



مَنْظَرُ الصِّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قَرَار

RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC54/R.8
October 2007

Fifty-fourth Session

Agenda item 5(a)

Medicine prices and access to medicines in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on medicine prices and access to medicines in Eastern Mediterranean Region¹;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA52.19 Revised drug strategy, WHA55.14 Ensuring accessibility of essential medicines, WHA56.27 Intellectual property rights, innovation and public health and WHA57.14 Scaling up treatment and care within a coordinated and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and Regional Committee resolutions EM/RC45/R.5 Regional self-reliance in the production of essential drugs and vaccines and EM/RC47/R.7 The implications of GATT and WTO agreements on health in general;

Recognizing that access to essential medicines is a part of the human right to health, their availability is fundamental to health care and the price of medicine is a crucial determinant of access, affordability and use;

Concerned at the low level of access to medicines for the sick and poor, high level of out-of-pocket expenditure on medicines, lack of social protection and weak health systems;

Concerned also at the frequent unavailability of essential medicines in health facilities, relatively high and unaffordable prices for the poor, lack of comparative information about prices and lack of use of evidence in developing medicine pricing policies;

Stressing the need for a health systems approach to improve access to essential medicines, especially for the poor;

¹ Document No. EM/RC5/Tech.Disc.1

1. **URGES** Member States to:
 - 1.1 Ensure good governance and transparency in medicine pricing policy and medicine management practices and strengthen national regulatory authorities;
 - 1.2 Ensure that provision for essential medicines is included in the establishment and strengthening of social protection schemes;
 - 1.3 Increase financing for essential medicines in the national health budget and ensure efficient use of existing resources in order to maximize access to essential medicines;
 - 1.4 Establish and/or strengthen medicine pricing policies as part of the essential medicines policies, ensuring public procurement of medicines promoting generics; enhanced competition among suppliers; pooled procurement where feasible; use of appropriate reference prices; and strengthening of medicine supply systems;
 - 1.5 Conduct regular medicine price surveys and collaborate with relevant government departments in order to rationalize the different cost components in the private supply chain, at wholesale and retail sale levels;
2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
 - 2.1 Promote networking among Member States, through a web-based medicine prices hub, in order to share information on medicine prices and pricing structures, as well as best practices in medicines management;
 - 2.2 Support Member States in surveying and monitoring of medicine prices, using adapted methodology;
 - 2.3 Develop guidelines for rational medicine pricing policies and support Member States in formulation, implementation and monitoring of such policies, and make available information on models of best practice from other regions.