



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC35/16
May 1988

Thirty-fifth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 19

REGIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION
PROGRESS REPORT

The Regional Committee at its Thirty-fourth Session agreed to extend the Regional Office in Alexandria and requested the Regional Director to pursue negotiations and to submit a proposal to the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly for financing from the Real Estate Fund. The Committee is informed that agreement in principle to proceed with negotiations with the Egyptian Government and to undertake architectural study has been given by the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly.

BACKGROUND

The space limitations of the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region were documented for the Regional Committee in 1987 (EM/RC34/18). The Regional Committee studied alternative solutions and, in resolution EM/RC34/R.15, favoured the option of extending the present Regional Office building in Alexandria. The Regional Director was requested to pursue negotiations and to submit a proposal for improvement of the Regional Office to the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly for consideration for financing from the Real Estate Fund. Contributions were also invited from Member States to assist in the financing of the proposed accommodation.

PROGRESS SINCE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

A report summarizing the background situation, future space requirements, basic alternatives and cost estimates which served as the basis for the decision taken by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Regional Committee was presented to the Eighty-first Session of the Executive Board in January 1988 and the Forty-first Session of the World Health Assembly in May 1988. The agreement, in principle, of the Board and of the Health Assembly was solicited for the Regional Director to pursue negotiations with the Egyptian authorities for the extension of the Regional Office building in Alexandria, and to carry out a detailed architectural and planning study in 1988 at an estimated cost of US\$10 000, to be financed from the Real Estate Fund. The results of this study would be reported to the Regional Committee, Executive Board and Health Assembly before a final decision is taken on the matter.

The Executive Board and the Health Assembly have given such agreement in their resolutions EB81.R3 and WHA41.13 respectively.

The Regional Director is pursuing negotiations with the Egyptian authorities and initial steps have been taken to solicit architectural options for the proposed extension.

The Regional Director wishes to recall the anticipated substantial cost of the proposed extension, and to propose that financial assistance by Member States would be a strong demonstration of the Region's own support for its health development and would promote sympathetic consideration by the Health Assembly, at the appropriate time, of the use of the Real Estate Fund for this extension.