

## **AFR/RC42/R9: Regional programme for tuberculosis and leprosy control**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions AFR/RC40/R7, WHA44.8 concerning tuberculosis and WHA44.9 on Leprosy;

Expressing concern that over six hundred thousand deaths and one million four hundred thousand new cases of tuberculosis continue to occur annually in our Region;

Recognizing that tuberculosis is rapidly increasing in the Region owing to the AIDS pandemic;

Further recognizing that resourceful application of existing technology can achieve the goal of tuberculosis control programmes even under very difficult conditions;

Noting with satisfaction the significant progress made with multidrug therapy (MDT) for leprosy resulting in reductions in the prevalence of the disease;

Having considered the Regional Director's report on the tuberculosis and leprosy control programme;

Conscious of the need for the gradual social rehabilitation of leprosy patients as well as the steady closing down of leprosy sanatoriums;

1. CONGRATULATES the Regional Director for the excellent and concrete actions taken to revitalize the regional programme for the control of tuberculosis and leprosy;
2. CALLS UPON Member States:
  - (i) to take, at the highest level, the political commitment to intensify tuberculosis and leprosy control as an integral part of primary health care; review the situation of current control activities, particularly, of tuberculosis in the light of the AIDS pandemic by introducing Short Course Chemotherapy (SCC) for tuberculosis, expanding the MDT coverage for leprosy, and improving the management system;
  - (ii) to strengthen managerial capabilities within national programmes, particularly at the district level and to improve training in tuberculosis and leprosy control for health workers at all levels, including medical students and nurses;
  - (iii) to strengthen health education activities through various approaches, including community participation, particularly in respect of the social rehabilitation of the leprosy patient;
3. CALLS UPON international, governmental and nongovernmental organizations as well as private voluntary foundations to continue supporting tuberculosis and leprosy control activities in the African Region;

4. CALLS UPON the Regional Director:
  - (i) to intensify support to Member States for the establishment and strengthening of national control programmes in order to improve screening and treatment, and to attain a cure rate target of 85% sputum-positive patients under treatment and to detect 70% of cases by the year 2000 in an integrated approach to Primary Health Care;
  - (ii) to strengthen technical support to Member States for the implementation of multidrug therapy so as to achieve the global elimination of leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000;
  - (iii) to continue mobilizing financial resources for implementation of short course chemotherapy and multidrug therapy;
  - (iv) to continue strengthening national management capability for tuberculosis and leprosy control through support for training and operational research;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director to monitor the progress of the programme and report to the Regional Committee on a regular basis.

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