The Regional Committee,

ACKNOWLEDGING that World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.1 approved the WHO Programme Budget 2020–2021 as the instrument for the implementation of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13),

NOTING that the approved WHO Programme Budget 2020–2021 is the first programme budget to be prepared in line with the GPW13 and WHO’s triple billion strategic priority approach,

WELCOMING the results, integrated and systems approach to drive impact in countries,

ALSO NOTING that the Programme Budget is based on a bottom-up planning process and identification of Member State priorities,

FURTHER WELCOMING the work being conducted to identify efficiencies across the entire Organization, while reaffirming the need for the normative and enabling functions to be adequately financed across all levels,

AFFIRMING WHO’s leadership of a Transformative Agenda that supports countries in their efforts to reach all health-related Sustainable Development Goal targets,

RECOGNIZING the ongoing work to develop the GPW13 Results Framework in consultation with Member States, including through the Regional Committees, for being presented to the 146th Session of the Executive Board,
WELCOMING that the South-East Asia Region has received a Programme Budget increase of US$ 99.7 million in the Base Budget for 2020-2021, with a total approved Budget of US$ 388.5 million, of which allocation of US$ 277.9 is for country level and US$ 110.6 million is for the regional level,

NOTING the US$ 99.7 million increase, which is distributed to polio transition (US$ 69.9 million), increase in country capacity (US$ 19 million) and for data and innovation (US$ 10.8 million),

REAFFIRMING that emergencies remain a concern in the South-East Asia Region and that the South-East Asia Region Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) is vital in providing immediate financial support during emergencies requiring health sector response,

ENDORISING the report and the recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management,

1. URGES Member States:
   (a) to further collaborate with WHO Country Offices in order to finalize the WHO country workplans in line with national priorities while contributing to regional and global priorities and improve the efficiency of utilization of available Programme Budget resources;
   (b) to strengthen collaborative programme management for effective programme implementation;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
   (a) to allocate the approved Budget to the Budget Centres while retaining a 5% reserve of the total budget to be distributed during the biennium based on needs and implementation status of WHO country offices;
   (b) to ensure efficient budget management, through consultations with Member States and allocate resources in a timely manner;
   (c) to support mobilization of Voluntary Contributions, especially to countries and programmes that have been unable to achieve full funding of their workplans;
(d) to continue efforts, in collaboration with Member States, to strengthen programme management, monitoring and evaluation capacities of WHO programmes with the objective of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation; and

(e) to submit regular reports to Regional Committee on the status of financing and implementation of the Programme Budget, including a mid-term results report and recommendations therein for corrective measures.

Ninth session, 6 September 2019