



## 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.R3  
9 October 2020

## AGEING AND HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Affirming that healthy ageing is a priority in the WHO Western Pacific Region, for which Member States in 2019 formally requested WHO technical support, including a regional action plan;

Further affirming that Member States expressed strong support of *For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region*, which identifies noncommunicable diseases and ageing as a thematic priority for the Western Pacific Region;

Recalling the 2015 *World report on ageing and health* that provided a public health framework to promote a new paradigm of healthy ageing as the process of developing and maintaining functional ability that enables well-being in older age;

Guided by global plans for ensuring that everyone is able to live a long and healthy life, including the *Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020* (WHA69.3), and the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020–2030), endorsed by the World Health Assembly in August 2020;

Emphasizing that population ageing is a global trend, requiring all Member States, including “young” countries and areas, to take actions across health and non-health sectors;

Emphasizing further that the proportion of people aged 65 years and over in the Western Pacific Region is growing rapidly and accelerating, which presents new challenges and opportunities for countries and areas;

Recognizing that living longer and healthier lives is one of our most remarkable achievements and an opportunity both for individuals to lead more fulfilling lives and for society, as people who live longer with more experiences provide valuable contributions to their communities;

Recalling that based on Member State experiences, early actions and investments in population ageing can enable older people to thrive and contribute to society, fostering sustainable development with more economic value and lower health-care cost;

Noting that healthy ageing depends on experiencing good health throughout life and is influenced significantly by social determinants of health, which contribute to inequities that may be exacerbated as people age;

Noting further that the outbreak of COVID-19 underscored the importance of improving support and services for the health and well-being of older adults, recognizing the elevated risks to this population posed by COVID-19, as well as leveraging increased interest in individual health;

Observing that healthy ageing requires a long-term transformation of social and health systems to address lifelong health needs of populations, to improve social environments that affect health and to encourage the social participation of older adults,

1. ENDORSES the *Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing in the Western Pacific*;

2. URGES Member States:

- (1) to use the Regional Action Plan as a guide for the development and implementation of national social and health policies and/or action plans for healthy ageing;
- (2) to foster high-level political commitment and coordination for cross-sectoral transformation in social and health systems;
- (3) to foster positive views and actions towards ageing that highlight the opportunities it presents for individuals and society as a whole;
- (4) to mobilize and invest societal, technical and financial resources for healthy ageing;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to provide technical support and tools to operationalize the Regional Action Plan, including assistance in the development and implementation of national policies and plans;
- (2) to facilitate dialogue and the exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons, innovations and best practices among Member States;
- (3) to report periodically, in sync with the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020–2030), on progress in the implementation of the *Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing in the Western Pacific*.