

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing the considerable magnitude of cancer as a major cause of morbidity, human suffering and mortality in the Region;

Mindful of the significant burden on public health services resulting from cancer and the increasing economic costs that it provokes in Member States;

Aware of the need to intensify efforts to prevent cancers, to detect them early, to provide curative therapy to cancer patients and to minimize their suffering;

1. **INVITES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Develop, if they have not already done so, national cancer control programmes that cover activities for prevention, early detection, treatment and palliative care of cancer;
- 1.2 Promote national information systems and collection of data on cancer, the minimum in this respect being the availability of systems of information derived from medical and hospital records in all institutions concerned with cancer diagnosis and treatment;
- 1.3 Provide health education on cancer, placing emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles and combating unhealthy lifestyles, especially smoking, and coordinate with cancer-related communicable and noncommunicable disease control programmes;
- 1.4 Provide the essential elements of health care for cancer patients at all levels of the health care system, placing particular emphasis on ensuring, availability of and access to oral morphine and other requirements for palliative care for patients with terminal disease;
- 1.5 Involve nongovernmental organizations and national associations in cancer control programmes and in the fight against cancer;
- 1.6 Take necessary measures to reduce exposure of citizens to carcinogenic factors in the environment, including food additives;

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to consider the possibility of developing a regional database on cancer and to continue to provide the necessary technical support to national programmes and to assist countries in strengthening national capabilities in all aspects of cancer control.