

The Regional Committee,

Recalling articles 18, 28 and 50 of the Constitution of WHO which stipulate that the determination of the policies of the Organization at the global level shall be part of the functions of the World Health Assembly, and at the regional level part of the functions of the Regional Committee, and that the Executive Board shall give effect to the decisions and policies of the World Health Assembly;

Considering that setting of priorities is an integral part of policy-making, which renders the Regional Committee responsible for setting priorities at the regional level;

Considering the practice established in the Region during the past twelve years through Joint WHO/Government Programme Review Missions to be the best means of taking country priorities into account;

Considering that country priorities do not necessarily entail allocating funds from the budget of WHO collaborative programmes, particularly when sufficient funds are allocated from the national budget for priority programmes;

1. **AFFIRMS** that setting priorities according to country needs is best undertaken through Joint WHO/Government Programme Review Missions;
2. **ENDORSES** the use of the list of regional priorities mentioned hereunder for guidance in priority setting, as the list reflects the common needs of most of the countries of the Region;
  - 2.1 Development of human resources for health, including health leadership development, and development of managerial capabilities;
  - 2.2 The basic development needs approach, including healthy villages, healthy cities, self-reliance at the family level and home health care;
  - 2.3 Collection of health information and dissemination thereof through various means to countries of the Region;
  - 2.4 Eradication, elimination and control of specific diseases;
  - 2.5 Promotion of healthy lifestyles, particularly in the fields of nutrition, environmental health, maternal and child health and health of the elderly, and combating unhealthy lifestyles, particularly smoking;
  - 2.6 Provision of essential drugs and vaccines, as well as essential laboratory and radiological tests.