PATIENT SAFETY CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The Regional Committee,

Recalling Resolution RC59/R3 on promoting patient safety in healthcare,

Acknowledging that health services are still not as safe as they should be; that up to one in ten patients experience adverse events in health facilities, safety among health personnel is still a major concern, and that there are compelling health and economic arguments for improving patient safety,

Realizing that improved patient safety and quality of care are essential in gaining trust by the population, and an integral element in progressing towards universal health coverage, and further recognizing that improved quality and safety requires the engagement of stakeholders in particular patients and health professionals, and beyond health sector,

Recognizing barriers for improving patient safety, including reporting errors and adverse events, safety culture, effective communication and coordinated care among health professionals, and the need for a whole systems solution,

1. ENDORSES the Regional Strategy on Patient Safety (2016–2025)\(^1\);

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\(^1\) Regional strategy for patient safety in the WHO South-East Asia Region, SEA-HSD-378
http://apps.searo.who.int/PDS_DOCS/B5187.pdf?ua=1
2. **URGES Member States:**

(a) to translate the six strategic objectives of the Regional Strategy for Patient Safety in the WHO South-East Asia Region into actions, implementation, monitoring and evaluations in line with country context;

(b) to engage all relevant stakeholders in building safer health-care facilities, creating and sustaining a culture of safety at all levels of health care;

(c) to create awareness and engage patients and communities in the process of improved patient safety, in strengthening health systems and supporting UHC;

(d) to consider allocating adequate resources to implement the country action plan; and

3. **REQUESTS the Regional Director:**

(a) to provide technical support to Member States in implementing the Regional Strategy and country action plans;

(b) to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information and best practices between Member States, regional and global networks; and

(c) to report progress, achievements and challenges in implementing this Resolution to the Regional Committee in 2017, 2019, and facilitate assessment of the patient safety in Member States in the Region, upon request, and report to the Regional Committee in 2021.

Eighth session, 11 September 2015