



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-second session

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RESOLUTION

FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution EUR/RC51/R7, which calls on Member States to actively engage in strengthening the health dimension of sustainable development and asks for the recommendations and conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be duly considered when the agenda for the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, June 2004) is developed;

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly at its Fifty-fifth session in 2000, which notes that “We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities...” (paragraph 21);

Acknowledging the Declaration of the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, adopted in Geneva on 5 July 2002, which established a pan-European programme that integrates existing regional initiatives in the area of transport, the environment and health, as part of implementation of the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health and in follow-up of resolution EUR/RC49/R4 calling for such international initiatives;

Having considered the theme and priority issues for the Budapest Conference proposed by the European Environment and Health Committee (as outlined in document EUR/RC52/Inf.Doc./2), as well as the expected policy outcome of a children's health and environment action plan for Europe;

1. THANKS the European Environment and Health Committee for its work in promoting, facilitating and monitoring the actions set out in the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (the London Declaration), including preparation of the agenda for the Budapest Conference;
2. ENDORSES the theme of "The Future for Our Children" for the Budapest Conference and further development of the proposed priority issues, as well as of a children's health and environment action plan for Europe;
3. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to mobilize their political, technical and financial resources for further development of the agenda for the Budapest Conference and in support of the actions to be decided on at that Conference;
 - (b) to further mobilize their political, technical and financial resources to ensure increased implementation of the actions that were decided on at the London Conference, including the new instrument, "THE PEP," and which will be reported on at the Budapest Conference;
4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to continue to provide leadership to the environment and health process in the European Region and to ensure the necessary Regional Office support for the Budapest Conference, the next milestone in this process;
 - (b) to give increased support to Member States in ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
 - (c) to intensify support for the successful implementation of national environmental health action plans in countries undergoing economic transition and those with low incomes.