

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on the GATT Agreement and its impact on health¹;

Noting the concern expressed in recent summit meetings of developing and non-aligned countries and the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean of the possible impact of globalization and World Trade Organization agreements on the socioeconomic sectors in developing countries;

Noting the efforts of some Member States to make the best use of the transition period to prepare the national system for the full implementation of World Trade Organization agreements;

Appreciating the efforts made by WHO to publish information on the impact of WTO agreements on the health sector;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Ensure that ministries of health are represented on national committees entrusted with the task of studying the negative impact of World Trade Organization agreements on the health sector;
- 1.2 Conduct studies to coordinate response to World Trade Organization health-related agreements in cooperation with the Regional Office.

2. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to:

- 2.1 Continue, and expand upon, the ongoing studies on the impact of World Trade Organization agreements on the health sector, inviting contributions from Member States, and widely distribute the outcome of the studies;
- 2.2 Continue to promote WHO's role as the international agency responsible for setting standards in the health field;
- 2.3 Make constructive efforts with bodies and institutions concerned in order that they might take into account the social and health aspects of the impact of the World Trade Organization agreements;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to support the Ministries of Health in their efforts to address the negative impact of World Trade Organization agreements on the health sector, and act for the development of a regional plan for addressing this impact.

¹ Document EM/RC45/11