



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**
Africa

AFR/RC52/R3

10 October 2002

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session

Harare, Zimbabwe, 8–12 October 2002

RESOLUTION

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

The Regional Committee,

Aware of the intricate link between health, environment and development;

Concerned about the increasing poor quality of life and the negative health outcomes resulting from neglect and deterioration of the environment in the WHO African Region;

Recognizing the efforts of countries to improve the health of their populations through various regional and country instruments, notably the Pretoria Declaration on Health and Environment (1997) and Promoting environmental health in countries of the WHO African Region: The role of ministries of health (AFR/RC48/TD/1);

Appreciating the contribution of sectors outside health and of communities and partners in pursuit of improved health and environment;

Determined to consolidate efforts towards attainment of the highest quality of life affordable within the Region, especially in advocating for the improvement of environmental determinants of health;

Having carefully examined the report of the Regional Director as contained in document AFR/RC52/10 (Health and environment: A strategy for the African Region), which is aimed at improving the health of the people through the development and implementation of policies for the management of environmental determinants of health;

1. APPROVES the proposed strategy;
2. REQUESTS Member States:
 - (a) to take account in their national policies and strategies of health problems resulting from the environment;
 - (b) to develop or review their national programmes and plans of action, with emphasis on advocacy, awareness-raising and education in health and environment;
 - (c) to collaborate with institutions of higher learning to develop and improve capacity for human resources to better manage health and environment programmes;
 - (d) to identify, mobilize and allocate resources for health and environment programmes to better respond to challenges;

- (e) to collaborate with other sectors outside health, with partners and civil society in pursuance of improved health by targeting environmental determinants of health;
 - (f) to conduct research in the use of indigenous technologies and innovations that are effective, affordable and sustainable in pursuit of improved health of communities;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to improve the capacity of WHO to effectively provide technical support to Member States for the development and implementation of policies on health and environment;
 - (b) to support the improvement of the capacity of countries to implement and monitor programmes and action plans;
 - (c) to update the Regional Committee in 2005 on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy;
4. APPEALS to other relevant specialized agencies and partners for technical and financial support.

Sixth meeting, 10 October 2002