

Building resilient health systems to advance universal health coverage and ensure health security in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Madam Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, we would like to acknowledge WHO/EMRO and the authors of the document EM/RC69/4, which is professionally organized.

In the Iranian national development plans such as five and six national social, economic, and cultural development plan, health system resilience with the aid of a PHC approach is one of the major indicators.

Suggestions:

1. In the page 10, **Box 2. Health system challenges highlighted by the pandemic, we suggest to add:**
 - **Insufficient/or lacking of private sector cooperation**
 - **Lack of Integrated Information Management System and data sharing**
 - **Issues in management of cyberspace**
2. In the page 13, **Box 3. Seven regional priorities for building resilient health systems towards UHC and health security, we suggest to add a bullet as such:**
 - **Strengthening the multisectoral mechanism for multi/all-hazard planning leveraging lessons from the context of COVID-19 pandemic preparedness planning, which entails relevant actions with clear roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder**

In this regard, we appreciate WHO/EMRO, which has recently supported I.R. Iran in creating a model of such a plan in Tabriz city, Iran by attendance of 175 experts from different stakeholder sectors/departments.
3. Establishing the national steering committee has been I.R. Iran's action to enforce multi-sectoral coordination, which is one of the best lessons of COVID-19 pandemic and PHC as an important foundation for a resilient health system
4. We recommend community engagement a prerequisite strategy for health resilience, which is in line with "health for all by all" policy
5. Having access to appropriate technology should be considered as a necessary health system block to achieve resilience too.

Thank you.