

AFR/RC22/R5:

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully studied the report¹ on long-term planning in environmental health;

Recalling resolutions WHA23.59 and WH23.60 of the World Health Assembly on the need for long-term planning of programmes in the field of health, particularly environmental health;

Bearing in mind that in resolution AFR/RC22/R1 the Committee requested the Regional Director to consider all possible means of accelerating the development of activities in environmental health; and

Aware of the importance for all countries of the relationship between health and the environment,

1. ENDORSES the general and specific objectives as defined in the Regional Director's Report;
2. URGES Member States to:
 - (i) accord high priority to environmental health activities in national development plans;
 - (ii) make a determined effort to established long-term plans and realistic programmes in the field of environmental health, particularly from the year 1980;
 - (iii) set up bodies responsible for dealing with all aspects of the construction and operation of urban and rural water supply systems;
 - (iv) prepare practical guidelines for the collection and disposal of solid wastes;
 - (v) accelerate programmes for the systematic construction of latrines to serve the entire population in rural areas;
 - (vi) develop research activities with a view to implementing effective environmental protection programmes through the established of criteria, guides and codes based on international standards;
 - (vii) take all necessary measures to train national staff of all categories in sufficient numbers for the execution of technical studies and plans, and for construction, operation and maintenance of the required schemes and facilities;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to use every available means of:
 - (i) assisting Member States to achieve the objectives set and to carry out the necessary pre-investment studies in order to increase in particular assistance to water supply and wastes disposal programmes;

¹ Document AFR/RC22/8.

- (ii) supporting through increased technical assistance the efforts made by the Governments for disposal of wastes in urban and rural areas;
 - (iii) assisting Member States to prepare criteria, guides and codes for the different aspects of environmental health programmes;
 - (iv) increasing support to training establishments and assisting universities or institutes to undertake research projects for the development of more suitable and less expensive techniques;
 - (v) evaluating periodically, every five years, activities in the field of environmental health in order to follow the progress achieved; and
4. INVITES the Director-General to continue to assist Member States in finding and using all possible international sources of technical and financial cooperation.

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