



قرار
RESOLUTION

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC53/R.8
September 2006**

Fifty-third Session

Agenda item 7 (a)

The role of government in health development

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical discussions paper on the role of government in health development¹;

Taking into consideration the importance of the role played by governments in health development;

Mindful of the significant changes in, and challenges facing, the role of government in general and health development in particular;

Acknowledging the societal values supporting health development and the national commitment to health as a human right and not a market commodity;

Aware of the new trends in implementing the various health system functions and the growing concerns over equity in access to quality health care, increasing vulnerability and limited coverage by social protection;

Encouraged by the firm national and regional commitment to protect health as a human right and by initiatives taken by some countries to improve investment in health and to promote the centrality of health in development;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

1.1 Promote investment in health development as having important economic return, and advocate the centrality of health in all social and economic development initiatives;

1.2 Continue to play their leadership role in health development in order to protect societal values of equity, solidarity and fairness in line with health for all policies and strategies which consider health as a human right and not as a market commodity;

¹ Document EM/RC53/Tech.Disc.1

- 1.3 Strengthen their governance capabilities, particularly in policy development, regulation and public/private mix management;
- 1.4 Protect the role of government in service delivery in order to secure access for the poor, vulnerable groups and rural and remote populations;
- 1.5 Pay particular interest to improving working conditions for professionals working full time in government facilities;
- 1.6 Develop national health system observatories aimed at enabling assessment of equity and health system performance and at better adaptation of policy reforms to the evolving changes in the political, economic and social fields;

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

- 2.1 Continue to provide technical support to countries in advocating investment in health, in incorporating social determinants of health and in promoting the centrality of health in social and economic development;
- 2.2 Convene a meeting of ministers of health and ministers of finance in order to advocate adequate financing of the health sector;
- 2.3 Continue to support countries in better assessing their health system functions and in monitoring the role of government at various levels, using the WHO analytical tools and adjustments;
- 2.4 Monitor at the regional level the evolution of the role of the governments in the Region in health development through the regional health system observatory.