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Other information

Venue
Conference Hall, Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Distribution of documents
Electronic copies of all working documents and related material are available at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific website: https://www.who.int/westernpacific/about/governance/regional-committee/seventieth-session

Representatives are kindly requested to collect other documents, messages and invitations daily at their designated mailboxes.

The Journal is posted daily on the website. Printed copies are available at the Enquiry Desk in the Conference Hall foyer. The official report of the session proceedings will be sent to Member States on or before 10 November 2019.

Rapporteurs meeting
The meeting will be held daily following the afternoon session at 17:15 in Room 403 (Emergency Operations Centre).

Internet access
Wireless Internet access is available throughout the Regional Office. The network name and password can be obtained from the Enquiry Desk.

An Internet cafe is located along the corridor of the lower lounge near the Conference Hall. For assistance, please contact IT support staff at the Internet cafe.

WHO publications
Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee are on display in the Conference Hall lounge and in the Regional Office bookshop. A digital publications catalogue is provided on a USB digital flash drive to all representatives.

Security
Please ensure your ID card is displayed at all times while on WHO premises.

Should you have any concerns, kindly contact the WHO Conference and Administrative Services Officer, Ms Nguyen Thi Minh Ly, at +63 2 8528-9608 (landline) or +63 920-963-5457 (mobile).

There is a no smoking policy on WHO premises. Likewise, smoking is prohibited in public areas in Metro Manila.
## I. PROGRAMME OF WORK (WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2019)

### Agenda items 09:00–12:00

| 10 | Tobacco control in the Western Pacific Region (continued) | WPR/RC70/5 |
| 12 | Antimicrobial resistance | WPR/RC70/7 |
| 14 | Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee | WPR/RC70/9 |

14.2 WHO reform
   a. WHO's work in countries

### Agenda items 14:00–17:00

| 13 | Progress reports on technical programmes | WPR/RC70/8 |

13.1 Health security
   a. Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies
   b. Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Management for Health

13.5 Communicable diseases
   a. Measles and rubella elimination
   b. HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections
   c. Implementation of the End TB Strategy

### Consideration of draft resolution and proposed decision

| Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing | WPR/RC70/Conference Paper No. 3 (draft resolution) |
| Ageing and health | WPR/RC70/Conference Paper No. 4 (proposed decision) |

**Please Note:** The draft resolution and proposed decision were distributed today as conference papers. Any amendments should be submitted in writing to the Enquiry Desk using specific language. These Conference Papers will be considered for adoption in the afternoon session.
II. REPORT OF MEETINGS (TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019)

First meeting

<table>
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<th>Chairperson:</th>
<th>Honourable Park Neunghoo, Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea</th>
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<td><strong>Item 4</strong></td>
<td>Address by the incoming Chairperson</td>
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The incoming Chairperson thanked the representatives for the trust they showed in electing him to chair the seventieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, and thanked last year’s office-bearers for their service. He cited the progress outlined by the Regional Director in his annual report, noting that it covered the work of both the former and current Regional Directors. He also congratulated the new Regional Director on a very productive first eight months in office. He concluded by highlighting the importance of the agenda items to be considered over the coming days and urged the Regional Committee to take appropriate action.

| **Item 11** | Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing |

The Regional Director introduced the agenda item, recalling that issue had been considered by the Regional Committee in 2017 when Member States discussed the widespread marketing of foods high in fat, sugar or salt and its harmful impact on children’s health. He said Member States called on WHO to develop a regional action plan to address the issue and support action to enable healthy food environments for children.

The Regional Director said extensive consultations with Member States revealed diverse approaches and policies on food marketing. He said insights from those consultations had been incorporated into the draft Regional Action Framework, which respects individual country contexts, priorities and capacities. He highlighted the Framework’s four pillars for action and 10 recommended actions to support Member States in establishing or strengthening national policies and actions.

He concluded by inviting the Regional Committee to consider for endorsement the draft Regional Action Framework on Protecting Children from the Harmful Impact of Food Marketing in the Western Pacific.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Japan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Singapore, Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, the Philippines, Kiribati, Malaysia, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Vanuatu, American Samoa, Mongolia, China, Hong Kong (SAR) China, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Tonga, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Cook Islands and Solomon Islands.

