The Regional Committee,

Having considered the document SEA/RC32/19 and the relevant section of the Regional Director's Annual Report,

Noting with satisfaction the work already done to promote and extend health education in support of health programmes in the Member countries of the Region,

Realizing the importance of health education in primary health care for the attainment of health for all by the year 2000, and

Recognizing that health ultimately depends on what people do and do not do in matters affecting health and that people have a right to health information and education,

1. URGES Member States:

(a) to expand further and extend current health education programmes to secure community participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of primary health care services;

(b) to strengthen health education as an integral part of the responsibilities of health workers and of the curricula of primary and secondary schools and teachers' colleges;

(c) to arrange in all health education institutions for the requisite degree of training in administration and management in order that health workers responsible for the implementation of health programmes will be better equipped;

(d) to ensure that mass communication media supplement health education without supplanting it;

(e) to continue to provide in-service training in health education to all health personnel, including practitioners of traditional medicine, where necessary, and introduce or strengthen health education as a part of the basic preparation of health workers in all health training institutions, train faculty of these institutions for health education teaching responsibilities, and prepare textbooks and other learning resource materials;
(f) to provide suitable opportunities for self-education to private practitioners in all systems of medicine, keeping in view the importance of their role in the health care system;

(g) to initiate studies on culturally determined individual, family and community health behaviour and appropriate methods, materials and media for health education, especially in the context of primary health care in rural communities, and offer opportunities for self-education to health workers and the general public;

(h) to cooperate, in the spirit of TCDC, in the exchange of skills, knowledge, experience and expertise, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to collaborate with Member States to develop further health education services especially in primary health care and to intensify health education training and research.