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RESOLUTION

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC53/R.3  
September 2006

Fifty-third Session

Agenda item 8 (b)

**Regional strategy on preparedness and response for human pandemic influenza**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on regional strategy on preparedness and response for human pandemic influenza<sup>1</sup>;

Recognizing the significance and impact of the current outbreaks of avian influenza, and the potential gravity of the anticipated human pandemic influenza;

Recognizing that implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) is a significant step towards protection of the international community against the potentially devastating consequences of the pandemic influenza;

1. **ENDORSES** the WHO Eastern Mediterranean strategic plan for avian influenza and human pandemic influenza;
2. **CALLS UPON** Member States to:
  - 2.1 Develop and/or strengthen their national strategic plans for preparedness and response to avian influenza and human pandemic influenza, including the establishment of a high level national committee comprising representatives from key ministries and concerned technical bodies who will oversee, coordinate and guide prompt response;
  - 2.2 Ensure full transparency and timely exchange of information related to confirmed cases of avian influenza and human pandemic influenza, at all levels including communication of information to the public;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC53/5

- 2.3 Initiate the development of the necessary public health capacities, including necessary laboratory services;
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
  - 3.1 Further support development of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Network for Outbreak Alert and Response to ensure prompt response to and containment of outbreaks of avian influenza and human pandemic influenza;
  - 3.2 Further support and foster partnerships and resource mobilization necessary to facilitate coordination with other international agencies and WHO collaborating centres in establishing and strengthening influenza surveillance in Member States.