SEA/RC54/R2 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, INCLUDING ALCOHOL

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA29.21, WHA30.38, WHA32.40, WHA33.27 and WHA39.25, and its own resolutions SEA/RC30/R4 and SEA/RC41/R5 relating to mental health and drug and alcohol–related problems,

Recognizing that neuropsychiatric conditions account for 10 per cent of the burden from noncommunicable diseases in developing countries and that globally, depression is a leading cause of disability-adjusted life years lost in young adults,

Concerned at the increasing number of persons becoming dependent on narcotics and alcohol in both rural and urban areas in the Member Countries of the Region, and

Having considered the recommendations of the Technical Discussions held during the 38th meeting of the Consultative Committee for Programme Development and Management,

1. ENDORSES the recommendations arising out of the Technical Discussions on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, including Alcohol (document SEA/RC54/14);
2. URGES Member States:
   a. to further strengthen the development of national policies and programmes on mental health, drug and alcohol-related problems through assessment of the burden and major determinants of such disorders;
   b. to enhance human resource development in mental health for appropriate levels of health workers;
   c. to strengthen community-based prevention and control programmes on mental health and substance abuse, including alcohol, and
   d. to integrate essential interventions pertaining to promotion of mental health and prevention and control of mental disorders into public health and social welfare programmes at the policy and implementation levels, and

• REQUESTS the Regional Director:
   a. to support Member States in strengthening national programmes on mental health and substance abuse, including alcohol;
   b. to promote intercountry cooperation and exchange of information in the area of mental health and substance abuse, including alcohol, and
   c. to facilitate mobilization of resources for programmes on mental health and control of substance abuse, including alcohol.

Sixth Meeting, 5 September 2001