RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND OUTBREAKS

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/283 on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), Sendai Declaration (2015) and calls for action among stakeholders,

Recognizing that the Sendai Framework aims to achieve by 2030 substantial reduction of disaster risks and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, with public health focus on enhancing the resilience of national health systems for all hazards,

Noting that six targets of the Sustainable Development Goals call for strengthening resilient systems against disaster which require multisectoral actions in a comprehensive manner,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions 54.14, 58.1, 59.22, 64.10, 65.20, 65.23, 68.5 and RC resolutions SEA/RC57/R3, SEA/RC60/R7 that call for improved capacities in Member States and WHO in preventing, preparing, responding to and recovering from emergencies from various hazards,

Recognizing the increasing trends and devastating impact of disasters, emerging infectious diseases and epidemics, and that the South-East Asia Region has prepared for, responded to and recovered from and continues to apply lessons for effective management on major disasters and emergencies,
Reaffirming that effective responses require disaster risk reduction policies, effective implementation through shared responsibilities by all levels of governments, stakeholders, with all-of-society engagement and partnership,

Recognizing the progress on the national commitment with regard to the achievement of core capacities as required by the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), and the South-East Asia Region benchmarks on emergency preparedness and response,

Appreciating the ongoing work of the WHO programme for outbreaks and emergencies, the revision of the Emergency Responses framework, the global health emergency workforce, the emergency contingency fund, the contributions of South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund for immediate responses to emergencies requiring health sector actions in the Region, the flagship on strengthening country capacities in emergency risk management,

1. URGES Member States:

(a) to mobilize support for effective implementation of the health goals and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) and IHR (2005), through multisectoral, multi-stakeholders and all-of-society engagement and partnership;

(b) to continue to strengthen and sustain the core capacities as required by the IHR (2005), and capacities on emergency preparedness and responses using the South-East Asia Region benchmarks;

(c) to strengthen health systems to be resilient to events caused by all hazards; and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(a) to provide support to scale up capacity for implementation of IHR and the health goals and targets of the Sendai Framework, through the flagship programme;

(b) to monitor and continue support to strengthen the core capacities of IHR (2005) within the proposed timeline;

(c) to continue the leadership role in coordinating and mobilizing technical and financial support from development partners, other stakeholders and technical support from WHO Collaborating Centres for prompt, appropriate and effective assistance to Member States across all phases of disasters and emergencies; and

(d) to facilitate learning from the management of each emergency and sharing them with Member States to respond more effectively in future events in a systematic manner.

Eighth session, 11 September 2015