



**Regional Committee for the
Eastern Mediterranean**

EM/RC51/INF.DOC.9
July 2004

Fifty-first Session

Original: Arabic

Agenda item 16

**Place and date of future sessions
of the Regional Committee**

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It will be recalled that during the Fiftieth Session in October 2003 (in Cairo), the Regional Committee accepted the invitation of Qatar to hold its Fifty-first Session in Doha [Decision EM/RC50(4)]. In March 2004, the Regional Office was informed by the Minister of Health, that Qatar would like to postpone its invitation for reasons beyond its control. In consultation with the Chairman of the Fiftieth Session, it was therefore decided that, while postponing the invitation of Qatar, this year's session would now take place in the Regional Office in Cairo from 3 to 6 October 2004.

The Regional Committee is now invited to decide on the place and date of its Fifty-second Session in 2005 and may also wish to consider proposals, if any, for its Fifty-third Session in the year 2006.

In considering such proposals, the Committee is requested to keep in view the following resolutions of the World Health Assembly and of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean:

1. **WHA7.26:** “**RECOMMENDS** that, in deciding on the place of their meetings, regional committees should consider holding them from time to time at the site of the Regional Office, taking into account the costs involved for the Organization and the Member States concerned”;
2. **WHA9.20:** “**INVITES** the attention of the regional committees to the desirability of host governments participating in the increased cost resulting from holding regional committee meetings outside the regional headquarters”;
3. **EM/RC6A/R.13:** “**CALLS UPON** Member States inviting the Committee to meet in their territories to make the maximum possible contribution towards this additional cost”.

Decisions taken by the Regional Committee for its venues in 2005 and 2006 will enable the Regional Director to make appropriate administrative and financial arrangements on a timely basis.

The Secretariat is at the disposal of the Regional Committee for any further details or clarification on this matter.