



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC38/1 (Annotated)

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

9 June 1991

Tunis, 6-9 October 1991

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
FOR THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF  
THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. The Work of the World Health Organization in the Eastern Mediterranean Region - Annual Report of the Regional Director for the year 1990 (Agenda item 4, document EM/RC38/2)

As last year, the Report of the Regional Director to the Regional Committee is on an annual basis, covering the calendar year 1990. The report contains a comprehensive and illustrative coverage of Regional developments and achievements during the year, highlighting successes and constraints.

2. Changes to the Programme Budget for the Eastern Mediterranean for the Financial Period 1992-1993 (Agenda item 5, document EM/RC38/3)

Following RC37, there have been a few modifications to the EMR proposed programme budget for the financial period 1992-93, which was submitted to that session of the Regional Committee, as well as changes resulting from detailed programme budgeting by the Joint Government/WHO Programme Reviews in 1991.

3. Resolutions and Decisions of Regional interest adopted by the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly and by the Executive Board at its Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Sessions (Agenda item 7, document EM/RC38/4)

This document lists the resolutions and decisions adopted by the WHA and the EB this year, which are of regional interest. In addition, a summary of the actions taken in implementing some of these resolutions at Regional and country levels is also provided in this document.

4. Report of the Regional Consultative Committee (Fifteenth Meeting) (Agenda item 8, document EM/RC38/5)

This is the report of the Regional Consultative Committee fifteenth meeting held in the Regional Office, on 22 April 1991. The main topics on its agenda were "the use of various criteria for resource allocation" and "evaluation of international water supply and sanitation decade".

5. Report on the Joint Government/WHO Programme Review Missions for 1991  
(Agenda item 9, document EM/RC38/6)

The document reports to the Regional Committee on the fifth round of the Joint Government/WHO Programme Review Missions in countries of the Region which took place in the first half of 1991. In accordance with the technical guidelines of the JPRMs, reprogramming for the remaining part of 1991 was undertaken; detailed programme budgeting for collaborative activities during the biennium 1992/93 was made; and main thrusts for 1994/95 were identified. The JPRM Reports will serve as a guiding document for implementation of activities during the next biennium 1992/93 in each country of the Region.

6. Health of the elderly and problems of the handicapped (Agenda item 10 (a)  
document EM/RC38/7)

This technical paper reflects the situation of the elderly in the light of a study conducted by EMRO in five countries of the Region. The issue of integration of health care for handicapped elderly into Primary Health Care will be a main theme.

7. Integration into primary health care of: (i) occupational health, (ii) safeguards against toxic effects of pesticide use, (iii) peripheral laboratory services, (iv) basic surgery (Agenda item 10 (b), document EM/RC38/8)

In spite of the progress achieved in applying primary health care (PHC), there are still many gaps to be filled to reach its full implementation. The technical paper proposes some important services that should be integrated into PHC services to give it its full meaning. These include: a) basic laboratory services based on an approved list of essential tests; b) basic surgery based on a well-defined list of essential surgical procedures that could be applied at this level; c) measures for the protection and promotion of workers' health, applying the term worker in its widest meaning; and d) measures for the safeguard against toxic effects of pesticide use through educating PHC workers about the safe use of pesticides as well as first aid and basic treatment for poisoning cases.

8. Health Economics (Agenda item 11, document EM/RC38/Tech.Disc./1)

This document is submitted to the Regional Committee in response to the recommendation of the Ninth Meeting of RCC (1988) as regards subject of Technical Discussions. It constitutes a background paper which outlines the problems, gaps, possible solutions, and experiences of Member States around two main themes: efficiency and equity in the use of existing health resources and, mobilizing from internal and external sources greater resources for HFA.

This report would be a basis for adopting a regional plan of action to foster and strengthen the use of health economics' principles and methods in support of HFA policies and strategies in EMR.

9. Development of National Health Information Systems in the Region (Agenda item 12, document EM/RC38/9)

This document is submitted to the Regional Committee in response to resolution EM/RC37/R.5.

The paper describes the present health statistical situation in countries of the Region, and the importance of developing and strengthening of national health information systems. It also identifies the various steps to be taken in the implementation of recommended action, adapted to the needs of each country.

10. Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) - Progress Report (Agenda item 13, document EM/RC38/10)

This progress report is in accordance with resolution EM/RC37/R.13 adopted by the Regional Committee at its 37th session in October 1990, whereby it requested the Regional Director to report regularly to the Regional Committee on progress made in providing the necessary support to national programmes for AIDS prevention and control; dissemination of available technical information in the Region, and in keeping the status of HIV/AIDS at both regional and global levels under surveillance.

11. Expanded Programme on Immunization in the Eastern Mediterranean Region - Progress Report (Agenda item 14, document EM/RC38/11)

The Expanded Programme on Immunization has achieved remarkable success during 1990. For the first time in the history of the Region, well over 80% of the children have received three doses of DPT/OPV, 75% are immunized against measles and nearly 50% of pregnant mothers are immune against tetanus.

As we begin the 1990s, the challenges facing us are different. They include sustaining high coverage, achieving disease reduction goals including polio eradication, neonatal tetanus elimination and 95% reduction in measles deaths.

Unless continued specific priority is accorded to the programme, its gain to date could be jeopardized. Therefore, it was proposed that a progress report on EPI be included in the agenda of the Regional Committee.

12. Second Report on Regional Evaluation of Health for all Strategies (Agenda item 15, document EM/RC38/12)

This Regional Evaluation Report is submitted in accordance with resolution WHA39.7 (1986) which modified the periodicity of reporting on monitoring and evaluation of the strategies to become every three years instead of every two years. Accordingly Member States should report to their Regional Committees in 1991 the second evaluation of their national HFA strategies. The first evaluation was carried out in 1985.

With similar reports from other WHO Regions to be sent to HQ, a Global Report will be prepared, and submitted through the Executive Board to the World Health Assembly in 1992. This Global Report will constitute the Eighth Report on the World Health Situation.

Approval of this Regional report by the Regional Committee is kindly requested before forwarding it to WHO Headquarters.

13. Interim Report on Leadership Development Programme in International Health (LDP.2), 1991 (Agenda item 16, document EM/RC38/13)

This interim report provides the arrangements made for the organization and conduct of the second session of leadership development programme in international health, which is scheduled to start in August 1991 and to be completed by July 1992.

14. Report on Progress of WHO-sponsored Research Activities in the EMR (Agenda item 17, document EM/RC38/14)

This progress report covers WHO-sponsored research activities in the Region during the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1991, presented in line with resolution EM/RC36/R.8 of the Regional Committee, adopted at its Thirty-sixth Session in October 1989.

The report also includes the two meetings of the EM/ACHR (15th session held in Abu Dhabi, 19-21 March 1990, and the 16th session held in Alexandria, 24-25 April 1991). Discussions during these meetings mainly centered on the programme of research promotion and development which aimed at strengthening the national research capability of Member States to solve problems related to their attainment of HFA goals.

15. Nomination of a Member State to the Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (Agenda item 18, document EM/RC38/15)

As from 1 January 1992, there will be one vacancy for a Member State from the Eastern Mediterranean Region to replace Somalia whose term will end on 31 December 1991. The Regional Committee is requested to nominate one Member State to serve on the Joint Coordinating Board of the TDR for the three years, 1992, 1993 and 1994.