

THE ROLE OF MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AS DIRECTING AND
COORDINATING AUTHORITIES ON NATIONAL HEALTH WORK

The Regional Committee,

Having considered Part II, Section 2 of the report of the Sub-Committee on the General Programme of Work, on the role of ministries of health as directing and coordinating authorities on national health work,¹

1. RECOGNIZES that, however much the situation in one country might differ from that in another, the principle of multidisciplinary participation and the adequate representation or participation of related sectors is applicable to all situations at all levels of the health system;
2. RECOGNIZES FURTHER that, although emphasis must be placed on planning at community or local level, adequate guidance and support must be provided from policy making bodies;

3. URGES Member States, while bearing in mind the principles recognized above:

(1) to make every endeavour to strengthen their planning mechanisms at central, intermediate and local levels;

(2) to review mechanisms for intra- and intersectoral cooperation so that health sector problems may be viewed in their totality, taking into account intersectoral relationships and the need to coordinate programmes and action;

(3) to strengthen their national managerial processes and health services research capacities for the building up of institutions to form national networks, which might eventually enter into a regional network arrangement;

(4) to establish or strengthen formal mechanisms for liaison with external agencies in order to encourage the flow of external resources into their countries and ensure that they are well coordinated;

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director to continue to support Member States in their endeavours.

¹Document WPR/RC33/8.