

**65th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean,
15–18 October 2018
Khartoum, Sudan**

**EMRO/RC65/DJ/2
16 October 2018**

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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/rc65/index.html> and the Regional Committee mobile app. The Daily Journal will be distributed to participants each morning.

Note: There will be no return service for documents to Member States.

Internet access Wireless internet access is available in all meeting areas.

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WHO publications Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee will be on display outside the Nile Ballroom conference room. Other recent publications and the 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 related to the Regional Committee sessions.

1. Programme of work

Agenda item **08:30–11:00 Regular session** (Al Salam Rotana Hotel – Nile Ballroom)

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| 2 | Programme Budget 2020–2021 | EM/RC65/2 |
| 4(a) | Advancing universal health coverage | EM/RC65/4 |
| 4(c) | Promoting health and well-being | EM/RC65/6 |

Agenda item **11:15–13:00 Regular session**

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|------|--|----------------------------|
| 4(d) | Optimizing WHO's performance: countries at the centre | EM/RC65/7 |
| 4(e) | Private sector engagement for advancing universal health coverage | EM/RC65/8 |
| 6 | Nomination of a Member State to the Joint Coordinating Board on the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases | EM/RC65/13 |

Agenda item **14:30–17:00 Regular session**

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| 4(b) | Protecting people from the impact of health emergencies | EM/RC65/5 |
| 5(e) | Development of a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants | EM/RC65/12 |
| 5(c) | Draft WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change | EM/RC65/10 |
| 5(d) | Development of the road map on access to medicines and vaccines | EM/RC65/11 |
| 5(a) | Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 142nd and 143rd Sessions | EM/RC65/9 |
| 5(b) | Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 144th Session of the WHO Executive Board | EM/RC65/9-Annex 1 |

2. Report of meetings

Monday, 15 October 2018

Opening session

Formal opening of the session

The opening session of the 65th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was held on Monday 15 October, in Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. The session was opened by H.E. Dr Ahmed Al Saidi, Minister of Health of Oman and Vice-Chair of the 64th session, on behalf of the outgoing Chair, Dr Saira Afzal Tarar, former Federal Minister of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Pakistan. Dr Al Saidi thanked the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese people for their excellent hospitality and organization in hosting the Regional Committee, and praised the rich history and culture of Sudan.

Statement by the African Union Commission

Her Excellency Amira Al Fadhil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union, drew attention to the role of the African Union Commission in supporting countries to implement global health policy, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She referred to several important collaborative projects with WHO, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) inaugurated in 2016, and the African Medical Agency to be launched in 2019, and welcomed opportunities for further collaboration.

Address by the Regional Director

In his first opening address as Regional Director, Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari set out a new vision for health care in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: *Health for All by All*. Everyone needed to be engaged as proactive agents for change as only by working together could the attainment of health for all people in the Region be achieved. Through the WHO transformation agenda, the Organization was improving its ways of working and optimizing its operational models. He shared his conviction that the Region's greatest asset was its people: by drawing on their tradition of scholarship and innovation, imaginative solutions could be found to improve public health. Young people were future leaders in health, and their energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the digital world must be harnessed to deal not only with challenges but the opportunities being presented. Health services must be brought close to communities to ensure that the health needs of all were addressed. In spite of enormous challenges and the dreadful consequences of emergencies, people in the Region were resilient. Dr Al-Mandhari pledged to make community engagement a higher priority. While his role as Regional Director was to catalyse and facilitate an exchange of ideas, it was only Member States who could drive implementation of the vision of health for all by all forward and strengthen the Region's contribution to achieving the "triple billion" targets of WHO's thirteenth general programme of work.

Address by the Director-General

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, referred to the significant achievements of the past year, notably the adoption of the thirteenth general programme of work (GPW 13), as well as the overhaul of WHO's work on emergencies and launch of a transformation project to make WHO more agile. He said that the "triple billion" targets to which countries had committed in GPW 13 were not new. They were simply what countries needed to achieve by 2023 in order to stay on track for the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that the Region was home to almost half of the world's internally displaced persons and two-thirds of its refugees, and he thanked those countries that had opened their borders to people seeking a safe haven from chaos and destruction. Universal health coverage, he said, was a vital line of defence against the impact of emergencies. Political commitment to universal health coverage, backed up by investments in stronger health systems, were therefore key to the long-term stability, security and prosperity of the Region. He emphasized that achieving the goal of universal health coverage could only happen by

making countries the centre of WHO's work. The transformation project was changing the way WHO operates to make sure that everything the Organization did was focused on delivering results in countries. The aim in strengthening country offices was to make sure that WHO was more effective in translating political commitment at the global level into tangible results on the ground.

Welcome by the Government of Sudan

H.E. Professor Mohamed Abu Zaid Mustafa, Federal Minister of Health, noted the importance of the meeting in the context of the 40th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration. Sudan was currently focusing its efforts on the areas of universal health coverage and strengthening health systems. He emphasized the importance of securing political commitment for universal health coverage at the highest levels. He closed by urging countries to make use of opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation and exchange experiences and to invest in building capacity, especially health leadership capacity.

