Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Fifty-sixth Session
Agenda item 6 (b)

Strategy for cancer prevention and control in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on a strategy for cancer prevention and control in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;\(^1\)

Recalling resolutions WHA 56.1 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, WHA 57.17 Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, WHA 58.22 Prevention and control of cancer and WHA 61.14 Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, and resolution EM/RC43/R.12 Cancer prevention and control;

Concerned at the projected burden of cancer in many countries of the Region and its increasingly negative impact on health and socioeconomic development, and the lack of adequate epidemiological population studies of the major risk factors;

Noting the increase in the cancer burden and risk factors and the need to invest in cancer prevention and control and to intensify regional and national efforts as well as scale up interventions and policies for successful and sustainable cancer control;

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States and nongovernmental organizations, in particular the Lalla Salma Association Against Cancer, on behalf of cancer prevention and control in the Region;

1. **ENDORSES** the regional strategy for the prevention and control of cancer 2009-2013;

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\(^1\) Document no. EM/RC56/4
2. **URGES** Member States to:

2.1 Adopt and adapt the strategy in accordance with national and regional priorities and establish and/or strengthen national cancer control plans in line with the regional cancer control strategy;

2.2 Raise awareness of other ministries with regard to the importance of taking health aspects into consideration in national development plans and socioeconomic development initiatives in order to raise the priority accorded to cancer prevention and control and promote partnerships;

2.3 Adopt, adapt and implement all related global and regional initiatives, including the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health;

2.4 Integrate cancer control interventions, including early detection, into primary health care;

2.5 Contribute to establishing and funding a regional fund for cancer prevention and control;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

3.1 Strengthen and expand partnerships with other stakeholders and encourage existing networks of nongovernmental organizations, such as the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Alliance Against Cancer, to continue advocacy for cancer prevention and control;

3.2 Support Member States in the development, implementation and monitoring of national plans for prevention and control of cancer;

3.3 Facilitate exchange of information on international and regional experience in cancer control, disseminate lessons learned and contribute to relevant regional meetings;

3.4 Promote applied research on cancer and the economic burden of cancer, international cooperation in cancer research and the training of workers in cancer research and control;

3.5 Raise funds to strengthen programmes for cancer prevention and control;

3.6 Work towards establishing a mechanism to receive contributions to a regional fund for cancer prevention and control to support the implementation of the regional strategy and framework, and strengthen the capacity of the Regional Office to support cancer prevention and control in the Region by appointing a focal point concerned with cancer issues;

3.7 Advocate for inclusion of cancer control among the Millennium Development Goals.