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Matters arising out of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly adopted 34 resolutions, which are listed in the attached Annex 1.

This document reviews those resolutions that are of particular interest to the work of the European Region.

Documents and resolutions mentioned in this document are available from the Secretariat and can also be downloaded from the internet (<http://www.who.int/gb>).

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Resolutions adopted by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly of particular interest to the European Region of WHO

Policy and technical matters

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| WHA58.1 | Health action in relation to crises and disasters, with particular emphasis on the earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004 | A58/6, A58/6 Add.1 | Clear lines of command should be established between the Health Action in Crises department at WHO headquarters and the Regional Office's Disaster Preparedness and Response programme in initial emergency response, including strengthening of operational capacity (logistics). Cooperation with the International Strategy on Disaster Reduction should be fostered, with a focus on disaster-resilient health facilities. Capacity for disaster preparedness and response should be increased. Internal (technical units) and external collaboration should be improved. | Action plan for disaster scenarios to be developed with headquarters and shared with headquarters, regional offices and country offices. Guidelines and technical support to be provided to Member States. Preparedness activities at the country level to be increased and integrated into national health systems (with increase of regular budget funds). Coordination with internal and external stakeholders to be strengthened. |
| WHA58.2 | Malaria control | A58/8 | The disease burden from malaria in the WHO European Region has decreased considerably during the last decade, making it feasible to move from control to elimination. | A high-level meeting on the elimination of malaria in the WHO European Region to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in October 2005. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| WHA58.3 | Revision of the International Health Regulations | A58/4, A58/41, A58/41 Add.1, A58/41 Add.2 | The resolution paves the way for strengthening the capacity for epidemic alert and response in all 52 Member States. | Process of implementation to be started in close collaboration with headquarters, other regions, the European Commission, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and partners. |
| WHA58.5 | Strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness and response | A58/13 | The avian influenza in south-east Asia and the potential threat from a pandemic of influenza has underlined the need for global preparedness through mobilization at the country level with high quality national preparedness plans as well as international coordination under the leadership of WHO. The resolution urges Member States to develop and implement national plans and to strengthen surveillance and laboratory capacity. | The Regional Office arranged a workshop jointly with the European Commission in March 2005 on national influenza preparedness plans. A follow-up, tentatively scheduled for October, is planned as a part of the United Kingdom Presidency of the European Union. A comprehensive strategic plan for influenza for the European Region will be presented to the Regional Committee at its fifty-fifth session (RC55). |
| WHA58.13 | Establishment of World Blood Donor Day | A58/38 | Resolution of particular importance to the European Region which has the highest percentage of paid donors. | The Regional Office to support and promote World Blood Donor Day. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|
| WHA58.14 | Sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control | A58/7 | Relevant because of increasing burden of tuberculosis in the WHO European Region and the high prevalence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. The resolution aims at securing more sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control through several actions, including the development of a global plan for the period 2006–2015, national Stop-tuberculosis partnerships and increased collaboration between the tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programmes. | Regional Director's letter to all 52 Member States declaring tuberculosis a regional emergency to be followed-up with a high-level meeting together with the European Commission. |
| WHA58.15 | Draft global immunization strategy | A58/12, A58/12 Add.1 | The resolution highlights the fact that, owing to financial, structural and/or managerial constraints, national immunization programmes fail to reach all who are eligible for immunizations, particularly children and women, underuse many existing vaccines and are not widely introducing new vaccines. | RC55 is invited to debate and endorse a draft resolution on the elimination of measles and congenital rubella in the Region. The global immunization strategy has provided valuable input and support to the regional strategy to strengthen immunizations. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| WHA58.16 | Strengthening active and healthy ageing | A58/19 | The very large increase in the number of elderly people in the WHO European Region makes it highly appropriate and pertinent to strengthen active and healthy ageing. | To support WHO's advocacy for active and healthy ageing through multisectoral partnerships with intergovernmental, nongovernmental private sector and voluntary organizations. To integrate the work for active and healthy ageing into Regional Office programmes as appropriate. To support nurses to enable them to take responsibility in the prevention, management and rehabilitation of aging persons within community services. |
| WHA58.22 | Cancer prevention and control | A58/16 | Cancer is a significant problem in an ageing Europe and is currently the second most important cause of mortality (19% of all deaths). The resolution covers the broad range of prevention, control, treatment and palliative care. | The resolution and its recommendations will be taken into consideration in developing the European noncommunicable disease strategy to be presented to the Regional Committee at its fifty-sixth session |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
| WHA58.24 | Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders | A58/23 | Iodine deficiency disorders remain a serious public health threat in parts of the Region, especially to children. | Regional Office to continue its cooperation with Member States and with the United Nations Children's Fund, nongovernmental organizations and other partners with the aim of reducing the risks from iodine deficiency. The preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Nutrition in November 2006 and the revised European Action Plan on Nutrition to be discussed by the Regional Committee at its fifty-seventh session will provide new opportunities to strengthen the work within the Region against iodine deficiency. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|---|---|
| WHA58.25 | United Nations reform process and WHO's role in harmonization of operational development activities at country level | A58/40 | <p>In the future, Regional Office annual reports on Collaboration within the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organizations will focus more on the Millennium Development Goals, the role of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other mechanisms to ensure harmonization of United Nations activities.</p> <p>A multisectoral approach to address disaster preparedness and response will require improved United Nations coordination mechanisms at the country level.</p> <p>The Regional Office will strengthen its coordination with other United Nations agencies, especially at country level.</p> | <p>All liaison officers to be briefed about this resolution. Implications for liaison officers and the External Cooperation and Partnerships programme (PAR): liaison officers to annually report to PAR on harmonization of United Nations activities at country level (United Nations coordination, Millennium Development Goals, etc.).</p> <p>Regional collaboration with other United Nations partner and nongovernmental organizations to be intensified. Joint capacity-building efforts to be made at country level.</p> <p>Regional Office to expand its country discussions with the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, in the spirit of the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidelines.</p> |
| WHA58.26 | Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol | A58/18 | The WHO European Region has the highest consumption of alcohol of all of the WHO regions. The harmful use of alcohol must be fully recognized as a serious public health problem that needs to be addressed. | A revised alcohol action plan for Europe will be presented to RC55, and the RC will be asked to consider a draft resolution that takes note of resolution WHA 58.26. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| WHA58.27 | Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance | A58/14 | Many Member States in the European Region have been working actively for years to improve the containment of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The increased AMR calls for urgent action at the national, regional and global levels. | The Regional Office is working jointly with the European Commission, the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and WHO headquarters as well as other partners to strengthen the containment of antimicrobial resistance in the Region. |
| WHA58.28 | eHealth | A58/21 | Potential impact on health-care delivery, public health, research and health-related activities for the benefit of both middle- and high-income countries | Member States to be supported in the appropriate use of eHealth as a tool for strengthening health systems with particular attention to legal, ethical and standards issues. Regional Office technical programmes (information, training, etc.) to be supported in appropriate use of eHealth to improve implementation of their country activities. |
| WHA58.30 | Accelerating the achievement of the internationally agreed health-related development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration | A58/5 | Health system-wide approach recommended for related Millennium Development Goals. Access to medicines remains critical in many newly independent states and south-eastern European countries. | Reflect on each goal referred to in the resolution and identify the role of health systems strengthening. This resolution will further help to direct national policies on medicines. |

