

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

**EMRO/RC63/DJ/3 Rev.1
5 October 2016**

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Credentials	Original credentials not submitted in advance of the opening session should be handed to the WHO Secretariat on the first day of the meeting.
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 . 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
Wednesday, 5 October 2016

Agenda item 3	09:00–09:30 Special session (<i>continued</i>) (Kuwait Conference Hall)	
Agenda item	09:30–12:30 Regular session (Kuwait Conference Hall)	
5(a)	Improving access to assistive technology	EM/RC63/4
5(b)	Strategic frameworks for strengthening health laboratories and blood transfusion services	EM/RC63/5 EM/RC63/6
4(a)	Scaling up family practice: progressing towards universal health coverage	EM/RC63/Tech.Disc.1
Agenda item	14:00–16:00 Regular session (Kuwait Conference Hall)	
6(c)	Governance reform	EM/RC63/8
2(a)	Proposed Programme budget 2018-2019	EM/RC63/2

2. Report of meetings
Tuesday, 4 October 2016

Agenda item Regular session

	Chair: Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi (Kuwait)	
1	<p>The Regional Committee elected the following officers:</p> <p>Chair: Dr Ahmed Emad El Din Rady (Egypt) Vice-Chair: Dr Ferozuddin Feroz (Afghanistan) Vice-Chair: Dr Mohamed Haji Abdinur (Somalia) Chair of technical discussions: Dr Omar Basheer Altaher Mohamed (Libya).</p> <p>Based on the suggestion of the Chair of the Regional Committee, the Committee decided that the following should constitute the Drafting Committee:</p> <p>Dr Safaa Mourad (Egypt), Dr Hilda Harb (Lebanon), Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Dr Abdullah Assiri (Saudi Arabia), Mr Abderrahman Alaoui (Morocco), Secretariat: Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Dr Zafar Mirza, Dr Maha ElAdawy, Dr Rana Hajjeh, Ms Jane Nicholson.</p> <p>The Regional Committee adopted the provisional agenda and provisional daily timetable.</p>	
	Chair: Dr Ahmed Emad El Din Rady (Egypt)	
2	<p>Annual report of the Regional Director for the year 2015 and progress reports</p> <p>The Regional Director presented his report to the Regional Committee on the work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in 2015 and early 2016. He focused on developments and action taken in the five strategic priorities for the Region. He highlighted health systems strengthening towards universal health coverage; maternal and child health; noncommunicable diseases; health security and</p>	

communicable diseases; and emergency preparedness and response including polio eradication. He said that implementation of reform measures was continuing to strengthen internal management and performance, and that capacity in countries had been strengthened. He noted that the delivery of technical outputs was high, particularly when viewed against the continued efforts of the regional and country offices to respond to and support event-driven emergency situations.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Members of the Committee (in order): Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sudan, Qatar, Libya, Oman.

Responding, the Regional Director noted that the achievements to date had only been realized through the full support and engagement of Member States. With regard to the financial resources of WHO in the Region, he emphasized the prominent role of extrabudgetary funds in the overall budget of WHO. In recent years WHO had focused on shifting resources from regional to country offices. WHO welcomed discussion with Member States on ways to strengthen the efficiency of decision-making processes at regional and country levels.

The Director-General reiterated that the major share of WHO's funding comes from contributions from partners. She noted that the Eastern Mediterranean Region receives a particularly high share of financial contributions provided in response to ongoing crises in some countries. She highlighted the variable nature of extrabudgetary funds, particularly in times of economic downturn, and emphasized the importance of timely reporting to donors.

Agenda item Special session

Chair: Dr Ahmed Emad El Din Rady (Egypt)

A special session was held highlighting progress in three of the regional strategic priorities: noncommunicable diseases, health security and health systems development.

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

The Director a.i., Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, presented on progress in implementing the United Nations Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, specifically on the four time-bound commitments set for 2015 and 2016 and the 10 WHO indicators for monitoring progress until 2018. Despite high-level political commitment and a clear road map, progress had been inadequate and uneven, differing between and within countries. He noted that the Region faced many challenges and that country action on noncommunicable disease governance, risk factor prevention and reduction, surveillance and health care was needed, while involvement of multisectoral stakeholders, including non-state actors, would help accelerate progress.

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

The Coordinator, Health Security and Preparedness, presented on progress in implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He noted that an IHR regional assessment commission had been established, tools for IHR capacity assessment harmonized with other global tools, and Joint External Evaluation assessments conducted in six countries of the Region so far, with nine more planned up to April 2017. The Regional Assessment Commission had made a number of recommendations to countries to accelerate implementation of IHR in the Region. He also invited the Regional Committee to provide comments on the WHO draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response.

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

The Regional Adviser, Health Economics and Financing, presented on progress regarding the framework for action on advancing universal health coverage in the Region. He noted that the framework contained four strategic components: developing a vision and strategy for universal health coverage; improving health financing system performance and enhancing financial risk protection; expanding coverage of needed health services; and ensuring expansion and monitoring of population coverage. Each was accompanied by priority actions for countries and the related WHO support. He proposed adapting the framework to local contexts, advocating universal health coverage as part of the Sustainable Development Goal agenda, strengthening national health systems, with special attention to countries in emergencies, obtaining greater engagement with priority programmes, and strengthening the capacity of WHO in these areas.

The session was adjourned at 12 noon.

3. Other meetings Wednesday, 5 October 2016

12:30–14:00	Access to controlled medicines in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	5th floor meeting room
16.00–17.00	Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation, Down Syndrome, and State of Kuwait Prize selection (closed meeting)	6th floor meeting room
16.00–17.00	High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth: proposed briefing for Regional Committees	5th floor meeting room
17.00-18.00	Meeting for updating on the support of the GAVI Alliance – The GAVI eligible countries are Afghanistan, Djibouti, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen	5th floor meeting room
18:00	Meeting of the Drafting Committee	4th floor meeting room
