SEA/RC53/R6 BLOOD SAFETY

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA28.72, the Executive Board resolution EB79.R1 and its own resolution SEA/RC39/R6 on national policies on safety of blood and blood products,

Realizing the grave danger posed to health as a result of using unsafe blood and/or blood products, particularly those contaminated with transmissible organisms, and recognizing the need for ensuring safety of blood and blood products in provision of quality health care,

Appreciating the laudable role of voluntary non-remunerated donors in augmenting the supply of safe blood and blood products, and

Noting the progress made in most Member States in implementing national blood safety programmes and strengthening blood transfusion services in collaboration with NGOs,

1. URGES Member States:
   • to ensure political commitment towards national blood safety programmes, supported by effective legislation;
   • to promote recruitment of carefully screened, voluntary non-remunerated blood donors selected from low-risk population;
   • to support efficient screening of donated blood to prevent transfusion of transmissible infections and strengthen quality assurance programmes in collection, processing, distribution and use of blood and blood products;
   • to enhance necessary budgetary allocation for assuring access to safe blood and blood products and their effective use, and
   • to promote appropriate and rational use of blood in clinical settings, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
   • to intensify collaboration with Member States and relevant partners in strengthening national blood transfusion programmes;
   • to promote quality assurance in blood transfusion services, both in the public and private sectors, and
• to mobilize resources for ensuring safe blood in Member States in the Region.

Seventh Meeting, 7 September 2000