for AIDS and the other sexually transmitted diseases,
  - 2 7 to continue to ensure the safety of blood, blood products and tissue or organ donations,
- 3 REQUESTS the Regional Director
  - 3 1 to continue to ensure the provision of the necessary support to Member States in their national AIDS control programmes,
  - 3 2 to inform the Regional Committee regularly about the regional and global AIDS situation, as well as about the progress in the implementation of AIDS control programmes,
  - 3 3 to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Member States in their efforts to prevent and control AIDS

## **EM/RC40/R 7 Leishmaniasis**

### ***The Regional Committee,***

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report<sup>1</sup> on "Leishmaniasis",

Commending the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Regional Office and some Member States in controlling the disease,

Commending also the initiative taken by the Regional Director to promote and support research on the epidemiology and control of leishmaniasis,

- 1 URGES Member States concerned
  - 1 1 to undertake epidemiological assessment of leishmaniasis in their countries,
  - 1 2 to prepare national programmes for the prevention and control of leishmaniasis, using a multisectoral approach that involves all national authorities concerned,
  - 1 3 to encourage and promote community involvement in preventive and control activities, particularly at the foci of leishmaniasis,

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/7

- 1 4 to ensure continued availability of diagnostic facilities and drugs in areas where leishmaniasis is endemic, and support the introduction of control measures against vectors and reservoir hosts,
- 1 5 to strengthen and develop the technical capabilities in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of leishmaniasis,
- 2 REQUESTS the Regional Director
  - 2 1 to continue to support Member States in the planning and implementation of national programmes for the control of leishmaniasis,
  - 2 2 to facilitate and support intercountry cooperation on the control of the disease

### **EM/RC40/R.8 Poliomyelitis Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

#### *The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the Regional Director's progress report<sup>1</sup> on "Poliomyelitis Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region",

Appreciating the progress being made towards the goal of poliomyelitis eradication in the Region,

Noting with satisfaction that all Member States have set national targets for the eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000,

Being fully aware that the goal of the eradication of poliomyelitis from the Region will not be achieved unless there is a continuing acceleration of national immunization programmes,

- 1 COMMENDS the Regional Director for the efforts made to achieve the regional goal of poliomyelitis eradication,
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGES the Regional Director's initiative towards achieving regional self-sufficiency in production and quality control of vaccine,
- 3 URGES Member States
  - 3 1 to reaffirm their commitment to eradicating poliomyelitis and to make available the staff and resources necessary to implement their national plans,
  - 3 2 to ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of OPV that meets WHO's quality standard for both routine and supplementary immunization,
  - 3 3 to give high priority to the surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis as well as the other EPI diseases,
  - 3 4 to promote effective participation of the different medical sectors and the community in all the activities of the programme,
  - 3 5 to ensure the availability of the necessary resources for strengthening national laboratories for the diagnosis of poliomyelitis,
- 4 REQUESTS the Regional Director
  - 4 1 to continue his efforts to achieve regional self-sufficiency in vaccine production and quality control, and to support countries in obtaining sufficient quantities of OPV,

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/12



- 4 2 to coordinate with other organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental agencies and governmental and non- governmental organizations to mobilize sufficient funds to meet all requirements for the eradication of poliomyelitis, in particular, for vaccine supply,
- 4 3 to continue to monitor progress by various means,
- 4 4 to keep the Regional Committee regularly informed about progress towards eradication of poliomyelitis from the Region

### **EM/RC40/R.9 Abuse of Narcotics and Psychoactive Drugs**

#### ***The Regional Committee,***

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report<sup>1</sup> on "Abuse of Narcotics and Psychoactive Drugs",

Considering the magnitude of the problem and recognizing that continued efforts are required for the prevention and control of this grave health, social and economic problem in the Region,

#### **1 URGES Member States**

- 1 1 to provide the necessary commitment and support to a comprehensive, multisectoral programme for the prevention and control of drug abuse, using religious, cultural, educational and other resources for promoting healthy life-styles,
- 1 2 to establish reliable, up-to-date systems for collecting information about drugs, and to support upgrading of existing systems,
- 1 3 to share among themselves and with WHO information, technical expertise and experience on different aspects of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation,

#### **2 URGES the Regional Director**

- 2 1 to provide to Member States the necessary technical support to develop regular data-collection mechanisms, thereby facilitating exchange of information and experience among themselves and between them and WHO,
- 2 2 to strengthen existing reference centres and to support the establishment of new centres in countries where drug abuse is a severe problem

