



## **Report of the first meeting of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee**

### **Introduction**

1. 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 by the 63rd session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in resolution EM/RC63/R.6 (2016).

2. 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. The agenda and list of participants are included as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

3. The Programme Subcommittee elected the following officers to serve for a one-year term.

Chair: Dr Soad Abdel Megid (Egypt)  
Vice-Chair: Dr Mariam Al-Hajeri (Bahrain)  
Rapporteur: Dr Muhammed Jabber (Iraq)

### **WHO's work in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2017–2021**

4. An outline of the Regional Director's roadmap for WHO's work in the Region during the coming five years was presented. The participants discussed the identified priorities and the way forward in finalizing the roadmap over the coming six months, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that national priorities are taken into consideration.

### **Preliminary outline of the 64th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean**

5. An outline of the agenda of the 64th session of the Regional Committee was presented to the Programme Subcommittee. A list of the proposed topics for the different agenda items was shared with participants, as well as brief proposals for each topic. The Subcommittee members listened to concise presentations for the proposals. This was followed by a detailed discussion with the secretariat and clarification sought from the responsible officers.

6. The proposals fell under four broad areas: a) progress reports under the Regional Director's Annual Report (no discussion is required on these, as they are mandated for reporting through a previous Regional Committee resolution); b) RC technical papers; c) pre-RC technical sessions; and d) panel discussion and side events.

7. After careful consideration, members of the Programme Subcommittee agreed on topics under each of the broad areas. The topics agreed are listed in Annex 3.

### **Next steps**

8. The members of the Programme Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to draft terms of reference for the Chair and other officers, for review and consideration during the next meeting of the Subcommittee.

9. On the issue of membership, it was proposed to invite five countries (one from Group 1 and two from each of Groups 2 and 3<sup>1</sup>) to nominate members to the Programme Subcommittee for 2019–2020. These future members would be invited to attend the meeting in April 2018 as observers, in addition to the 8 existing members. This will help to ensure continuity and smooth rotation of membership the following year.

10. The Programme Subcommittee agreed to hold its second meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan on 8 October 2017, prior to the 64th session of the Regional Committee. Additional meetings may be arranged in due course if needed.

### **Closing of the session**

11. After thanking members of the Programme Subcommittee for their attention and valuable feedback and the Regional Office for its support, the Chair closed the session.

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<sup>1</sup> Group 1: Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia. Group 2: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Group 3: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic.

**Annex 1. Agenda**

1. Opening session
2. Adoption of the provisional programme
3. Overview of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
4. Election of officers for the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for 2017
5. WHO's work in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2017–2021
6. Preliminary outline of the 64th Session of the Regional Committee, including proposals for pre-RC sessions, technical papers and side events
7. Next steps and recommendations for the work of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
8. Closing session

## Annex 2. List of participants

### *Members of the Programme Subcommittee and observers*

Afghanistan	Dr Wahid Majrooh <sup>2</sup>
Bahrain	Dr Mariam Ebrahim Al-Hajeri
Egypt	Dr Soad Abdel Megid
Iraq	Dr Muhammed Jabber
Islamic Republic of Iran	Dr Mohsen Asadi-Lari
Kuwait	Dr Majda Al-Qattan <sup>3</sup>
Libya	Dr Badereddin Al-Najjar
Pakistan	Dr Assad Hafeez <sup>3</sup>

### *WHO Secretariat*

Dr Mahmoud Fikri	Regional Director
Dr Jaouad Mahjour	Director of Programme Management
Dr Basel Al-Yousfi	Director, Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action
Dr Maha El-Adawy	Director, Health Protection and Promotion
Dr Rana Hajjeh	Director, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
Dr Zafar Ullah Mirza	Director, Health System Development
Dr Asmus Hammerich	Director, a.i., Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health
Ms Ann Van Hulle Colbert	Director, a.i., Administration and Finance
Dr Ni'ma Abid	Team Leader, Polio Eradication and Emergency Support
Dr Olla Shideed	Technical Officer, Office of the Regional Director
Ms Hala El-Shazly	Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of the Regional Director
Ms Samah Afana	Administrative Assistant, Office of the Regional Director
Ms Rana Al-Naggar	Team Assistant, Office of the Regional Director

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<sup>2</sup> Unable to attend

<sup>3</sup> Observer status, as representative of the Member State hosting the 64th session of the Regional Committee

### Annex 3. List of topics agreed for the 64th session of the Regional Committee

Progress reports under the Regional Director's Annual Report		
Responsible unit	Title	Comments
POL	Eradication of poliomyelitis in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	Statutory
CEHA	Regional strategy on health and the environment 2014-2019 <i>EM/RC60/R.5: Report every two years until 2019</i>	Progress submitted in RC62
CEHA	Plan of action for the regional implementation of the global roadmap to address the health impacts of indoor and outdoor air pollution <i>EM/RC63/R.1: Submit roadmap in RC64</i>	
DCD	Implementation of the Eastern Mediterranean vaccine action plan and the regional malaria action plan (2016-2020) <i>EM/RC55/R.9: periodical reporting</i> <i>EM/RC62/R.1: recommended reporting on progress every two years starting from 2017</i>	Update presented in RC58 & in RC62 (as part of the RD's annual report)
IER	Regional strategy for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems 2014-2019 <i>EM/RC60/R.7: report every two years, until 2019</i>	Update presented in RC62)
NMH	Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases <i>EM/RC59/R.2: report annually</i> <i>EM/RC61/R.3: report to RC62, RC63 &amp; RC64</i>	Update presented in RC62 & RC63
NMH	Scaling up mental health care: a framework for action <i>EM/RC62/R.5: report to RC every 2 years, starting 2017</i>	
WHE	Progress of States Parties in implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) <i>EM/RC59/R.4: report annually to RC</i> Regional Assessment Commission to report on the status of implementation of IHR (2005) annually through the Regional Director <i>EM/RC62/R.3: report annually to RC</i>	
Special session following the Regional Director's Annual Report		
WHE	Humanitarian emergencies in the Region, including the health of displaced populations: activities of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme	
POL	Update on the polio eradication programme in Afghanistan and Pakistan	
Technical papers		
CEHA	Climate change and health	
NMH	Regional framework of action for cancer prevention, management and control	
HPP	Operationalization of the adolescent health component of the global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health, 2016–2030	
DCD	Antimicrobial resistance in the Region	
Pre-RC technical sessions		
HSD	Private sector engagement for advancing universal health coverage	
IER	Developing national capacity for research and research ethics to improve decision making for health	
HSD	Good Governance for medicines programme – results and impact to date	
NMH/WHE	Development of a noncommunicable disease emergency health kit: rationale and approach	
NMH	Regional plan of action for tobacco control	
DCD	Integrated communicable disease surveillance	
Panel discussion and side events		
Cross-departmental, coordinated by HSD	Sustainable Development Goals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	Panel discussion
POL	Update on polio transition planning and post certification strategy	
HPP	Implementation of the recommendations of the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Shanghai 2016	
DCD	Side meeting on Global Fund	
DCD	GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance side event	