(b) to facilitate intercountry collaboration for strengthening capacity development and management of nursing and midwifery workforce in the Region, and

(c) to continue to support the work of the Regional Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery.

Sixth Meeting
12 September 2003

SEA/RC56/R8 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – ROLE OF HEALTH MINISTRIES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA42.25, WHA44.28, WHA45.31 and WHA51.28, and its own resolutions SEA/RC32/R4, SEA/RC33/R9, SEA/RC36/R8, SEA/RC41/R6 and SEA/RC44/R7 on improving water supply and sanitation, and SEA/RC54/R3 on arsenic contamination of ground water,

Having considered the document on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Determinants of Health and the Role of Health Ministries (SEA/RC56/8),

Recognizing that diarrhoeal and other infectious diseases and toxic effects related to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene continue to take an unacceptably high toll among children and vulnerable groups in the Region,

Noting that the challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals are linked to child mortality, sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, poverty reduction and other health concerns, and

Acknowledging that improvement of safe water supply, sanitation and other hygiene practices are integral to the process of health systems development and require substantial resource inputs, both from national and international sources,

1. URGES Member States:

   (a) to develop and implement an integrated intersectoral action plan in order to effectively reduce diarrhoeal and other diseases related to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene, and

   (b) to strengthen the capacity of ministries of health, at both central and local levels, to act as evidence-based advocates for improved, cost-effective strategies for water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

   (a) to develop a regional action plan to improve the provision of safe water and sanitation in order to reduce diarrhoeal and other diseases resulting from unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene, and to launch the plan at a regional, intersectoral ministerial meeting, and

   (b) to facilitate Member States in their efforts to mobilize resources to implement the regional and national action plans.

SEA/RC56/R9 HEALTH OF THE NEWBORN

The Regional Committee,

   Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA45.22 and WHA56.21 and its own resolutions SEA/RC39/R5 and SEA/RC30/R11 relating to integrated approach to maternal and child health care in the context of primary health care,

   Having considered the document on health of the newborn (SEA/RC56/9),

   Noting with concern the unacceptably high mortality of newborns in the Region, and recognizing that the Region accounts for nearly 40 per cent of all global neonatal deaths, and

   Acknowledging that further improvements in infant and under-five mortality, as mandated by the UN Millennium Declaration, would be dependent upon focused attention to neonatal survival and health, which can be provided through cost-effective, evidence-based interventions at all levels of the health care delivery systems,

1. URGES Member States:

   (a) to accord high priority to neonatal health in national policies and develop appropriate strategies;

   (b) to provide essential care for the mother during pregnancy and childbirth and also for the mother and newborn during the post-natal period, by skilled health personnel;

   (c) to promote cost-effective, evidence-based care for the newborn, and