### **EM/RC40/R.10 Malaria Control**

#### ***The Regional Committee,***

Having reviewed the Regional Director's progress report<sup>2</sup> on malaria control in the Region,  
Being concerned by the progressive increase in cases of malaria in most of the countries in which it is endemic and the increasing malaria threat to the Region,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to control malaria,

- 1 REITERATES its earlier resolution, EM/RC37/R 11, the recommendations of which remain valid and should be pursued,

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/8

<sup>2</sup> Document EM/RC40/3

- 2 URGES Member States
  - 2 1 to support fully the four technical elements of the Global Malaria Strategy, namely
    - Provision of early diagnosis and prompt treatment,
    - Planning and implementation of selective and sustainable preventive measures,
    - Early detection, containment and prevention of epidemics,
    - Strengthening of local capacities in basic and applied research,
  - 2 2 to strengthen and develop human resources at all levels,
- 3 REQUESTS Member States to involve communities and the various sectors concerned in the prevention and control of malaria, and
- 4 REQUESTS the Regional Director
  - 4 1 to continue to provide the necessary support to Member States in connection with malaria programmes,
  - 4 2 to provide the necessary support to the regional plan for training of national professional staff necessary for national malaria control programmes,
  - 4 3 to promote and support applied research, and
  - 4 4 to assist in enhancing cooperation among the Member States

**EM/RC40/R.11 REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF WHO-SPONSORED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE EMR**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report on the progress of WHO-sponsored research activities in the Eastern Mediterranean Region<sup>1</sup>,

Noting that marked progress in research for health has taken place in only a few countries of the Region,

Being aware of the significance of health systems research in attaining the goal of Health for All,

Considering the multidisciplinary and multisectoral nature of health systems research,

- 1 URGES Member States
  - 1 1 to establish and strengthen national coordinating bodies for research,
  - 1 2 to establish closer cooperation between the ministries of health and the universities in health systems research, particularly at the provincial and district levels, and
  - 1 3 to nominate focal points for health systems research in those countries that have not yet done so, and
- 2 REQUESTS the Regional Director to continue his support to Member States in the field of health systems research

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/9

**EM/RC40/R.12 Report of the Ministerial Committee on Methods of Raising Extrabudgetary Funds for the Promotion of Health Initiatives in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having noted the presentation made by the Regional Director on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee established by the Thirty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee pursuant to resolution EM/RC39/R 1,

Being desirous of making every effort to raise the greatest possible amount of extrabudgetary funds for the health development projects in the Region,

- 1 WELCOMES the recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee on methods of raising extrabudgetary funds for supporting health development projects sponsored by the Regional Office, especially the establishment of a regional body for health development, and
- 2 CALLS UPON the Regional Director to continue his efforts to raise extrabudgetary funds and to cooperate with any initiative aimed at supporting health development in the Region, including collaboration with the regional body for health development when established

**EM/RC40/R.13 Health Conditions of the Arab Population in the Occupied Arab Territories, Including Palestine**

*The Regional Committee,*

Mindful of the basic principle established in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security,

Expressing the hope that peace talks among the parties concerned in the Middle East will lead to a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of international legitimacy and, in particular, on the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338,

Taking note of the developments of the peace process in which the parties concerned in the Middle East are involved, and the imminent transfer of authority to the Palestinian people, including the transfer of the authority for health, which entails untiring efforts on the part of the Palestinian people to reconstruct and rehabilitate the health infrastructure which deteriorated during occupation,

Stressing the urgent need to mobilize an effective international effort to achieve that reconstruction and rehabilitation, and the importance of the role of the World Health Organization in this respect,

Recognizing the need to provide further health support and assistance to the population of the occupied Arab territories, and to promote cooperation with them,

Appreciating the positive role already played by the Organization in providing health assistance to the Palestinian people,

Thanking the Director-General and the Regional Director for their past efforts,

- 1 REQUESTS the Director-General and the Regional Director
  - 1 1 to provide the technical support needed to facilitate the transfer of the authority for health to the Palestinian people in the following areas
    - (1) identification of basic health issues facing the Palestinian health authority,

