HEPATITS B CONTROL THROUGH VACCINATION: SETTING THE TARGET

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WPR/RC56.R8 that in 2005 established an interim milestone to reduce hepatitis B antigen (HBsAg) seroprevalence to less than 2% in five-year-old children by 2012 and a goal of less than 1% HBsAg seroprevalence in the Western Pacific Region;

Acknowledging the success of the majority of Member States in achieving the less than 2% prevalence milestone;

Mindful of the continued burden of disease, disability and death from chronic hepatitis B infection in the Western Pacific Region;

Aware that the hepatitis B vaccination regimen (including the birth dose) is highly effective at preventing perinatal and horizontal transmission of the virus;

Mindful that the hepatitis B birth dose vaccination also provides opportunities to strengthen immunization and other public health programmes, especially maternal and child health programmes;
Recognizing the recommendations for hepatitis B control developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region in 2012,

1. **DECIDES** that the Western Pacific Region should aim to reduce HBsAg seroprevalence to less than 1% in five-year-old children by 2017;

2. **URGES** Member States:

   (1) to ensure at least 95% coverage of the eligible population at the national level of the hepatitis B vaccination regimen (including the birth dose), and at least 85% coverage in all districts;

   (2) to coordinate immunization with broader maternal and neonatal care efforts;

   (3) to explore opportunities to integrate hepatitis B vaccination programmes with broader immunization and other health programmes;

   (4) to monitor the implementation of hepatitis B control plans;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director:

   (1) to continue providing technical support to Member States and advocate hepatitis B control;

   (2) to report progress on hepatitis B control periodically to the Regional Committee.

Seventh meeting, 24 October 2013