



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixty-first session

Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire 29 August–2 September 2011

RESOLUTION

**FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN
THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC61/10)**

The Regional Committee,

Having examined Document AFR/RC61/10 entitled “Framework for Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change in the African Region”;

Concerned that Africa is already experiencing the effects of climate change which exacerbate traditional and emerging environmental risk factors on human health, threaten health development, jeopardize decades of development gains and hamper the continent's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals;

Noting that countries of the African Region are currently the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change and, at the same time, the least prepared to respond effectively to these impacts;

Recognizing that there is currently a lack of an integrated health sector response to address climate change adaptation comprehensively;

Aware that so far, public health impacts of climate change are still not adequately reflected in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Recalling the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa (2008) which establishes a strategic alliance between the health and environment sectors as the basis for plans of joint action;

Recalling also the African Ministers of Health and Minister of Environment Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health adopted at the Second Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa which was held in Luanda, Angola, in November 2010;

Considering the recommendations of the 5th Conference of African Union Ministers of Health held in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2011.

1. APPROVES the Framework for Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change in the African Region.

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to strengthen their resilience by developing and implementing national action plans for public health adaptation to climate change. Such plans will be based on an essential public health package of interventions that would include baseline risk and capacity assessments, capacity building, integrated environment and health surveillance, awareness raising and social mobilization, public health-oriented environmental management, scaling-up of existing public health interventions, strengthening of partnerships and, promotion of research; and establish the relevant intersectoral coordination mechanisms, as agreed upon at the second Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa held in Luanda, Angola, in 2010, in order to undertake joint planning and implementation of activities required for public health adaptation to climate change, in the context of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance;
- (b) to establish the relevant intersectoral coordination mechanisms, as agreed upon at the second Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in Luanda, Angola in 2010, in order to undertake joint planning and implementation of activities required for public health adaptation to climate change, in the context of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance;
- (c) to request African negotiators of the UNFCCC to use this Resolution as the common position of the ministers of health of the African Region in matters related to public-health impacts of climate change.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to establish a Pan-African Programme for Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change with a view to leveraging and coordinating international-level technical and financial support to Member States for implementation of the above-mentioned actions;
- (b) to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other technical agencies to develop and disseminate, for use by Member States, the necessary technical tools required for immediate implementation of the Framework;
- (c) to advocate for the use of the Framework for Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change as the basis for coordinating partners' actions;
- (d) to ensure the participation of the WHO Regional Office for Africa in the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in South Africa;
- (e) to facilitate access by countries to financial resources made available to developing countries, especially climate change funds, in order to secure the required funding for implementation of the national action plans mentioned above;
- (f) to report to the Sixty-second Session of the Regional Committee, and thereafter, every other year on progress being made.