



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

**Eighteenth Standing Committee
of the Regional Committee for Europe
First session**

Moscow, Russian Federation, 16 September 2010

EUR/RC60/SC(1)/REP
18 November 2010
103290
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Report of the first session

Introduction

1. The Eighteenth Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) held its first session at the Holiday Inn Sokolniki, Moscow, Russian Federation on 16 September 2010, immediately after the close of the sixtieth session of the Regional Committee (RC60).
2. The incoming Chairperson observed that it was the first time his country, Andorra, had chaired a high-level United Nations body. He noted that, in accordance with the provisions of Regional Committee resolution EUR/RC60/R3, the composition of the SCRC had been increased to 12 members and he welcomed the new members from Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom.
3. A European member of the WHO Executive Board and the Chairperson of the Executive Board (also from the European Region) attended the session as observers.

Election of Vice-Chairperson of the SCRC

4. The Standing Committee unanimously selected Dr Lars-Erik Holm (Sweden) as Vice-Chairperson of the Eighteenth SCRC.

Outcome of the sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

5. The SCRC noted the very strong support for the Regional Director (especially on governance issues) that had been expressed by representatives of all Member States attending RC60, and the large number of ministers of health who had been present. Other positive aspects included the renewed importance attached to public health, the close relationship that had been formalized with the European Commission, and the sustained presence of the WHO Director-General.
6. With regard to the practical and procedural arrangement of the session, the SCRC observed that the very large panels of speakers brought together to discuss certain agenda items had perhaps been difficult to handle, and that the introductory statements by SCRC members had become so routine as to risk being devalued. To generate a more informed debate, it could be advantageous to invite scientists to be members of discussion panels in the future.

Plan of work of the Eighteenth SCRC, 2010–2011

7. The Standing Committee reviewed its plan of work for the coming year. Subjects to be taken up would include Health 2020 (the new European health policy), with renewed emphasis on public health; an action plan on noncommunicable disease control (including health promotion); a policy to counteract the harmful effects of alcohol in the WHO European Region; strategies or action plans on handling antimicrobial resistance, multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (M/XDR TB) and HIV/AIDS, and strategies on partnerships and WHO's work in countries. In order for all those items

to be considered in depth, the sixty-first session of the Regional Committee (RC61) might have to be extended to four full days.

8. The SCRC acknowledged that its plan of work was very ambitious and recommended that, difficult though it might be to prioritize those various subjects, some flexibility should be retained in the preparations and programme of RC61. Steps should also be taken to ensure greater coherence between the agendas of sessions of the Regional Committee, on the one hand, and the Executive Board and World Health Assembly, on the other. Lastly, the SCRC should review its methods of work in the light of the recent enlargement of its membership, with the aim of achieving greater transparency in its functioning.

9. The Eighteenth Standing Committee confirmed that it would hold its second session in Andorra on 18 and 19 November 2010 and agreed to meet for its third session at the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen on 30 and 31 March 2011.