

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report entitled "Diarrhoeal disease control;<sup>15</sup>

Recalling resolution EM/RC28A/R.16 in which the Regional Committee urged Member States to initiate programmes to control diarrhoeal diseases and achieve the widest possible use of oral rehydration in acute diarrhoea in children, and resolutions EM/RC20A/R.11 and EM/RC21A/R.9 in which the Regional Committee urged Member States to report all cases of cholera, establish surveillance and improve sanitation in order to control the disease,

Acknowledging the role played by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in promoting development of national control of diarrhoeal disease programmes and its assistance in training national staff, as well as in promoting coordination between Member States in reporting cholera, in developing national capacities to detect cholera cases before epidemics occur, and in assisting control activities when cases are detected,

Noting the progress made by Member States in developing programmes to control diarrhoeal diseases that emphasize increasing the availability of oral rehydration salts, increasing the levels of knowledge and practice of the assessment and treatment of dehydration among health personnel, and increasing public awareness of the dangers of diarrhoeal diseases in young children and the importance of seeking early treatment,

Noting also that, in spite of significant reductions in deaths due to progress made by national diarrhoeal disease control programmes, diarrhoea continues to be a major cause of child mortality,

Reaffirming that, for the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases, it is necessary to improve nutrition, promote breast-feeding, improve weaning practices, improve access to clean water, promote personal and domestic hygiene, and promote immunization against measles,

Further noting that cholera epidemics still occur in the Region and remain a potential danger to all Member States, thus emphasizing the urgent need for collaboration between Member States and the World Health Organization in order to prevent epidemics of cholera,

Further reaffirming that there is a need for Member States to continue to develop their capabilities to respond to cholera emergencies,

#### A. For diarrhoeal disease control

1. URGES Member States to further intensify national diarrhoeal disease control activities, treating them as one of the priorities for achieving Health for All by the year 2000, recognizing that an effective control programme must include planning and staff training, as well as effective communication with the public on health sanitation and nutrition;

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15. Document EM/RC34/14.

2. FURTHER URGES Member States:

2.1. to review achievements of national control of diarrhoeal disease programmes and the constraints they face, revising plans of action to address these constraints and to include recent technical advances;

2.2. to give priority during the next two years to increased training of staff in supervision of activities and in clinical case management of diarrhoea;

2.3. to ensure that oral rehydration salts are readily available close to where people live and that, when indicated, they are effectively used in preventing and treating dehydration;

2.4. to coordinate with other primary health care activities in developing effective programmes of communication with the public;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

3.1. to continue to support control of diarrhoeal disease programmes in Member States, especially through provision of technical assistance to develop and revise related national policies, to train staff and to assist in the evaluation of national programmes in order to strengthen prevention and to improve case management, with the aim of achieving for children under five years of age the 1989 targets of 80% access to oral rehydration salts and 50% use of oral rehydration therapy;

3.2. to promote applied research in support of the health service component of diarrhoeal disease control programmes in countries of the Region;

B. For the prevention and control of cholera

4. ENCOURAGES Regional and sub-regional consultations between countries and with WHO to promote mutual understanding with respect to joint efforts to control cholera, and the preparation of contingency plans to limit and control epidemics;

5. URGES Member States:

5.1. to develop further epidemiological surveillance to facilitate early detection of cases;

5.2. openly and immediately to report outbreaks of cholera;

6. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

6.1. to develop a list of experts in various aspects of cholera control from among Member States of the Region and to develop Regional collaborating centres for cholera control;

6.2. to liaise with Member States in establishing reserve stocks of essential supplies needed for control of cholera for use in the Region.