

The Regional Committee,

Noting that just over two years remain before the target date for the regional targets set by the Regional Committee of regionwide coverage by directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS), an 85% cure rate and a 70% case detection rate;

Recognizing that the most critical obstacle to reaching the 2005 targets in Member States with a high burden of tuberculosis (TB) is insufficient human resources, especially at central level;

Concerned that the current case detection rate of 41% of estimated new smear-positive cases is still far below the regional target of 70%;

Recognizing that implementation of DOTS is associated with an increase in the case detection rate;

Further recognizing the need to improve the quality of laboratory services, increase community awareness of TB, and strengthen public private cooperation, in order to improve case detection;

Acknowledging that national programme reviews by ministries of health and involving all partners will facilitate the monitoring of progress towards the 2005 goals;

Concerned about increasing rates of TB/HIV co-infection and multidrug-resistant TB;

Recognizing that, despite the progress achieved in addressing the issue of TB and poverty, access to TB services by economically and otherwise disadvantaged groups needs to be further improved;

Welcoming continued financial and technical support from WHO and other partners in the Region to strengthen human capacity building and to introduce new regional guidelines on laboratory quality assurance;

Further welcoming collaboration among Member States, WHO and partners in securing financial support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

Appreciating the evaluation of the special project carried out by the external evaluation team;<sup>1</sup>

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to strengthen political commitment and to accelerate DOTS coverage in Member States with a high burden of TB in order to reach nationwide coverage by DOTS by 2005;

(2) to strengthen human capacity building for TB control in order to build strong central management units;

(3) to foster collaboration with partners in order to make the most efficient use of disbursements from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in order to reduce the funding gap still further;

(4) to improve the quality of laboratory services, strengthen community awareness of TB and, if appropriate, to expand public-private cooperation in order to increase the case detection rate;

(5) to focus on TB and poverty issues in order to improve access by economically disadvantaged patients to free TB diagnosis and treatment, in the context of poverty reduction;

(6) to strengthen monitoring by organizing programme reviews that include all partners;

(7) to improve surveillance for TB/HIV co-infection and to strengthen monitoring of drug-resistant TB;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to support Member States to strengthen human capacity building for TB control in order to build strong central management units;

(2) to support Member States to strengthen TB laboratory services, implement new regional quality assurance guidelines for sputum microscopy examination, strengthen community awareness of TB and expand public-private cooperation in order to achieve a 70% case detection rate by 2005;

(3) to continue collaboration with partners, in order to reduce the funding gap for TB control in the Region;

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<sup>1</sup> Programmatic Evaluation of Tuberculosis Control through Technical Cooperation at the Country Level in the Western Pacific Region 20 February–1 March and 6–15 April 2003, annex to document WPR/RC54/7.

- (4) to collaborate with Member States and partners to monitor the TB control programme, including conducting joint programme reviews;
- (5) to support Member States to respond more effectively to the impact of poverty and marginalization on TB control;
- (6) to support Member States to develop better estimations of TB incidence by using all available data and improving estimation methods and in so doing to enable a more accurate assessment of the case detection rate;
- (7) to support Member States to improve surveillance for and management of TB/HIV and multidrug-resistant TB;
- (8) to ensure that the recommendations of the external evaluation team are carried out.