

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Provisional Agenda item 9

*Seventieth Session*

SEA/RC70/13 Add. 1

*Maldives*

*6–10 September 2017*

20 July 2017

## **Progress reports on selected Regional Committee resolutions**

The High-Level Preparatory Meeting held in the WHO Regional Office in New Delhi from 10 to 13 July 2017 reviewed the progress reports on the following selected Regional Committee resolutions:

1. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (**SEA/R69/R6**)
2. Challenges in polio eradication (**SEA/RC60/R8**)
3. Measles elimination and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome control (**SEA/RC66/R5**)
4. Antimicrobial resistance (**SEA/RC68/R3**)
5. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (**SEA/RC68/R4**)
6. South-East Asia Regional Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol (2014–2025) (**SEA/RC67/R4**)
7. Capacity-building of Member States in global health (**SEA/RC63/R6**)
8. Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG): Financing and Coordination (**SEA/RC65/R3**)

The recommendations made by the High-Level Preparatory Meeting on each of the above-mentioned progress reports are submitted to the Seventieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for its consideration.



## Introduction

1. The High-Level Preparatory Meeting held in the WHO Regional Office in New Delhi from 10 to 13 July 2017 reviewed the progress reports on the following selected Regional Committee resolutions:

1. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (SEA/R69/R6)
2. Challenges in polio eradication (SEA/RC60/R8)
3. Measles elimination and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome control (SEA/RC66/R5)
4. Antimicrobial resistance (SEA/RC68/R3)
5. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (SEA/RC68/R4)
6. South-East Asia Regional Action Plan to Implement Global Strategy to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol (2014–2025) (SEA/RC67/R4)
7. Capacity-building of Member States in global health (SEA/RC63/R6)
8. Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG): Financing and Coordination (SEA/RC65/R3)

2. The recommendations made by the High-Level Preparatory Meeting on each of the above-mentioned progress reports are submitted to the Seventieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for its consideration.

## 1. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (SEA/R69/R6)

### Recommendations

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Continue discussions with the ministries of finance and ministries of foreign affairs of Member States for contributions to SEARHEF.
- (2) Support implementation of SEARHEF business rules, especially in reporting.

#### *Actions by WHO*

- (1) Continue to provide support to Member States in their discussions on the SEARHEF preparedness stream.
- (2) Continue to discuss with donors about contributions to SEARHEF.

## **2. Challenges in polio eradication (SEA/RC60/R8)**

### **Recommendations**

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Continue efforts to maintain certification standard surveillance and outbreak response preparedness to ensure timely detection of and response to any wild or vaccine-derived poliovirus.
- (2) Complete the containment of type 2 polioviruses as per Global Action Plan (GAP) III to mitigate the risk of exposure of communities to any type 2 poliovirus.
- (3) Finalize the polio transition plans by ensuring adequate resources for polio-funded networks to mitigate the programmatic risks associated with the ramp-down of polio funding.

#### *Actions by WHO*

- (1) Support Member States in fully implementing the activities outlined under the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018.
- (2) Ensure collaboration among Member States for knowledge exchange on the use of fractional inactivated poliovirus (IPV) in India and Sri Lanka to facilitate the introduction of fractional IPV in other Member States.
- (3) Support the finalization and implementation of polio transition plans in five Member States of the Region with the full engagement of national governments, donors and partners to mitigate the risks associated with the ramp-down of polio funding.
- (4) Develop practical guidelines for implementing the containment requirements outlined in GAP III.

## **3. Measles elimination and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome control (SEA/RC66/R5)**

### **Recommendations**

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Ensure the full engagement of governments at the national and subnational levels, as well as partners and donors, for mobilization of resources and implementation of strategies to achieve the goal of measles elimination and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) control, including achievement of high coverage during the upcoming mass vaccination campaigns with measles–rubella vaccine in Member States.

- (2) Accelerate efforts to strengthen laboratory-supported case-based surveillance and routine immunization performance at national and subnational levels, required to achieve measles elimination and rubella/CRS control by 2020.
- (3) Ensure country capacity to adequately investigate and respond to large measles and rubella outbreaks.

*Actions by WHO*

- (1) Support Member States with the full implementation of the approaches outlined under the Regional Strategic Plan for Measles Elimination and Rubella/CRS Control: 2014–2020.
- (2) Support Member States with the polio transition planning process to mitigate the programmatic risks to the measles elimination and rubella/CRS control efforts associated with the ramp-down of polio funding.

## **4. Antimicrobial resistance (SEA/RC68/R3)**

### **Recommendations**

*Actions by Member States*

- (1) Ensure high-level endorsement of the national action plans on antimicrobial resistance through appropriate mechanisms in the national contexts that will facilitate high-level engagement across all sectors.
- (2) Continue with the comprehensive implementation of national action plans.

*Actions by WHO*

- (1) Provide support for the implementation of national action plans on antimicrobial resistance by Member States.
- (2) Support intercountry exchanges of good practices for implementing national action plans on antimicrobial resistance.

## **5. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (SEA/RC68/R4)**

### **Recommendations**

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Continue to implement interventions to improve patient safety based on priorities identified during the patient safety self-assessment exercises.
- (2) Share experiences with other countries on actions to improve patient safety.

#### *Actions by WHO*

- (1) Support the documenting and sharing of national experiences with interventions for improving patient safety and quality of care as an integral part of advancing universal health coverage (UHC).
- (2) Continue to provide support to countries on interventions to improve patient safety, including adverse event-reporting systems.
- (3) Report to the Regional Committee in 2019.

## **6. South-East Asia Regional Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol (2014–2025) (SEA/RC67/R4)**

### **Recommendations**

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Develop and/or strengthen systems and mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol (2014–2025) in the light of the Regional Action Plan and according to national priorities.
- (2) Promote multisectoral mechanisms at national and subnational levels to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.
- (3) Address unrecorded and illegal alcohol products by enforcement of laws, and address social and cultural norms that promote home production and consumption of unrecorded alcohol.

*Actions by WHO*

- (1) Provide support to build the capacity of Member States (technical and institutional) to advance the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol in the national context, including providing technical support in meeting the evidence needs related to international trade agreements.
- (2) Support and strengthen ongoing collaboration of the regional networks of national counterparts.
- (3) Document and disseminate information on “best buys” and good practices to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

## **7. Capacity-building of Member States in global health (SEA/RC63/R6)**

### **Recommendations**

*Actions by Member States*

- (1) Ensure full support to the conduct of the assessment of WHO’s five years’ experience (2011–2015) in capacity-building in global health by the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP).
- (2) Engage actively in capacity-building in global health, including through strengthening national institutional processes to build global health capacities.
- (3) Encourage and support greater participation at the Governing Body meetings and intergovernmental processes.

*Actions by WHO*

- (1) Continue supporting Member States in organizing national, regional and global workshops on global health issues.
- (2) Continue to hold technical briefings and coordination meetings before important regional and global governing bodies and related meetings.
- (3) Explore various mechanisms to facilitate, support and coordinate global health capacity-building efforts in the Region.

## **8. Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG): Financing and Coordination (SEA/RC65/R3)**

### **Recommendations**

#### *Actions by Member States*

- (1) Promote further unified engagement on the CEWG, Global Strategy and Plan of Action (GSPA) and demonstration projects at the regional and global levels, including negotiating the global research and development (R&D) agreement and the unfinished discussions on the CEWG follow up.
- (2) Develop a roadmap for promoting access to medical products through regulators' engagement in the South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) in the Region.

#### *Actions by WHO*

- (1) Support Member States on the CEWG, GSPA and demonstration projects.
- (2) Support Member States on SEARN to promote access to medical products.