



مِنظَرَةُ الصِّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قرار

RESOLUTION

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC51/R.11  
October 2004

Fifty-first Session

Agenda item 7 (c)

**DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF GENOMICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on development and use of genomics and biotechnology for public health<sup>1</sup>;

Recalling its earlier reference to the need for application of genomics and biotechnology in resolution EM/RC50/R1;

Recognizing the potential significance and impact of genomics and biotechnology to improve health;

Desiring to promote the access and benefits of genomics and biotechnology applications to the populations in Member States;

Noting the establishment of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Genomics and Biotechnology Network for the promotion of greater coordination and collaboration in research and development among centres of excellence in genomics and biotechnology in the Region;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

1.1 Establish national bodies for health genomics and biotechnology with health sector representation, to frame national policies and strategic vision to promote the development and application of genomic technologies for better and improved health;

1.2 Engage in appropriate national capacity development programmes in genomics and biotechnology, through institutional strengthening, human resources development and

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC51/Tech.Disc.3

establishing centres of excellence within the health systems to improve quality and equity in health care;

- 1.3 Raise public awareness, education and knowledge in genomics and biotechnology for public health and stimulate public involvement and support;
- 1.4 Create favourable environments and enabling conditions to develop and forge links and networks in genomics and biotechnology at both national and international levels;
- 1.5 Establish mechanisms for assessing relevance of genomics and biotechnologies to health needs, social, legal and economic implications, ethical review processes and regulatory systems, especially with regard to safety and prevention from harm;
- 1.6 Facilitate collaboration between key stakeholders within the scientific community, the private sector and the civil society to promote genomics and biotechnology for public health, contribute to capacity-building and create opportunities and mechanisms for mobilizing necessary resources.

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to;

- 2.1 Support Member States in the development of relevant policies and applications of genomics and biotechnology;
- 2.2 Facilitate and provide opportunities for exchange and sharing of knowledge and information on genomic technologies among stakeholders within the Region as well as internationally;
- 2.3 Foster partnerships among the main stakeholders in order to contribute to capacity-building and resource mobilization.