

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the resolution of the fourteenth session of the Regional Committee (SEA/RC14/R2) urging governments in the South-East Asia Region to take every possible action to carry out programmes of smallpox eradication, preferably within a specific period of five years,

Considering that control programmes have been initiated by the national governments in almost all countries of the Region,

Having noted the resolution of the Sixteenth World Health Assembly (WHA 16.37) recommending the intensification of control programmes in those countries where the disease is still present and the taking of necessary steps to ensure the provision of a potent and stable vaccine,

- 1) RECORDS that one of the chief difficulties facing the countries of the Region and delaying maximum coverage of populations within the shortest possible time is in providing a potent and stable vaccine in adequate quantity;
- 2) RECALLS that WHO has recommended the use of freeze-dried vaccine to ensure potency and stability in tropical and sub-tropical climates;
- 3) EMPHASIZES that the requirements of this vaccine for countries in this Region, even for initial mass campaigns, amount to hundreds of million of doses;
- 4) URGES that pending establishment of local production, countries now making this vaccine should, in the interests of global smallpox eradication, make substantial contributions of vaccine to assist the countries of South-East Asia, and
- 5) REQUESTS the Regional Director to ask the Director-General to draw the attention of the World Health Assembly to the urgent need for the supply of vaccine in order that the smallpox eradication programmes already started in this Region may be speedily and successfully accomplished.