



## EUROPE

### Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-second session

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#### RESOLUTION

#### SCALING UP THE RESPONSE TO TUBERCULOSIS IN THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA53.1, which recognized that the global burden of tuberculosis (TB) is a major impediment to socioeconomic development and a significant cause of premature death and human suffering and called for the acceleration of TB control by implementing and expanding the strategy of directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS);

Recalling the Amsterdam Declaration in 2000 and the Washington Commitment to Stop TB in 2001, which endorsed the need for rapid acceleration of DOTS expansion to reach the targets for 2005 set by the World Health Assembly (70% detection of infectious cases and 85% treatment success) and the goals for 2010 set out in the Global Plan to Stop TB (50% reduction in mortality and prevalence);

Recognizing that TB is out of control in many countries of central and eastern Europe and newly independent states (NIS), and that rates of multidrug resistant (MDR) TB found there are either the highest in the world among the countries surveyed or unknown in the majority of NIS;

Recognizing that the overall strategy for TB control in the European Region of WHO is to increase detection of infectious cases and treatment success by expansion of the DOTS strategy and thereby to contain the spread of the TB epidemic;

1. ENDORSES the DOTS Expansion Plan to Stop TB in the WHO European Region 2002–2006 contained in document EUR/RC52/9 Add.1, as approved at the twelfth meeting of the Interagency Coordinating Committee focusing on TB in January 2002, in order to strengthen the commitment of all Member States and partners to DOTS expansion in the Region;
  
2. URGES Member States:
  - (a) to ensure that TB is one of the highest priorities on the health and development agenda in the European Region of WHO, and especially in the countries of central and eastern Europe and the NIS;
  
  - (b) to strengthen their political commitment to implementation and expansion of the DOTS strategy, taking due account of the specific features of the tuberculosis situation and control services at country level, and in circumstances where its effectiveness has been demonstrated, in order to reach the targets set by the World Health Assembly for TB control by the end of 2005 and to prevent the onset of new MDR TB cases;
  
  - (c) to promote implementation of the DOTS Plus strategy for the management of MDR TB in countries with high MDR TB rates;
  
  - (d) to rapidly implement adequate preventive measures and scale up the implementation of the DOTS strategy in penitentiary facilities in eastern Europe and the NIS, as well as the integration of TB control in prisons with TB control in the civilian sector, in order to stop the current epidemics of TB and MDR TB in prisons;
  
  - (e) to ensure the availability of and access to high-quality drugs for all forms of TB in all Member States, in particular in the framework of the DOTS and DOTS Plus strategies, taking into consideration the fact that treatment of all detected TB cases is the best means of preventing the spread of TB;
  
  - (f) to increase efforts to secure full collaboration between TB and HIV prevention and control programmes because of the rapidly growing HIV epidemic in the NIS, which is fuelling the dual TB/HIV epidemic;
  
  - (g) to ensure that TB prevention and control become an integral part of primary health care and give them high priority in the context of health system development, while maintaining the fundamentals of TB control following decentralization and integration;
  
  - (h) to sustain and strengthen regional and country-level partnerships for controlling TB at country and regional levels, drawing the attention of the international community and donors to the TB and MDR TB epidemics in the Region;

- (i) to support the Global Partnership to Stop TB;
  - (j) to develop strategies to enhance involvement and collaboration of different actors in the private sector as appropriate;
  - (k) to call on the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to take account, when allocating resources for tuberculosis control, of low-income countries in the European Region;
3. CALLS UPON international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and donors to take joint action with Member States and with the Regional Office to maximize the Region-wide efforts for controlling the TB and MDR TB epidemics in the Region and also to help low-income countries attract donor resources and develop proposals for the Global Fund;
4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to consider TB control as one of the highest priorities on the health agenda for Europe;
  - (b) to ensure support to Member States in order to assess, implement, monitor and evaluate TB control activities aimed at attaining the targets set by the World Health Assembly;
  - (c) as part of strengthening country work within the framework of the Country Focus Initiative, to provide technical support to Member States in need, so that they can develop plans for accessing the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
  - (d) to increase and facilitate intercountry cooperation on TB control in the Region;
  - (e) to support countries' efforts to raise more voluntary donations for TB control, and to promote fund raising to secure additional extrabudgetary resources in support of the Regional Office's activities on TB;
  - (f) to promote partnerships with the donor community at regional and country levels with the aim of scaling up the response to tuberculosis in the European Region;
  - (g) to report periodically to the Regional Committee, as part of his report, on the progress made in implementation of the DOTS Expansion Plan to Stop TB in the WHO European Region 2002–2006.