

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC56/R7

1 September 2006

Fifty-sixth session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 August–1 September 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## RESOLUTION

### AVIAN INFLUENZA: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF A PANDEMIC (document AFR/RC56/15)

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WHA56.19 urging Member States to draw up and implement national preparedness and response plans for prevention and control of influenza pandemics;

Concerned by the spread of the H5N1 virus infection in birds;

Deeply concerned by the impact of a possible influenza pandemic in the Region;

Aware of the need to have a more comprehensive and multisectoral approach for national consolidated preparedness and response plans on avian influenza;

Acknowledging the high-level commitment with which national authorities of affected countries addressed the H5N1 outbreaks in their respective countries;

Noting the progress made in the development of preparedness and response plans;

Concerned with the current level of funding for regional and country preparedness and response plans;

Having considered the report of the Regional Director on preparedness and response to the threat of a pandemic due to the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus;



1. APPROVES the report of the Regional Director on avian influenza pandemic preparedness and response, and recommended actions;
2. THANKS the Director-General and the Regional Director for mobilizing and providing technical support for the development of regional and country pandemic influenza prevention and control plans in the Region;
3. CALLS ON development partners and donors to provide financial and technical support for the prevention and control of pandemic influenza in the Region;
4. URGES Members States:
  - (a) to ensure multisectoral coordination at the supra-ministerial level for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national preparedness and response plans;
  - (b) to improve communication and sharing of surveillance information between veterinary, human health and wildlife services, and increase public communication and awareness;
  - (c) to commit funding from national and local sources for supporting priority actions and mobilize additional resources;
  - (d) to strengthen the capacity of national veterinary and medical laboratories in order to ensure rapid confirmation and reporting of influenza viruses;
  - (e) to put in place effective early warning systems and train key personnel for rapid detection of individual cases of pandemic influenza within the framework of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response;
  - (f) to notify suspected human infection, including investigating rumours, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and sanitary code of the World Organization for Animal Health;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (a) to strengthen the capacity of the Regional Office for provision of timely and effective technical support to Member States in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national preparedness and response efforts in Member States;
  - (b) to strengthen partnerships for technical and financial support to countries;
  - (c) to support capacity-building of subregional and regional reference laboratories to allow timely confirmation of H5N1 avian influenza pandemic, every highly pathogenic virus and every new human influenza virus;

- (d) to report annually to the Regional Committee on progress in the implementation of this resolution.

*Seventh meeting, 30 August 2006*