

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report of the Regional Director on the sustainability of national immunization levels;⁹

Noting the progress achieved thus far in immunization coverage and control of EPI-preventable diseases in the Region;

Recognizing, however, with concern, that the progress in some countries is not at the rate which would allow their national programmes to reach the targets set by the Children's World Summit, the World Health Assembly, and the Regional Committee;

Realizing that immunization services are one of the most cost-effective strategies in preventing disease;

Reaffirming that the regional targets for immunization programmes are feasible and attainable provided that continuing and sustained national support is ensured;

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for his report;
2. **WELCOMES** the establishment of a Regional Interagency Coordination Committee to secure extrabudgetary funds for EPI;
3. **URGES** Member States:
 - 3.1 to sustain political and financial commitment to EPI;
 - 3.2 to maintain coordination with other appropriate sectors and NGOs, as well as with influential public figures;
 - 3.3 to ensure an uninterrupted supply of high-quality vaccines and to work together towards achieving regional self-sufficiency in production of vaccines and rationalizing their use;
 - 3.4 to ensure the inclusion of national immunization strategies in the curricula of medical and other health-related schools;
 - 3.5 to continue to ensure public awareness of the need for immunization of children;
 - 3.6 to develop a defaulter-retrieval system;
 - 3.7 to implement appropriate new and innovative strategies in order to accelerate immunization activities, including linking issuance of birth certificates to having full immunization status, and enactment of appropriate legislation;
 - 3.8 to accord special priority to immunizing children in remote areas, and those of displaced people and nomads, where immunization coverage is traditionally low.

⁹ Document EM/RC41/6.