مشروع قـــرار

Draft resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC69/R.6(D)
October 2022**

**Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 3(e)**

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR FOSTERING DIGITAL HEALTH IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (2023–2027)

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on fostering digital health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;[1]

Recalling resolution WHA71.7 of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly on digital health, Executive Board decision EB146(15) on data and innovation, and decision WHA73(28) of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly on the Global strategy on digital health;

Recognizing that effective implementation of digital health technologies is crucial for efficient national and subnational health systems, and that such technologies offer limitless opportunities for health innovation, but also present potential risks;

Noting that countries across the world are seeking to establish a sound evidence base for optimal investment in digital health to address national and subnational health priorities, and that this is particularly important in the Eastern Mediterranean Region given the wide socioeconomic disparities and protracted conflicts and emergencies in many Member States;

Concerned about the implications of implementing digital health as well as governance challenges, issues of data security and privacy, and potential risks to health systems and individuals from the inappropriate use of digital technology, and noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought these challenges and opportunities into stark relief;

Cognizant that achieving *Vision 2023* and WHO's triple billion targets requires the targeted use of limited health care resources to reach those who are most in need, and that the efficiency gains and data richness offered by digital health can support the efforts of Member States to achieve the targets;

Recognizing the need to develop ethically sound policies on innovative digital technologies to protect at-risk populations from the potential adverse impacts of the inappropriate use of technology and to enhance governance capacity and mechanisms to implement and uphold those policies;

---

[1] EM/RC69/8.

1.   **ENDORSES** the regional strategy for fostering digital health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and its action plan, as proposed in document EM/RC69/8;

2.   **URGES Member States to:**

2.1   Establish governance structures and strengthen digital health governance, norms and standards at national and subnational levels as applicable;

2.2   Advocate digital people-centred health systems and networks, based on national situation analyses and needs assessments;

2.3   Engage national stakeholders in developing national digital health strategies, national architecture blueprints, and action plans with roadmaps, as part of the national health strategies;

2.4   Allocate resources and encourage national investment into interoperable digital health systems at both national and district levels consistent with guideline recommendations;

2.5   Build national capacities in digital health and related innovations, as related to country priorities;

2.6   Promote evidence generation, knowledge sharing and research projects in support of health policy-making on digital health;

2.7   Identify priority investment and action areas for digital health focused on enhancing access to quality care among priority groups (for example, remote areas; marginalized populations; certain diseases or needs) or in accordance with key national health outcomes (for example, maternal and child health; communicable diseases; priority noncommunicable diseases);

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

3.1   Avail the necessary technical and logistical resources for implementation of the regional strategy on digital health;

3.2   Support the development of national digital health action plans with roadmaps for the short, medium and long term;

3.3   Conduct programmes to enhance national and regional technical capacities for digital health;

3.4   Provide a shared platform for knowledge and experience sharing and evaluation criteria for identifying effective and efficient digital health strategies and enhancing their wider implementation in countries of the Region;

3.5   Coordinate missions to Member States and encourage the involvement of relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders in digital health, especially the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);

3.6   Support countries in addressing digital health challenges, including the digital divide, fragmented infrastructure, the need to ensure interoperability, and the need for digital health networks and electronic medical/health records systems;

3.7   Report on progress made in implementing the strategy to 71st and 73rd sessions of the Regional Committee, and present a final report to the 75th session in 2028.