



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Africa

AFR/RC53/R1
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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Johannesburg, South Africa, 1–5 September 2003

RESOLUTION

MACROECONOMICS AND HEALTH: THE WAY FORWARD IN THE AFRICAN REGION

The Regional Committee,

Cognizant of the finding of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH) that poor health contributes significantly to poverty and low economic growth;

Aware that investments in health yield substantive returns in terms of poverty reduction and economic development;

Recalling resolution AFR/RC52/R4 on poverty and health, and World Health Assembly resolution WHA55.19 recommending the CMH action agenda as a useful approach to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

Recalling the pledge by African Heads of State in Abuja to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to the improvement of the health sector;

Appreciating the support being provided under international initiatives such as the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Global Health Research Fund (GHRF), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), Roll Back Malaria, Stop TB, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;

Recognizing the WHO comparative advantage in supporting countries to formulate health policies and plans, set health priorities and identify cost-effective interventions, among others;

1. ENDORSES the concepts and generic steps proposed in document AFR/RC53/8 entitled “Macroeconomics and Health: The Way Forward in the African Region”;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to widely disseminate among all stakeholders the findings and recommendations of the CMH and build consensus for action;

- (b) to establish or strengthen institutional mechanisms for implementing the recommendations of the CMH;
- (c) to develop multi-year strategic plans for scaling up health investment into pro-poor health interventions;
- (d) to revise health sector and health-related development plans, the relevant components of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs) to incorporate strategic plans for scaling up pro-poor health investments;
- (e) to honour the pledge made by Heads of State in Abuja to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to the improvement of the health sector;
- (f) to utilize the multi-year strategic plans to mobilize resources from domestic and external sources in a sustainable manner;
- (g) to closely involve relevant ministries and agencies with responsibility for specific components of the strategic plan (e.g. health services, water, sanitation, nutrition, education, finance, planning) during planning, implementation and monitoring;
- (h) to strengthen health economics and public health capacity within the ministries of health and other relevant sectors in order to enhance health investments, and preempt and mitigate negative effects of development projects on public health.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to continue advocating for increased investments in health as an effective way of reducing poverty and accelerating economic development;
- (b) to support countries to strengthen their existing institutional arrangements for planning, implementing and monitoring the CMH recommendations;
- (c) to monitor and document lessons emerging from the implementation of the CMH recommendations in different countries and facilitate sharing of lessons learned;
- (d) to provide support to regional institutions that train health economists and conduct health economics research;
- (e) to report to the fifty-sixth session of the Regional Committee in 2006 on the progress made in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.