STRENGTHENING HEALTH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE REGION

The Regional Committee,

Recalling WHA63.16 WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, and its own resolution SEA/RC59/R7 on Strengthening the Health Workforce in SEA Region;

Reaffirming the Dhaka Declaration on Strengthening the Health Workforce in Countries of the South-East Asia Region;

Noting with serious concern on the critical shortage and imbalance of the health workforce, particularly in rural remote areas in the Region, and that the situation has not been improved;

Aware that current education and training of the health workforce need an urgent attention for improvement in order to produce competent health professionals to match the health needs of the population; and

Aware that an adequate, competent and equitably distributed health workforce is the backbone of Universal Health Coverage;

URGES Member States:

(1) To review national health workforce policies, strategies and plans to maximize their contributions to the health of the population and the achievement of universal health coverage;
(2) To conduct comprehensive assessments of the current situation of health workforce education and training, based on an agreed regional common protocol, as a foundation for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation;

(3) To develop or strengthen policies for education and training of the health workforce as an integral part of national health and education and training policies;

(4) To increase resources and support for the strengthening of education and training of the health workforce, including community-based health workforces, while ensuring appropriate accreditation, in support of universal health coverage, for which the training curriculum is relevant to country health and health systems needs.

REQUESTS the Director-General of the World Health Organization through the Regional Director for South-East Asia to propose the inclusion of an Agenda item entitled “Health Workforce Education and Training” in the Provisional Agenda of the 132nd Session of the Executive Board in January 2013; and

REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) To support Member States in conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current situation of health workforce education and training based on an agreed regional common protocol;

(2) To convene regional technical consultations to review the result of the country assessments and to formulate regional strategy on strengthening health workforce education and training in the Region;

(3) To support Member States in their efforts to further strengthen health workforce education and training, including community-based health workforces; and

(4) To submit the Regional Strategy on Strengthening Health Workforce Education and Training, as well as progress of the implementation of this resolution, to the Sixty-seventh session of the Regional Committee.

Fifth meeting, 7 September 2012