

## **AFR/RC30/R18: Prevention of blindness**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions WHA22.29, WHA25.55 and WHA28.54;

Noting with concern that blindness continues to constitute a major health, social and economic problem in many African countries;

Aware that many cases of blindness can be prevented or cured by simple measures;

Recognizing the urgent need to intensify action to prevent blindness;

Realizing that complex, technical, operational and financial problems often present an obstacle to the development of realistic prevention programmes;

Realizing further that without such programmes the situation will deteriorate further and jeopardize the achievement of the target of health for all by the year 2000,

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation of the work already being undertaken by WHO, governmental, nongovernmental and voluntary organizations, especially with regard to the control of onchocerciasis, xerophthalmia and trachoma;
2. URGES all Member countries to:
  - (i) give high priority to the prevention of blindness as a component of their health programmes, particularly within PHC.
  - (ii) intensify cooperation among the countries of the Region (TCDC) and collaboration with WHO and other organizations concerned in the mobilization of the necessary resources in support of blindness prevention activities;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:
  - (i) formulate medium-term programmes for the prevention of blindness, taking into consideration ongoing activities for onchocerciasis, trachoma and xerophthalmia control;
  - (ii) cooperate with Member States, on request, in the planning, implementation and evaluation of blindness prevention programmes;
  - (iii) mobilize financial and other resources and support from international, governmental, nongovernmental and voluntary organizations for the implementation of such programmes; and
  - (iv) report to the Committee on the progress made in his biennial report.

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