CONSULTATIVE EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: FINANCING AND COORDINATION

The Regional Committee,


Further recalling resolution WHA63.28 on the establishment of a Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination; requesting the Director-General, inter alia, to establish the CEWG to take forward the work of the Expert Working Group earlier established under resolution WHA61.21;

Noting the resolution WHA65.22 which requests Regional Committees to discuss at their 2012 meetings the report of the CEWG in the context of the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property in order to contribute to concrete proposals and actions;

Recognising the need for enhancing investments in health research and development (R&D) related to Type II and Type III diseases and the specific R&D needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases;
Recognising that improved access to medical products such as medicines, vaccines and diagnostics in relation to Type II and Type III diseases and specific R&D needs of diseases of Type I in developing countries are the paramount goals;

Acknowledging the importance of innovation, technology transfer and access to medical products for essential health R&D relevant to diseases which disproportionately affect developing countries, proposing clear objectives and priorities for R&D, estimating funding needs in this area, and coordinating, facilitating and promoting health R&D;

Recognising the importance of securing sustainable financing mechanisms for R&D to develop and deliver health products to address the health needs of developing countries and develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action, including reporting systems;

Realizing the need for improving priority-setting and transparent decision-making processes based on the public health needs of developing countries;

Appreciating the Regional Director for convening a regional technical discussion on the report of the CEWG where Member States take an active role in the discussions; and

Welcoming the recommendations made by the CEWG and the need of Member States of the Region to implement the same in phases starting with coordination mechanisms, including the setting up of a global health R&D observatory, inter alia, to determine the existing capacities, requirements and the absorptive capacities of developing countries in essential health R&D relevant to diseases which disproportionately affect developing countries which would enable the individual countries to decide the level of commitment of resources;

URGES Member States:

1. To strengthen health R&D capacities on diseases of Type II, III and specific R&D needs of developing countries on diseases of Type I, through increased financial resources from the existing government budgets and private sources through different incentive schemes, and explore potential new or innovative sources specifically for health R&D;

2. To build, strengthen and sustain human resources and infrastructure for health research and development;

3. To promote coordination of health R&D among public and private partners in the country, and support regional and global coordination for health R&D in order to maximize synergies and avoid duplications;
(4) To establish or strengthen national health R&D observatories for tracking and monitoring human and financial resources spent on health R&D and contribute to the work of a global health R&D observatory;

(5) To promote the establishment of Advisory Mechanisms and the Global Health R&D Observatory as suggested by the CEWG to enable WHO to play a central and stronger role in improving coordination of R&D directed at the health needs of developing countries;

(6) To support the formation of a working group with equal representation from each Region to undertake future preparatory work for the convention as suggested by the CEWG;

(7) To explore the potential role of pooled funding at the global level, from different sources of finance, in supporting health R&D, and that the promising medical products, technologies and innovations generated from the pooled fund are global public goods and made available free of R&D cost; and

(8) To engage actively in the negotiations in an open-ended meeting of Member States in November 2012, inter alia, by supporting the development of the Global Health R&D Observatory, effective global R&D coordination, adequate and sustainable funding for R&D on diseases of Type II and III and specific R&D needs of diseases of Type I in developing countries; and

REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) To support Member States in their endeavour to establish or strengthen health R&D capacities and national health R&D observatories, which inter alia also contribute to the Regional and Global Health R&D observatory;

(2) To facilitate the establishment of Regional and Global Health R&D Observatories and related Advisory Mechanisms as suggested by the CEWG through technical and financial support;

(3) To strengthen the capacity of Member States to access and benefit from mechanisms as suggested by the CEWG, including the Global Health R&D Observatory and the pooled fund mechanism;

(4) To promote partnerships and coordination at the country, regional and global levels in order to maximize synergies in health R&D;

(5) To convey to the Director-General the wish of the Member States for consideration that the Chair of the open-ended meeting of Member States be from the SEA Region; and

(6) To report to the Sixty-seventh Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in 2014 on the progress made in implementing this resolution.

Fifth meeting, 7 September 2012