

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC56/R6
1 September 2006

Fifty-sixth session
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 August–1 September 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

REVITALIZING HEALTH SERVICES USING THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH IN THE AFRICAN REGION

(document AFR/RC56/12)

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration on primary health care;

Mindful of resolution WHA51.7 (1998): Health-for-all policy for the twenty-first century;

Concerned by the slow pace of progress being made by the majority of the countries of the Region towards the Millennium Development Goals;

Noting that national health systems have deteriorated due to a number of challenges;

Recognizing that universal access to essential health interventions requires efficient, well functioning district health systems;

1. ENDORSES the document entitled “Revitalizing health services using the Primary Health Care approach in the African Region”;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to incorporate in their national and district health plans the priority interventions for revitalization of health services based on the primary health care approach;

- (b) to ensure that an appropriate coordination mechanism is in place to harmonize the complementary roles of local, intermediate and central level structures and institutions;
- (c) to re-orient their hospitals to function in support of district health services;
- (d) to mobilize and allocate resources giving priority to district health systems;
- (e) to promote intersectoral collaboration and public-private partnerships;
- (f) to strengthen community capacities and increase their involvement in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health services;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide technical guidance and support for implementing priority interventions aimed at revitalizing district health services;
- (b) to continue advocating for more resources for strengthening district health services;
- (c) to strengthen collaboration with partners;
- (d) to facilitate intercountry exchange of experiences and dissemination of good practices;
- (e) to establish a regional task force on primary health care;
- (f) to report to the Regional Committee on performance of district health services in all countries of the Region every three years.

Fifth meeting, 30 August 2006