

RESOLUTION

OF THE

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC66/R4

HEALTH INTERVENTION AND TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA52.19 (Revised drug strategy, 1999), WHA60.16 (Progress in the rational use of medicines, 2007), WHA60.29 (Health technologies, 2007) and WHA63.21 (WHO's roles and responsibilities in health research, 2010), and its own resolutions SEA/RC55/R4 (Accessibility to essential medicines, 2002), SEA/RC62/R6 (Measures to ensure access to safe, efficacious, quality and affordable medicinal products, 2009), and SEA/RC63/R5 (Regional Strategy on Universal Health Coverage, 2010);

Recognizing the importance of evidence-based policy development in health systems including the decisions on resource allocation, service system designs and translation of policies into practice, as well as reaffirming the roles and responsibilities of the World Health Organization to provide support to strengthen health research capacity and utilization in Member States;

Noting that efficient use of resources is among crucial factors of sustainable health systems, especially when significant increase in access to essential medicines, including generic medicines, medical devices, procedures and other healthcare interventions is pursued by Member States in the South-East Asia Region, as they are moving towards universal health coverage;

Noting that the World Health Report 2010 indicates that the waste in spending on health is as high as 20–40% of the total and, therefore, the urgent need for systematic, effective solutions to reduce such inefficiencies.

Acknowledging the critical role of health intervention and technology assessment, as multidisciplinary policy research, in generating evidence to inform prioritization, selection, distribution, management and introduction of interventions for health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation;

Emphasizing that with rigorous research methodology and transparent and inclusive processes, assessment of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical devices, equipment and procedures could help address the demand for reliable information on the safety, effectiveness, quality and efficiency dimensions of the technologies when they are integrated into particular health systems;

Concerned that capacities to research and document the public health, economic, fiscal, social and ethical implications of health interventions are inadequate in most developing countries, resulting in inadequate information to guide rational policy and professional decisions;

Recognizing the importance of improved national capacity on health intervention and technology assessment and regional networking for evidence-based health policy;

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to consider developing national methodological and process guidelines for health intervention and technology assessment to ensure transparency, quality, and policy-relevance of related research;
- (2) to consider integrating health intervention and technology assessment into national frameworks such as those for health systems research, health professionals education, health systems development, and universal health coverage;
- (3) to use evidence generated from health technology assessments for policy decisions;
- (4) to consider, as appropriate, collaborating with health organizations, academic institutes and other key stakeholders in the countries to formulate national strategic plans concerning capacity development for and introduction of health intervention and technology assessment research;
- (5) to identify and prioritize the countries' gaps in regard to promoting evidence-based health policy as well as improving related research capacity, and consider seeking technical support and exchange of information from other Member States and international agencies, including WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia;
- (6) to consider the potential of health systems research including health intervention and technology assessment, in contributing to national policy development, planning and implementation, including enhancing capacity of regulatory authorities;

- (7) to consider co-sponsoring of an agenda item to discuss the role of health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage at the 134th Session of the WHO Executive Board and the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to ascertain the status of health intervention and technology assessment in Member States of the Region, in terms of human resources and institutional capacity, governance, linkage between health intervention and technology assessment units/network with policy authorities, policy utilization of assessment results, and interests and impediments in strengthening the capacity;
- (2) to foster knowledge on health intervention and technology assessment among national policy-makers and other stakeholders by drawing lessons from the operation, performance and contributions of competent research institutes within and outside the Region, and transferring such experiences to Member States through appropriate channels and activities, including regional networks and academic institutions;
- (3) to integrate health intervention and technology assessment concepts and principles into relevant regional strategies including, but not limited to, those on universal health coverage and rational use of medicines and health technology;
- (4) to provide technical support to Member States, in order to strengthen health intervention and technology assessment capacity;
- (5) to ensure adequate technical and management competency in the Regional Office for South-East Asia and country offices that is essential for addressing the demand for support to facilitate evidence-based policy decisions in Member States;
- (6) to identify and support focal points at the regional and country levels to ensure active, effective and sustainable collaboration, sharing information within and outside the Region;

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