RESOLUTION
OF THE
WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC59/R5 REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR ERADICATION/
ELIMINATION OF TROPICAL DISEASES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA44.9 and WHA50.29 pertaining to elimination of leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, and Executive Board resolution EB118.R3 on control of leishmaniasis,

Appreciating the initiatives taken by the Regional Director in according high priority to eradiction/elimination of tropical diseases, namely leprosy, kala-azar, lymphatic filariasis, and yaws,

Recognizing that these diseases are significant health problems in the Region and are poverty-related, affecting the poorest of the poor, and the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, often living in remote, hard-to-reach areas,

Further recognizing that these diseases are globally considered as “neglected” in view of the low priority to research and develop essential health technologies to address these diseases,

Noting that these diseases can cause disability and death, leading to social and economic consequences, and that their eradication/elimination has certain social and moral imperatives linked to alleviating the suffering of the poor and vulnerable groups, and

Noting further that some of these diseases such as leprosy, yaws and lymphatic filariasis, etc. are amenable to eradication/elimination in view of the availability of safe, simple and cost-effective interventions,

1. URGES concerned Member States:

(a) to continue to accord high priority to these diseases and include them in their national development plans and allocate appropriate budgetary support;

(b) to advocate with development partners and nongovernmental organizations to support intensification of efforts towards eradication/elimination of these diseases;

(c) to intensify appropriate action by accelerating programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and

1 Diseases that are overwhelmingly or exclusively incident in developing countries. These diseases receive extremely little R&D and essentially there is no commercially-based R&D in the rich countries (Reference: Public health: Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights, Report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health, April 2006)
(d) to ensure that the safe and cost-effective interventions are scaled up and made accessible to all affected population, particularly the vulnerable groups, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(a) to increase technical support to Member States concerned in intensification of efforts towards eradication/elimination of these diseases;

(b) to assist Member States concerned in planning, implementation and monitoring of the initiatives leading to eradication/elimination of these tropical diseases;

(c) to facilitate public-private partnerships in support of activities related to these diseases, including research contributing to new, safer and more effective diagnostics and drugs, and

(d) to mobilize funding from external sources to support national efforts towards eradication/elimination of these neglected diseases.