

WPR/RC55.R4

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO  
ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC, 2005–2010

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the discussions on access to essential medicines at the fifty-fourth session of the  
Regional Committee;

Concerned that lack of access to essential medicines, irrational use of medicines, and poor quality of pharmaceutical products remain serious public health problems in many countries in the Region;

Having reviewed the draft regional strategy for improving access to essential medicines in the Western Pacific Region, 2005–2010;

Reaffirming the importance of the essential medicines concept and of national essential medicines lists for improving access to essential medicines;

1. ENDORSES the regional strategy for improving access to essential medicines in the Western Pacific Region, 2005–2010, taking into account the views of Member States, including those noted in document WPR/RC55/9 Add.1, as an annotation to the regional strategy;

2. URGES Member States:

- (1) to use the regional strategy for improving access to essential medicines in the Western Pacific Region, 2005–2010 as a guide for actions to improve access to essential medicines in line with national medicines policies and for collaboration with WHO;
- (2) to provide adequate resources to strengthen national essential medicines policies and programmes;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to support Member States to improve access to essential medicines using the regional strategy as a guide in line with national medicines policies;
- (2) to work with WHO Headquarters and international partners to improve access to antiretroviral medicines in the Region, and to strengthen biregional collaboration with WHO's South-East Asia Regional Office to improve access to such medicines across Asia and the Pacific.