

**EM/RC49/R.10      ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND RATIONAL USE  
OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS**

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on antimicrobial resistance and rational use of antimicrobial agents<sup>1</sup>;

Being aware of the magnitude of, and increases in, antimicrobial resistance in the Region;

Noting the direct link between increases in antimicrobial resistance and a multitude of aspects of irrational use of medicines;

Expressing concern at the irrational use of antibiotics in the food industry and as growth promoters in livestock;

Mindful of the challenges posed by the current trends in antimicrobial resistance to continued effective treatment of priority diseases at a cost affordable by the individual as well as by society;

1. **CALLS** on Member States to:

- 1.1 Establish a national intersectoral task force, under leadership of the Ministry of Health, for antimicrobial resistance containment;
- 1.2 Introduce or strengthen legislative and regulatory mechanisms to ensure the appropriate use of antimicrobial medicines on a prescription-only basis;
- 1.3 Establish or strengthen hospital therapeutics committees and infection control programmes;
- 1.4 Establish or strengthen a national reference laboratory system for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance;
- 1.5 Introduce the essential medicines concept into undergraduate and postgraduate educational programmes for all health care workers;

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

- 2.1 Encourage the establishment of networks for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC49/8

- 2.2 Provide technical and financial support to operational research at regional, national or institutional level, aiming at assessing the magnitude of and containing antimicrobial resistance;
- 2.3 Explore the possibility of designating regional reference laboratories to support Member States in ensuring the quality of medicines marketed in the Region;
- 2.4 Keep the Regional Committee informed of progress in the implementation of this resolution.