- (2) restructuring and development of the health system,
  - (3) support for a comprehensive health survey of the Palestinian people,
  - (4) development of health legislation,
  - (5) support for programmes to train health personnel,
- 1 2 to form a joint Palestine/WHO working group to develop the mechanisms needed for the implementation of the Palestinian national health plan,
  - 1 3 to support the organization of special workshops on primary health care, and to assist in financing them to enable Palestine to take an active part in implementing the health-for-all strategy,
  - 1 4 to take action and make the contacts necessary for obtaining the funds needed to meet the emergency health needs of the Palestinian people, and
- 2 CALLS upon all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide all necessary financial support and cooperation

**EM/RC40/R.14 REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
(Seventeenth Meeting)**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having considered the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee<sup>1</sup>,

- 1 ENDORSES the report of the Regional Consultative Committee, taking into account the comments of the Regional Committee,
- 2 COMMENDS the Regional Consultative Committee for the advisory support it continues to provide to the Region,
- 3 CALLS UPON Member States to implement the recommendations included in the Regional Consultative Committee report whenever feasible,
- 4 REQUESTS the Regional Director to implement the recommendations that concern the Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean,
- 5 REQUESTS the Regional Director to continue to put before the Regional Consultative Committee all important matters intended for consideration by the Regional Committee

**EM/RC40/R.15 Ninth General Programme of Work Covering the Period  
1996-2001**

*The Regional Committee,*

Having reviewed and endorsed the views and recommendations of the Regional Consultative Committee concerning the preliminary draft of the Ninth General Programme of Work<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/4

<sup>2</sup> Document EM/RC40/6 (EBPC18/WP/4)

COMMENDS the great clarity and conciseness in the presentation of concepts,  
CALLS FOR more emphasis on the leadership role of WHO in the field of health and its role in connection with cooperation with United Nations and other agencies in the field of health at country level,

BELIEVES that particular weight should be given to the decentralized functioning of WHO in providing technical cooperation through its Regional Offices,

CONSIDERS that health development as an essential part of overall human development should be specifically advocated when public policies are formulated,

SUGGESTS that there should be among the forms of cooperation between WHO and collaborating centres the financing of "tied posts" for those centres in return for the loan from them to the Organization of experts that it may need and

REQUESTS the Regional Director to transmit these views and the relevant portions of the Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee to the Executive Board

#### **EM/RC40/R 16 Place and Date of the Forty-first Session**

##### *The Regional Committee,*

Having noted the report of the Regional Director<sup>1</sup> on the subject,

RESOLVES to hold its Forty-first Session in Alexandria, the headquarters of the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean from Saturday, 1 October to Tuesday, 4 October 1994, unless an invitation is received from a Member State for hosting it, in which case the Regional Director is requested to hold consultations with the Chairman of the Fortieth Session

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC40/WP 1

# DECISIONS

## **Decision 1. Election of Officers**

The Regional Committee elected the following officers

Chairman        H E Dr Alreza Marandi (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
 Vice-Chairmen    Dr Khalifa Ahmed Al-Jaber (Qatar)  
                       Dr Walid Ammar (Lebanon)

## TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Chairman        Dr Moncef Sidhom (Tunisia)

### Drafting Committee

Dr Hami Oweiss (Jordan)  
 Mr Mohamed Yehia Ahmed Abol Fotouh (Kuwait)  
 Dr Mohamed Helmy Wahdan (EMRO)  
 Mr Hassan Naguib Abdallah (EMRO)

## **Decision 2 Adoption of the Agenda**

The Regional Committee adopted its provisional agenda

## **Decision 3: Nomination of a Member State to the Global Programme on AIDS Management Committee**

The Regional Committee nominated Sudan to serve as a member of the Global Programme on AIDS Management Committee for a three-year term from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996

## **Decision 4: Nomination of a Member State to the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction**

The Regional Committee nominated Tunisia to serve as a member of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction for a three-year term from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996

## **Decision 5: Nomination of a Member State to the Management Advisory Committee of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs**

The Regional Committee nominated Pakistan to the Management Advisory Committee of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs to serve for a three-year term from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996

**Decision 6: Closing of the Session**

The Regional Committee decided to send a telegram to H E the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, congratulating him on the great confidence the Egyptian people had in him, which was evidenced by their renewing their pledge of allegiance to him and electing him as President for a third term of office. The Regional Committee wished the Egyptian people, under his judicious leadership, continuous progress and prosperity.

The Regional Committee expressed its thanks to the Regional Director and the Secretariat for facilitating the work of the Committee, and requested the Regional Director to deal with its report in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.