



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health  
Organization**

**Africa**

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**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

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## **RESOLUTION**

### **HEALTH-FOR-ALL POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY IN THE AFRICAN REGION: AGENDA 2020**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the adoption by the World Health Assembly in May 1998 of the “World Health Declaration” which affirms the need to give effect to the Global Health-for-All Policy for the 21st century through the implementation of relevant regional and national policies;

Convinced of the relevance of the principles and values underpinning the primary health care approach to the implementation of the health-for-all policy and of the fact that they are a source of inspiration for African countries;

Considering the magnitude and the persistence of health problems created by communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the complications of pregnancy and childbirth, the numerous childhood diseases, mental ill health, environments that adversely affect health, risky lifestyles and behaviours, ineffective health services, complex emergencies, armed conflicts and their tragic impact on African populations;

Considering that African nations need to pursue the vision of overcoming the heavy burden of disease, the high level of poverty, lack of opportunities and information and the need to do so in the context of autonomous development of health systems in order to improve the health status of all people;

Convinced of the need for a frame of reference for national health development policies, capable of providing lasting solutions to the various health problems that African countries are facing at the dawn of the third millennium;

Considering that translating the vision of health development by the year 2020 into reality will be a gigantic and uphill task and will require the mobilization of all resources and the creativity of all Africans, so as to help achieve sustainable human development in response to their fundamental aspirations;

Having undertaken a series of actions at national and regional levels, culminating in the formulation of the Regional Health-for-All Policy for the 21st century for the purpose of guiding health development in the decades ahead;

Having carefully examined the report of the Regional Director as contained in document AFR/RC50/8 which sets forth the Health-For-All Policy for the 21st century in African Region: Agenda 2020;

1. APPROVES the Health-for-All Policy for the 21st century in the African Region: Agenda 2020, which gives expression to the aspiration of the African people to better health;
2. REQUESTS Member States:
  - (i) to ensure the translation of the regional policy into realistic and innovative national policies, followed by appropriate strategic plans and corresponding implementation frameworks with specific national- and local-level interventions in the health sector and other sectors of human development;
  - (ii) within the context of health sector reform, to undertake a consensus-building process by establishing or identifying a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral mechanism to support the development and implementation of sustainable national health policies;
  - (iii) to play, through their institutions such as the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive, a leading and stewardship role in assuring maximum health benefits for their people, especially the poor, marginalized and other vulnerable groups;
  - (iv) to mobilize adequate resources for efficient implementation of renewed national health policy and to ensure a rational use of savings from debt cancellation for health development;
  - (v) to put health at the centre of national development and within this context, develop appropriate poverty eradication strategies;
  - (vi) to advocate for the continued commitment of Heads of State and Government, political leaders and civil society for the implementation of this Regional policy and subsequent national policies;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director;
  - (i) to mobilize Member States and the international community in a concerted action for the purpose of updating national health policies by drawing upon the global and the regional policies, and thus contribute to the mobilization and rational use of resources for implementing these policies;
  - (ii) to provide technical support to Member States for the continuous review of national health policies and strategies whenever necessary;
  - (iii) to set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Regional Health-for-All Policy: Agenda 2020;
  - (iv) to continue to strongly advocate for debt cancellation and use of a substantial part of the savings thereof for health development;
  - (v) to report to the 53rd session of the Regional Committee and every three years thereafter, on the progress made in the implementation of the Health-for-All Policy for the 21st century in the African Region.