



مَنْظَرُ الصَّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قرار

RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC52/R.3
September 2005

Fifty-second Session

PREVENTION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the problem of avoidable blindness and visual impairment;

Noting the recommendation of the Vision 2020 Regional Planning Workshop held in Cairo, Egypt from 14 and 17 December 2003, the 58th meeting of Ministers of Health of the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Muscat, Oman, on 14 and 15 February 2005 and the 29th Regular Session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health held in Cairo, Egypt, on 27–28 March 2005, that prevention of blindness be considered a health priority by WHO;

REQUESTS the Director-General to take necessary action to submit the following draft resolution to the 59th Session of the World Health Assembly in May 2006;

The Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing that more than 161 million people worldwide are visually impaired, of whom around 37 million are blind, and that an estimated 75% of blindness is avoidable;

Recalling resolution WHA56.26 on the elimination of avoidable blindness;

Acknowledging that poverty and blindness are interrelated and that blindness causes a huge economic burden to communities and countries, of which at least two-thirds falls on developing countries;

Noting that many Member States have signed the declaration of support for the global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness: Vision 2020: The Right to Sight;

1. **URGES** Member States to:
 - 1.1 Support programmes for prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment and sustain necessary financial support at the national level;
 - 1.2 Include prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in national development plans and goals;
 - 1.3 Advance the integration of prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment within existing health programmes at regional and national levels;
 - 1.4 Encourage partnerships between the public sector, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector in different programmes and activities for prevention of blindness at all levels.
2. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to:
 - 2.1 Make prevention of blindness a WHO priority area of work;
 - 2.2 Provide necessary technical support to Member States in this respect.