



## EUROPE

### Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-sixth session

Copenhagen, 11–14 September 2006

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EUR/RC56/R2  
11 September 2006  
61522  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

### Resolution

#### **Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the WHO European Region**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA53.17 on the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, together with resolutions WHA57.17 on the global strategy on diet, physical activity and health and WHA55.25 on the global strategy on infant and young child nutrition, and recent resolutions on public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol (WHA58.26), cancer prevention and control (WHA58.22), disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation (WHA58.23) and health promotion in a globalized world (EB117.R9);

Acknowledging Member States' existing commitments and the ongoing work under the European Strategy for Tobacco Control (EUR/RC52/R12), the Framework for Alcohol Policy in the WHO European Region (EUR/RC55/R1), the European Food and Nutrition Action Plan (EUR/RC50/R8), the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (EUR/RC54/R3), the Mental Health Action Plan for Europe (EUR/RC55/R2) and the European Strategy on Child and Adolescent Health and Development (EUR/RC55/R6);

Recalling its resolution EUR/RC54/R4, by which it requested the Regional Director to prepare a comprehensive action-oriented European strategy on noncommunicable diseases;

Recognizing that 86% of all deaths and 77% of disease burden in the European Region are caused by noncommunicable diseases, which represent the most important current and future public health problem in all Member States in the Region;

Acknowledging the progress and gains already made, but still concerned about the health consequences and the distribution in society of noncommunicable diseases that result in immense loss of quality of life, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and poor countries;

Recognizing the substantive negative impact of noncommunicable diseases on economic and social development in any society and the widening of health inequalities;

Recognizing that the noncommunicable disease burden can be significantly reduced through large-scale health promotion and disease prevention interventions, in combination with systematic and continuous work to tackle wider health determinants and risk factors, and effective control of chronic conditions;

Recognizing the need for governments to take the lead in upgrading efforts to overcome the avoidable disease burden caused by noncommunicable diseases and, given the multifaceted underlying causes of those diseases, to invest in comprehensive and multisectoral efforts at appropriate levels in societies;

Reaffirming core values and principles as expressed in the updated Health for All policy framework adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its fifty-fifth session in 2005;

Having considered document EUR/RC56/8 and its proposals for a European strategy on noncommunicable diseases with the goals of avoiding premature death and significantly reducing disease burden from noncommunicable diseases through integrated action, improving the quality of life and making healthy life expectancy more equitable within and between Member States;

1. ADOPTS the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases as a strategic framework for action by Member States in the European Region to implement their country policies and engage in international cooperation;

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to develop or strengthen, as applicable, national public health strategies for tackling noncommunicable diseases that provide for integrated action on risk factors and their underlying determinants through a multisectoral approach, where appropriate;
- (b) to strengthen health systems towards improved prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases so that health services are fit for their purpose, respond to the present disease burden and increase opportunities for health promotion and disease control;

- (c) to regard prevention throughout the life-course as an effective investment with a major impact on a society's economic and social development, and to reallocate resources accordingly;
- (d) to ensure universal access to health promotion, disease prevention and health services as a fundamental means to achieve equity in health; and
- (e) to set up accountable multisectoral mechanisms at appropriate government levels for the implementation and regular monitoring of the public health strategies mentioned above, involving major stakeholders and making systematic use of health impact assessments;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to actively support the implementation of the Strategy in the Region and to set up mechanisms for taking action on determinants through a multisectoral approach;
- (b) to support Member States in implementing the Strategy by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, through:
  - the development of an alliance for advocacy and action on noncommunicable diseases with major partners;
  - the establishment of a network of national counterparts as an international resource and advisory mechanism for implementation of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases;
  - the facilitation of exchanges of information on evidence and best practice, focusing on policy development and implementation of the Strategy;
  - the strengthening of intervention and implementation research; and
  - the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to measure progress in policy development, implementation and its related impact on health development, and to collect regularly and report common indicators of noncommunicable disease morbidity in the Region;
- (c) to report back to the Regional Committee at its fifty-eighth session in 2008 on the implementation of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.