Member State representatives universally said that they appreciated the extensive consultation that WHO conducted to inform the development of the Regional Action Framework and the comprehensive guidance that the Framework provides. Many Member State representatives highlighted the need for their country to take actions to protect the young generation, and indicated that the Framework would be implemented based on their country contexts and priorities. Some Member States noted that they may require more support from WHO for implementation, while others requested clarifications on products covered, definitions of marketing and implications on trade.

The Director, Division of Healthy Environments and Populations, thanked the Member States for their comments and sharing successful country cases. She explained that countries may have different definitions of marketing and its scope, including the types of products covered and ages of children, and read the definition used in the draft Framework for reference. She explained that WHO would continue to support existing initiatives and networks that address noncommunicable diseases and dietary health, including the Pacific Ending
Childhood Obesity Network and the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action, as well as programmes that engage the educational and agricultural sectors to improve the safety, quality and nutritional value of food for children. She stressed that schools provide an opportunity to shape lifelong healthy behaviours in children and represent one of the many sectors in which WHO would support Member States in implementing the draft Framework.

In response to a Member State concern about potential conflicts with trade, the Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage / Healthier Populations, from WHO headquarters said that WHO is working with the World Trade Organization to clarify the trade implications, particularly for breast-milk substitutes. She explained that international trade agreements generally recognize the right of governments to protect health, adding that WHO would support countries to implement actions to protect the health of children.

The Regional Director thanked Member States for their expressions of support and emphasized the long consultative process that informed the draft Framework. Stressing the importance of healthy children to the future of the Region, he reiterated his commitment to support Member States to develop country-specific plans that also incorporate regional initiatives and to work with other United Nations agencies and partners, along with all levels of WHO, to deliver the best support possible to Member States.

In closing, the Chairperson requested the Rapporteurs to draft an appropriate resolution.

**Item 10  Tobacco control in the Western Pacific Region**

The Regional Director introduced the item on tobacco control, noting the particular burden in the Western Pacific Region, which accounts for nearly 40% of the deaths from tobacco globally. He pointed out that the Western Pacific is the only WHO region in which 100% of the countries in the Region have ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. He further noted the downward trend in tobacco smoking in the Region, thanks to measures such as smoke-free environments, higher tobacco taxation, graphic health warnings on tobacco products, and bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. But those gains, he said, will still leave the Region short of its noncommunicable disease and Sustainable Development Goals targets.

The Regional Director highlighted new challenges, such as the rapid uptake of emerging products – heated tobacco products and electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices – adding that the escalating use of these products by young people should worry everyone. He concluded by urging action to avoid creating a new generation of nicotine addicts.

He asked the Regional Committee to consider for endorsement draft **Regional Action Plan for Tobacco Control in the Western Pacific (2020–2030)**.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Singapore, the Philippines, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Hong Kong (SAR) China, Viet Nam, Fiji, Brunei Darussalam, Australia, Mongolia, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Korea. Interventions continued after the panel discussion.

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**Second meeting**

**Chairperson:** Honourable Park Neunghoo, Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea

**Item 9  Panel discussion on ageing and health**

The Regional Director introduced the Panel Discussion on Ageing and Health by briefly recalling his experience 30 years ago as a medical officer on the north-east coast of Japan, where he supported many older people. He said population ageing, the pace of which had been underestimated in Japan, would eventually confront all Western Pacific countries, where those 60 years and older are the fastest-growing group. He noted that preparing for an ageing society is an
opportunity not just to improve services for older people – but to transform health systems more broadly. He concluded by noting that in discussions with Member States that led to the development of the white paper, For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region, they had strongly endorsed the need to act now to confront the rapidly developing and inevitable challenge ageing presents.

The Panel Discussion on Ageing and Health was moderated by Mr James Chau, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Sustainable Development Goals and Health, and featured representatives from countries whose populations are at different stages of ageing.

- Dr Atsushi Seike, President, Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, in a video presentation, shared his perspective on the rapid ageing of the Japanese population and the resulting decline in the workforce, economic output and consumption that has threatened the sustainability of Japan’s social security system, including its medical care and long-term care components. He highlighted ways Japan could address these changes by promoting a lifelong active lifestyle, reforming its social security system, including its medical care and long-term care and strengthening community-based care systems.

