

## **AFR/RC42/R5: AIDS prevention and control programme**

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the Regional Director's report contained in document AFR/RC42/5 Rev.1;

Recalling resolutions WHA40.26, WHA41.24, AFR/RC41/R14, WHA42.33, WHA42.34, WHA45.35 as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/203 and the declaration AHG/DECL/.1 (XXIII) of Heads of State and Government of OAU;

Noting with satisfaction the implementation of resolutions AFR/RC37/R5, AFR/RC39/R7 and AFR/RC40/R6;

Concerned that the AIDS pandemic is still spreading rapidly and at an alarming rate in developing countries generally and in the countries of the African Region in particular within a context of already existing African Health crisis as per OAU declaration AGH/DECL.3 (XXVII);

Recognizing that the human immunodeficiency virus, the causative agent of AIDS, is spreading from urban to rural parts of the countries of the Region in which the majority of the population resides;

Recognizing that heterosexual transmission is the significantly predominant mode of transmission of HIV in the Region;

Greatly concerned about the emerging severe socioeconomic consequences of the disease due to high prevalence of the infection in men, women and children, the growing number of AIDS patients and rising rates of opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis in the communities, which is causing an increasing burden on the already overloaded health services and calling for close collaboration between AIDS and tuberculosis control programmes;

Convinced that the effective prevention and control of AIDS is an act that requires high political commitment and substantial community mobilization efforts;

Noting the salutary effect that the decentralization of the global AIDS strategy has had on AIDS prevention and control efforts;

Acknowledging with satisfaction the active collaboration of all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, and the many nongovernmental organizations in the global AIDS control strategy;

Expressing appreciation for the significant technical, material and financial resources which the multilateral, bilateral United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations have provided in support of the global AIDS strategy in general, and the national AIDS programmes in the Member States of the Region in particular;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States in the implementation of national AIDS prevention and control plans;

Acknowledging the leading role and support given to the national AIDS programmes of Member States by the Regional Office;

1. CONGRATULATES the Regional Director on his report;
2. ENDORSES the recommendations and actions taken to implement the global strategy and Regional thrusts for the prevention and control of AIDS in the Member States;
3. THANKS the Director-General for the updated global strategy, and for his continued effort to mobilize resources for the global AIDS control programme;
4. APPEALS to the international community to increase their support to the countries of the Region to enable them meet the rising needs of the escalating number of AIDS patients and orphans, as well as cope with the severe economic consequences of the disease on the communities;
5. APPEALS to Member States:
  - (i) to give their highest political, administrative, technical and financial commitment to AIDS prevention at all national levels;
  - (ii) to intensify efforts to implement the regional thrusts and the updated global AIDS strategy, paying particular attention to action directed at women, children, and adolescents and the health care needs of patients and their families;
  - (iii) to strengthen their national AIDS committees and the management of their national AIDS programmes;
  - (iv) to mobilize national and international resources for the establishment of national blood transfusion services, including development and strengthening of laboratory services at district and national levels, and ensure the prevention of HIV infection from blood and blood products by screening all blood donations, providing counselling guidance and other preventive elements;
  - (v) to ensure a multisectoral approach at the national and international levels for AIDS prevention and control and in mobilizing resources;
  - (vi) to monitor and take necessary measures to protect human rights and the dignity of AIDS patients and oppose discrimination against persons or groups known to be or suspected of being HIV infected;
  - (vii) to intensify efforts to establish comprehensive programmes for the control of sexually transmitted diseases and integrate them with the AIDS prevention and control programme;
  - (viii) to integrate the national AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases prevention and control activities with primary health care and undertake the decentralization of AIDS/STD programmes to district and community levels.

6. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (i) to continue to urge Member States to give their highest commitment to national AIDS prevention and control programmes;
- (ii) to strengthen the managerial capability of Member States through the provision of technical assistance and by organizing technical and managerial training activities for national officials involved in AIDS prevention and control;
- (iii) to provide technical guidance to Member States in the planning, programming, review and formulation of the second generation medium-term plans with emphasis on multisectoral response to AIDS prevention and control;
- (iv) to assist Member States in their efforts to mobilize resources in support of national AIDS programmes and in multisectoral response to the pandemic;
- (v) to encourage and provide technical assistance to Member States in the development of community-based home care of AIDS patients, their families and communities;
- (vi) to assist countries in the development of interventions and in the evaluation of their impact in order to improve strategies for the prevention and control of AIDS in all programme areas;
- (vii) to provide technical guidance to countries in the mobilization of youth, women, men, workers and the community;
- (viii) to submit a report to the forty-third session of the Regional Committee on the AIDS situation in the Region and on the implementation of this resolution.

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