



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**Forty-fifth Session**

**Agenda item 21**

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**PLACE AND DATE OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF  
THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

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It will be recalled that during the Forty-fourth Session in October 1997 (in Teheran), the Regional Committee accepted the invitation of Sudan to hold its Forty-fifth Session in Khartoum [Decision EM/RC44(3)]. During the month of February 1998, the Regional Office was informed by the Federal Minister of Health of Sudan, that Sudan would like to postpone its invitation for reasons beyond its control. In consultation with the Chairman of the Forty-fourth Session, it was therefore decided to withhold a decision on the venue for this year's session until the end of May 1998. The Regional Office received an invitation dated 13 May 1998 from the Government of Lebanon to host the Forty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean. Accordingly, it was decided, in consultation with the Chairman of the Forty-fourth Session, that this year's session would now take place in **Beirut** from 3 to 6 October 1998.

The Regional Committee is now invited to decide on the place and date of its Forty-sixth Session in 1999 and may also wish to consider proposals, if any, for its Forty-seventh Session in the year 2000.

In considering such proposals, the Committee is requested to keep in view the following resolutions of the World Health Assembly and of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean:

1. WHA7.26: "RECOMMENDS that, in deciding on the place of their meetings, regional committees should consider holding them from time to time at the site of the regional office, taking into account the costs involved for the organization and the Member State concerned";
2. WHA9.20: "INVITES the attention of the regional committees to the desirability of host governments participating in the increased cost resulting from holding regional committee meetings outside the regional headquarters";
3. EM/RC6A/R.13 "CALLS UPON Member States inviting the Committee to meet in their territories to make the maximum possible contribution towards this additional cost".

Decisions taken by the Regional Committee for its venues in 1999 and 2000 will enable the Regional Director to make appropriate administrative and financial arrangements on a timely basis.

The Secretariat is at the disposal of the Regional Committee for any further details or clarification on this matter.