



RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Fifty-fifth Session

EM/RC55/R.9
October 2008

Agenda item 7 (b)

**Malaria elimination in the Eastern Mediterranean Region:
vision, requirements and strategic outline**

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on malaria elimination in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: vision, requirements and strategic outline¹;

Recalling resolutions EM/RC45/R.3 Emerging and resurging diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region with special reference to malaria and EM/RC40/R.10 Malaria control;

Noting that malaria is among the diseases targeted for control in internationally agreed health-related development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Acknowledging the achievements in malaria control in the Eastern Mediterranean Region since adoption of the Roll Back Malaria initiative;

Recognizing that malaria can be eliminated with the tools currently available from most areas of the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

Appreciating the substantial resources made available to Member States from countries of the Region and by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WHO and others;

1. **ENDORSES** the strategic outline proposed for elimination of malaria from the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
2. **URGES** all Member States where malaria is endemic to:
 - 2.1 Strengthen and sustain their commitment and support to malaria prevention, control and elimination, and include malaria elimination in the national development plan;
 - 2.2 Develop a national multiyear strategic plan to eliminate malaria in areas where it is feasible, and scale up efforts to intensify malaria control in high and stable transmission areas;

¹ Document no. EM/RC55/Tech.Disc.2

- 2.3 Ensure universal coverage of all populations at risk with effective diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools free of charge and exempt from all taxes and tariffs;
 - 2.4 Strengthen collaboration with research agencies to address programme needs for elimination;
 - 2.5 Ensure that the malaria control and elimination programme has the necessary resources and make use of the resources available from donors for health system strengthening;
 - 2.6 Strengthen collaboration with neighbouring countries in malaria control, with particular attention to the surveillance network;
3. **URGES** Member States that have achieved or are close to malaria elimination to:
- 3.1 Maintain vigilance and strong surveillance systems to identify and control imported malaria and prevent re-establishment of malaria transmission as a result of importation;
 - 3.2 Establish/strengthen functional collaborative mechanisms to support malaria elimination efforts in countries of the Region where the burden of malaria is still high, including provision of financial and human resources;
4. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
- 4.1 Support Member States in building national capacity for malaria elimination and in coordination and strengthening of cross-border activities.
 - 4.2 Report periodically to the Regional Committee on progress made in control and elimination of malaria.