The Regional Committee,

Recalling its resolution SEA/RC52/R6 relating to arsenic poisoning,

Concerned that high arsenic contents in drinking water supply pose a serious threat to the health of large populations in the affected countries of the South-East Asia Region,

Recognizing the importance of proper case detection and management for mitigating the effects of arsenic poisoning in many countries of the Region, and

Appreciating the measures undertaken by Member States to tackle the situation of arsenic in ground water by involving all the relevant sectors, including nongovernmental organizations,

1. URGES Member States to accord high priority to arsenic mitigation activities, including strengthening of national capacity for laboratory confirmation of arsenic poisoning,
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
   a. to enhance support to Member States in their efforts to intensify arsenic mitigation activities, including provision of guidelines, norms and standards for the surveillance, diagnosis and treatment of poisoning;
   b. to promote intercountry collaboration, exchange of information and networking in the management of arsenic poisoning, and
   c. to facilitate resource mobilization for the provision of safe water supply in affected countries.

*Sixth Meeting, 5 September 2001*