

**62nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean,  
5–8 October 2015  
Kuwait City, Kuwait**

**EMRO/RC62/DJ/2  
6 October 2015**

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## Documents

Documents will be distributed through the website <http://www.emro.who.int/about-who/rc62/home.html>, the Regional Committee mobile App and Member States delegation folders. The daily journal will be distributed to participants each day. Extra copies can be obtained from the Secretariat.

**Note:** There will be no return service for documents to Member States this year. Delegations are, therefore, kindly requested to make their own arrangements for carrying documents back to their home countries.

## Internet access

Wireless Internet access is available in all meeting areas. The network name is RC62-conf

## WHO publications

Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee will be on display outside the conference room. An e-compendium of recent publications and EMHJ will be available.

## Security

Please ensure your ID card is displayed at all times while inside the premises.

## Departure

Participants should ensure they keep their stamped visa certificate as they will be required to present it on departure.

## Interventions

To help in drafting the report of this session of the Regional Committee, delegations may provide the text of remarks on paper to a member of the WHO Secretariat or send directly by email to [emrgorcrep@who.int](mailto:emrgorcrep@who.int). NGO statements may also be submitted for posting on the website.

## Contact information

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## Note

WHO has a no-smoking policy for all WHO meetings and related functions. Likewise, smoking is prohibited in all areas related to the Regional Committee sessions.

## 1. Programme of work

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>08:30–10:00 Regular session</b> (Diamond Ballroom)	
1	Election of officers Adoption of the provisional agenda and provisional daily time-table Establishment of the Drafting Committee	EM/RC62/1
2	Annual report of the Regional Director for the year 2014 and progress reports	EM/RC62/2 EM/RC62/INF.DOC.1–8
<b>Group photo (all members of delegations)</b>		
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>11:30–13:00 Special session</b>	
2(d)	Implementation of the United Nations Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, followed by a session on tobacco consumption	EM/RC62/INF.DOC3
4(c)	Assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005): meeting the 2016 target	EM/RC62/8
2(c)	Emergency preparedness and response	EM/RC62/INF.DOC.2
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>14:00–16:30 Regular session</b>	
3(a)	Global health security, with special emphasis on MERS-Cov and H5N1	EM/RC62/Tech.Disc.1
<b>16:30–17:30 Panel discussion</b>		
Emergency response		
<b>20:00</b>	Dinner hosted by the Regional Director (Coral Ballroom)	

## **2. Report of meetings Monday, 5 October 2015**

### **Technical meetings**

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**Chair: Session one: Dr Ahmed Al-Saidi, Minister of Health, Oman**

**Session two: Dr Reida M.A. Eloakley, Minister of Health, Libya**

The Regional Director, Dr Ala Alwan, opened the technical meetings. He noted that this was the third year that this pre-Regional Committee session had been held following a recommendation by the Committee in 2012. The aim was to discuss topics of current interest and concern, to update Member States on the situation and progress in addressing those issues and to present any proposed strategic actions. The outcome of the meetings would be presented to the Regional Committee for endorsement of any recommendations. The following subjects were discussed: health technology assessment; food safety; social health insurance for universal health coverage; regional malaria action plan (2016–2020) nursing and midwifery; and social determinants of health.

### **Opening session**

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#### **Formal opening of the session**

The opening session of the 62nd Session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was held on the evening of Monday 5 October 2015 in the Diamond Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, Kuwait City, Kuwait. The session was opened by H.E. Mr Said El Aidi, Minister of Health, Tunisia, on behalf of the outgoing Chair, H.E. Prof. Mohamed Saleh ben Ammar, former Minister of Health, Tunisia. Dr El Aidi said that Tunisia had been honoured to host the 61st session, and thanked the Government of Kuwait for its hospitality in hosting the current session. He recalled the important decisions that had been taken by the Committee the previous year and expressed appreciation for the support given to the countries of the Region by WHO in implementing its recommendations. He looked forward to the meeting and expressed confidence that it would proceed in the usual spirit of consensus.

#### **Address by the Regional Director**

The Regional Director, Dr Ala Alwan, thanked the Government of Kuwait for hosting the 62nd session of the Regional Committee. He expressed his condolences to Member States who had lost citizens in the recent tragedy during the hajj. He said that the Committee would review progress in the WHO's work with Member States in the Region based on the five regional strategic priorities endorsed by the Committee in 2012. He noted the impact that continuing conflict and crisis were having on public health in the Region, and the action that WHO had taken to respond effectively. He highlighted the need to build greater and stronger capacity in public health and public health leadership. He noted the challenge of meeting the new sustainable development goals set by the United Nations General Assembly, and expressed his conviction that, despite the extraordinary circumstances of the Region, the Region had the opportunities and capacities to meet the challenge. He thanked Member States for their support.

#### **Address by the Director-General**

Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, joined Dr Alwan in expressing her sadness over the tragic loss of life during the hajj. She then began her speech with reference to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which she said aimed to reshape a different world. She outlined newer threats to health whose root causes lay outside the traditional domain of public health. She noted that MERS and H5N1 posed the biggest threats to global health security since the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in west Africa and unless current efforts improved there remained significant risk for further outbreaks. In the midst of escalating emergency and humanitarian crises, she commended the Region's innovative response, and its solidarity in response to polio outbreaks, but said that more regional solidarity was needed to complete the job of eradication. She praised the emphasis given to health system strengthening and the Region's commitment to universal health coverage,

which had been bolstered by systematic efforts to improve systems for civil registration and vital statistics.

### **Welcome speech of the Government of Kuwait**

Dr Ali Saad Al-Obeidi, Minister of Health, Kuwait, welcomed participants to the 62nd session of the Regional Committee and expressed Kuwait's honour in hosting this session under the auspices of H.E Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister. He said that convening this session in Kuwait demonstrated the solid relations between Kuwait and WHO. He noted the contributions of Kuwait in various health-related initiatives. He pointed out that the meeting came at the same time as the consensus recently achieved by the United Nations General Assembly on the post-2015 development agenda. He referred to health as the engine of sustainable development and the main index to monitor progress towards achieving the new sustainable development goals. He indicated that health systems should review, update and adjust current strategies and action plans in line with the goals and their targets. He expressed his belief in the Region's capacity to meet the challenges and to develop countries' health systems in line with the new vision. He wished the Committee success in its work.

### **3. Other meetings Tuesday, 6 October 2015**

<b>13:00–14:00</b>	Essential Public Health Functions (Golden ballroom)
<b>17:30–18:30</b>	G5 Meeting (Golden ballroom)
<b>17:45–19:00</b>	Meeting of the Drafting Committee (Emerald-C meeting room)

### **4. Other events**

Wednesday 7 October, 5 pm, visit to the Islamic Museum. Register at the RC62 Secretariat desk inside the main conference room. Departure from the main lobby.