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Resolution

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC59/R.3  
October 2012

Fifty-ninth Session  
Agenda item 3

**Health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region:  
challenges, priorities and options for future action**

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the technical discussion paper on health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: challenges, priorities and options for future action;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolutions WHA62.12 on primary health care, including health system strengthening, WHA58.33 on sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance, WHA64.9 on sustainable health financing structures and universal coverage, EM/RC55/R.2 on commitment to health systems based on primary health care in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and EM/RC57/R.7 on strategic directions to improve health care financing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: moving towards universal coverage 2011–2015;

Recognizing that significant impact to improve population health can only be realized through well performing national health systems which assure universal access to effective and good quality health care;

Mindful of the expanding role of the private sector in the delivery of health care and the existence of inadequate stewardship and regulatory guidance;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Strengthen or establish multisectoral mechanisms with representation from public sector ministries, civil society organizations, the private health sector, community representatives and other stakeholders to prepare a road map for achieving universal health coverage;
- 1.2 Make national strategic health plans the basis for all health development programmes and activities and ensure their sound implementation and monitoring;
- 1.3 Review and update public health laws and develop norms and standards in order to ensure equity, quality and safety of care delivered in the public and private sector;

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<sup>1</sup> EM/RC59/Tech.Disc 1

- 1.4 Develop national capacities to strengthen governance, production and deployment of a well balanced health workforce which ensures effective delivery of care;
  - 1.5 Strengthen and integrate the network of primary health care facilities, considering family practice as an effective approach to service provision;
  - 1.6 Strengthen national health information systems by improving reporting of births, deaths and cause of death, by improved monitoring of exposure to risk factors and social determinants of health, morbidity, mortality and performance of the health system and by institutionalizing population-based surveys;
  - 1.7 Improve quality, safety, efficacy and rational use of health technologies, including medicines, by strengthening national regulatory authorities;
  - 1.8 Work closely with the Regional Office and country offices in their efforts to strengthen health systems;
2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
- 2.1 Provide Member States with the strategic and technical guidance necessary to establish multisectoral mechanisms in support of universal health coverage;
  - 2.2 Support Member States in building capacity in the area of health systems strengthening, including leadership development, health care financing, human resources development and health system performance assessment;
  - 2.3 Set up mechanisms to share experience among countries in health system strengthening and support sub-regional cooperation;
  - 2.4 Establish networks of health systems experts to support health system strengthening in the Region;
  - 2.5 Work closely with Member States to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of national health strategies and plans;
  - 2.6 Submit a progress report on health systems performance to the 60th Session of the Regional Committee.