

# RESOLUTION

OF THE  
WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC69/R6

## **EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND (SEARHEF)**

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA54.14, WHA58.1, WHA59.22, WHA64.10, WHA65.20, WHA68.5, Executive Board Special Session on Ebola EBS53.R1 and its own resolutions SEA/RC57/R3, SEA/RC60/R7, SEA/RC62/R5 and SEA/RC68/R2 which call for strengthening the resilience of national health systems in response to all hazards that may lead to emergencies and for improved investments of resources, systems and expertise for emergency preparedness and response,

Further recalling the recommendations made at the Regional Consultation for Emergency Preparedness and Response (June 2006), at which the Bali Declaration called for setting up a Regional Emergency Fund, and the Twenty-fourth Health Ministers' Meeting, at which it was recommended that the Regional Office take steps to set up a Regional Emergency Fund,

Acknowledging the establishment of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) as established through Regional Committee resolution SEA/RC60/R7,

Reaffirming that emergencies remain a concern in the Region and recognizing SEARHEF as an important component for regional solidarity for support in times of acute emergencies and that Member States have commended the speed and flexibility provided by the funds,

Appreciating the contribution of Member States to continuously support SEARHEF with AC and VC funds,

Endorsing the report and the recommendations of the High-Level Preparatory Meeting of Member States in July 2016 to expand the scope of SEARHEF to include a preparedness stream that would strengthen key aspects such as disease surveillance, health emergency workforce and health emergency teams, IHR core capacities and SEARO Benchmarks for emergencies,

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to endorse the expansion of the mandate of SEARHEF to include an additional stream covering preparedness;
- (b) to endorse the recommendations of and the proposed policy and guidelines for the preparedness stream of SEARHEF developed during the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group for Governance of SEARHEF (**Annex**);
- (c) to use the preparedness stream of SEARHEF to support critical capacities in preparedness that include but will not be limited to :
  - i. strengthening capacities defined by IHR and SEAR benchmarks in order to enable a full and effective response to emergencies with health consequences;
  - ii. ensuring that preparedness and risk reduction efforts across all hazards contribute to resilient health systems;
  - iii. strengthening disease surveillance capacity and data and information flows and sharing between local and national levels and with WHO at country, regional and global levels in order to ensure early reporting and detection;
  - iv. continue supporting the regional and sub-regional collaboration among disease surveillance networks within and across WHO regions;
  - v. building up local and national surge capacity by strengthening the health emergency workforce through establishment of systematic systems that include training, efficient recruitment and deployment;
  - vi. establish or strengthen multidisciplinary health emergency teams that can be deployed-in a timely manner;
- (d) to discuss within the internal government processes so as to mobilize resources to fund the preparedness stream of SEARHEF, and

- (e) to continuously participate in the management and utilization of SEARHEF through its Working Group, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to facilitate discussion among Member States to determine the feasible options to fund the preparedness stream of SEARHEF;
  - (b) to support the implementation of the policy, guidelines and procedures drafted by the Working Group for the governance of SEARHEF
  - (c) to mobilize technical and operational assistance to the initiatives that the preparedness stream of SEARHEF will support
  - (d) to support resource mobilization efforts as guided by Member States, and
  - (e) to report annually to the Regional Committee on the progress of the preparedness stream of SEARHEF in conjunction with reporting on the response stream of SEARHEF .

Seventh session, 9 September 2016