



## R E S O L U T I O N

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE RÉGIONAL DU  
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC71.R2  
9 October 2020

### SAFE AND AFFORDABLE SURGERY

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions on *Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage* (WHA68.15) and *Emergency care systems for universal health coverage: ensuring timely care for the acutely ill and injured* (WHA72.16);

Reaffirming that access to safe and affordable surgical care for all is an essential component for achieving universal health coverage and the Western Pacific Region's priorities in *For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region*;

Recognizing the significant need for surgical interventions required for many common health conditions and critical to reducing morbidity and mortality and preventing disability in the Region;

Noting that Member States have varying degrees of access to and availability of safe and affordable surgery because of different socioeconomic, historical, cultural and geographic contexts;

Concerned that surgical care has received relatively less attention in broader national plans, and that limitations in health systems—including shortages of skilled health workers, and issues of safety, timeliness and financial protection for surgical care—remain key challenges in the Region;

Acknowledging that some Member States in the Region are working to improve access to safe and affordable surgery with specific policies and plans;

Stressing the necessity of engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the health sector to strengthen or redesign service delivery systems for safe and affordable surgery,

1. ENDORSES the *Action Framework for Safe and Affordable Surgery in the Western Pacific Region (2021–2030)*;
2. URGES Member States to use the Action Framework as a guide to develop or strengthen health systems to improve access to safe and affordable surgical care;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (1) to provide advocacy and technical support to Member States to implement the Action Framework;
  - (2) to facilitate dialogue and exchanges of knowledge, experiences, lessons and best practices among Member States;
  - (3) to report periodically on progress in implementing the *Action Framework for Safe and Affordable Surgery in the Western Pacific Region (2021–2030)*.