

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WHA39.27 on the rational use of drugs;

Having considered the report by the Regional Director on the essential drug programmes in the Region;¹⁰

Noting the progress that has been made in the implementation of these programmes;

1. URGES all Member States:

1.1. to promote the concept of the use of a limited number of essential drugs;

1.2. to assure a regular supply of essential drugs of good quality to the primary health care level;

1.3. to ensure that certain drugs, in particular antibiotics, are not dispensed without prescription;

1.4. to allocate adequate financial resources for implementation of a national programme on essential drugs;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

2.1. to continue organizing workshops on the rational use of essential drugs in an effort to improve prescribing practices;

2.2. to assist countries in developing adequate systems for drug procurement, storage and distribution;

2.3. to continue providing training to all categories of personnel involved in the procurement, storage, supply and rational use of drugs;

2.4. to further strengthen the network of complementing drug-quality laboratories in the Region;

2.5. to continue to provide objective, up-to-date information on drugs to countries and to develop systems for more widespread dissemination of such information;

2.6. to report to the Thirty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee on the progress made and problems encountered in implementing the above.

10. Document EM/RC33/10.