

Regional Committee for Africa**Original: English**Seventy-fifth sessionLusaka, Zambia, 25–27 August 2025Agenda item 9**Resolution****Regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems 2025–2035**

(Document AFR/RC75/6)

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the document entitled “Regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems 2025–2035”;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.6 on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems;

Deeply concerned about the significant and growing need for rehabilitation in the African Region due to the epidemiological shift from communicable to noncommunicable diseases, the burden of injuries and communicable diseases compounded by high-threat infectious hazards;

Profoundly troubled that rehabilitation needs are largely unmet in the Region, and more than 63% of people do not receive the rehabilitation services they require;

Mindful of the poor integration of rehabilitation into health sector planning and funding, the extremely low density of the rehabilitation workforce, the limited availability of health system data to inform policies, and the poor understanding of the benefits of rehabilitation as a public health approach;

Recognizing that rehabilitation requires more attention by policy-makers and domestic and international actors when setting health priorities and allocating resources for full integration of services in health systems;

Noting that rehabilitation interventions strive to ensure individuals live longer, healthier lives, and as such contribute to healthy life expectancy and attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages);

Reaffirming that rehabilitation should be prioritized as an essential health service across the continuum of care, at all levels of health care in life course programmes (early childhood to elderly), and in all phases of emergencies,

1. ADOPTS the Regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems 2025–2035;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to strengthen national planning and political commitment for rehabilitation, ensuring integration into national health plans and policies, and engaging stakeholders from health and non-health sectors;
 - (b) to identify financial mechanisms to integrate rehabilitation into essential health benefit packages;
 - (c) to expand rehabilitation services at all levels of care and build capacity for a multidisciplinary workforce that includes primary health care workers;
 - (d) to enhance health information systems to collect rehabilitation data, including system-level rehabilitation data and functioning profiles;
 - (e) to promote quality rehabilitation research, including health policy and system research;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to ensure coordination among national and international partners to strengthen rehabilitation efforts at the regional level;
 - (b) to develop and update technical and strategic guidance to support Member States in capacity-building and advocacy towards the integration of rehabilitation into health systems;
 - (c) to engage with global, regional and national partners, including civil society organizations, the private sector and WHO collaborating centres, to establish capacity-building networks for training, research and innovation.