



Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC61/R.2
October 2014**

**Sixty-first Session
Agenda item 4(a)**

**Global health security – challenges and opportunities with special emphasis on the
International Health Regulations (2005)**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on global health security – challenges and opportunities with special emphasis on the International Health Regulations (2005);¹

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA55.16 on the global public health response to natural occurrence, accidental release or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radionuclear material that affect health, WHA59.15 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, WHA59.16 on amendments to the statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, WHA64.5 on pandemic influenza preparedness, and Regional Committee resolutions EM/RC53/R.3 on the regional strategy on preparedness and response for human pandemic influenza, EM/RC57/R.2 on emergency preparedness and response and EM/RC59/R.4 on national core capacities for the International Health Regulations (2005);

Recognizing that global, regional and national health security is dependent on all States Parties complying with and implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) and that the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa has exposed gaps in all-hazard preparedness and response;

Recognizing also that assessment, monitoring and reporting by States Parties on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) are essential for the proper planning and coordination of support to States Parties to meet and maintain the obligations;

Gravely concerned by the emergency situation in many parts of the Region and the evolving and significant public health threats in the Region over the past three years, and by the lack of preparedness of States Parties to meet emerging threats to health security as shown in the serious gaps in the core capacities required for implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005);

¹ Document no. EM/RC61/Tech.Disc.1

1. **URGES** States Parties to:

- 1.1 Comply with previous resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the Regional Committee on the International Health Regulations (2005) and formally commit to meeting the June 2016 target within the context of global health security;
- 1.2 Make implementation of the Regulations one of the highest national priorities and allocate the necessary budget, human resources and other required operational and logistical assets;
- 1.3 Ensure the availability of a strong intersectoral coordination mechanism with high-level representation from all stakeholders in order to accelerate implementation of the Regulations;
- 1.4 Further enhance cross-border collaboration for surveillance of and response to public health events, including by entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements concerning prevention or control of international transmission of disease at ground crossings in accordance with Article 57 of the Regulations;
- 1.5 Urgently undertake a comprehensive assessment of their capacity to deal with a potential importation of Ebola, including through use of the checklist presented during the Regional Committee, in order to identify the main gaps and address them;

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

- 2.1 Support countries in developing integrated preparedness and response plans complemented by effective multisectoral coordination mechanisms;
- 2.2 Encourage and facilitate dialogue between States Parties to enhance cross-border collaboration and promote mutual support;
- 2.3 Continue to monitor progress in building, maintaining and strengthening core capacities and prepare an annual report to be shared with the Regional Committee and States Parties.