



EUROPE

Tenth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe Fifth session

Vienna, Hofburg Congress Centre, 7 September 2003

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REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION

Introduction

1. The fifth and final session of the Tenth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) was held in the Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna on Sunday, 7 September 2003, the day before the opening of the fifty-third session of the Regional Committee (RC53).

Adoption of the provisional agenda and the provisional programme

2. The provisional agenda and provisional programme were adopted without amendment.

Adoption of the draft report of the fourth session of the Tenth SCRC and the consolidated report of the SCRC to RC53

3. The draft report of the Tenth SCRC's fourth session, held in Geneva on 18 May 2003, was adopted without amendment.

4. During the review of its consolidated report, the SCRC agreed which members would speak from the rostrum to present its views when the corresponding agenda items were considered by RC53. The Chairman would make an overall presentation of the SCRC's main lines of work and comment on the report of its subgroup on membership of the Executive Board.

5. The Standing Committee was concerned that paragraph 49 of its consolidated report did not contain a complete summary of its views on the external evaluation of the Regional Office for Europe's health care reform programmes. It agreed that the Chairman, when presenting that section of its report, should make it clear that the SCRC had felt the evaluation had highlighted some new points that the Regional Office needed to take into account.

6. The consolidated report of the SCRC was endorsed without amendment.

Review of the provisional programme of RC53

7. The Standing Committee was informed that the programme of RC53 had been designed to strike a balance between policy questions, on the one hand, and the five technical subjects it had selected, on the other. There would be no separate item on partnerships with other organizations; instead, selected partners would be invited to take the floor during consideration of each agenda item.

Review of the RC53 paper and draft resolution on *Strategic orientations of the Regional Office's work with geographically dispersed organizational entities, including WHO country offices*

8. The draft resolution that the SCRC had considered at its May meeting had been drawn up before the work on conducting interviews with representatives of the Member States, members of the SCRC and WHO staff had been completed. Those interviews had revealed a kaleidoscope of views, with no consensus understanding of the role of WHO's geographically dispersed organizational entities. The paper had therefore been written, and the draft resolution revised, with the aims of obtaining further feedback from Member States' representatives at RC53 and presenting a strategy in that area for consideration by RC54.

9. The Standing Committee welcomed the analysis of the situation as contained in the RC53 paper. However, it suggested that the Regional Committee should first confirm its endorsement of the principles set out in Professor Silano's report concerning the purpose of the geographically dispersed offices (GDOs) and their governance, funding and relations with other parts of the Organization.

10. Furthermore, the SCRC expressed reservations about the proposal set out in the paper to entrust GDOs or WHO collaborating centres with the function of liaising with the host country. Those entities were established to operate in specific technical fields and did not have an overview of WHO or of the public health policy of the country in question.

11. On the other hand, the SCRC was interested in the results of testing a new type of biennial country agreement in those countries that did not have an allocated country budget, as was being done with Malta.

12. The SCRC therefore advised that, following its initial discussion of the question, one of its members should convey its views when the paper was discussed at RC53. It also recommended that the draft resolution should not be submitted to RC53; instead, it suggested that the Eleventh SCRC could consider the issue in more depth, taking account of the views expressed by Member States, and present a strategy in that area to RC54.

Membership of WHO bodies and committees

13. The SCRC reached agreement by consensus on the candidates that it would recommend for membership of the Executive Board, the SCRC, the Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and the Regional Search Group.

Plan of work of the Eleventh SCRC, 2003–2004

14. The SCRC agreed to review the first draft of its plan of work for 2003–2004 when it met immediately after the close of RC53.