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Resolution

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC57/R.4  
October 2010

Fifty-seventh Session

Agenda item 4 (b)

**Regional strategy on nutrition 2010–2019**

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on a regional strategy on nutrition 2010–2019<sup>1</sup>;

Recalling resolutions WHA55.25 Infant and young child nutrition and WHA55.23 Diet, physical activity and health, EM/RC37/R.9 Iodine deficiency disorders in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, EM/RC46/R.6 Food safety, EM/RC49/R.12 Micronutrient deficiency disorders, and EM/RC54/R.9 Food marketing to children and adolescents in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: implications for public health;

Recognizing that achieving the Millennium Development Goals will require the reduction of maternal and child malnutrition, as malnutrition accounts for 11% of the global burden of disease and leads to poor health and developmental outcomes;

Concerned that micronutrient deficiencies, including of iron, iodine, zinc, calcium, folic acid and vitamins A and D, are still being reported from many countries of the Region, particularly among vulnerable groups including children and women of childbearing age;

Concerned also by the burden of malnutrition in the Region, both over-nutrition and under-nutrition;

Acknowledging that strengthening of national nutrition surveillance is crucial to implementation of effective nutrition policies and scaling up of interventions;

1. **ENDORSES** the regional strategy on nutrition 2010–2019;
2. **URGES** Member States to:
  - 2.1 Review and/or develop a national nutrition strategy and action plan as an integral part of the national health policy and in line with the regional strategy, and allocate adequate human and financial resources to ensure implementation;

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<sup>1</sup> Document no. EM/RC57/4

- 2.2 Develop or review current policy frameworks and legislative mechanisms in order to address the burden of under-nutrition and over-nutrition;
- 2.3 Strengthen nutrition surveillance and improve use and reporting of agreed Millennium Development Goals indicators in order to monitor progress;
- 2.4 Develop mechanisms for intersectoral collaboration that promote nutrition;
- 2.5 Promote awareness of healthy food among all age groups, particularly schoolchildren;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 3.1 Continue to provide technical support to Member States in the development and implementation of national nutrition strategies and monitoring of plans;
- 3.2 Facilitate exchange of information on successful programmes and development of networks for promotion of nutrition programmes;
- 3.3 Support capacity-building for research in the area of nutrition;
- 3.4 Continue, strengthen and expand the existing partnership mechanisms with stakeholders in support of regional and national nutrition strategies and plans.