

NATIONAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH POLICIES  
AND STRATEGIES

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report on national maternal and child health policies and strategies;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolution WHA32.42 on the WHO long-term programme for maternal and child health and resolution WHA40.27 on maternal health and safe motherhood;

Noting the very high, yet preventable, maternal mortality in some countries of the Region;

Being aware that, at present, the mortality risk to mothers in a developing country is ten times greater than in a developed country of the Region;

Recognizing maternal mortality as an indicator of social inequity or neglect on the part of the health services;

Noting the existence of technology already proven for safe motherhood and for cost effectiveness in the prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to review, set targets and develop appropriate strategies for reducing maternal mortality to at least 50% of the current levels by the year 2000;

(2) to allocate resources for adequate coverage by maternal health care, including family planning, for the prevention of maternal, perinatal and neonatal mortality;

(3) to increase the availability of appropriately trained personnel to attend to women during pregnancy and during and after childbirth, either at home or in hospital;

(4) to set up national mechanisms involving the health and health-related sectors, and women's organizations, for developing and coordinating support for maternal and neonatal health care;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to cooperate with Member States in their efforts to reduce maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality, and in particular:

(1) to introduce simplified risk-approach methodology for ensuring the quality of care and the effectiveness of programmes;

(2) to develop maternal and child health and family planning training manuals and methods to improve the technical knowledge and skills of all categories of health personnel.

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<sup>1</sup>Document WPR/RC39/9.