RESOLUTION
OF THE
WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC60/R5 THE NEW STOP TB STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA58.14 and WHA60.19 relating to tuberculosis control,

Reaffirming WHO’s commitment to the global goal of eliminating TB as a public health problem,

Recognizing that substantial progress has been made in the South-East Asia Region towards the achievement of the goals set by the World Health Assembly in 2000 of 70% case detection and 85% treatment success among all smear-positive TB cases by 2005,

Noting with concern the continuing and unacceptably high burden of tuberculosis in the Region, the emergence of drug resistance and the adverse impact of the HIV epidemic on tuberculosis control efforts in the Region,

Affirming that effective tuberculosis control will result in a significant decrease in morbidity and mortality among adults in the most productive age groups, and to the achievement of TB-related Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that many challenges require to be overcome in order to extend equitable access to a minimum standard of care to all TB patients, including the poor and the marginalized, and

Having considered the paper and discussions on “TB control: Progress and plans for implementing the new Stop TB Strategy” (SEA/RC60/8),

1. **ENDORSES** the actions contained therein;

2. **URGES** Member States:
   
   (a) to fully implement the national plans for TB control, in line with the New Stop TB Strategy which should include innovative approaches to improve both the quality as well as equity of delivery;
   
   (b) to develop and sustain adequate human resources and infrastructure to further strengthen delivery of services including TB services, in the context of health systems strengthening;
   
   (c) to improve intersectoral collaboration, particularly with private health-care providers to widen the reach of standardized services to all TB patients;
(d) to ensure effective collaboration between national TB and HIV/AIDS programmes to establish effective interventions for those affected by both TB and HIV;

(e) to ensure implementation of interventions to effectively address multi-drug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB;

(f) to enhance communication and social mobilization approaches to increase community awareness, utilization and user-friendliness of services and to reduce stigma;

(g) to improve surveillance and monitoring mechanisms to better measure the progress, and impact of interventions;

(h) to support the development of innovative approaches for better service delivery and utilization and contribute to global initiatives in developing new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines which will improve early detection and treatment and prevention of TB, and

(i) to mobilize financial resources in a sustainable manner to allow full implementation of all envisaged interventions, particularly in countries that do not benefit from significant external financing, and

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(a) to advocate for the highest political support and increased funding from national and international sources to support TB control efforts in the Region;

(b) to enhance technical support to Member States to review and revise their national TB policies, strategies and plans and to assist them in implementation of the new TB strategy in the Region, and

(c) to assist Member States in strengthening health systems and developing human resources to ensure effective implementation of all planned interventions under the new strategy towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals.