



Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC56/R.8
October 2009

Fifty-sixth Session

Agenda item 12

Regional response to the emerging threat of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the paper on the regional response to the emerging threat of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis¹;

Recalling the Beijing Call for Action on Tuberculosis Control and Patient Care, issued jointly by representatives of 27 Member States with a high burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, and WHA62.15 Prevention and control of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis;

Noting the growing number of new multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis cases estimated to emerge annually all over the world as a result of inappropriate tuberculosis treatment and subsequent transmission;

Recognizing that multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis pose a threat to global and regional public health security and to efforts to reduce the global and regional burden of tuberculosis;

Concerned that only an estimated 2% of cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the Region are being treated appropriately according to WHO recommended standards;

1. **ENDORSES** the regional strategic plan for prevention and control of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis;

¹ Document no. EM/RC56/10

2. **URGES** Member States to:

- 2.1 Develop and implement a national strategic plan for management and care of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in line with the regional strategic plan, including directly observed treatment, patient centred care, awareness-raising and community health education;
- 2.2 Develop or upgrade legislation to ensure obligatory notification of tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis under public health law, within the context of the International Health Regulations, and regulated sale of anti-tuberculosis medicines by accredited public and private providers only;
- 2.3 Strengthen national drug regulatory authorities in line with international standards to ensure that national pharmaceutical manufacturers produce anti-tuberculosis medicines of assured quality;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 3.1 Provide technical support to Member States in development and implementation of national strategic plans and enabling legislation, and in strengthening national drug regulatory authorities;
- 3.2 Provide technical support to Member States to raise awareness of the problem of multidrug resistant tuberculosis and promote community health education;
- 3.3 Continue to monitor the situation and report to the Regional Committee in 2011 on progress achieved in scaling up the regional response to multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.