

**EM/RC47/R.11      ELIMINATION OF LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on elimination of lymphatic filariasis in the Eastern Mediterranean Region<sup>10</sup>;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA50.29 (1997);

Recognizing the need for more awareness concerning this disease;

Noting with satisfaction the steps taken by WHO in development of the global lymphatic filariasis elimination strategy and foundation of a global coalition of partners to support the elimination of the disease at the national level;

Acknowledging the efforts made by national authorities and WHO in finding suitable approaches for the implementation of the major elements of the global strategy on lymphatic filariasis elimination, and commending in particular the campaign launched by the Egyptian health authorities in record time against the disease, a fact which proves to other countries of the Region that the disease can be eliminated in a short time;

Recognizing the opportunity to eliminate lymphatic filariasis in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for his report on this subject;
2. **APPRECIATES** the support extended by the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund for the implementation of the programme and thanks SmithKline Beecham and Merck Inc. & Co. for providing the drugs needed for elimination of the disease;
3. **URGES** Member States with present or past history of lymphatic filariasis transmission to:
  - 3.1 Undertake an epidemiological assessment of lymphatic filariasis in their countries;
  - 3.2 Strengthen filariasis management, surveillance, information and evaluation systems;
  - 3.3 Develop a time-bound national plan for elimination of lymphatic filariasis in line with the strategies adopted by WHO, with the participation of all governmental and nongovernmental bodies concerned;

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<sup>10</sup> Document EM/RC47/9

4. **ENCOURAGES** Member States without previous history of lymphatic filariasis to:

4.1 Carry out special surveys of specific population groups to verify that the country is free of the disease;

4.2 Submit all documentation specified by WHO to the International Commission for the Certification of Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination for certification of free status from filariasis transmission;

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

5.1 Provide the necessary support to Member States in connection with validation and certification of lymphatic filariasis elimination;

5.2 Inform the Regional Committee of progress achieved in attaining the elimination goal.