

The Regional Committee,

Noting the report of the Regional Director on the Tuberculosis Situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region,*

Recognizing the significant achievements in tuberculosis control in a few countries,

Concerned about the magnitude of the problem of tuberculosis in most countries of the Region,

Satisfied by the fact that all Member States have become more aware of the problem and have started to intensify their efforts for tuberculosis control,

1. COMMENDS the Regional Director for his report on this subject;
2. THANKS the partners collaborating in tuberculosis control in the Region;
3. URGES Member States, particularly those where tuberculosis is a major problem, to:
 - 3.1. develop and strengthen national tuberculosis control programmes;
 - 3.2. strengthen microscopic examination through development of peripheral laboratories to ensure the provision of microscopic examination of sputum at all levels of health care services and ensure satisfactory supervision of this basic service;
 - 3.3. ensure provision of adequate chemotherapy to every diagnosed patient until complete cure is achieved, through the administration of short-term chemotherapy using effective drugs;
 - 3.4. maintain BCG vaccination within EPI and ensure high vaccine quality and trained vaccinators so as to limit complications;
4. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:
 - 4.1. strengthen the Regional technical capabilities in tuberculosis control to respond to the increasing demands from countries in the areas of programme planning, training, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
 - 4.2. continue to mobilize resources from both the Regular Budget and extrabudgetary sources to support tuberculosis control efforts;
 - 4.3. continue to strengthen the development of the necessary technical capabilities within Member States;
 - 4.4. monitor developments in tuberculosis control and report to the Regional Committee after five years about the progress achieved, particularly in terms of reduction of morbidity from tuberculosis among the population of the Region.

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