

The Regional Committee,

Noting the data provided by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the epidemiological situation of the plague, the spread of the disease, the rapid increase in the number of cases and the vagueness of data available to the Organization about the situation in areas where the disease is spreading;

Expressing its concern at the current situation;

Commending the immediate comprehensive actions, concordant with the International Health Regulations, taken by Member States of the Region with the aim of reducing the risk of infection;

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for the immediate response of the Regional Office to the emergent epidemic situation, and for its prompt supply of essential and useful information about the disease to Member States as soon as available;
2. **RECOMMENDS** that Member States as preventive measures:
 - 2.1 educate the public regarding modes of transmission and methods of prevention;
 - 2.2 ensure the provision of laboratory equipment necessary for diagnosis, and of limited quantities of vaccines to immunize laboratory and field personnel who deal with patients and laboratory samples containing the bacillus;
 - 2.3 inform physicians and other health personnel of the symptoms of plague and the methods of dealing with suspects;
 - 2.4 continue to provide attention to environmental sanitation and the elimination of fleas and rodents with a view to preventing and controlling bubonic plague.
3. **RECOMMENDS** further that, in the event of the occurrence of cases of pneumonic plague, Member States:
 - 3.1 report immediately suspected cases;
 - 3.2 isolate rigorously suspects and apply the necessary precautionary measures to prevent transmission of the infection through droplets;
 - 3.3 disinfect concurrently sputum and articles contaminated with it;
 - 3.4 put contacts under observation, giving them the necessary chemoprophylaxis for a period of seven days;
4. **REQUESTS** the Director-General:
 - 4.1 to take the necessary steps to issue a daily circular on the epidemiological situation of plague and measures to be applied;
 - 4.2 to take urgent measures to send a team to India to assess the epidemiological situation of the disease;
 - 4.3 to inform Member States of the Region of the date on which they could start applying the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the International Health Regulations relating to phasing out of preventive measures, taking into consideration the particular situation in the countries of the Region.