REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Regional Director's report on reproductive health in the Western Pacific Region;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA32.42, WHA38.22, WHA40.27, WHA41.9, WHA42.42, WHA43.10, WHA47.9, WHA48.10, EB95.R10 and WPR/RC39.R12 related to the issue of reproductive health;

Noting the progress made in maternal and child health, especially through the Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood programme, and the availability of a wide variety of technical and managerial tools such as the Mother-baby Package, to help improve women and children's health and survival;

Noting also the need to reduce the large disparities still existing between and within countries and areas of the Region regarding reproductive health and to expand the access to appropriate, adequate and good quality health care;

¹Document WPR/RC46/15.
Noting further that young people in particular, need to have better knowledge of all reproductive health issues and access to suitable fertility regulation methods of their choice;

Recognizing that health staff need to be better equipped to provide proper counselling and motivation on all the reproductive health aspects, and adequate medical services prior to – and during – pregnancy, delivery and post partum;

Being aware that changes in some harmful existing practices and the application of simple and inexpensive technologies, along with appropriate obstetric practices and family planning services may significantly reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality;

1. URGES Member States, particularly keeping public health in mind, with its social and demographic implications:

(1) to review their reproductive health status and programmes;

(2) to develop and implement policies, strategies and plans of action in order to considerably improve reproductive health care;

(3) to allocate resources required for wider coverage, and better access to such services;

(4) to ensure that women and men, regardless of age, social status or any other characteristics, have adequate knowledge of reproductive health issues, so as to be able to make informed and free choices regarding their own fertility, and the positive health effects of spacing children, and that they have easy access to the means to do so;

(5) to upgrade and update the curricula for both basic and in-service education of health professionals;
(6) to ensure also that, under the leadership of the health sector, an appropriate coordination mechanism for reproductive health programmes is established with other government and nongovernmental sectors and organizations, as well as with professional, scientific and other relevant associations, and the mass media; and

(7) to develop a series of health and social indicators, and the mechanism for their regular collection, collation and analysis, to help monitor the progress of the reproductive health programme;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to support the planning and implementation of reproductive health programmes;

(2) to advocate providing men and women with information which allows them to decide if, when and how often to reproduce, giving them the means to do so, in order that they may experience a healthy, safe and rewarding reproductive process;

(3) to support improvements in the basic and in-service training of health professionals in order to ensure better service performance and quality of care; and

(4) to encourage the collection and use of data for better management of the reproductive health programme.