

قرار

Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC66/R.3
October 2019**

**Sixty-sixth Session
Agenda item 3(b)**

Strengthening the nursing workforce to advance universal health coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on strengthening the nursing workforce to advance universal health coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a call for action;¹

Recalling resolutions EM/RC55/R.5, EM/RC45/R.12, and EM/RC41/R.10 aimed at promoting development and improving the quality of nursing and midwifery in the Region;

Mindful of resolution EM/RC64/R.1 endorsing the framework for action on health workforce development in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to accelerate progress in addressing health workforce challenges towards the 2030 Agenda;

Concerned at the continuing shortage and maldistribution of the nursing workforce and the urgent need to recruit, retain, educate and motivate sufficient numbers of nurses with an appropriate skills mix, including primary care nurses, without whom universal health coverage cannot be realized;

Concerned about the impact of emergencies on the availability, safety and distribution of the nursing workforce and the urgent need to educate and retain nurses to provide services in countries in emergency and those going through recovery, including for refugees and displaced populations;

Noting the renewed commitment to primary health care made by world leaders in the Declaration of Astana of 2018, and recognizing the key role of the nursing workforce within interdisciplinary primary care teams to meet present and future health needs;

Recognizing that in almost every country the nursing workforce could constitute a significant force to support national strategies and plans to improve the quality and outcomes of health services towards universal health coverage;

Considering the changing demographic, epidemiological and technological contexts;

Conscious that a strong political commitment must underpin the critical role of the nursing workforce in saving lives and improving health care;

¹ EM/RC66/4.

Welcoming the endorsement by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly of the year 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife;

Reaffirming the need to accelerate implementation of the Regional Framework for Action: strengthening nursing and midwifery in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2016–2025;

1. CALLS FOR ACTION and

2. URGES Member States to:

- 2.1 Develop and implement national strategies and action plans to strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce.
- 2.2 Enhance work environments to allow nurses to use their knowledge and skills productively through well-defined standards of nursing practice, appropriate remuneration, opportunities for career development and continuing professional development.
- 2.3 Ensure routine health information systems collect data on the nursing and midwifery workforce, for strategic planning, policy development and management.
- 2.4 Undertake labour market analysis, and develop strategies to attract and retain the workforce, including elevating the status and value afforded to the nursing and midwifery professions.
- 2.5 Strengthen the primary health care nursing workforce by defining and expanding nurses' roles and scopes of practice to maximize the utilization of their capacities.
- 2.6 Reorient nursing and midwifery education and training, emphasizing primary care competencies, and develop accreditation systems to ensure the quality of education at all levels.
- 2.7 Develop specific country-level activities to mark 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

- 3.1 Facilitate technical cooperation with Member States to develop national plans and strategies in line with the Regional Framework for Action: strengthening nursing and midwifery in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2016–2025.
- 3.2 Support efforts to implement national strategies and plans and monitor progress.
- 3.3 Provide a report to the 69th, 72nd, 75th and 77th sessions of the Regional Committee on progress until the year 2030.