

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the progress report presented by the Regional Director on the "Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS);¹⁰

Thanking WHO for its continued comprehensive, pertinent responses to country and Regional needs in addressing the problems caused by AIDS;

Expressing concern that HIV infection is being identified more and more in the Region;

Realizing the importance of taking full advantage of the still privileged epidemiological situation of the limited indigenous transmission;

Convinced that control of AIDS and overcoming its potential serious health, social and economic consequences needs the best from the people, Governments and WHO:

1. URGES Member States to:

1.1. ensure sustained commitment for AIDS control and take steps to integrate AIDS control efforts into health care services;

1.2. strengthen well-designed surveillance of HIV infection to determine the extent of its spread and the groups considered to be at greater risk of infection.

In this respect it is recommended to adopt approaches which can provide the highest quality of epidemiological information, ensure confidentiality and non-discrimination, provide counselling and medical support to infected persons to strengthen their capacity to adopt sustained behaviour change so as to prevent further spread of infection;

1.3. promote intensive information and education programmes for health personnel and the public to increase knowledge and understanding about HIV/AIDS, to reduce unjustified fears and promote social and religious beliefs and practices which operate against illicit sexual activities;

1.4. ensure screening of blood and blood products particularly imported types to ensure their safety;

1.5. regularly exchange information with each other and also with WHO, not only on the epidemiological situation but also on successes and failures, both in epidemiological surveillance and in public information and education;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

2.1. continue to provide the necessary technical support to national programmes for the prevention and control of AIDS not only for the short term but also for the mid- and long-term;

2.2. promote and support allied socio-cultural research activities particularly those aimed at assessing behaviours promoting spread of HIV infections and the effectiveness of various counselling methods in changing these behaviours;

2.3. keep the status of HIV/AIDS at both the global and Regional level under continued surveillance and report to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Regional Committee on the situation and on the implementation of the Regional Committee recommendations.