

RESOLUTION

OF THE

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC60/R9 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF HEALTH PERSONNEL: A CHALLENGE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA57.19, WHA59.23 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/208 on international migration and development, and the decision therein that, in 2006, the General Assembly will devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development,

Taking note of the Commonwealth Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health Workers, which was adopted at the meeting of Commonwealth health ministers in Geneva in 2003,

Noting the work in progress on international labour migration in the International Organization for Migration, the Global Commission on International Migration, and in other international bodies,

Recalling its own resolutions SEA/RC29/R6, SEA/RC29/R9, SEA/RC38/R10, SEA/RC42/R5, SEA/RC45/R5, SEA/RC56/R7 and SEA/RC/59/R6 relating to human resources for health,

Welcoming the Dhaka Declaration by the Health Ministers of Member countries of the WHO South-East Asia Region on strengthening the health workforce in countries of the South-East Asia Region to achieve an effective and well-motivated health workforce, and which emphasized the need to mitigate the adverse impacts of international migration of health personnel,

Mindful of the fact that effective and efficient management of existing health workforce, which is one of the most precious and important resources of the health system infrastructure, would lead to effective programme delivery and significant improvements in health system performance,

Noting with concern the continued international migration of health personnel, attributed to unacceptable shortages, and geographical and skill-mix imbalances in health workforce in many countries of the Region,

Being aware that highly trained and skilled health personnel from many countries in the Region continue to migrate at an increasing rate to certain countries, which weakens health systems in the countries of origin, and

Noting further that many countries in the Region are not yet technically equipped to assess adequately the magnitude and characteristics of the outflow of their health personnel,

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to intensify efforts to identify the magnitude and impact of international migration of health personnel in respective countries;
- (b) to strengthen human and institutional capacity to monitor the magnitude and impact of migration;
- (c) to develop appropriate strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of international migration of health personnel, as well as from rural and urban areas and from the public to private sector;
- (d) to frame and implement policies and strategies that could enhance effective retention of health personnel, and
- (e) to use government-to-government agreements to set up health-personnel exchange programmes as a mechanism for managing their migration, and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General, through the Regional Director to propose the inclusion of an agenda item entitled "International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries" in the provisional agenda of the 122nd session of the Executive Board;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to support, establish and maintain, in collaboration with relevant countries, information systems that will enable the monitoring of international movement of human resources for health;
- (b) to carry out research on international migration of health personnel in cooperation with global and regional networks of health workforce development within their respective mandates, in order to determine the adverse effects of such migration and the possible options to address them;
- (c) to support Member States in strengthening their planning mechanisms and processes to develop appropriate policies and strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of international migration of health personnel;
- (d) to support efforts of countries by facilitating dialogue and raising awareness at the highest national and international levels and between stakeholders about migration of health personnel and its effects;
- (e) to propose the inclusion of international migration of health personnel as a priority programme area in WHO's Regular Budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, and
- (f) to report on implementation of this resolution to the sixty-first Regional Committee.