

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the Annual Report of the Regional Director on the Work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for the Year 1996¹ and having noted his statement thereon:

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for his comprehensive report, which reflects the close cooperation between the Regional Office and the Member States;
2. **ADOPTS** the Annual Report of the Regional Director;
3. **EMPHASIZES** the importance of the close link between medical education and health services;
4. **RE-EMPHASIZES** the pivotal importance of considering health an integral part of comprehensive development;
5. **CALLS FOR** closer health cooperation among countries, particularly neighbouring countries, to ensure the success of disease-control programmes, particularly those concerned with malaria and measles;
6. **REAFFIRMS** the necessity of assuring the quality of health services, including drug and vaccine quality;
7. **EMPHASIZES** the importance of community participation in health planning;
8. **CALLS FOR** the nomination of more national centres of excellence as WHO collaborating centres and increased attention to existing WHO collaborating centres.
9. **CALLS UPON** Member States to provide the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean with information on the advanced training and research centres available in the Region, with a view to preparing a manual on these centres and so facilitate the use of their services at the regional level.
10. **REQUESTS** Member States to intensify their efforts and actions in the field of tobacco control;
11. **INVITES** Member States to apply the WHO initiatives that have proved successful in some countries of the Region, particularly the basic development needs initiative.
12. **REAFFIRMS** the importance of the use by Member States of the expertise of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in order to support the health-sector reform process and the national stance in discussions with international organizations.

¹ Document EM/RC42/2