The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA56.31 and its own resolutions SEA/RC29/R11 and SEA/RC30/R13 on traditional medicines,

Recognizing that traditional systems of medicine have played a vital role and will continue to contribute to overall health systems development in the countries of the Region,

Noting that the continued and expanding use of traditional medicine practices, particularly in diseases and conditions which are not effectively managed by modern medicine,

Noting further that many Member States have strengthened traditional systems of medicine as part of their national health development, and

Considering WHO’s strategy for traditional medicine and its four main objectives, i.e., framing policy, enhancing safety, efficacy and quality, ensuring access and promoting rational use,

1. URGES Member States:
   
   (a) to collaborate in the development and enhancement of health research efforts, human resources development, exchange of information and intercountry collaboration in traditional systems of medicine;

   (b) to take measures to protect, preserve and to improve, if necessary, traditional medical knowledge and medicinal plant resources for sustainable development of traditional systems of medicines, and

   (c) to promote efforts to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicines, including herbal medicines, by determining/developing appropriate national norms and standards, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

   (a) to share evidence-based information and country experiences on traditional systems of medicine in the Region and also share the experiences of other regions;

   (b) to assist Member States in developing/strengthening national policies, strategies and plans of action on traditional systems of medicine;

   (c) to establish a “Regional Task Force on Traditional Medicine” for regularly reviewing the regional situation and facilitating the development of national and regional strategies and policies on traditional systems of medicine, and
to facilitate and advocate, in collaboration with development partners and WHO headquarters, for the establishment of a “Global Alliance on Traditional Medicine”.

SEA/RC56/R7 STRENGTHENING OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA54.12 on Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery and the strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery services for the period 2002–2008, and its own resolution SEA/RC45/R5 on balance and relevance in human resources for health for HFA/2000,

Having considered the recommendations of the South-East Asia Regional Advisory Group on Management of Nursing and Midwifery Workforce, and the guidelines for effective workforce management, and

Recognizing that nursing and midwifery personnel constitute a significant and vital segment of the health care workforce and noting with concern the shortage, maldistribution and lack of status of nurses and midwives in most countries of the Region,

1. URGES Member States:

   (a) to adapt the guidelines for management of nursing and midwifery workforce and to develop and implement a national action plan to address priority issues in this area, and

   (b) to provide support and adequate resources to:

      (i) establish or strengthen national nursing and midwifery focal points, associations and councils to take the lead in implementing national action plans;

      (ii) strengthen integrated national information systems on nursing and midwifery services and workforce;

      (iii) improve capacity for leadership and management training and education of nursing and midwifery personnel, and

      (iv) enhance the quality of nursing and midwifery services, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

   (a) to support countries in their efforts to adapt the guidelines and to develop and implement the national and regional action plans;