

**63rd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean,  
3–6 October 2016  
Cairo, Egypt**

**EMRO/RC63/DJ/2  
4 October 2016**

## Contents

1.	Programme of work .....	2
2.	Report of meetings .....	3
3.	Other meetings .....	4

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**Documents** Documents will be distributed through the website <http://www.emro.who.int/about-who/rc63/index.html>, the Regional Committee mobile App and Member State delegation folders. The daily journal will be distributed to participants each day. Extra copies can be obtained from the Secretariat.

**Note:** There will be return service for documents to Member States.

**Internet access** Wireless internet access is available in all meeting areas. The network name is erc63. Password erc63. Workstations are also available in the Regional Office library.

**WHO publications** Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee will be on display outside the conference room. Other recent publications/EMHJ will be available.

**Security** Please ensure your ID badge is displayed at all times while inside the premises.

**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). NGOs statements may also be submitted for posting on the website.

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**Note** WHO has a no-smoking policy for all WHO meetings and related functions. Smoking is prohibited in all areas.

## 1. Programme of work

### **Agenda item**      **08:30–10:00 Regular session** (Kuwait Conference hall)

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | Election of officers  |  |
|   | Adoption of the provisional agenda and provisional daily time-table           | <a href="#">EM/RC63/1.Rev.2</a>                                  |
| 2 | Establishment of the Drafting Committee                                       |  |
| 3 | Annual report of the Regional Director for the year 2015 and progress reports | <a href="#">EM/RC63/3</a><br><a href="#">EM/RC63/INF.DOC.1–6</a> |

#### **Group photo (all members of delegations)**

### **Agenda item**      **10:30–12:00 Special session**

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Implementation of the United Nations Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

Progress report on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Framework for action on advancing universal health coverage (UHC) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

### **Agenda item**      **12:00–18:00 Private meeting**

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|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 | Nomination of the Regional Director | <a href="#">EM/RC63/WP.1 Rev.1</a> |
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## **2. Report of meetings Monday, 3 October 2016**

### **Technical meetings**

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**Chair: Session one: Dr Nasir Baoum, Minister of Health, Yemen**

**Session two: Dr Mohamed Haji Abdinur, Minister of Health, Somalia**

The Regional Director, Dr Ala Alwan, opened the technical meetings. He noted that this pre-Regional Committee session had been held every year 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: prevention and care of genetic and congenital disorders, including preconception care; emergency care as an essential component of universal health coverage; developing a package of high priority interventions for universal health coverage; strengthening national health information systems for better reporting of core indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals; health workforce development; air quality and health.

### **Opening session**

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

The opening session of the 63rd Session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was held on the evening of Monday 3 October 2016 in the Kuwait Conference Hall of the Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt. The session was opened by H.E. Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi, Minister of Health, Kuwait and Chair of the 62nd session. Dr Al-Obaidi said that Kuwait had been honoured to host the 62nd session. At that session the Committee had addressed unprecedented challenges to health security. The Region continued to suffer from a high level of emergencies and WHO was ever present with its humanitarian response, as well as with its commitment to other major public health challenges. He thanked the Committee for its support during his tenure. Finally, he noted the appreciation of his country for the work of WHO and for health as a development priority in the Region.

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

The Regional Director, Dr Ala Alwan, referred in his opening address to the five strategic priorities which the Committee had endorsed in 2012. He said that, since then, these had been addressed in a systematic way, identifying the challenges, developing the vision to address them and monitoring the progress. He noted that the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were identical with the regional priorities. Universal health coverage was at the heart of SDG 3 and strengthening health systems towards achieving universal health coverage was, and would remain, the key pillar of WHO's work with Member States. He highlighted eradication of poliomyelitis, where real progress had been made, and health security, where the Region had played a major role in pushing for joint external evaluation of progress in implementing the International Health Regulations. He also highlighted the particular concerns of antimicrobial resistance and noncommunicable diseases. He noted that the impact of emergencies on WHO's work and on health outcomes in the Region could not be ignored. He concluded with acknowledgement of reform as a key agenda item and said that efforts would continue throughout WHO to improve and harmonize processes across the Organization.

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

Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, referred to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Region, which had denied access to health services to 62 million people, and displaced millions. She praised medical staff in the three level 3 emergency countries in the face of hundreds of attacks on hospitals and health facilities in 2016, including

deliberate air strikes. She noted with concern, the unknown vaccination status of children in besieged areas and the lack of medicines to manage noncommunicable diseases. Viewed against the demands of these severe humanitarian crises, the Region's achievements were all the more remarkable. However, legislative and fiscal measures were needed to address noncommunicable diseases. She expressed optimism in regard to polio eradication and called on countries to continue support in this regard. She highlighted Egypt's success in reducing the cost of hepatitis treatment and noted Pakistan's adoption of a similar approach. She assured countries that WHO was expediting its pre-qualification assessment to ensure that generic drugs for hepatitis C met international standards of quality and efficacy.

### **3. Other meetings Tuesday, 4 October 2016**

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>12:30</b> | Lunch for Ministers and Heads of Delegations hosted by the Embassy of France in Egypt and Professor Philippe Douste-Blazy, French candidate for Director-General of the World Health Organization | 7th floor meeting room                                      |
| <b>18:00</b> | Reception hosted by Dr Sania Nishtar, Pakistan candidate for Director-General of the World Health Organization  | Almontazah Ballroom, Intercontinental City Stars (floor -3) |
| <b>18:00</b> | Meeting of the Drafting Committee   | 4 <sup>th</sup> floor meeting room                          |