



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

Sixty-sixth session

Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 19–23 August 2016

**RESOLUTION**

**REGIONAL ORAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2016-2025: ADDRESSING  
ORAL DISEASES AS PART OF NCDs (Document AFR/RC66/5)**

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the document entitled “Regional Oral Health Strategy 2016-2025: addressing oral diseases as part of NCDs”;

Recalling the commitment that ministers of health of Member States of the African Region made at the Fifty-eighth session of the Regional Committee, and resolution WHA60/17 on tackling the social determinants of oral health and reducing exposure to common risk factors of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs);

Cognizant that the African Region bears an increasing burden of oral diseases and common risk factors with other NCDs that cause pain, disfigurement and even death especially to the poorest, while their treatment places a considerable economic burden on communities and individuals;

Acknowledging the increasing regional and national momentum to prevent and control NCDs, which provides a unique opportunity for the Region to recognize and integrate oral health into all relevant policies and public health programmes, including policies related to NCDs;

Mindful of the need to rapidly mobilize the multisectoral and collective actions required to scale up NCD interventions, including oral health programmes;

1. ADOPTS the “Regional Oral Health Strategy 2016-2025: addressing oral diseases as part of NCDs”, as a means of accelerating the Regional NCD agenda;
2. URGES Member States:
  - (a) to establish/strengthen oral health units under the umbrella of, or in close collaboration with, the NCD department in the ministry of health and functional multisectoral coordination with other government sectors and ministries;
  - (b) to mobilize and allocate adequate human and financial resources, in particular domestic resources, for oral health;
  - (c) to develop sustainable mechanisms to enhance multisectoral collaboration and partnerships to support integrated national oral health action plans as part of NCD programmes;

- (d) to promote healthy living and working environments conducive to healthy lifestyles including proper oral hygiene in schools, workplaces, health-care settings and community-based establishments;
- (e) to strengthen capacity building, recruitment and retention of required oral health workers matching the needs of the population as part of training for NCD interventions;
- (f) to include essential oral health care services into the basic package of services provided by the health system especially for vulnerable populations and ensure regular monitoring and tracking of progress;
- (g) to develop and implement operational research for improving the generation of evidence-based decision-making, policies and advocacy on oral health.

3. URGES partners:

- (a) to contribute to the development, production, and distribution of affordable quality oral hygiene products as well as quality, affordable, safe, and environmentally friendly dental filling material;
- (b) to support operational research for the development of preventive oral disease interventions integrated within NCDs (“Best Buys”) and having a significant public health impact, especially at primary health care level;
- (c) to mobilize resources and promote investment in all integrated programmes for prevention and control of oral diseases as part of NCDs.

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to promote increased political commitment at the highest levels to address oral health as part of NCDs and related risk factors;
- (b) to facilitate intercountry collaboration in order to share experiences on best practices and cost-effective interventions for oral diseases prevention and control;
- (c) to provide guidance, tools and standards to Member States in their efforts to develop and implement national oral health action plans for prevention and control of oral diseases as part of NCDs;
- (d) to undertake advocacy with international development partners, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and professional organizations for increased support for national oral health and other NCD programmes in the Region;
- (e) to report to the Regional Committee in 2020 on the progress made in implementing the regional strategy and its related resolution.