RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Fiftieth Session
Agenda item 14

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN

The Regional Committee,

Having heard the presentation on healthy environments for children;

Conscious that a substantial proportion of the global burden of disease can be attributed to environmental risk factors, with over 40% of this burden falling on children under 5 years of age;

Recognizing that the major risk factors to children’s health include a lack of household water security, inadequate personal hygiene, lack of sanitation, unsafe food, air pollution, disease vectors, chemical hazards and unintentional injuries;

Acknowledging that poor children are more likely to be exposed to these risks and that children in the Region are adversely affected by environments characterized by war, conflict and strife;

Desiring to create a healthier future for children, within the commitment to achieve the Millenium Development Goals related to child health and environment;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

   1.1 Conduct a situation analysis on environmental risks to children’s health, and advocate for intensified action, at all levels and in all relevant sectors, to reduce those risks, including the adverse effect on the environment in which children live caused by misuse of insecticides and pesticides indoors and on farms;

   1.2 Adopt national child health policies and integrated approaches to healthy environments for children;
1.3 Build capacity in management of environmental health-related sickness and revise environmental health standards to reflect the vulnerability of children;

1.4 Develop and implement strategies that will result in increased support from donors, involvement of communities and nongovernmental organizations, and mobilization of traditional social security nets such as *awqaf* and *zakat*;

1.5 Join the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) and support the work of the Global Task Force on Healthy Environments for Children Alliance;

2. **DEPLORES** the use of children as soldiers and urges Member States to sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Landmines and on their Destruction;

3. **CALLS** on the international community to denounce and to condemn the brutal methods practised daily by the Israeli occupation forces in Palestine, including the destruction of inhabited houses and the killing and displacement of children and women, practices which cause Palestinian children to live continuously in an environment which is contrary to their physical, social and psychological well-being and which exposes them daily to the systematic destruction of their health and psychological entity;

4. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to provide technical and financial support to address the mental health problems of children in countries which have suffered and still suffer from the ordeals of besiegement, occupation and conflict in different forms;

5. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to develop, publish and monitor indicators on healthy environments for children.