



**WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
Sixty-fourth session, Islamabad, Pakistan
9–12 October 2017**

Information bulletin 1



Introduction



Provinces

Pakistan has four provinces. Two autonomous regions and a federally administered area, namely, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan.

Population

Pakistan is the sixth most populous country with a population exceeding 200 million people. It is the 36th largest country in the world covering an area of 796 096 square kilometers.

Bordering neighbours

Pakistan has a 1046 km long coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Islamic Republic of Iran to the south west and China in the far north east, respectively. It is separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.

Landscape

Pakistan encompasses a rich diversity of landscapes, starting in the north west, from the soaring Pamirs and the Karakoram Range through a maze of mountain ranges, a complex of valleys, and inhospitable plateaus, down to the remarkably even surface of the fertile Indus River plain, which drains southward into the Arabian Sea. It contains a section of the ancient Silk Road and the Khyber Pass, the famous passageway that has brought outside influences into the otherwise isolated subcontinent. Lofty peaks such as K2 and Nanga Parbat, in the Pakistani-administered region of Kashmir, present a challenging lure to mountain climbers. Along the Indus River, the artery of the country, the ancient site of Mohenjo-daro marks one of the cradles of civilization.

Economy

Pakistan is an agricultural country. Its major exports include agricultural products like cotton, sugar, rice and textiles.

Language

Urdu is Pakistan's national language with English as the official language. Regional languages include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Saraiki, Balti and Shina.

Culture









Pakistan's cultural heritage is very rich as it has inherited the rich cultures of thousands of years old Indus and Ghandara civilizations.

Location

Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan located within the federal Islamabad capital territory. With a population of around two million, it is one of the most beautiful capital cities of the world. The city is the political seat of Pakistan and is administered by the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation, supported by the Capital Development Authority.

Serving as the capital of Pakistan since the 1960s, Islamabad was built according to a carefully organized plan, divided into sectors along a grid of clean, tree-lined streets. The city is sheltered by the Margalla Hills, the foothills of the Himalayas and the home of rare species of leopard, deer, birds, and even porcupines. Several hiking paths end at Daman-e-Koh and Pir Sohawa. There are picnic spots with a splendid view of the entire city, including the massive modernist Faisal Mosque and the Rawal Lake.

Things to do: sightseeing and shopping

 <p>Faisal Mosque</p>	 <p>Margalla Hills</p>	 <p>Pir Sohawa</p>	 <p>Daman-e-Koh</p>
 <p>Pakistan Monument Museum</p>	 <p>Lok Virsa Museum</p>	 <p>Pakistan Railways Heritage Museum</p>	 <p>Pakistan Museum of Natural History</p>



The venue of the sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee is the Serena Hotel. This hotel is located on Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy, Islamabad; around 16 km from the airport (30 minutes by car).

Date and location

The Sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean is scheduled to take place in the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan from Monday 9 October to Thursday 12 October 2017, inclusive.



Address

Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy, Opposite Convention Centre,
Islamabad 44000,
Pakistan

Tel : (+92) 51 287 4000

Fax : (+92) 51 287 1092

www.serenahotels.com

On 9 October 2017, at 09.00, the pre-RC technical meetings will take place in (Sheesh Mahal ballroom), followed by the inaugural session of the Regional Committee, in the same hall, at 19:00.

Registration for participation

The registration form for participation in the Sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee is attached as Annex A. Each participant should complete the form and return it to the WHO Secretariat not later than 31 August 2017.

Membership and attendance

The Regional Committee shall consist of representatives, one from each country of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region. The representatives may be accompanied by alternates and advisers (Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure).

The Regional Director, in consultation with the Regional Committee, may invite States, not members of the Committee, to participate without vote in the sessions of the Committee. The Regional Director, in consultation with the Regional Committee, may also invite nongovernmental organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Committee (Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure).

Credentials

Member States shall communicate to the Regional Director, **not less than 15 days** before the date fixed for the opening of the session of the Committee, the name of their representatives, including all alternates and advisers. Similarly organizations and States invited to be represented at the session shall communicate the names of the persons by whom they will be represented. The credentials of representatives and names of alternates, advisers and observers shall be submitted to the Regional Director if possible not less than two days before the opening of the session of the Regional Committee. Such credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health or any other appropriate authority (Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure).

Working languages

The working languages of the Committee are Arabic, English and French. Statements made in any of these languages will be interpreted simultaneously into the other two languages.

Agenda and other documents

Official documentation of the session will be available in Arabic, English and French on the Regional Committee website [<http://www.emro.who.int/about-who/rc64/index.html>] from early September 2017. Documents will not be dispatched by post. Furthermore, participants are kindly requested to bring all documents to the session, as only a limited number of hard copies will be available.

