RESOLUTION

STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION IN THE AFRICAN REGION (2019–2025)

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the document entitled “Strategic plan to reduce the double burden of malnutrition in the African Region (2019–2025)”;

Recalling, inter alia, resolution WHA65.6 endorsing the WHO comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition; resolution WHA68.19 endorsing the Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition; resolution WHA69.8 calling for implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025); resolution WHA69.9 on ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children; resolution WHA71.9 calling for improved measures to protect and promote appropriate infant and young child feeding; resolution AFR/RC57/R2 on Food Safety and Health; resolution AFR/RC62/R7 on the Brazzaville Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases; resolution WHA61.14 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for the prevention and control of Noncommunicable Diseases to reduce premature mortality and improve quality of life; resolution WHA71.2 welcoming the outcome document of the WHO Global Conference on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases; decision WHA72(11) confirming the objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and extending its time frame to 2030 to ensure alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and resolution A/RES/73/2 adopting the Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases;

Deeply concerned that despite sustained efforts the prevalence of undernutrition remains high and that overweight and diet-related noncommunicable diseases are increasing in all age groups;

Noting that undernutrition in the early years of life increases the risk of noncommunicable diseases in later life;

Reaffirming the commitments made in the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025; and the Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030;
Recognizing that malnutrition has multiple contextual determinants and therefore requires solutions from multiple sectors, notably, agriculture, food security, health, finance, social protection, education, water, environment and trade;

Acknowledging that significant challenges encumber the establishment of the sustainable food systems that are needed to ensure populations’ access to adequate, safe and nutritious foods;

1. ADOPTS the “Strategic plan to reduce the double burden of malnutrition in the African Region (2019–2025)”;

2. URGES Member States to:

   (a) Develop and strengthen national policies, legislation and regulations, monitoring their implementation and applying incentives to promote and protect healthy diets;
   (b) Integrate actions to control the double burden of malnutrition in national development plans and strengthen nutrition-sensitive agriculture and trade policies;
   (c) Establish financing targets and increase sustainable domestic funding for nutrition, honouring the Malabo Declaration and high-level political commitment to end hunger;
   (d) Engage research institutions in evidence-driven policy development and implementation;
   (e) Adapt and implement this strategic plan to fully respond to their context-specific nutrition problems.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

   (a) Mount high-level advocacy for increased investment in reducing the double burden of malnutrition;
   (b) Provide technical support to Member States for the development of national policies and programmes to address the double burden of malnutrition;
   (c) Increase support for capacity strengthening for the delivery of nutrition services, programme monitoring and evaluation, surveillance and reporting;
   (d) Facilitate the mobilization of additional resources for the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan in Member States;
   (e) Support regional research collaboration for solutions to regional malnutrition challenges;
   (f) Report to the Regional Committee in 2023 on the progress made in implementing the regional strategy and its related resolution.