



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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RESOLUTION

MEASLES ELIMINATION BY 2020: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION
(Document AFR/RC61/8)

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the document “Measles elimination by 2020: a strategy for the African Region”;

Recalling Resolutions AFR/RC52/R2 on the Regional strategy for immunization during the period 2003-2005; AFR/RC56/R1 on the Regional strategic plan for the Expanded Programme on Immunization 2006–2009; and AFR/RC60/R4 on Routine immunization and polio eradication in the African Region;

Appreciating the achievements made so far by Member States and partners in reducing measles mortality by 92% by 2008 as compared with 2000 estimates;

Noting the challenges concerning the accuracy of population estimates for the monitoring of immunization coverage;

Deeply concerned about the recent resurgence of measles in the African Region, and the fragility of the gains in measles mortality reduction;

Noting the changing epidemiological pattern of measles, with an increasing proportion of cases in young infants, older children and adults;

Recognising the programmatic feasibility as well as the system-wide challenges of measles elimination;

Convinced that eliminating measles will contribute significantly to the attainment of MDG 4 and towards health systems strengthening;

1. ENDORSES the document aimed at the adoption of a measles elimination goal for the African Region;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to develop and implement national plans for the elimination of measles by 2020, in line with the Regional Strategic Plan;

- (b) to provide adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of national plans to sustain the gains in measles mortality reduction, in order to reach the measles pre-elimination targets by 2012, and ultimately attain measles elimination by 2020;
- (c) to mobilize national and international stakeholders from the public and private sectors, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral organizations including local communities and coordinate all activities in the measles elimination efforts;
- (d) to generate reliable and updated population data to be used for monitoring measles immunization coverage.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to develop a Regional Strategic Plan for measles elimination;
- (b) to provide evidence-based technical guidance on programmatic issues including the age for measles vaccination;
- (c) to provide technical support to Member States for the development and implementation of national plans for the elimination of measles;
- (d) to advocate for additional resources at national and international levels for the elimination of measles in Member States;
- (e) to report to the Regional Committee beginning in 2012 and thereafter every two years on the progress made towards the elimination of measles.