Submissions by delegations

It would be appreciated if delegations wishing to propose draft resolutions to be distributed to the Regional Committee could hand them in to the Secretariat **at least 2 days before** the proposal is discussed, to allow time for translation, reproduction in the working languages and circulation to delegations.

Travel arrangements

Delegates/participants should make their own travel arrangements for both outward and return journeys. Travellers are strongly advised to have their return flights confirmed before departing for Pakistan, as onward reservations and deviations may be difficult to obtain at short notice. The Secretariat will provide assistance with travel arrangements during the session, if needed.

Arrival in Islamabad

Upon arrival at Islamabad Airport, transport to the hotel will be made available provided participants have supplied their travel details on time. In order to facilitate the process, please return Annex A, completed with flight details and transportation requirements.

The journey time by car from the airport to the hotel is around 30 minutes.

Entry visa to Islamabad

Representatives and other participants should obtain a visa for Pakistan prior to departure from their home countries.

Privileges and immunities

All Members officially attending the Regional Committee in Islamabad, Pakistan, as well as their alternates and advisers, will enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to representatives at meetings convened by UN specialized agencies, which are set out in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

Health requirements on arrival/departure

Participants coming from some African countries require the yellow fever certificate.

Insurance

The Secretariat cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to the private property of participants and accompanying persons, either during or indirectly arising from attendance at the Sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to health and travel insurance.

Accommodation

Hotel accommodation has been arranged at the Serena Hotel. Hotel rates are included in the booking request form (Annex A). Participants should complete the form and return it to the WHO Secretariat not later than 31 August 2017.

Hotel bookings will be arranged as and when requests are received and participants will be advised by return about action taken. It is important that requests for hotel accommodation are complete, with the exact duration of stay and number of room bookings to be made, as well as whether each room or suite should be for single or double occupancy.

Please note that the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean cannot guarantee accommodation and rates for requests received after 31 August 2017.

Representatives and other participants are responsible for settling hotel bills directly with the hotel. A credit card is required to secure reservations.

Cancellation Policy: In event of cancellation/amendment or reduction after guarantee/confirmation of the booking, guests will be charged as follows:

- 100% of the room charges for the entire duration of stay will apply for cancellation of the reservation if less than 30 days before the check-in date of 7 October, 2017. All guaranteed guest rooms, which are not cancelled as per the timeframe mentioned above, or a no show situation, are subject to charges. Charges equivalent to the entire duration of stay for the agreed room rate will be imposed for no-show guests. Rooms for subsequent nights will be released for general sale.

Transportation

Transportation will be provided on arrival and departure and for any official functions which are held away from the hotel, noting that transportation will only be made available to and from the venue of the Regional Committee, namely the Serena Hotel.

Banking facilities

The current exchange rate is PAK 105 to US\$ 1 which is subject to change should there be a revision in rates. Foreign currency can be exchanged at the hotel or at any bank in Islamabad or authorized dealers. The hotel bank is open 24 hours. Major credit cards are accepted in most establishments.

Climate

In October the weather is expected to be hot during the day and warm in the evening. Temperatures during this time of the year range between a maximum of 30 °C and a minimum of 15 °C.

Annex A
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-fourth Session
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REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in the appropriate details and choices for accommodation and transportation and e-mail to emrgoasu@who.int. The form should be received by WHO by 31 August 2017 at the latest. Kindly note that another email with the same information should be sent directly to the hotel at: reservation.ish@serena.com.pk with a copy to ali.zeb@serena.com.pk with the credit card details in order to secure the booking.

E-mail subject: RC64 Islamabad/Pakistan – Request for Room reservation

1. Personal data

Name:	Nationality:
Title:	
Representing Country/Organization:	
Phone:	E-mail:

2. Hotel booking at Serena Hotel

Please select your preferred accommodation from the listed room categories. Rates are inclusive of 16% service charge. Rooms and suites are on bed and breakfast basis.

Type of room	Type of Room (as per Serena Specifications)	Special Rate (USD) inclusive of 16% tax (Bed & Breakfast)	Special Rate (PKR) PAK Rupees @ 1 USD = 105 PKR *	Your Selection
Single Standard	Deluxe (Single Standard)	255.20	26,796	
Twin/Double room	Deluxe (Twin/Double)	295.80	31,059	
Deluxe room	Executive Club Room	278.40	29,232	
Executive Suite (1 bedroom suite)	Junior Suite	382.80	40,194	
Diplomatic Suite	Executive Suite	580	60,900	

Above rates are per room per night on bed and breakfast basis, Credit card is required to secure the booking

3. Transport

If you are flying from/to Islamabad International Airport and would like transport to the hotel on arrival and/or to the airport on departure, please indicate your flight details:

Transport needed on arrival <input type="checkbox"/>		Transport needed on departure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date		Date	
Flight no.		Flight no.	
Time		Time	

4. Assistance with visa

Should you need an invitation letter to obtain an entry visa to Pakistan, please check the box and attach a clear copy of your passport