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Resolution

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC59/R.2  
October 2012

Fifty-ninth Session  
Agenda item 4 (a)

**The Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the  
Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases: commitments of Member  
States and the way forward**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed and discussed the technical paper on the Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases: commitments of Member States and the way forward;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA53.17 on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, WHA60.23 and WHA61.14 on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy, and WHA64.11 on preparations for the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, following the Moscow Conference;

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/2 on the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases;

Recognizing the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases and risk factors in the Region and the need to invest in prevention and control as imperative for sustainable development;

Recognizing further the efforts of the Regional Director to raise global and regional awareness of the magnitude of the problem and to strengthen global action against noncommunicable diseases;

Fully aware of the need to intensify regional and national efforts to expedite the implementation of commitments made by Member States at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011;

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<sup>1</sup> Document no. EM/RC59/3

1. **ENDORSES:**

- (a) the Riyadh Declaration of the International Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Arab World and the Middle East; and
- (b) the regional Framework for Action on the commitments of Member States to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases annexed to this resolution;

2. **URGES** Member States to:

- 2.1 Implement the core set of interventions in the regional Framework for Action;
- 2.2 Establish/strengthen mechanisms for engaging non-health sectors in implementing the regional Framework for Action;
- 2.3 Strengthen surveillance for noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors by implementing the WHO surveillance framework covering monitoring of exposures (risk factors), outcomes (morbidity and mortality) and health system performance (capacity and interventions);
- 2.4 Scale up the integration of the essential interventions for the prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases into primary health care;
- 2.5 Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders, including United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, in order to implement the regional Framework for Action;
- 2.6 Work closely with the Regional Office and country offices in their efforts to strengthen prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 3.1 Develop a set of indicators to monitor the engagement of non-health sectors in implementing the key actions included in the United Nations Political Declaration, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and relevant international partners;
- 3.2 Establish a Technical Advisory Group on Noncommunicable Diseases to support the regional programme;
- 3.3 Develop model legal instruments to guide the development of national legislation for implementing the commitments of the United Nations Political Declaration;
- 3.4 Further develop the package of essential noncommunicable disease interventions for primary health care, as well as the necessary guidance to implement the best buys;
- 3.5 Promote operational research, including through international and regional cooperation, on the economic impact of noncommunicable diseases and on the cost-effectiveness of interventions;
- 3.6 Report annually to the Regional Committee on the progress of Member States in implementing the United Nations Political Declaration on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases based on the regional Framework for Action.

# Framework for action to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases

Annex to resolution EM/RC59/R.2

Commitments	Strategic interventions	WHO existing tools
<b>In the area of governance</b>	<p>➔ <b>Countries are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate noncommunicable diseases into national policies and development plans and establish, by 2013, a multisectoral policy and plan</li> <li>Establish effective mechanisms for engaging non-health sectors based on lessons learned</li> <li>Increase and prioritize budgetary allocations for noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Assess national capacity for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, using the WHO protocol</li> </ul>	<p>➔</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010</li> <li>Recommended approaches to implementing multisectoral action on health (annex 6 to the Global status report 2010)</li> <li>Assessing national capacity for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report of the 2010 global survey</li> </ul>
<b>In the area of prevention and reduction of risk factors</b>	<p>➔ <b>Countries are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate implementation of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control including the MPOWER package</li> <li>Implement the WHO recommendations on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children</li> <li>Raise tax/levy on alcohol and impose a total ban on advertising (for countries where alcohol is marketed)</li> <li>Implement interventions to reduce salt intake</li> <li>Conduct media campaigns on diet and physical activity</li> <li>Replace transfat with polyunsaturated fat</li> <li>Promote breastfeeding and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes</li> <li>Promote access to vaccination to prevent cancers based on national priorities</li> </ul>	<p>➔</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010</li> <li>MPOWER measures to reduce tobacco use</li> <li>Recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children (WHA63.14, 2010)</li> <li>Global recommendations on physical activity for health</li> <li>Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol (WHA63.13, 2010)</li> <li>2008-2013 Action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Existing national tools</li> </ul>
<b>In the area of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation</b>	<p>➔ <b>Countries are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement/strengthen the WHO surveillance framework that monitors exposures (risk factors), outcomes (morbidity and mortality), and health system capacity and response (interventions)</li> <li>Develop national targets and indicators based on WHO guidance</li> <li>Integrate surveillance and monitoring schemes for noncommunicable diseases into national health information systems</li> <li>Develop clear indicators to measure the engagement of non-health sectors</li> </ul>	<p>➔</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010</li> <li>WHO monitoring framework for noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS), WHO Global Tobacco Surveillance System and Global Information System on Alcohol and Health</li> <li>2008-2013 Action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Existing national tools</li> </ul>
<b>In the area of health care</b>	<p>➔ <b>Countries are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate noncommunicable disease interventions into the essential primary health care package</li> <li>Prioritize cost-effective interventions for early detection and treatment, based on WHO recommendations</li> <li>Improve access to safe, affordable and quality essential medicines and technologies for common noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Improve access to essential palliative care services</li> <li>Explore viable health financing mechanisms and innovative financing approaches like tobacco and alcohol taxation to generate resources to expand health coverage</li> </ul>	<p>➔</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010</li> <li>The world health report (2010)</li> <li>Package of essential noncommunicable disease interventions for primary health care</li> <li>Essential medicines list (2011)</li> <li>2008-2013 Action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Existing national tools</li> </ul>