

**71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean,
14–17 October 2024
Doha, Qatar**

**EMRO/RC71/DJ/1
14 October 2024**

Registration	All participants are kindly requested to register for the 71st session of the Regional Committee through the secure online registration service at: Seventy-First session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Health beyond borders: solidarity for access and equity in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (14-17 October 2024) no later than 15 August 2024. It is recommended to use the latest version of Google Chrome to access the registration page. The WHO Secretariat will confirm your registration via email. Registration is a prerequisite for attending the sessions in person.
Documents	Official documentation of the session is available in Arabic, English and French on the Regional Committee website from September 2024. Documents will not be dispatched by post. Participants are kindly requested to consult the documents online.
Credentials	Member States should communicate the names and designations of their representatives and all alternates and advisers to the WHO Regional Director no later than 15 August 2024. Credentials for such persons will be issued by the Head of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health or any other appropriate authority (Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure). To guarantee approval of the registration, participants are kindly requested to upload a copy of the signed letter of credentials to the registration system.
Statements	Written statements of no more than 600 words may be submitted for posting on the WHO regional website under the related agenda item. Written statements should be sent in advance of the opening of the 71st session of the Regional Committee. They may be submitted in lieu of a live intervention or to complement a live intervention from a Member State. Please send written statements for posting to the WHO website to emrgogovbod@who.int , indicating the name of the country delegation/entity in the subject line of the email.
WHO publications	A selection of recent WHO publications are available on the Regional Committee website .
Interventions	To help in drafting the report of this session of the Regional Committee, delegations may provide the text of remarks on paper to a member of the WHO Secretariat or by email to emrgorcrep@who.int .
Membership and attendance	The Regional Committee consists of one representative from each country or territory of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region. Member State delegates and advisers and representatives of other entities invited under Rule 2 of the Regional Committee's Rules and Procedures who are unable to attend in person will be able to follow the sessions and deliberations through webcast.
Languages	The working languages of the Regional Committee are Arabic, English and French. Statements and other interventions made in any of these languages will be interpreted simultaneously into the other two languages. Delegates will be able to follow in the chosen language by selecting their preferred language. The meeting will also be webcast in the three languages.

Programme of work

Monday, 14 October 2024

Agenda item Regular sessions of RC71

- Session 1
- Opening address by H.E. Dr Ali Haji Abubakar, Minister of Health of Somalia and Chair of RC70
 - Address by Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean (followed by a video)
 - Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General
 - Address by H.E. Dr Hanan Mohamed Al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health of Qatar
 - Keynote address by Izzeldin Abuelaish, Professor of Global Health, University of Toronto
 - Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
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Ministerial plenary sessions

- 1(a) Election of officers
- Chair
 - 2 Vice-Chairs
- 1(b) Adoption of the provisional agenda and provisional daily timetable [EM/RC71/1-Rev.3](#)
- Decision on the establishment of the Drafting Committee
- Session 2 Overview of the flagship initiatives
- 2(b) Regional flagship initiative 1: Expanding equitable access to medical products [EM/RC71/A](#)
- 2(c) Regional flagship initiative 2: Investing in a resilient health workforce [EM/RC71/B-Rev 1](#)
- 2(d) Regional flagship initiative 3: Accelerating public health action on substance use [EM/RC71/C](#)
- 2(e) Strategic operational plan for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2025–2028 [EM/RC71/D-Rev 1](#)

Tuesday, 15 October 2024

Agenda item Regular sessions of RC71

- Session 1 [EM/RC71/2](#)
- 3(a)
- Annual Report of the Regional Director 2023 and Regional Director's vision (regional strategic operational plan and flagship initiatives)
 - Discussion
- Session 2 **Update on emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**
- 3(e)
- Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region [EM/RC71/INF DOC 4-Rev 1](#)
 - Special update on the health and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory including east Jerusalem
 - Latest on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)
 - Discussion open following each item
- Session 3 **Special updates**
- 3(b), 7
- Polio eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, including the reports of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks [EM/RC71/INF DOC 1-Rev 1](#)
- Discussion [EM/RC71/13](#)
[EM/RC71/14](#)

Session 4	Governance matters	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first meetings of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee 	EM/RC71/11 EM/RC71/12
5(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of WHO bodies and committees 	EM/RC71/10
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application from the Russian Federation to attend the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in an observer capacity 	EM/RC71/16
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for accreditation of regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean 	EM/RC71/15
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place and date of future sessions of the Regional Committee 	EM/RC71/INF DOC 16
Session 5	Side event: Launch of the regional framework for Immunization Agenda 2030	EI Wosail Ballroom
Session 6	Side event: Innovative approaches for preventing and controlling dengue and other mosquito-borne disease outbreaks	EI Wosail Ballroom

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Agenda item	Regular sessions of RC71	
Session 1 4(a)	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the increasing burden of trauma in humanitarian settings in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Discussion 	EM/RC71/3-Rev 1
Session 2 4(c)	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional action plan for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies, 2024–2030 • Discussion 	EM/RC71/5-Rev 2
Session 3 4(b)	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting collaborative action to accelerate the response to antimicrobial resistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Discussion 	EM/RC71/4-Rev 1
Session 4 4(d)	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement and digitalization of health information systems in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a regional strategy, 2024–2028 • Discussion 	EM/RC71/6-Rev 2
Session 5	Panel discussion Artificial intelligence for achieving universal health coverage and health security: nurturing the opportunities and mitigating the risks	
Session 6	Closed meeting (side event): The impact of economic sanctions on health and health services in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: What are the real consequences? Meeting of the Drafting Committee	AI Wosail Ballroom AI Wosail Ballroom
10(a)	Closed meeting: Foundation for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	EM/RC71/INF DOC 14 AI Mokhtasar 1
10(b)	Closed meeting: Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize	EM/RC71/INF DOC 15 AI Mokhtasar 1

Thursday, 17 October 2024

Agenda item	Regular sessions of RC71	
Session 1	World Health Assembly and Executive Board follow-up – Governance and administrative matters	
5(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 156th session of the WHO Executive BoardDiscussion	EM/RC71/9-Annex 1
5(f)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on implementation of the WHO Transformation Agenda in the Eastern Mediterranean RegionDiscussion	EM/RC71/INF Doc 12-Rev 1
5(g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nomination and appointment of Regional Directors: review of the process of election of Regional DirectorsDiscussion	EM/RC71/INF Doc 13
Session 2	Coordination of work of the Health Assembly, Executive Board and the regional committees	
5(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 154th and 155th sessionsDiscussion	EM/RC71/9
Session 3	World Health Assembly and Executive Board – Programme and budget matters	
5(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft proposed programme budget 2026–2027Discussion	EM/RC71/8 EM/RC71/8_summary
5(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WHO Investment Case 2025–2028 and latest on the WHO Investment RoundDiscussionStatement from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Staff Association (EMRSA)Statement by the Association of Retired and Former WHO Staff in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR/RFS)	EM/RC71/7 EM/RC71/7-A
Session 4	Adoption of resolutions and decisions	
Session 5	Closing session	