
Regional Committee for Europe

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Resolution

Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Reaffirming the commitment of States Parties, as expressed in the adoption of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), to develop, strengthen and maintain the capacity to respond promptly and effectively to public health risks and public health emergencies of international concern;

Recalling World Health Assembly decision WHA69(14), in which the Director-General was requested to develop for consideration of the regional committees in 2016 a draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response, including immediate planning to improve delivery of the IHR (2005);

Further recalling World Health Assembly decision WHA70(11), which noted the global implementation plan and requested the Director-General to develop a draft five-year global strategic plan in full consultation with Member States, including through the regional committees;

Building on World Health Assembly decision WHA71(15) that welcomed with appreciation the global strategic plan to improve public health preparedness and response;

Recalling Regional Committee resolution EUR/RC59/R5, in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the IHR (2005) and the development and/or maintenance of the core capacities, and noting the progress made in implementing the Regulations, as specified in the progress reports submitted to the regional committees in 2013, 2015 and 2017;

Reconfirming that Member States of the WHO European Region agreed that the development of the regional action plan is to be aligned with the global strategic plan;

Recognizing that adequate protection against health threats requires high-level political and financial commitment to address the full cycle of emergency management, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, supported by multisectoral engagement, and as appropriate whole-of-society approaches and effective partnerships;

Recognizing the existence of regional legislation, instruments and measures to combat health threats and the importance of continued cooperation with regional economic integration organizations in this regard;

Having considered the draft action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in WHO European Region;¹

1. WELCOMES with appreciation the action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region;
2. URGES Member States:²
 - (a) to mobilize and sustain political and financial commitments to the development and strengthening of core capacities under the IHR (2005);
 - (b) to strengthen or maintain their capacities, including those of the national IHR focal points, to fulfil obligations and requirements under the Regulations to detect, assess, notify and report, and respond to public health risks and events with the

¹ Document EUR/RC68/14.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

potential for international spread in alignment with their obligations under regional economic integration organization frameworks;

- (c) to commit to and take proactive multisectoral action in the implementation of the regional action plan, recognizing the importance of a multisectoral approach in improving preparedness for and response to emergencies;
- (d) to identify and strengthen synergies between the health system and essential public health functions and IHR (2005) implementation;
- (e) to undertake systematic and repeated assessments of national capacities in order to monitor progress, identify gaps and prioritize actions according to IHR;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide upon request of Member States and being mindful of national as well as of regional economic integration organization legislation, instruments and measures in this regard, the technical support for the implementation of the regional action plan, including monitoring and assessment according to IHR (2005) and, when specified by a Member State, measures to build, maintain and strengthen core capacities under IHR (2005);
- (b) to advocate for, engage and mobilize resources for the implementation of the regional action plan, including working with and through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, civil society and community organizations, in line with FENSA;
- (c) to strengthen and maintain the functions and capacities of the Secretariat for event management, as outlined in the regional action plan;
- (d) to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices among States Parties, including the sharing of lessons learned in the implementation and application of the IHR (2005);
- (e) to monitor and evaluate regional progress annually to enable rapid monitoring of progress towards the establishment of the IHR (2005) core capacities in the Region;
- (f) to report on progress on the implementation of the regional action plan at the 71st session of the Regional Committee in 2021.