RESOLUTION
OF THE
WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEA/RC59/R9 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA59.26 on “International Trade and Health” as well as resolutions WHA52.19, WHA53.14, WHA56.27, WHA57.14 and WHA57.19;

Recognizing that Member States of WHO’s South-East Asia Region are increasingly involved in international trade and agreements which have implications for public health in the Region,

Considering the need for coherence in health and trade policy, and mechanisms to secure better coordination among relevant ministries responsible for trade and health,

Recognizing that a sound policy on trade and health would secure balanced and coordinated interests between trade and health, and

Appreciating WHO’s initiatives to promote an effective health dimension to economic policies in a changing international context,

1. URGES Member States:
   (a) to implement the World Health Assembly resolution WHA59.26;
   (b) to ensure the involvement of health ministries in the processes of negotiating trade agreements in order to identify opportunities and mitigate the possible risks of these agreements with regard to public health;
   (c) to develop capacity in relevant ministries in the assessment of the implications of international trade agreements on health of the population in order to effectively participate in the trade negotiations, and
   (d) to improve the capacity of the National Regulatory Authorities, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
   (a) to support Member States in their efforts to implement the World Health Assembly resolution WHA59.26;
   (b) to continue to assist Member States in their efforts to build capacity, and identify and assess the public health implications of international trade agreements;
   (c) to provide technical support and expertise to Member States to draft policies, laws and regulations or establish practices and to promote the exchange of information
among Member States to address public health challenges and leverage opportunities to improve health in the context of international trade agreements;
(d) to mobilize resources to support the works related to Trade and Health;
(e) to assist Member States in developing necessary legal and economic frameworks within the country to avail of the flexibilities allowed in TRIPS Agreements, and
(f) to assist Member States in strengthening their National Regulatory Authorities.