

Monitoring Regional Committee resolutions: addressing challenges in implementing long-standing resolutions

Objectives of the event

On 16 October 2025, a side event will be held on addressing challenges in implementing resolutions of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, especially those that have exceeded the normal span of six years and three rounds of reporting.

The objectives of the event are to:

- **Showcase progress:** highlighting the Secretariat's efforts in regular reporting and the progress made in implementing resolutions.
- **Strengthen accountability:** evaluating the effectiveness of current accountability mechanisms and identifying areas for improvement.
- **Diagnose challenges:** facilitating a candid discussion of the root causes of implementation delays and gaps.
- **Foster collaboration:** encouraging cross-country learning and regional cooperation to enhance implementation.
- **Drive action:** generating momentum for renewed commitment to resolution follow-up and reporting.

While this side event is not expected to generate a new resolution or decision, the following recommendations will be emphasized:

- **Continued commitment** to effective monitoring and implementation of active resolutions.
- **Encouragement for Member States** to integrate Regional Committee resolutions into their national health planning and reporting systems.

Background

Regional Committee resolutions are among the most powerful tools Member States have to shape regional priorities. Unfortunately, sometimes they are drafted in a broad and aspirational manner, meaning they are not actionable, and their progress is unclear or untracked.

The Regional Committee has consistently emphasized the importance of effective governance and accountability in regional health policy. Between 2000 and 2017, the Committee adopted numerous resolutions aimed at addressing pressing public health challenges. To ensure these resolutions remain relevant and impactful, two comprehensive reviews were conducted to assess their implementation status and determine which should remain active and which should be sunsetted.

These reviews were guided by a structured methodology and reflected a broader commitment to:

- enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of the Committee's work;
- promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making; and
- ensuring that Member States and the Secretariat are aligned in their implementation efforts.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain in relation to implementing resolutions, especially those that continue in force beyond the normal six-year lifespan. These challenges include limited national follow-up, resource constraints and weak monitoring mechanisms.

Challenges in the Region

The Eastern Mediterranean Region faces a unique set of challenges that hinder the full implementation of long-standing resolutions, such as:

- political instability and conflict in several Member States, affecting continuity and prioritization;
- limited institutional capacity to track and report on resolution implementation;
- inadequate integration of Regional Committee resolutions into national health strategies and plans;
- lack of standardized tools for monitoring and evaluation across countries; and
- insufficient engagement of stakeholders at the national and subnational levels.

This side event will serve as a platform to share experiences, lessons learned and innovative practices from Member States and the Secretariat to overcome these barriers.

Expected outcomes

- Clear identification of systemic and operational challenges affecting resolution implementation.
- Compilation of actionable recommendations to improve national and regional follow-up mechanisms.
- Strengthened accountability frameworks, including potential updates to monitoring tools and reporting timelines.
- Increased awareness and ownership among Member States regarding their roles in sustaining the impact of RC resolutions.

Proposed agenda

Time	Agenda item	Lead/Speaker
15:30–15:35	Opening remarks Welcome and objectives of the session	<i>Dr Adham Ismail</i> Director, Programme Management
15:35–15:45	Setting the scene Overview of resolution reviews and current implementation status	<i>Ms Samah Abdelaziz</i> Technical Officer, Governing Bodies
15:45–15:55	Panel discussion WHO technical leads presenting challenges, accountability, and collaboration	<i>WHO technical teams</i>
15:55–16:13	Interactive Q&A Reflections from Member States and suggestions from the floor	<i>Ms Samah Abdelaziz</i> Technical Officer, Governing Bodies
16:13–16:15	Summary and recommendations Key takeaways and next steps	<i>Dr Adham Ismail</i> Director, Programme Management

Previous related Regional Committee documents

- [EM/RC60/INF.DOC.8](#): Review of implementation of Regional Committee resolutions 2000–2011 [Report to the Regional Committee].
- [EM/RC70/14-Rev.2](#): Review of the status of resolutions adopted by the Regional Committee during the period 2000–2017, and recommendations for sunseting and reporting requirements [Report to the Regional Committee].
- Resolution [EM/RC70/R.6](#): A review of the status of resolutions adopted by the Regional Committee during the period 2000–2017, and recommendations for sunseting and reporting requirements.