1. At its 67th session in the WHO Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt, held remotely via webinar in October 2020, the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean decided to hold its 68th session remotely from the WHO Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 October 2021 (Decision No. 5).

2. The Regional Committee is invited to decide on the place and date of its 69th session in 2022. In doing so, Member States are kindly reminded to consider the logistical benefits of holding future sessions at the WHO Regional Office.

3. In considering the above, the Regional Committee is requested to be mindful of relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly and of the Regional Committee. Specifically, resolution WHA7.26 of the Seventh World Health Assembly “recommends that in deciding on the place of their meetings, regional committees should consider holding them from time to time at the site of the Regional Office, taking into account the costs involved for the Organization and the Member States concerned”. Resolution WHA9.20 of the Ninth World Health Assembly “invites the attention of the regional committees to the desirability of host governments participating in the increased cost resulting from holding regional committee meetings outside the regional headquarters”. Resolution EM/RC6A/R.13 of the Regional Committee “calls upon Member States inviting the Committee to meet in their territories to make the maximum possible contribution towards this additional cost”.

4. Decisions taken by the Regional Committee regarding future venues will enable the Regional Director to make appropriate administrative and financial arrangements in a timely manner.