

## مشروع قرار

### Draft resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC72/R.5(D)  
September 2025**

**Seventy-second session  
Agenda item 5(d)**

### **Strengthening national laboratory biosafety and biosecurity policies and frameworks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on strengthening national laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, policies and frameworks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolution WHA77.7 of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly on strengthening laboratory biological risk management;

Also recalling Regional Committee resolution EM/RC63/4 on a strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services 2016–2020, and resolutions EM/RC67/R.1 and EM/RC71/R.2, which extended the timeframe of the framework;

Further recalling Regional Committee resolutions EM/RC68/R.2 on accelerating health emergency preparedness and response: a plan of action and EM/RC69/R.2 on building resilient health systems to advance universal health coverage and ensure health security in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

Recognizing that laboratory biosafety and biosecurity are critical components of national and global health security, with the potential to significantly impact outbreak preparedness, response capacities and cross-border health risks;

Expressing concern over the continued insufficient prioritization of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity governance and the absence of comprehensive regulatory mechanisms in many countries of the Region;

Acknowledging the urgent need to address emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats;

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive, multisectoral national policies and frameworks, aligned with the International Health Regulations (2005) and international standards, and covering the human, animal and environmental health sectors under a One Health approach;

Affirming that workforce capacity-building is not only a strategic priority but a necessary enabler of resilient health systems, in line with Regional Committee resolution EM/RC69/R.2;

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<sup>1</sup> EM/RC72/9.

Concerned that the limited availability of regional data and evidence on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity practices hinders the development of informed, context-specific mitigation strategies;

Noting the recommendations made by Member States and other stakeholders through platforms such as the 2023 technical working group consultation on strengthening health laboratory services in the Region;

**1. URGES Member States to:**

- 1.1 Designate national regulatory authorities to lead the development, implementation and enforcement of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity frameworks, with appropriate mandates, resources and mechanisms for oversight, monitoring and evaluation;
- 1.2 Allocate sustainable and predictable financing for the development and/or implementation of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity systems through national budgets and strategic donor engagement;
- 1.3 Strengthen workforce capacity and resilience by investing in national training programmes and establishing a skilled, adaptable workforce equipped to manage evolving laboratory biosafety and biosecurity risks;
- 1.4 Encourage and support applied research efforts, according to the local context, to develop practical and cost-effective laboratory biosafety and biosecurity solutions, particularly in the resource-constrained countries of the Region;

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

- 2.1 Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States for the development and implementation of national laboratory biosafety and biosecurity policies and regulatory frameworks;
- 2.2 Engage national authorities and international partners to support Member States in aligning their laboratory biosafety and biosecurity systems with global guidance, while remaining sensitive to country-specific contexts and capacities;
- 2.3 Work with academic institutions and global partners to advance a regional research agenda that addresses unresolved laboratory biosafety and biosecurity challenges, with particular attention to the needs of resource-constrained settings;
- 2.4 Identify and support the designation of regional WHO collaborating centres for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity to serve as hubs for knowledge sharing, training, technical expertise and cross-border coordination;
- 2.5 Report biennially to the Regional Committee on progress made in strengthening laboratory biosafety and biosecurity systems across the Region, with a final report to the 77th session of the Committee in 2030, to assess the sustainability and continued relevance of efforts.