

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper and the regional action plan on food safety for the 21st century¹;

Concerned about the hazards inherent in unsafe food, and the considerable magnitude of food-borne illnesses in the Region;

Mindful of the important social and economic consequences of foodborne hazards;

Noting the new challenges facing countries in the area of food safety;

1. **ADOPTS** the Regional Action Plan to Address Food Safety in the 21st century;
2. **URGES** Member States to:
 - 2.1 Assess their current food safety infrastructure at national level and prepare a comprehensive country profile for food safety;
 - 2.2 Establish or strengthen the national food safety committee or similar body, and make it operational to implement the national food safety programme;
 - 2.3 Develop legislation and keep it up-to-date in accordance with the latest scientific developments;
 - 2.4 Promote preventive food-safety management systems based on hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP);
 - 2.5 Ensure effective education of food handlers and training of workers in food safety matters;
 - 2.6 Carry out research and data collection, including foodborne disease surveillance and exchange information on food which does not comply with health standards;
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
 - 3.1 Assist countries in their efforts to implement national action plans on food safety;
 - 3.2 Continue to provide timely information on emerging foodborne hazards;
 - 3.3 Continue to assist countries and in particular the Ministers of Health, to participate more actively in the work of Codex Alimentarius to ensure its regional relevance;
 - 3.4 Form a Regional Expert Committee on Food Safety to discuss food safety matters in the Region, prepare unified guidelines and work for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Food Safety.

¹ Document EM/RC46/6