

Fifty-fourth session
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 30 August–3 September 2004

AFR/RC54/R8
3 September 2004

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**ADDRESSING THE RESURGENCE OF WILD POLIOVIRUS
TRANSMISSION IN THE AFRICAN REGION**
(document AFR/RC54/INF.DOC/5)

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the information document AFR/RC54/INF/DOC.5 addressing the resurgence of wild poliovirus transmission in the African region;

Appreciating the urgency in ensuring that the progress made in polio eradication in the African Region since 1996 is sustained and the last chains of wild poliovirus transmission interrupted as soon as possible;

Deeply concerned about the persistent transmission of wild poliovirus in Niger and Nigeria and subsequent spread to other recently polio-free countries in the African Region;

Recognizing the need to ensure vaccination of all susceptible children in the remaining polio-endemic foci and countries at highest risk for re-introduction of wild poliovirus transmission;

Realizing the need to improve the quality of supplemental immunization activities, quality of acute flaccid paralysis surveillance and performance of routine immunization;

Convinced of the feasibility, benefits of polio eradication on child health and survival and potential externalities on strengthening national health systems in the African Region;

Recalling resolutions AFR/RC39/R3, AFR/RC42/R4, AFR/RC44/R7 and AFR/RC45/R5 on polio eradication activities in the African Region;

Committed to ensuring that morbidity and mortality of children in the African Region due to vaccine preventable diseases is brought to a minimum;

1. **ENDORSES** the orientations contained in the information document AFR/RC54/INF/DOC.5 addressing the resurgence of wild poliovirus transmission in the African Region.

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to sustain and capitalize on the existing political commitment and the good will of our leadership at all levels to facilitate quality implementation of the appropriate polio eradication strategies;
- (b) to advocate and support activities aimed at ensuring high quality polio eradication activities in the remaining polio-endemic reservoirs in the African Region;
- (c) to develop preparedness plans to ensure rapid response to importation in all countries because importations will remain a risk until polio is eradicated everywhere, and they should be treated as an urgent public health threat;
- (d) to intensify efforts to strengthen routine immunization and polio surveillance as the best defense against importations of poliovirus;
- (e) to utilize every opportunity to conduct immunization campaigns to boost population immunity and pre-empt wild poliovirus importations in the polio-free countries;
- (f) to utilize the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee mechanisms to mobilize financial, material and human resources in-country to ensure implementation of priority polio eradication activities until Africa is certified polio-free.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide technical assistance in response to requests from Member States to support planning, implementation and evaluation of polio eradication activities;
- (b) to continue to mobilize financial and material support required for the implementation of planned polio eradication activities.