

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report of the Ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Regional Committee on the Action Programme on Essential Drugs and Vaccines;¹

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in some Member States in the implementation of their essential drugs programme as well as the encouraging developments in intercountry cooperation through both bilateral and multilateral arrangements;

Recognizing at the same time that the availability of essential drugs for primary health care is still limited in some countries owing to the lack of funds, facilities, manpower and expertise;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to identify problems in the most urgent areas of concern hampering the development and implementation of their essential drugs programmes;

(2) to intensify activities required to deal with the problems in these priority areas;

(3) to strengthen cooperation among themselves for the implementation of essential drugs programmes through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, such as improvement of the drug procurement and distribution system;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to cooperate in evaluating and identifying problems in the most urgent areas of concern of individual Member States;

(2) to facilitate the exchange of experience and information among Member States in these priority areas through the development and implementation of appropriate programmes;

(3) to provide direction and initiative, in conjunction with UNICEF, UNDP and other United Nations agencies, in organizing activities for the provision of expertise, development of manpower, and production of public education programmes to foster the rational use of drugs;

(4) to encourage and facilitate, wherever feasible, the technical, financial and material support extended by developed countries, United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

¹ Document WPR/RC36/7.