

The Regional Committee,

Concerned about the unacceptably high number of children who continue to die from conditions that could be prevented or treated with existing, cost-effective and evidence-based interventions;

Recalling resolution WPR/RC54.R9 to position child health higher on political, economic and health agendas and provide financial resources to match the burden of disease in children;

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to attain the Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration pertaining to child survival and health;

Mindful of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which calls on States Parties to ensure the fulfilment of children's rights to survival, health and the treatment of illness;

Recalling resolution WHA58.31 on working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions;

Praising the commitment of WHO and UNICEF to adopt a unified direction in providing support to countries and areas of greatest need in accelerating child survival efforts, and encouraging other partner agencies to join in this endeavour;

Having reviewed the draft WHO/UNICEF Regional Child Survival Strategy;¹

Reaffirming the moral, political and economic imperative to prioritize the survival of children in the Region,

1. ENDORSES the WHO/UNICEF Regional Child Survival Strategy;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to demonstrate political commitment in urgently establishing, where appropriate, a national coordinating body at a high level for action to improve child survival and health;
 - (2) to immediately initiate preparations for review and/or development of national policies and strategies, and for implementation plans at all levels for child survival and its accompanying monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
 - (3) to mobilize adequate resources for the full implementation of child survival activities embedded in these policies and plans, considering all possible sources;
 - (4) to use the WHO/UNICEF Regional Child Survival Strategy as a guide for action to reduce inequities in child survival and to reduce child mortality in the countries and areas of the Region in line with the fourth goal of the Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;
 - (5) to ensure close collaboration with maternal health in child survival activities,
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (1) to support Member States in their efforts to improve child health, mobilize resources and facilitate the implementation of the WHO/UNICEF Regional Child Survival Strategy;
 - (2) to work with Member States in monitoring and evaluating the effects of actions taken;
 - (3) to collaborate with UNICEF and other partners in the implementation of the WHO/UNICEF Regional Child Survival Strategy;
 - (4) to convey to members of the Executive Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria the need for child health and survival to be given appropriate emphasis by the Fund, within its mandate;
 - (5) to report progress to the Regional Committee commencing at the fifty-eighth session.

Eighth meeting, 23 September 2005
WPR/RC56/SR/8

¹ The annex of document WPR/RC56/8.