



**EUROPE**

**Regional Committee for Europe  
Fifty-second session**

**Copenhagen, 16–19 September 2002**

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**RESOLUTION**

**SCALING UP THE RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS  
IN THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in June 2001;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA54.10 and WHA55.12, which called for scaling up of the response to HIV/AIDS;

Noting with satisfaction the report on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria as contained in document EUR/RC52/9, as well as the efforts made by the Regional Director and the Regional Office to scale up activities in response to STI/HIV/AIDS in the European Region;

Taking account of the recommendations of the meeting of European regional directors of the co-sponsoring organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), held in Moscow on 25 and 26 April 2002;

Recognizing that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a major public health crisis of unprecedented proportions in the European Region, which threatens development, social cohesion and political stability and places a significant and unacceptable burden on many countries;

Recognizing that the overall strategy for the European Region is to contain the epidemic and to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection by focusing action on expanding targeted interventions for vulnerable groups, particularly injecting drug users, on enhanced prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI), and on developing comprehensive interventions to promote and protect the health of young people, while simultaneously developing the capacity to respond to a more generalized epidemic;

1. URGES Member States:

(a) to ensure that HIV/AIDS is one of the highest priorities on the health and development agenda, and to develop multisectoral strategies and mechanisms for involving all sectors of society in the response to HIV/AIDS;

(b) to rapidly and significantly scale up the implementation of prevention and control programmes in all countries through development of comprehensive, multisectoral national strategic plans and programmes and allocation of adequate resources for the response to HIV/AIDS, including the development of plans and projects for accessing the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in countries in need;

(c) to promote ethical legislative and normative activities that conform to the highest standards of civil and human rights and protect the privacy and dignity of individuals;

(d) to develop comprehensive programmes for adolescents' and young people's health, promoting the use of condoms and the knowledge and skills required to develop healthy and safe lifestyles;

(e) to promote, enable and strengthen widespread introduction and expansion of evidence-based targeted interventions for vulnerable/high-risk groups, such as prevention, treatment and harm reduction programmes (e.g. expanded needle and syringe programmes, bleach and condom distribution, voluntary HIV counselling and testing, substitution drug therapy, STI diagnosis and treatment) in all affected communities, including prisons, in line with national policies;

(f) to develop a supportive social and legal environment for groups at risk, especially sex workers, and for people living with HIV/AIDS and to fight social and legal exclusion, including travel restrictions;

(g) to make every effort to ensure effective prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS;

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(h) to make every effort to continue preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS through blood transfusion, organ and tissue transplantations, by further ensuring the safety of blood, blood products, tissues and organs supplies, to promote and to strengthen the quality, adequacy and safety of transfusion practice;

(i) to strengthen implementation of the prevention and control of STIs, with increased access and affordability of appropriate and humanized prevention and care services, reaching out in particular to marginalized groups and ensuring their access to such services;

(j) to strengthen and extend HIV population-based systems including sentinel and behavioural surveillance of HIV/AIDS and STI;

(k) to provide universal and affordable access to prevention, treatment and care services for all people at risk including antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, emphasizing the need to ensure its safe and effective use;

(l) to call on the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to take account, when allocating resources for HIV/AIDS control, of low-income countries in the European Region;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(a) taking due account of the role of UNAIDS, to regard the prevention and treatment of STI/HIV/AIDS as one of the highest priorities on the health agenda of the Regional Office and to ensure that the Regional Office has the necessary resources to provide appropriate expertise and assistance to Member States;

(b) to continue cooperating actively with the UNAIDS Secretariat, co-sponsors and other interested parties, in order to provide appropriate technical support to Member States for improved prevention of HIV transmission and a public health approach to safe and effective use of drugs for prophylactic and therapeutic purposes;

(c) to continue collaborating with Member States on promoting the inclusion of integrated approaches to STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in their health systems;

(d) to assist Member States in drawing up and implementing national projects on blood safety, with the aim of attracting donor resources;

(e) 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;

(f) to report annually to the Regional Committee on the progress made in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the European Region.