



ORGANIZAÇÃO MUNDIAL DE SAÚDE
ESCRITÓRIO REGIONAL AFRICANO

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC53/17

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Fifty-third session

Johannesburg, South Africa, 1–5 September 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Provisional agenda item 14

**DATES AND PLACES OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH AND FIFTY-FIFTH
SESSIONS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

1. In accordance with Rule 4 of the Rule of Procedure of the Regional Committee and Procedural Decision No. 10 of the fifty-second session of the Committee, the venue of the fifty-fourth session of the Regional Committee would be the Regional Office unless a Member State offers to be the host. The venue for the fifty-fifth session will be determined at the fifty-fourth session of the Regional Committee in 2004.
2. As regards Member-States' requests to host the Regional Committee, it should be noted that the cost of holding the session outside the Regional Office is high. Furthermore, by virtue of resolution AFR/RC41/R13, the additional costs of hosting the Regional Committee in a country other than that of the Regional Office shall be fully borne by the host country.
3. Should a Member State wish to host a Regional Committee, an agreement is drawn up between the host country's government and the World Health Organization, covering the following items which are required for the Regional Committee meeting:
 - (a) premises, furniture and equipment, including interpretation equipment required for the Regional Committee's work;
 - (b) lighting equipment, including maintenance, electric power supply and ventilation of the premises;
 - (c) staff for maintenance, cleaning and surveillance of the premises, installations, equipment and supplies;
 - (d) postal, email and telephone service, together with radio and television coverage essential for the efficient and proper coverage of the Regional Committee's proceedings;
 - (e) accommodation and travel expenses for persons authorized to attend the meeting;
 - (f) vehicles for transporting Member State representatives, members of the WHO secretariat, equipment, supplies and documents;
 - (g) national currency at the best rate of exchange and in the amount needed to meet the Organization's expenses in the host country.

4. The Regional Director deems it expedient to draw the attention of Member States to the need to give full consideration to these commitments, especially given the present financial difficulties.

5. The Regional Committee is requested to take a decision on the venue for its fifty-fourth session.