

RESOLUTION

OF THE

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC64/R4

REGIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY: ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION AND MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA 33.32, WHA 52.24, WHA 57.17, WHA 58.32 and other resolutions on infant and young child nutrition, appropriate feeding practices, including but not limited to, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and starting complementary foods along with breastfeeding thereafter, and related questions, and particularly resolution WHA 53.15 on food safety, which urges integration of food safety into essential public health and nutrition functions,

Recognizing the simultaneous presence of both macro- and micronutrient under-nutrition among women and children in particular, as well as the 'double burden' of malnutrition: the presence of under-nutrition along with rapid increase of overweight/obesity in children and possible increasing diet-related chronic diseases in adults,

Recognizing further that global food shortage, with consequent rising food prices, and the impact of climate change may further aggravate the problem of under-nutrition,

Acknowledging that effective, efficient and affordable promotive, preventive and management interventions are available to mitigate negative consequences and improve the health and survival of the population,

Recognizing that nutrition has strong linkages with noncommunicable diseases,

Appreciating the growing commitment of Member States and their concerted efforts to implement national policies and multisectoral actions, and

Having considered the Regional Nutrition Strategy: Addressing Malnutrition and Micro-Nutrient Deficiencies (SEA/RC64/9 Inf.Doc.),

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to endorse the Regional Nutrition Strategy in addressing malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies;
- (b) to take further action to make nutrition an integral part of a multisectoral national development agenda, including:
 - (i) reinforcing existing national nutrition policies, programmes and interventions;
 - (ii) developing specific advocacy tools to raise decision-makers' awareness of the urgency and steps needed for intensified multisectoral actions including promotion, prevention, treatment and care programmes, and
 - (iii) coordinating with other international agencies in addressing malnutrition;
- (c) to provide support and expand existing interventions for improving nutrition and managing severe malnutrition in women, infants and young children by:
 - (i) implementing fully the global strategy for infant and young child feeding, with its approach to feeding in exceptionally difficult circumstances, and
 - (ii) building the capability of hospitals and community-based health workforce, mothers, family members and other caregivers in order to improve the care of the severely malnourished, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide technical guidance and support to Member States for implementation of the Regional Nutrition Strategy;
- (b) to strengthen technical guidance to Member States for incorporating nutrition and food safety policies and programmes;

- (c) to provide support for the development of advocacy tools to raise decision-makers' awareness of the urgency and the need to include nutrition as a priority in health, social security and national development agenda;
- (d) to provide priority support to development and dissemination of science-based recommendations, guidelines and tools on nutritional care and support;
- (e) to continue to promote research relative to nutrition and to address gaps in knowledge and operational issues;
- (f) to provide support for development of appropriate indicators for monitoring progress and impact of nutrition interventions and conduct regional-level monitoring of implementation, and
- (g) to ensure collaboration between all concerned parties in this area so that progress may be made by building on each other's achievements.

Fifth meeting, 9 September 2011