- Mr Kim Yong Gan, Minister for Health, Singapore, noted that population ageing was occurring faster than had been predicted in Singapore and highlighted the whole-of-government, whole-of-society and social health integration approaches that Singapore has engaged in to address the issue. The approaches were developed, he said, following extensive consultations that included older people as well as a cross-section of society concerned with the issue.

- Dr Nguyen Doan Tu, General Director of Population Administration, Viet Nam Ministry of Health, spoke of his country’s rapid population shift and the Government’s response to meet the health-care needs of an ageing population, as well as collaboration with WHO in framing healthy strategies on ageing.

- Dr Xueting Li, Director of the Health Service Office of the Department of Ageing and Health, National Health Commission, China, addressed the current situation in China and future steps to promote healthy ageing. She noted that China had more than 250 million people aged 60 years or older, and the growth of the older population had led to the creation of a National Department of Ageing and Health, which would bring together 32 departments to address the issue and create a suite of services geared towards older people. She emphasized the need for a life-course approach, noting that healthier options earlier in life would support healthy ageing. She said China looked forward to working with WHO and other Member States to upgrade services for older people in China and across the Region.

- Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, Minister of Health and Medical Services, Fiji, expressed the need for his country, which has a young population – but the number of older people is expected to double by 2050 – to prepare now for ageing, noting that Fiji’s rising burden of NCDs will be greater as the population ages. He said Fiji had a National Policy on Ageing, which would be updated. And he stressed the value of his country’s multi-ethnic population with a long cultural tradition that protects and cares for older people. He said that preparation will involve investments in the health-care budget, adequate facilities and health-care professionals and will be aided by a new national policy on ageing.

- Dr Myrna Cabotaje, Undersecretary of Health, Department of Health, Philippines, said the one third of the Philippine population is under 15 years, with just 9% of the population over 60 years, although that percentage is expected to grow rapidly. A priority for the Philippines, she said, was to transform the health system to meet the needs of that growing
population. She noted the country’s “Healthy and Productive Aging Starts with Me” campaign and drew attention to a new law that created a National Commission of Senior Citizens that will advance the health and well-being of older Filipinos through community-based health and rehabilitation programmes.

The panel discussion was followed by a plenary discussion. Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Nauru, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Mongolia, Tuvalu, Australia, New Caledonia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Kiribati, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Korea and Cook Islands.

In their interventions, the representatives strongly suggested the call for the development of a new regional action plan on healthy ageing and shared efforts that are under way in their countries to support healthy ageing. Many representatives stressed the need to take early action on population ageing to ensure that older people live with dignity and respect. These actions include a multisectoral approach with community support and home-based care and services. Several representatives asked for continued support from WHO for capacity-building in this regard and highlighted the need to include guidance on dementia in any plan that is developed.

The Director, Data, Strategy and Innovation, thanked the representatives for their comments. He said the Secretariat had taken careful note of the issues raised and the calls for increased support by WHO, including the call for the development of a new regional action plan. He said the Secretariat would move forward in developing a plan in close consultation with Member States, experts, partners and older people, as well as a broader cross-section of society from across the Region. He further noted that ageing and health was included in one of the four thematic priorities in the For the Future, the white paper the Regional Director had developed in consultation with Member States. He concluded by saying a Healthy Ageing team had been established at the Regional Office that will drive ageing as a theme that is relevant across all divisions and will allow WHO to increase support to Member States in sharing best practices and in supporting country-specific approaches to address ageing.

In closing, the Chairperson requested the Rapporteurs to draft an appropriate decision.

**Item 10 Tobacco control in the Western Pacific Region (continued)**

As a continuation of the morning’s session, interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): China, the United States of America, Solomon Islands and Japan.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Consideration of draft decisions:**

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the proposed decision on For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region (WPR/RC70/Conf. Paper No. 1). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft decision. The draft decision was adopted (WPR/RC70(1)).

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the proposed decision on Programme budget 2020–2021 update (WPR/RC70/Conf. Paper No. 2). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft decision. The draft decision was adopted (WPR/RC70(2)).
III. OTHER MEETINGS

Wednesday, 9 October 2019

12:45–13:45  Innovation through digital health (Conference Hall)

Thursday, 10 October 2019

12:45–13:45  Safe and affordable surgery (Conference Hall)