



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Africa

AFR/RC51/R4

29 August 2001

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 27 August–1 September 2001

RESOLUTION

HEALTH PROMOTION: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

The Regional Committee,

Aware that the physical, economic, social and cultural factors, known to be the broad determinants of health, underlie the double burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and are responsible for the general health conditions in the Region;

Convinced about the necessity to apply, in an integrated manner, various health promotion approaches and techniques to address these factors and reduce their impact on health;

Recalling resolutions WHA27.27, WHA31.42, WHA42.44, WHA51.12 and AFR/RC47/R2, and Executive Board decision EB101.12, which called for the development and implementation of health promotion approaches, and the recommendation by Member States adopted at the 50th session of the Regional Committee, and the WHO Secretariat's report on health promotion to the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly (A54/A/SR/7);

Appreciating the efforts made so far by Member States and their partners in developing and implementing various approaches which constitute health promotion;

Recognizing the need to integrate and consolidate existing approaches and develop a comprehensive framework for strengthening the application of health promotion in countries of the African Region;

Having carefully examined the Regional Director's report contained in document AFR/RC51/12 which outlines the regional strategy for health promotion;

1. APPROVES the proposed strategy which aims at supporting Member States to foster actions that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of the African people and contribute to the prevention of the leading causes of disease, disability and death;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to advocate for increased awareness of and support for the use of health promotion in the health and health-related sectors;

- (b) to develop national strategies incorporating policy, frameworks and action plans for strengthening the institutional capacity for health promotion as well as provide support at various levels of the health system, as appropriate;
 - (c) to strengthen the health promotion component of health and related development programmes, using available guidelines such as the ones for the Tobacco-Free Initiative, the Health-Promoting Schools Initiative and the Community-Based Interventions for Malaria Control;
 - (d) to plan, implement and evaluate health promotion actions which are comprehensive in nature, and focus on the following areas of intervention:
 - (i) increasing individual knowledge and skills;
 - (ii) strengthening community action;
 - (iii) creating environments supportive of health;
 - (iv) developing, implementing and influencing health-related policies;
 - (v) reorienting health services;
 - (e) to mobilize new resources and players for health action from the public and private sectors, nongovernmental organizations, communities and international and bilateral bodies;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to develop a generic framework and guidelines for the implementation of the regional strategy and to provide technical leadership to Member States to enhance the development and application of health promotion, including strengthening of the technical capacity of national focal points;
 - (b) to facilitate operational research on health promotion and dissemination to Member States of the results on best practices through consultations, networks and workshops;
 - (c) to mobilize additional resources and encourage partnerships among key actors for supporting the implementation of the Health-Promoting Schools Initiative and related regional interventions;
 - (d) to draw up operational plans for the period 2002-2012;
 - (e) to report on progress made in the implementation of the regional strategy to the fifty-fourth session of the Regional Committee in 2004, and thereafter, every two years.

Fifth meeting, 29 August 2001