

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

SEA/RC44/R5

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Regional Committee,

Recalling its resolution SEA/RC42/R6 on the subject of "Disaster Preparedness",

Noting the rising frequency of natural disasters and the emergence of chemical, industrial and other man-made disasters in recent years affecting countries of the South-East Asia Region,

Being aware that the United Nations has declared the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR),

Having considered the report on the Technical Discussions held during the forty-fourth session,

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) To formulate national plans for health emergency preparedness as an integral component of overall national disaster control plans, with effective internal coordination within the health sector and close cooperation with the other concerned sectors;
- (b) To designate and strengthen national centres for health emergency preparedness and response capable of undertaking epidemiological studies of disasters, mapping, training and research;
- (c) To create mechanisms for the establishment of national and regional networks;
- (d) To decentralize health emergency preparedness and response management with adequate resources and with active community involvement, and to strive to create a high level of public awareness and cooperation, and
- (e) To cooperate with one another in the mitigation of disaster impact within the context of IDNDR, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) To extend technical support to Member States in formulating national health plans for disaster preparedness, including epidemiological studies of disasters, mapping, training and research;
- (b) To facilitate international cooperation, including mobilization of external resources, to strengthen disaster preparedness and to improve national capabilities for health emergency preparedness and response;
- (c) To support human resources development in disaster preparedness at all levels in the Member States, and
- (d) To support the establishment and strengthening of national centres of excellence on emergency preparedness, with particular reference to health, and promote their recognition as WHO collaborating centres.