

**REGIONAL SELF-RELIANCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF  
ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND VACCINES**

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the current situation relating to the local production of essential drugs and vaccines outlined in the technical discussions paper<sup>1</sup>;

Deeply concerned about the suffering of the peoples of some countries of the Region as a result of actions that impede self-sufficiency in essential drugs and vaccines for those countries;

Recognizing the challenges faced in promoting self-reliance in production of essential drugs and vaccines;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Collect reliable data on national needs with regard to drugs and vaccines, and their consumption and production patterns, with special emphasis on essential drugs and vaccines;
- 1.2 Develop strategies for ensuring the availability of drugs and vaccines of high quality through importation or high quality local production;
- 1.3 Strengthen national capacities for the control of drugs and vaccines, including establishing functional national control authorities where these have not yet been established;
- 1.4 Establish coordination and collaboration in quality assurance, research and development, and in essential drugs and vaccine production, foster the development of common policies in relation to self-reliance in essential drugs and vaccines through regional and subregional structures or networks and promote regional trade;

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Support countries in updating their national pharmaceutical legislation by elaborating technical guidelines for current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) requirements;
- 2.2 Strengthen intercountry collaboration in harmonizing regulations and standards for quality requirements in order to promote regional trade of essential drugs;
- 2.3 Act for the removal of all impediments that restrict their ability to utilize their resources and capacities for promoting local industries of essential drugs and vaccines.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC45/Tech.Disc. 1