DENGUE FEVER AND DENGUE HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Regional Committee,

Concerned with the emergence of dengue fever as a major international public health problem with severe outbreaks in 2008 that affected 20 countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region;

Acknowledging progress made by several Member States in reducing case fatality rates as a result of improved case management and early health care seeking by affected communities;

Aware of the increasing risks posed by certain human behaviours and activities, human demographics, the rapid growth of urban areas and climate change that create new opportunities for vector breeding;

Mindful of the increasing disease and economic burden resulting from the expansion of dengue fever into new geographic areas including rural settings;

Concerned with the consistent shortages of human and financial resources, both during and between outbreaks;
Acknowledging the need to strengthen national surveillance systems and encourage regular and transparent reporting;

Further acknowledging the need to strengthen national capacity to effectively address dengue fever during and between outbreaks in accordance with the International Health Regulations 2005;

Recognizing that effective prevention relies on successful source reduction of principal mosquito vector breeding sites and on strong community involvement;

Aware of the importance of inter-programmatic, interagency, intersectoral and intercountry collaboration as a means to encourage more cost-effective interventions through synergies;

Recognizing the importance of a biregional initiative in the form of the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region as a road map to guide national programmes, as an advocacy tool to engage key stakeholders in dengue prevention and control, and as a resource mobilization tool;

Having reviewed the draft Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region,

1. ENDORSES the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to ensure high-level political commitment so that adequate human and financial resources are made available for dengue prevention and outbreak response;

(2) to strengthen health systems so as to improve diagnosis and case management;

(3) to continue strengthening primary health care and health promotion in the prevention and control of dengue fever;

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(4) to support development of adequate national information systems and encourage regular and transparent data reporting and sharing within and among Member States during and between outbreaks in a timely manner;

(5) to strengthen national surveillance and encourage the integration of dengue surveillance into existing surveillance systems for other epidemic-prone diseases within the framework of the International Health Regulations (2005);

(6) to disaggregate the reporting of cases of the various subtypes of dengue within data reporting;

(7) to foster and support inter-programmatic, interagency, intersectoral and intercountry collaboration for outbreak response and greater community and education involvement in source reduction, early recognition of dengue fever complications at the household level and timely referral of complicated cases;

(8) to use the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region as a road map in the development or improvement of national plans and as a framework for monitoring implementation of national programmes;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to use the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region to advocate among other key international stakeholders and development partners for increased support in dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever prevention and outbreak response;

(2) to provide technical support in defining the programmatic gaps that need to be addressed through research, in developing specific proposals and in identifying potential funding sources;

[.../}
(3) to promote consensus on new case definition and provide the latest guidelines, including case management, and support the improvement of existing reporting channels;

(4) to continue supporting Member States in outbreak response;

(5) to report periodically to the Regional Committee on the progress made in implementing the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific Region.

Eighth meeting, 26 September 2008
WPR/RC59/SR/8