URBAN HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Noting that more than half of the Region’s population live in urban areas and that the number of medium- and small-sized cities is growing rapidly in Asia and the Pacific;

Recognizing the health impacts of rapid and unplanned urbanization, along with globalization, climate change, population ageing, migration, and other social and environmental forces, particularly on the urban poor, migrants, and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

Acknowledging the complexity of paths to better health equity in urban settings and the need for evidence to guide policy- and decision-making on social determinants of health;

Noting that progress has been made in implementing resolution WPR/RC61.R6 on Healthy Settings;

Reaffirming that the Healthy Settings approach has been widely applied in Asia and the Pacific, and has demonstrated the potential to cultivate cross-sectoral, political, financial and social support for health;
Emphasizing the importance of strengthening resilience of urban health systems and of being proactive instead of reactive, to withstand pressures from climate change, natural and human-made disasters, disease outbreaks, emergencies, migration and demographic ageing;

Highlighting the importance of urban health interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. ENDORSES the *Regional Framework for Urban Health in the Western Pacific 2016–2020: Healthy and Resilient Cities*,

2. URGES Member States:

   (1) to adopt proactive and life-course approaches to urban health using the regional framework as a reference towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, tailored to their contexts;

   (2) to establish and strengthen mechanisms for effective cross-sectoral governance and multisectoral initiatives, as well as partnerships and networks for urban health and sustainable development;

   (3) to invest in human resources training and capacity-building for urban health;

   (4) to strengthen systems to monitor progress on urban health and the Sustainable Development Goals within ministries of health;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

   (1) to provide technical support to Member States for implementation of the regional framework;
(2) to promote engagement between national health agencies, local governments and other sectors – such as environment, finance and transport – to support urban health-related actions to improve health outcomes, reduce inequities and achieve sustainable development;

(3) to report progress periodically to the Regional Committee on the implementation of the *Regional Framework for Urban Health in the Western Pacific 2016–2020: Healthy and Resilient Cities*.

Sixth meeting, 15 October 2015