

Decisions

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SEA/RC70(1) Annual progress monitoring of UHC and health-related Sustainable Development Goals

The Committee having considered the working paper on Agenda item 8.6 SEA/RC70/12 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia and progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) presented to the Seventieth Session, decided to request the Regional Director to:

1. Include an “Annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and health-related SDGs as a substantive Agenda item of the Regional Committee until 2030, and
2. Link relevant elements of the health-related SDGs, including UHC, as appropriate, to the topic selected by the host Member State for discussion at the Ministerial Roundtable annually until 2030.

SEA/RC70(2) Management and Governance matters: Status of the SEA Regional Office Building

The Committee, recalling the discussions held at its Sixty-eighth session in Dili, Timor-Leste, in 2015, and at its Sixty-ninth session in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2016; and further recalling its decision SEA/RC69(3) on the Status of the SEA Regional Office Building, decided to:

- (a) WELCOME the Secretariat’s Report on the Status of the South-East Asia Regional Office Building, including its Annexe, and the three Options presented therein;
- (b) NOTE the signature of lease agreements for appropriate temporary accommodation of the Regional Office in New Delhi, in accordance with decision SEA/RC69(3);
- (c) ADOPT Option 2: Redevelopment of the whole campus (relocation of the staff to temporary premises and construction of a new building), as presented in the report on the Status of the SEA Regional Office Building and its Annex 1, for a total estimated budget of US\$ 55.89 million, with WHO covering the cost of the relocation of the staff to temporary premises for a period of up to five years for an estimated amount of US\$ 20.49 million;
- (d) EXPRESS its deep appreciation to the Government of India for its continued generosity in hosting the Regional Office for South-East Asia, including through its agreement in principle to take responsibility for financing and managing the construction of the new SEA Regional Office Building amounting to US\$35 million (approximately) and for providing a building ready for occupancy to WHO within the outlined five-year timeframe;

- (e) URGE Member States of the Region to make generous contributions to the project, including to ensure that the building may be truly representative of the countries of South-East Asia, and to express its sincere gratitude to Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste for having already pledged their financial support;
- (f) AGREE that the Chairperson of the Regional Committee may include an update on the status of the SEA Regional Office Building in its summary report of the Seventieth session of the Regional Committee to the Executive Board pursuant to decision WHA65(9);
- (g) REQUEST the Secretariat and call on the Government of India to continue their constructive dialogue in relation to the new building project, and to conclude swiftly a comprehensive agreement regarding the financing, construction and ownership of the new building meeting all safety, structural and other applicable building codes, in collaboration with WHO; and
- (h) REQUEST the Secretariat to report to the Seventy-first session of the Regional Committee on progress on this matter.

SEA/RC70(3) Access to medicines

The Committee, having considered the working paper on Agenda item 8.3, SEA/RC70/9 on Access to Medicines, presented to the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia, , welcomed the emerging messages and the suggested way forward therein, including collaboration on procurement to reduce prices and improve quality, other collaboration in regulation, working within intellectual property and trade rules, using TRIPS flexibilities, increase equitable access to and appropriate use of antimicrobials, and improved monitoring of access to medicines, and decided to request the Regional Director to:

1. CONVENE technical consultations to develop inter-country cooperation on the following four priorities, on a voluntary basis:
 - a) share information on medicines prices, building on an existing WHO platform;
 - b) share information on medicines quality, through the functions of the South-East Asia Regulatory Network;
 - c) initiate a concrete collaboration in procurement of antidotes for improved access to these limited supplies of medicines for life-threatening conditions;
 - d) support bilateral cooperation agreements on improved access to medicines; and
2. REPORT progress, achievements and challenges on the implementation of this Decision to the Seventy-third session of the Regional Committee.

SEA/RC70(4) Time and Place of future sessions of the Regional Committee

The Committee decided that its Seventy-first session will be hosted by the Regional Office for South-East Asia in New Delhi from 3–7 September 2018. The Committee also noted that due to the temporary move of the Regional Office, the Secretariat will identify an alternative venue in New Delhi for the Session.