



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

EM/RC64/1

**Sixty-fourth Session
Islamabad, Pakistan, 9-12 October 2017**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**1. Annual Report of the Regional Director 2016, including progress reports (Agenda item 2,
document EM/RC64/2)**

The Annual Report of the Regional Director covers 2016 and early 2017. It focuses on the major work undertaken in regard to the strategic priorities endorsed by the Regional Committee in 2012:

Under this agenda item, progress reports on the following subjects will also be outlined and provided as information documents:

- Eradication of poliomyelitis (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.1)
- Regional strategy on health and the environment 2014–2019 (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.2)
- Regional plan of action for implementation of the roadmap for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.3)
- Implementation of the Eastern Mediterranean vaccine action plan 2016–2020 (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.4)
- Regional strategy for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems 2014–2019 (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.5)
- Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.6)
- Scaling up mental health care (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.7)
- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.8)
- Report of the Regional Assessment Commission on the status of implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.9)
- Implementation of the regional malaria action plan 2016–2020 (EM/RC64/INF.DOC.10)

**2. Regional framework for action on cancer prevention and control (Agenda item 3 (a),
document EM/RC64/3)**

Cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide. Modelled estimates for 2030 show the Eastern Mediterranean Region having the highest projected increase in cancer burden among all six WHO regions. Most cancer cases in the Region are diagnosed at a late stage, when treatments are less effective, therefore survival rates are low. This reflects a pressing need to scale up cancer prevention and control strategies. The proposed regional framework for action on cancer prevention and control was developed over two years in close consultation with Member States. It covers six key areas: governance; prevention; early detection; treatment; palliative care; and surveillance and research. In each of the areas, there are a number of recommended strategic interventions, along with proposed monitoring indicators. In total, the draft regional framework contains 26 strategic interventions and 18 monitoring indicators. The framework is intended as a tool for Member States to prioritize strategic interventions for cancer prevention and control, based on best available evidence.

3. Climate change and health: a framework for action (Agenda item 3(b), document EM/RC64/4)

Climate change is among the biggest global health threats of the 21st century. Direct health effects of climate change include increased risk of foodborne, waterborne, airborne and vector-borne diseases; malnutrition; excess mortality and morbidity due to heat exhaustion and heat strokes; and exacerbated cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses that arise from extreme weather events. Tackling climate change can be considered an enormous opportunity for global health. The proposed framework for action is presented to the 64th session of the Regional Committee for consideration. It aims at enhancing the resilience of health systems and their capacity to protect health from climate risks. The framework encompasses four key components: 1) establishing governance policy and leadership responsibilities for protecting health from climate change; 2) strengthening the resilience of health systems for instituting surveillance and response to climate–health impacts; 3) strengthening the health sector regulatory, monitoring and stewardship roles of the environmental and social determinants of health; and 4) catalysing multisectoral interventions and mobilization of support health and climate action.

4. Operationalization of the adolescent health component of the global strategy for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, 2016–2030 (Agenda item 3(c), document EM/RC64/5)

Adolescence is one of the most formative phases in human development and demands special attention in national development policies, programmes and plans. The adolescent mortality rate in low-income and middle-income countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region is the second highest in the world. The Global Accelerated Action for Health of Adolescent (AA-HA!): Guidance to Support Country Implementation is intended as a tool for national policy-makers and programme managers to assist them in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating adolescent health programmes. Member States are urged to translate the commitments made in the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health 2016–2030 into action by developing and implementing national strategic plans for adolescent health.

5. Antimicrobial resistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Agenda item 3(d), document EM/RC64/6)

Antimicrobial resistance has emerged as a major public health threat, and has recently received significant global attention in order to limit its spread. The rise of antimicrobial resistance is due to many factors, including lack of awareness and understanding, lack of robust surveillance systems for antimicrobial resistance, lack of infection prevention and control programmes and misuse of antimicrobials in the human and animal health sectors. Countries of the Region have recognized antimicrobial resistance as an important public health problem and have committed to a multisectoral response through a range of global commitments. However, they are faced with multiple challenges that hamper their ability to control antimicrobial resistance, including lack of reliable data, lack of collaboration with the food, agriculture and animal health sectors, absence of or lack of enforcement of laws to control antibiotic use. Regional activities need to focus on combatting the spread of antimicrobial resistance through three high-impact strategies: communication and advocacy to increase awareness of antimicrobial resistance and impact behaviour change; infection prevention and control; and surveillance for antimicrobial resistance.

6. Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Seventieth World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 140th and 141st Sessions (Agenda item 4(a), document EM/RC64/7)

The paper highlights resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2017 which have direct relevance to or implications for the Region, and a direct link with regional priorities. In

addition, it provides a summary of the steps and actions being taken in implementing specific resolutions relating to regional and country needs.

7. Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 142nd Session of the WHO Executive Board (Agenda item 4(b), document EM/RC64/7-Annex 1)

The Regional Committee will review the draft provisional agenda of the 142nd Session of the Executive Board (January 2018).

8. Towards WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023 “Keep the World Safe, Improve Health, Serve the Vulnerable” (Agenda item 4(c), Draft Concept Note)

WHO's 13th General Programme of Work (GPW) will cover the period 2019–2023 and serve as the organizing framework for two Programme Budgets 2020–2021 and 2022–2023 as well as the strategic basis for resource mobilization. Its development process coincides with new leadership and an initiative for transformation within the Organization. The Secretariat is proposing an expedited but robust consultative process in order to develop and refine the draft GPW in time for submission to and approval by the World Health Assembly in May 2018. The purpose of this draft concept note is to stimulate discussion and feedback at the Regional Committee meetings as well as wide consultation with Member States, non-State actors and staff of the Secretariat. After discussion of the concept note at Regional Committee meetings throughout September and October, consultation with Member States and partners will continue through country offices and other mechanisms. An additional Executive Board meeting has been proposed for November 2017 to consider the draft GPW prior to submission to the Executive Board at its meeting in January 2018.

9. Nomination of a Member State to the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction (Agenda item 5(a), document EM/RC64/8)

According to the rules of membership of the Special Programme Policy and Coordinating Committee, as of 1 January 2018 there will be one vacancy for a Member State from the Eastern Mediterranean Region to replace Afghanistan, whose term of office will come to an end on 31 December 2017. The Regional Committee is requested to nominate one Member State to serve on the Committee, for a three-year period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

10. Report of the first meeting of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee (Agenda item 6, document EM/RC64/9)

The Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean held its first meeting on 5–6 April 2017, at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, Egypt. The Programme Subcommittee was established in response to resolution EM/RC63/R.6 (2016). The meeting was attended by experts nominated by Member States to serve as members of the Programme Subcommittee for a duration of two years, and by WHO staff. Members agreed to the agenda of the 64th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean and agreed to hold its second meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 8 October 2017, prior to the Regional Committee.

11. Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship

The Executive Board, at its 140th Session approved the nomination of Dr Yasmin Ahmed Jaffer (Oman) for the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2017. The prize will therefore be awarded to Dr Jaffer during the 64th Session of the Regional Committee.

12. Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The 63rd session of the Regional Committee decided not to award the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean for 2017, based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee for the State of Kuwait Prize. The scope of the Prize and the governance and membership of the Foundation Committee will be reviewed during the 64th session of the Regional Committee in 2017.

13. Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize

The Foundation Committee for the Down Syndrome Research Prize will hold its twelfth meeting during the 64th session of the Regional Committee in October 2017 to consider nominations received in 2017 based on revised criteria for selection.