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
(d) to strengthen essential neonatal care services, including referral support, as an integral part of national maternal and child health (MCH) programmes, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(a) to formulate and finalize a regional strategy for neonatal health;

(b) to provide technical support in building national capacity for policy formulation, programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for improving newborn health in the context of national MCH programmes;

(c) to carry out research to generate evidence and support for countries in changing policies and practices on neonatal care, and

(d) to support countries in the dissemination, adaptation and utilization of cost-effective, evidence-based practices for newborn health.

Sixth Meeting
12 September 2003