

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper<sup>1</sup> submitted by the Regional Director on the ethics of medicine and health,

Being aware of the increasing importance of ethics, particularly in view of the negative aspect ensuing from global, economic, social, scientific and technological changes, and necessitating the adoption and promotion of, and adherence to, these ethics;

Convinced that ethics should regulate all practices in the medical and health field;

Considering that the Eastern Mediterranean Region has a wealth of sources for ideals and ethics, including the ethics of medicine and health,

1. **ASSERTS** that it is necessary to establish a detailed code of health ethics to guide the countries of the Region;
2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to establish a regional commission, composed of jurists and other competent experts from the Region, to conduct an accurate and detailed study of the subject and formulate the above code;
3. **REQUESTS** the organizations concerned, such as the Islamic Organization of Medical Sciences, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Council of International Organizations for Medical Sciences, to collaborate with the World Health Organization in this respect;
4. **URGES** the institutions concerned in the countries of the Region to include in undergraduate curricula of the faculties of medicine and other health sciences a compulsory course on the ethics of medicine and health, as a first step towards promoting commitment to such ethics;
5. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to include in his Annual Report a statement on the progress achieved on this subject.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC42/7