

**EM/RC47/R.7 THE IMPLICATIONS OF GATT AND WTO
AGREEMENTS
ON HEALTH IN GENERAL**

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on the implications of GATT and WTO Agreements on health in general⁶;

Recalling the Regional Committee Resolution EM/RC45/R.10 on the same subject and the call for further studies at national, regional and global levels on the possible impact of WTO Agreements on the health sector;

Noting the efforts made by Member States to develop appropriate studies to protect the public health interests during the implementation of WTO Agreements;

Appreciating the efforts made by the Regional Office to carry out studies and provide technical support to Member States and present position papers on health and trade at international conferences;

Expressing serious concern about the potential negative impact of WTO Agreements on the health sector;

Emphasizing health as a basic human right and that implementation of WTO Agreements should not hinder universal and equitable access to essential health services and technological development;

Emphasizing strongly the necessity to balance the rights of the patient and those of the patent holder;

1. URGES Member States to:

- 1.1 Take the necessary measures to translate the relevant articles in the WTO Agreements relating to technology transfer and socioeconomic development in developing countries into practical plans of serious cooperation;
- 1.2 Ensure that representatives of the health sector participate in meetings and negotiations dealing with the implementation and revision of WTO Agreements;
- 1.3 Establish national bodies in which all relevant sectors are represented to study the impact of WTO Agreements on the various sectors, particularly the health sector, and to prepare necessary studies and contributions to future negotiations;

⁶ Document EM/RC47/6

- 1.4 Take urgent measures to revise national legislation to meet country commitments to WTO Agreements, taking into consideration national interests and protecting national resources, particularly national flora.
2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to support Member States in their efforts to formulate appropriate strategies in response to WTO Agreements;
3. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to:
 - 3.1 Strengthen active collaboration with Member States and ensure a proactive role for WHO in protecting the interests of the health sector and in presenting the views of Member States, particularly those of developing countries, in future WTO meetings and negotiations;
 - 3.2 Continue WHO's efforts to negotiate preferential prices for new essential drugs and technologies;
 - 3.3 Seek the representation of WHO in the Ministerial Council of the World Trade Organization.