

قرار

Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC71/R.2
October 2024**

**Seventy-first session
Agenda item 3**

Annual report of the Regional Director for 2023

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the annual report of the Regional Director on the work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for 2023¹ and the progress reports requested by the Regional Committee;²

Welcoming the many examples of progress across a wide variety of programme areas, showing that successful action to improve health is possible in every country of the Region; but also

Noting with concern the many serious gaps and challenges that remain;

Noting with grave concern that the Regional Committee meeting is taking place against a background of escalating conflicts in the Region, including in Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Sudan among others, and the serious harm they are causing to health, health care systems and critical infrastructure, including through attacks on health facilities and health workers;

Commending the courage and dedication of health workers struggling to provide essential health services in conflict situations at risk to their own lives and health;

Recognizing the paramount importance of immunization as a cornerstone of public health efforts and a catalyst for sustainable development in the Region;

Mindful of the critical need to strengthen the local production of vaccines and other health products as part of work to ensure equitable and affordable access to these products, address public health needs, support routine immunization and respond to health emergencies;

Recognizing the vital role of public health laboratories and the need to sustain the dramatic expansion in capacities achieved during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Noting with thanks the progress report on the activities of the High-Level Ministerial Group on the Control of Tobacco and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products in the Region;

¹ EM/RC71/2.

² EM/RC71/INF.DOC.1-11.

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for her comprehensive report on the work of WHO in the Region;
2. **ADOPTS** the annual report of the Regional Director for 2023;
3. **URGES** Member States to cooperate with the WHO Secretariat and international partners to provide urgent support to people affected by conflict and to provide support to health care systems in the areas affected;
4. **SUPPORTS** the strategic framework for implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030 in the Region;
5. **ENDORSES** the regional strategy to strengthen local vaccine production;
6. **ENDORSES** the strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2024–2029;
7. **EXTENDS THE MANDATE** of the High-level Ministerial Group on the Control of Tobacco and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products for another two years, to 2026, and expands membership of the Group to include 10 Member States, and requests the Regional Director to report on the activities of the High-Level Ministerial Group to the Regional Committee at its 73rd session in October 2026.