

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Regional Director's report on the present situation and the action taken with regard to the Action Programme on Essential Drugs in the Western Pacific Region;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA28.66, EB61.R17, WHA31.32 and WHA32.41;

1. NOTES the approaches which will form WHO's plan of action in implementing the Action Programme on Essential Drugs;
2. URGES Member States to make political decisions and commitments with respect to the formulation and implementation of national drug policies in order to improve the supply of essential drugs, taking into consideration national health needs and available resources;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (1) to cooperate in developing and implementing the Action Programme on Essential Drugs, through such measures as the formulation of national drug policies, the revision of national lists of essential drugs and the improvement of storage and distribution facilities;
 - (2) to cooperate in strengthening national capability for drug quality assurance, manpower development and local production;
 - (3) to cooperate with countries or areas of the South Pacific in establishing the South Pacific Pharmaceutical Service;

¹Document WPR/RC32/16.

(4) to encourage technical cooperation among countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in the field of pharmaceuticals;

(5) to seek the collaboration of other United Nations agencies, agencies providing bilateral economic and technical cooperation, international and regional financial institutions and the pharmaceutical industry, in supporting the implementation of the programme.

Eighth meeting, 28 September 1981