



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Forty-fourth Session

Provisional Agenda item 6

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## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

### Annotated Agenda

1. Introduction
  - 1.1 Natural and induced disasters - A global overview
    - Past trends
    - Future projections.
  - 1.2 Public health impact of disasters
    - On environment, water supply and sanitation
    - On health infrastructure and health care services
    - On incidence of diseases and injuries, including other immediate and delayed post-disaster health effects.
2. Elements of Disaster Preparedness
  - 2.1 Disaster area mapping
    - Data base on monitoring incidence of disasters and disaster-prone areas
    - Epidemiological surveillance of disaster-prone areas.
  - 2.2 Planning for disaster preparedness
    - Intersectoral coordination for planning, preparedness and response
    - Integration of health sector disaster preparedness plan within national plan for disaster management, and involvement of nongovernmental organizations and communities
    - Human resource development and deployment
    - Pre-positioning of medical and ancillary supplies and equipment
    - Resource allocation and delegation of duties and responsibilities.
  - 2.3 Activation of response mechanism
    - Disease surveillance and control of disease outbreaks
    - Redeployment of manpower
    - Facilities and supplies support system, including transport and communication.

- 2.4 Technical support for health sector preparedness and response
  - Establishment of technical committee for advice and guidance
  - Rapid assessment protocols for disaster/emergency situations assessment
  - Case studies and operational research.
- 2.5 Orientation and training for disaster preparedness
  - Policy and planning level
  - Operational services level
  - Undergraduate medical and health professions and community
  - Joint training, including simulation exercises of personnel from health and related sectors with communities.
3. Common Limitations of Disaster Preparedness and Management Programme
  - 3.1 Conceptual anomaly between disaster preparedness and disaster response
  - 3.2 Vertical and horizontal coordination and monitoring mechanism
  - 3.3 Appreciation of potential problems and appropriate remedial measures
  - 3.4 Resource allocation and management problems
  - 3.5 Rules, regulations and procedures and their responsiveness to meet emergencies.
4. International Action for Disaster Preparedness
  - 4.1 Role of the United Nations and other international agencies and organizations
  - 4.2 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)
  - 4.3 WHO mandate for disaster-related emergencies
  - 4.4 WHO/SEA regional disaster preparedness and response activities.
5. Points for Consideration
  - 5.1 National commitments and national coordination mechanism
  - 5.2 Organizational structure for disaster management, including health and other sectoral focal points
  - 5.3 Health sector disaster preparedness and response plan, including training programmes
  - 5.4 Institutional collaboration and cooperation
  - 5.5 Research in emergency preparedness and response
  - 5.6 Resource allocation and decentralization
  - 5.7 Role of WHO and international community in disaster preparedness.