SEA/RC55/R4  ACCESSIBILITY TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA54.11 and WHA55.14 as well as its own resolutions SEA/RC2/R27 and SEA/RC21/R6 on ensuring accessibility to quality essential medicines in the Region,

Recognizing that accessibility to essential medicines for all citizens in the Region requires national commitment for specific regulations and actions designed to promote a policy for, and access to, quality essential medicines as well as their rational use within national health systems, and

Considering possible ways to strengthen regional, country, and intercountry mechanisms to ensure increasing accessibility to quality essential medicines, including bulk purchase schemes,

URGES Member States:

- to strengthen national mechanisms for the use of essential medicines lists in health care and to consider prequalification in drug procurement systems as a means of ensuring quality;
- to strengthen Drug Regulatory Authorities in their efforts to ensure safe and effective quality medicines, and
- to promote the regional bulk purchase scheme for selected quality essential medicines, and

REQUESTS the Regional Director to provide technical assistance to Member Countries to strengthen their Drug Regulatory Authorities and to further facilitate the development of the regional bulk purchase scheme for selected quality essential medicines.

Fifth Meeting, 13 September 2002