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DRAFT RESOLUTION

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR HEALTH SECURITY AND EMERGENCIES, 2022–2030

(Document AFR/RC72/8)

The Regional Committee,

Having considered document AFR/RC72/8 entitled “Regional strategy for health security and emergencies, 2022–2030”

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA58.1,¹ WHA64.10,² WHA71.1,³ WHA74.7⁴; and Regional Committee resolutions AFR/RC61/R3 on the Framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF) and AFR/RC66/R3 on the Regional strategy for health security and emergencies 2016–2020 adopted by Member States of the WHO African Region;

Deeply concerned about the continued occurrence of numerous health and humanitarian emergencies and the heavy toll they exact on African health systems and economies, threatening to erase decades of hard-earned gains;

Aware that each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region contends with over 100 health and humanitarian emergencies, including infectious diseases originating from the human-animal-environmental interface and climate-related events such as prolonged droughts, destructive floods, and cyclones;

Concerned about the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a wake-up call for all Members States to prioritize the building of resilient health systems capable of providing quality health care while coping with health emergencies;

¹ WHA58.1 on health action in relation to crises and disasters

² WHA64.10 on strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and the resilience of health systems

³ WHA71.1 on the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 and the triple billion targets

⁴ WHA74.7 on strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

Recognizing the need to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities as an integral part of building resilient health systems that can better address the potential impacts of pandemics, epidemics, and other public health emergencies;

Noting the negative impact of misinformation, disinformation and stigmatization on preparedness and response to health emergencies, and on people's physical and mental health, and the need to counter them in the context of health emergencies;

Noting also that for all stakeholders to be part of the response, they need to have access to timely and accurate information and be involved in decisions that affect them;

Conscious of the need to sustain the gains made in implementing the Regional strategy for health security and emergencies, 2016–2020 (resolution AFR/RC66/R3);

Noting that regional and global health security depends on timely actions to rapidly detect, report, confirm and respond to epidemic alerts;

Cognizant that recent recommendations from global reviews, including the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC), the International Health Regulations Review Committee (IHR-RC) and the lessons learnt from the response to the Ebola epidemics and the COVID-19 pandemic are unique opportunities for strengthening national health security capacities as an integral part of building resilient health systems;

Acknowledging the need for a negotiated global mechanism to address issues of equity in accessing medical countermeasures, timely information and knowledge sharing and better compliance with the IHR (2005);

Noting that WHO is undertaking major reforms to make it fit for purpose to address global health security and ensure predictable and sustainable funding and that Member States need to invest additional resources to strengthen national and subnational capacity for prompt detection and response to health and humanitarian emergencies;

Reaffirming its commitment to support the World Health Organization as the United Nations agency with the mandate to coordinate and guide all stakeholders in building resilient health systems that are able to prevent, predict, rapidly detect, and promptly and effectively respond to health emergencies from all hazards;

Noting the need for whole-of-government and whole-of-society Member State coordination and inclusive collaboration among all stakeholders during public health emergencies,

1. ADOPTS the Regional strategy for health security and emergencies 2022–2030, as proposed in Document AFR/RC72/8;
2. URGES Member States to:
 - (a) commit political will and provide technical leadership to implement this strategy;
 - (b) mobilize domestic and external resources and ensure sustainable financing to facilitate the implementation of this strategy;
 - (c) provide adequate human and logistic resources to support the implementation of this strategy;

- (d) review and make available the structures, health system components and tools required at national and subnational levels to support the implementation of this strategy;
- (e) raise the profile of the One Health approach and strengthen the coordination mechanism to oversee its implementation;
- (f) conduct needs assessments and build capacity at the national and decentralized levels;
- (g) work towards meeting the targets set out in this strategy by 2030;
- (h) monitor, evaluate and periodically review progress.

3. REQUESTS the WHO Secretariat and partners to:

- (a) continue to coordinate and provide leadership for preparedness and response to health emergencies in the African Region;
- (b) continue to provide support to Member States during health emergencies, in accordance with WHO's constitutional mandate;
- (c) disseminate recommendations from global/regional reviews;
- (d) disseminate technical guidelines, guidance and review recommendations to support the implementation of this strategy;
- (e) provide technical and financial support to Member States to develop evidence-led plans that are regularly monitored and evaluated;
- (f) ensure that the regional pool of trainers is operational and serves as a platform for coordinated action to cascade country-level training;
- (g) provide support to countries to strengthen IHR capacities and facilitate synergy and complementarity in partnerships for IHR implementation;
- (h) establish regional teams of experts to build country capacities;
- (i) coordinate and mobilize partners and all actors towards implementing the strategy and achieving its objectives;
- (j) implement the supranational actions stipulated in this strategy.