

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical discussions paper on development of communicable disease surveillance in the Region⁴;

Recalling the World Health Assembly resolutions, WHA22.47, WHA41.28 and WHA48.13 on surveillance of infectious diseases;

Recalling its resolutions EM/RC43/R.14 on the regional strategic plan in response to emerging and re-emerging diseases, EM/RC45/R.3 on emerging and resurging diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region with special reference to malaria and EM/RC46/R.9 on forecasting in communicable diseases;

Aware of the significant burden of communicable diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

Recognizing the need for further development of efficient communicable disease surveillance systems for its successful prevention and control in the Member States;

1. **COMMENDS** the steps already taken by the Regional Director to support communicable disease surveillance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
2. **URGES** Member States to:
 - 2.1 Develop disease surveillance as a core component and essential tool of health systems development, ensuring involvement of all health care providers including the private sector, and taking the necessary measures to ensure compliance with public health legislation;
 - 2.2 Undertake regular multilevel analysis of surveillance data using appropriate technology and reporting to the WHO Regional Office;
 - 2.3 Build on the positive achievements of existing surveillance systems and develop performance indicators that will facilitate monitoring of the surveillance system and undertake remedial action on noncompliance;
 - 2.4 Allocate sufficient resources for implementation of disease surveillance activities including field epidemiology training and strengthening public health laboratory capacity;
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to take appropriate steps to introduce the integrated communicable disease surveillance approach and its application in the Region and strengthen collaborative work with national reference laboratories in the Region, especially regarding diagnosis of emerging diseases.

⁴ Document RC47/Tech.Disc.1