| Resolution/decision | Title | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| WHA58/31 | Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions | <i>The world health report 2005</i> | World Health Day 2005 “Make every mother and child count” created an increased awareness of the need for universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions, both globally and in the WHO European Region. The resolution calls on the Member States to ensure that national strategic planning and budgetary processes include interventions to strengthen health care systems. | RC55 will discuss the draft European Child and Adolescent Health Strategy as well as a paper on reproductive health in the Region. |
| WHA58.32 | Infant and young-child nutrition | A58/15 | Resolution recommends to Member States to continue to promote breastfeeding for at least six months, but recognizes the need for parents and caregivers to be fully informed of evidence-based public health risks from contamination of powdered infant formula during either production, storage or handling. | Ensure that recommendations are available on the proper use of breast-milk substitutes, including necessary quality control. |
| WHA58.33 | Sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance | A58/20 | Few implications; resolution may be a source of confusion because the separation of “social health insurance” is not fully consistent with the Regional Office approach. | Regional Office to continue to provide support to countries on health financing policy and reforms. |

Financial and budgetary matters

| Resolution/decision | Title/Subject | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| WHA58.4 | Appropriation resolution for the financial period 2006–2007 | Proposed Programme Budget 2006–2007 | This budget increase calls for further attention to timely implementation of the Regional Office budget. | The Regional Office to continue improving its programme planning, implementation and monitoring methods. |
| WHA58.7 | Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution | A58/43 Rev.1 | The voting rights of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan were restored by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly. | Help the remaining three countries in the WHO European Region in arrears of their payments (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) to submit proposals for special arrangements for settlement of their arrears. |

Other items of particular interest to the European Region

| Subject | Reference document | Regional implications | Action proposed |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Guiding principles for strategic resource allocations | EB116/5 EB116/14 | The proposed allocation mechanism will have a significant impact on the Regional Office's share of WHO's overall resources from 2008 onwards. | The Regional Office to work closely with Member States in coming discussions on this issue. |

Annex 1

**List of resolutions adopted by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly
Geneva, 16–25 May 2005**

- WHA58.1 Health action in relation to crises and disasters, with particular emphasis on the earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004
- WHA58.2 Malaria control
- WHA58.3 Revision of the International Health Regulations
- WHA58.4 Appropriation resolution for the financial period 2006–2007
- WHA58.5 Strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response
- WHA58.6 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan
- WHA58.7 Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution
- WHA58.8 Arrears in payment of contributions: Georgia
- WHA58.9 Arrears in payment of contributions: Iraq
- WHA58.10 Arrears in payment of contributions: Republic of Moldova
- WHA58.11 Arrears in payment of contributions: Tajikistan
- WHA58.12 Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General
- WHA58.13 Blood safety: proposal to establish World Blood Donor Day
- WHA58.14 Sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control
- WHA58.15 Draft global immunization strategy
- WHA58.16 Strengthening active and healthy ageing
- WHA58.17 International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries
- WHA58.18 Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2004
- WHA58.19 Assessments for 2006–2007
- WHA58.20 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules
- WHA58.21 Real Estate Fund
- WHA58.22 Cancer prevention and control
- WHA58.23 Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation
- WHA58.24 Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders
- WHA58.25 United Nations reform process and WHO's role in harmonization of operational development activities at country level
- WHA58.26 Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol
- WHA58.27 Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance
- WHA58.28 eHealth
- WHA58.29 Enhancement of laboratory biosafety

- WHA58.30 Accelerating the achievement of the internationally agreed health-related development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
- WHA58.31 Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions
- WHA58.32 Infant and young-child nutrition
- WHA58.33 Sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance
- WHA58.34 Ministerial Summit on Health Research