

The Regional Committee, Recalling Article 50 of the Constitution;

Recalling its resolution EM/RC43/R.9;

Considering that setting of priorities is an integral part of policy-making, which renders the Regional Committee responsible for setting priorities at the regional level;

Taking note, with appreciation, of the participatory consultative process adopted by the Regional Office in identifying the regional priorities;

Having reviewed the paper on proposed programme budget priorities⁴;

AFFIRMS that setting country priorities is best undertaken through Joint WHO/Government Programme Review Missions building on the medium-term strategy for country cooperation;

RECOMMENDS the use of evidence-based strategies and tools, such as national health accounts analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis to improve priority-setting;

URGES Member States to build up national capacity in health sector analysis and strategic planning with a focus on results-based management;

ENDORSES the list of regional priorities mentioned hereunder and decides to use them for guidance in global priority setting;

1. Development of human resources for health, including capacity-building in formulating evidence-based health policies, strengthening of health information and dissemination, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation;
2. Poverty reduction and better health through the basic development needs approach, healthy villages, healthy cities, self-reliance at family level and home health care;
3. Control of communicable diseases of regional importance, with focus on blood safety as well as eradication, elimination and control of diseases, particularly poliomyelitis, measles, neonatal tetanus, tuberculosis, malaria, other tropical diseases, HIV/AIDS;
4. Creating healthy communities and promoting healthy lifestyles, including the Tobacco-Free Initiative, promotion of health of the elderly and nutrition;
5. Noncommunicable disease prevention and control (cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, mental health and substance abuse);
6. Maternal and child health; Access to, and rational use of, affordable essential medicines and vaccines; Development of health systems and services;

⁴ Document EM/RC48/INF.DOC.8

9. Promotion of technology transfer, health information support and capacity-building in health research;
10. Environmental health, with particular emphasis on environmental assessment and environmental epidemiology, and water safety, security and sanitation;**REQUESTS** the Director-General to submit the adopted regional priorities to be considered as part of the global priorities of the Organization for the programme budget 2004–2005.