

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Forty-fourth session

AFR/RC44/R15
14 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES
AT DISTRICT LEVEL

The Regional Committee,

Appreciating the outcome of the Technical Discussions held at the Forty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa on the Selection and Development of Health Technologies at the District level;

Convinced that proper assessment, introduction, management, maintenance and use of health technologies are essential for the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the entire health system;

Concerned at the widespread under-utilization and misuse of health technologies in Member States, resulting in decreased quality of care and high wastage of scarce resources, and at the lack of attention given to the subject;

Aware that for most Member States the absence of suitable health technology policies is at the root of the problem and is an underlying reason for all other obstacles preventing them from fully utilizing the potential of health technologies in improving the health of the countries;

1. **URGES** Member States:

- (i) to develop a comprehensive health technology policy as an integral part of their overall national health policies and development plans;
- (ii) to strengthen health care technical services at district, provincial and central levels with adequate budget and infrastructure provision in order to ensure proper planning, selection, procurement, maintenance and utilization of health technologies;
- (iii) to reinforce and utilize effectively national and international training capacities to ensure the development of the whole range of required human resources, including health technology managers, engineers, technicians and craftsmen, and user training;
- (iv) to include concepts and practices in health technology management in the education and training of health professionals;
- (v) to define an essential health technology package, replete with costing, for various categories of health institutions in the district health system and, in due course, at provincial and central levels.

2. **APPEALS** to partners in health development in Member States, including international and bilateral development agencies, nongovernmental and private organizations and foundations, to give technical and financial support to national and intercountry programmes in the field of health technology management;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (i) to strengthen the Organization's activities in health technology assessment and management;
- (ii) to reinforce the Organization's assistance to Member States in the development and implementation of health technology policies and plans, training and information support;
- (iii) to make appropriate provision from the regular budget and also mobilize extrabudgetary resources for the activities outlined;
- (iv) to publish and widely disseminate the report of these Technical Discussions.

Fourteenth meeting, 14 September 1994