SEA/RC58/R3 HEALTH ACTION IN EMERGENCIES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA34.26, WHA42.16, WHA44.41 and WHA46.6, and its own resolutions SEA/RC44/R5 and SEA/RC57/R3 relating to emergency health preparedness and response, and

Having deliberated on the subject and considered the recommendations on health action in emergencies, including response to earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004, as contained in the background document (SEA/RC58/6),

1. ENDORSES the recommendations contained therein;
2. URGES Member States:
   (a) to further strengthen risk management mechanisms in the health sector;
   (b) to incorporate Emergency Health Preparedness and Response programmes in ministries of health;
   (c) to promote intersectoral collaboration to improve emergency preparedness and response, and
   (d) to engage communities and other sectors in preparedness, response and rehabilitation efforts, and
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to support emergency health preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, mitigation and prevention activities in Member States through:
   (a) promoting interregional and intercountry cooperation and exchange of expertise and information;
   (b) facilitating prompt mobilization of technical and financial resources;
   (c) strengthening WHO regional and country offices in their preparedness and response capacities to support Member States, and
   (d) fostering increased partnerships with UN agencies and other partners.

Seventh Meeting,
10 September 2005