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Resolution

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC58/R.5  
October 2011

Fifty-eighth Session

Agenda item 4 (b)

**Scaling up the Expanded Programme on Immunization to meet global and regional targets**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed and discussed the technical paper on scaling up the Expanded Programme on Immunization to meet global and regional targets<sup>1</sup>;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution S-27/2 A world fit for children, and the target adopted by the Assembly at its special session in 2002, and resolutions WHA58.15 Global immunization strategy, WHA63.24 Accelerated progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goal no. 4 to reduce child mortality: prevention and treatment of pneumonia, EM/RC44/R.6 Eradication and elimination of diseases with special reference to measles and tuberculosis, and EM/RC51/R.10 Vaccine development, accessibility and availability: towards self-sufficiency in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

Acknowledging the significant increase in routine vaccination coverage, the remarkable reduction in measles mortality of at least 90%, compared with the level in 2000, in all countries of the Region, and the significant progress in introduction of new vaccines in the high-income and low-income countries of the Region;

Recognizing the essential role of a strong immunization programme within the health system for achieving all immunization-related targets, including eradication of poliomyelitis and elimination of measles, as well as Millennium Development Goal no. 4;

Further recognizing that a considerable number of the deaths among children under 5 years of age in the Region could be prevented by the addition of three new vaccines, namely Hib conjugate vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and rotavirus vaccine;

Concerned that at least 1.5 million infants in countries of the Region did not receive their third dose of routine DTP vaccine in 2010, that the regional target of measles elimination by 2010 was not achieved and measles is resurging in some countries in the Region, and that there has been delay in introducing new life-saving vaccines in some countries of the Region, especially the middle-income countries;

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<sup>1</sup> Document no. EM/RC58/4

Noting the role that pooled vaccine procurement systems can play in improving affordability and accessibility of all vaccines;

Aware of the importance of health education and communication of the public in addressing refusals and creating demand for vaccination;

Aware also of the role that the regional vaccination week can play in advocacy, education and communication;

**1. URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Review and strengthen the structure and managerial capacity of the national immunization programme at all levels;
- 1.2 Strengthen national vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, including surveillance for adverse events following immunization, and monitoring and evaluation of the national immunization programme;
- 1.3 Allocate necessary resources for proper implementation of the regional strategy for measles elimination in order to achieve elimination by 2015;
- 1.4 Mobilize the resources necessary to introduce pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, Hib conjugate vaccine and rotavirus vaccine as soon as possible;
- 1.5 Continue to implement the annual Vaccination Week in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and use this campaign as an opportunity to promote the value of immunization;
- 1.6 Participate in the establishment of a regional pooled vaccine procurement system;

**2. REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Continue to provide technical support to Member States in their efforts to strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of the national immunization programme and to introduce new vaccines;
- 2.2 Support and develop ongoing collaborative activities with the various agencies extending support to national immunization programmes, in order to ensure maintenance of the current achievements in the Region;
- 2.3 Establish a regional pooled vaccine procurement system; and
- 2.4 Facilitate transfer of technology for production of vaccines.