Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA56.1 on WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO Framework Convention) and WHA59.17 on the outcome of the First Session of the Conference of the Parties; and the Regional Committee resolutions SEA/RC38/R8, SEA/RC43/R4 and SEA/RC52/R7 on strengthening national tobacco control programmes, and SEA/RC53/R10 on the WHO Framework Convention,

Reaffirming the concerns with the increasing trend of tobacco use across the society, especially among youth, women and the poor, and its negative impact on the health, social and economic development of countries in the Region,

Acknowledging the concerted efforts made by Member States of the Region to implement national tobacco control policy through legislation and programmes, as well as active involvement in the work of the Conference of Parties,

Appreciating the support by the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use to strengthen national tobacco control efforts, currently concentrating its efforts in the four high-burden countries of the Region,

Expressing concerns with the lack of effective law enforcement, translation and use of evidence for legislation, policy decisions, programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and

Emphasizing the importance of six policy recommendations by the MPOWER policy package in fostering tobacco control, monitor tobacco use and prevention policies; protect people from tobacco smoke; offer help to quit tobacco use; warn against the
dangers of tobacco; enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and raise taxes on tobacco,

1. URGES Member States:

   (1) to scale-up national tobacco control policies, legislations and enforcement, regulations, strategies and programmes in conformity with the WHO Framework Convention, in partnership with other relevant government sectors, civil society and nongovernmental organizations;

   (2) to strengthen capability at national and local levels for planning, coordination, management, implementation and evaluation of the WHO Framework Convention as per the guidelines developed by the Conference of Parties;

   (3) to implement the MPOWER policy package for effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, and

   (4) to consider adopting alternative, innovative and sustainable sources of financing, including the use of dedicated taxes on tobacco products for effective tobacco control and other health promotion activities, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

   (1) to continue providing strong support to Member States in implementing their national tobacco control programmes, and

   (2) to continue mobilizing resources to support tobacco control efforts in the Region in collaboration with national, regional and international partners.

Sixth Meeting,
11 September 2008