Agenda item	Regular sessions
	<p>Chair: H.E. Dr Ahmed Al Saidi (Oman)</p>
1	<p>The Regional Committee elected the following officers:</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Professor Mohamed Abu Zaid Mustafa (Sudan) Vice-Chair: H.E. Dr Fawziya Abikar Nur (Somalia) Vice-Chair: H.E. Ms Faiqa Al Saleh (Bahrain)</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 Mariam Al-Hajeri (Bahrain), Dr Mohamed Jaber Hwoal (Iraq), Dr Mohsen Asadi Lari (Islamic Republic of Iran), Dr Badereddin Al Najjar (Libya).</p> <p>Secretariat: Dr Zafar Ullah Mirza, Dr Asmus Hammerich, Dr Arash Rashidian, Dr Michel Thieren, Mr Hatem El-Khodary, and Mr Tobias Boyd.</p> <p>The Regional Committee adopted the provisional agenda and provisional daily time-table.</p>
	<p>Chairs: H.E. Professor Mohamed Abu Zaid Mustafa (Sudan) and H.E. Dr Fawziya Abikar Nur (Somalia)</p>
3	<p>Annual report of the Regional Director for the year 2017, progress reports, and the roadmap for WHO's work in the Region</p> <p>The Regional Director presented his report to the Regional Committee on the work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in 2017 and early 2018. He focused on the implementation of WHO's new global strategy, the thirteenth general programme of work (GPW 13), in light of the new regional vision of Health for All by All. He noted that the GPW 13 required a transformation of WHO's business model to maximize its impact at country level, and that the Regional Office was reviewing its functions in each country to best meet local needs and draw on local strengths. He considered the challenges and priorities involved in meeting each of the "triple billion" strategic priorities of the GPW 13, noting that despite the many challenges, radical improvements were possible. Regarding universal health coverage, he highlighted the need to prioritize community participation, inclusion of the vulnerable, primary health care, quality and safety in health care, and effective coordination with the private sector. He acknowledged the unprecedented scale of emergencies in the Region and their drastic impact on public health, and said that despite the impressive response by WHO and its partners, greater efforts were needed to protect health workers, improve preparedness, develop health system resilience, "build back better" and strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. He drew attention to the re-emergence of previously controlled communicable diseases due to the conflict and crises in the Region, and noted that noncommunicable diseases</p>

accounted for two thirds of all deaths regionally. He highlighted that sustained action across multiple sectors was needed in response, and pledged that WHO would work in close partnership with countries to achieve this.

Interventions were made by representatives of the following Members of the Committee (in order): Palestine, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Iraq, Morocco, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Djibouti, Libya.

The Director-General said he looked forward to the discussions of the Regional Committee, and emphasized the importance of universal health coverage.

The Regional Director thanked the representatives for their contributions, which would be taken into consideration by the Secretariat. He noted that addressing the lack of family physicians in the Region was essential to the achievement of universal health coverage, and reported that WHO was reviewing its emergencies programme and the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action (CEHA), and welcomed comments from countries. He stated that attacks on health care facilities and personnel were unacceptable and that WHO was convening a meeting to focus on this area of concern.

7 Report of the third meeting of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee

The Chair (Islamic Republic of Iran) of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee presented the third report of the Programme Subcommittee, which had met on 2 and 3 April 2018. He also presented a brief oral report of the fourth meeting of the Programme Subcommittee, held on 14 October 2018.

8 Award Distribution: Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship, the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and the Down Syndrome Research Prize

Panel discussion

Moderator: Dr Zafar Mirza, Director, Health Systems Development, WHO/ EMRO

A panel discussion was held on the subject of primary health care in the context of the 40th anniversary of Alma-Ata. The panelists were Dr Fawziya Abikar Nur (Somalia), Dr Michael Kidd (Australia), Dr Mohamed Assai (Islamic Republic of Iran), and Dr Omar Suleiman (Oman). The panel discussed the experiences and lessons learned in the Region with regard to primary health care.

Agenda item Regular session

Chair: H.E. Dr Fawziya Abikar Nur (Somalia)

9 Place and date of future sessions of the Regional Committee

The Regional Committee decided to hold its 66th session in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 14 to 17 October 2019.

Regional suggestions for nominations for elected officials for the Seventy-second World Health Assembly and Executive Board members

The Acting Director, Programme Management, reminded the Committee of the processes adopted by the Regional Committee at its 63rd session ([EM/RC63/R.6](#)) for the nomination of Executive Board members and elected officials of the World Health Assembly. He presented regional suggestions for the elective posts for the Seventy-second World Health Assembly and for new members of the Executive Board.

3. Other meetings
Tuesday, 16 October 2018

13:30	Health in all policies (HiAP) approach to promote healthy population: experience so far, and way forward (<i>Event organized by host government</i>) (<i>Side meeting</i>)	Nile Ballroom
17:00	Unified Medical Dictionary (UMD) new edition 2018 (<i>Side meeting</i>)	Almas 1 Meeting Room B (lower ground floor)
17:00	Update on the support of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (<i>Side meeting</i>)	Almas 2 Meeting Room C (lower ground floor)
18:00	Strengthening pharmacovigilance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (<i>Side meeting</i>)	Almas 1 Meeting Room B (lower ground floor)
19:00	Daily meeting of the Drafting Committee	Almas 2 Meeting Room C (lower ground floor)
20:00	Dinner hosted by Dr Ahmed Salim Al-Mandhari, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean	Al Salam Rotana Hotel Terrace

Group photo for heads of delegations (*time to be announced*)