

EM/RC47/R.9 SAFETY PROMOTION IN THE USE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on safety promotion in the use of hazardous materials⁸;

1. Recognizing that although chemicals are essential for socioeconomic development they should be safely managed in view of their potential hazard to humans and the environment;
2. Bearing in the mind the guidelines and technical expertise available from WHO in the area of chemical safety;
3. Considering the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED 1992, agenda 21, chapter 19) and the interests of Member States in ensuring safe management of chemicals, reflected in the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS) in 1994, which recommended preparation of national chemical safety profiles;

1. REQUESTS Member States to:

- 1.1 Strengthen or establish their national chemical safety programmes, and develop and strengthen poison information and control centres to ensure appropriate prevention and treatment of poisoning;
- 1.2 Ensure preparation of a national chemical safety profile (NCSP) as soon as possible;
- 1.3 Establish a high level national interministerial coordination committee on chemical safety, involving the Ministry of Health as well as all multisectoral and multidisciplinary stakeholders, this being essential for sustainable success;
- 1.4 Establish legislation and regulations to prevent chemical hazards in air, water and food;
- 1.5 Develop and strengthen chemical emergency preparedness and response programmes;

⁸ Document EM/RC47/8

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

- 2.1 Support Member States in preparation of their NCSPs, and strengthen existing poison information and control centres;
- 2.2 Support Member States in capacity-building in the fields of registration and preparation of inventories of hazardous chemicals, chemical emergency preparedness and response, and safe disposal of unwanted chemicals.