



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 28 August - 2 September 2000

RESOLUTION

**NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES:
A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION**

The Regional Committee,

Aware of the magnitude and the public health importance of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), many of which have common risk factors;

Concerned about the accelerated increase in the prevalence of NCDs, adding onto the already heavy burden of communicable diseases;

Recalling resolutions WHA19.38, WHA25.44, WHA29.49, WHA36.32., WHA38.30, WHA42.35, WHA42.36, WHA51.18, WHA53.17 and EB105.R12 that called for intensified measures to prevent and control NCDs, and the recommendation by Member States adopted at the 48th and 49th sessions of the Regional Committee;

Appreciating all the efforts that Member States and their partners have made in the past to manage some NCDs and thereby improve the health of their population;

Recognizing the need to review the existing approaches and develop a comprehensive strategic framework for the prevention and control of NCDs in countries of the African Region;

Having carefully examined the Regional Director's report contained in document AFR/RC50/10 and outlining the WHO Regional Strategy for Noncommunicable Diseases;

1. APPROVES the proposed strategy aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to improve the quality of life of their populations through the alleviation of the burden of NCDs by, inter alia, promoting healthy lifestyles and taking other appropriate interventions.
2. REQUESTS Member States:
 - (i) to develop or strengthen national policies and programmes targeting the prevalent NCDs affecting their populations;
 - (ii) to support integrated disease surveillance aimed at quantifying the burden and trends of NCDs, their risk factors, the quality of the management of cases and their major determinants;
 - (iii) to strengthen health care for people with NCDs by supporting health sector reforms and cost-effective interventions, based on primary health care;

- (iv) to support prevention strategies based on knowledge of the risk factors, aimed at reducing the occurrence of cases and, consequently, premature mortality and disability due to NCDs, using multisectoral approaches that include measures like regulations and taxation, where applicable;
- (v) to improve the capacity of health care personnel in the management and control of NCDs;
- (vi) to support research on the identification of effective community-based intervention strategies including traditional herbal medicines.
- (vii) to consider the experience and progress made in the prevention of prevalent genetic disorders when developing programmes for the community-based management of these diseases.

3. URGES the Regional Director:

- (i) to provide technical support to Member States for the development of national policies and programmes to prevent and control NCDs;
- (ii) to increase support for the training of health professionals in NCD prevention and control including monitoring and evaluation of programmes at different levels and promote the use of training institutions in the Region taking into account the realities in the African Region;
- (iii.) to facilitate the mobilization of additional resources for the implementation of the Regional Strategy in Member States;
- (iv) to draw up operational plans for the decade 2001-2010.
- (v) to report to the 53rd session of the Regional Committee, in the year 2003, on the progress of the implementation of this Regional Strategy.