



# JOURNAL

Issued in  
English  
and  
French

Sixty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

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**8–12 October 2018**  
**Manila, Philippines**

**WPR/RC69/DJ/5**  
**12 October 2018**

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## Other information

<b>Venue</b>	Conference Hall, Regional Office for the Western Pacific
<b>Distribution of documents</b>	<p>Electronic copies of all working documents and related material are available at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific website:  <a href="http://www.wpro.who.int/about/regional_committee/69/documents/en/">http://www.wpro.who.int/about/regional_committee/69/documents/en/</a>.</p> <p>Representatives are kindly requested to collect other documents, messages and invitations daily at their designated mailboxes.</p>
<b>Rapporteurs meeting</b>	The meeting will be held daily following the afternoon session at 17:15 in Room 403 (Emergency Operations Centre).
<b>Internet access</b>	<p>Wireless Internet access is available throughout the Regional Office. The network name and password can be obtained from the WHO Enquiry Desk in the Conference Hall foyer.</p> <p>An Internet cafe is located along the corridor of the lower lounge near the Conference Hall. For assistance, please contact IT support staff at the Internet cafe.</p>
<b>WHO publications</b>	Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee are on display in the Conference Hall lounge and in the Regional Office bookshop. A digital publications catalogue is provided on a USB digital flash drive to all representatives.
<b>Security</b>	<p>Please ensure your ID card is displayed at all times while on WHO premises.</p> <p>Should you have any concerns, kindly contact the WHO Conference and Administrative Services Officer, Ms Nguyen Thi Minh Ly, at +63 2 528-9608 (landline) or +63 920-963-5457 (mobile).</p> <p>There is a no smoking policy on WHO premises. Likewise, smoking is prohibited in public areas in Metro Manila.</p>

## I. PROGRAMME OF WORK (FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2018)

### Agenda items 09:00–12:00

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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Item 17</b> | Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee | <i>WPR/RC69/11</i> |
|                | 17.1 Agenda for 2019                                                                                  |                    |
|                | 17.2 WHO reform                                                                                       |                    |
|                | 17.3 Items recommended by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board                           |                    |

### Agenda items 14:00–17:00

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Item 18</b> | Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction: Membership of the Policy and Coordination Committee | <i>WPR/RC69/12</i> |
| <b>Item 19</b> | Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases: Membership of the Joint Coordinating Board                                | <i>WPR/RC69/13</i> |
| <b>Item 20</b> | Time and place of the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the Regional Committee                                                       |                    |
| <b>Item 21</b> | Closure of the session                                                                                                                      |                    |
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### Consideration of draft resolution

Rehabilitation

WPR/RC69/Conference Paper No. 5

**Please Note:** Draft resolution (also known as Conference Paper) was distributed today. Any amendments should be submitted in writing to the Enquiry Desk using specific language. The Conference Paper will be considered for adoption after the morning break.

## II. REPORT OF MEETINGS (THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2018)

### Seventh meeting

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**Chairperson:** Honourable Sir Dr Puka Temu  
Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Papua New Guinea

**Item 12      Rehabilitation**

As a continuation of yesterday's session, interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, the Federated States of Micronesia, Hong Kong SAR (China), New Caledonia, Mongolia, Kiribati, Japan, Macao SAR (China), the United States of America, Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Fiji.

In responding to the interventions, the Director, NCD and Health through the Life-Course, thanked representatives for their comments. She noted the efforts of many Member States to address the issue, which had become more pressing due to the rise of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the challenges presented by rapidly ageing populations. She said the draft *Regional Strategy on Rehabilitation in the Western Pacific*, as the first such strategy developed by any WHO office, had been informed by extensive consultations with Member States. The Director, NCD and Health through the Life-Course, noted that the Strategy paid particular attention to the needs of small island states, as well as the needs of caregivers.

The Technical Lead on Disability and Rehabilitation highlighted the need to integrate rehabilitation services into efforts to strengthen health systems, adding that rehabilitation was central to progress towards universal health coverage (UHC), particularly with ageing populations in the Region that are living longer with chronic conditions or disabilities.

The Chairperson requested the Rapporteurs to draft an appropriate resolution on Rehabilitation for consideration by the Regional Committee.

## **Item 16                    Progress reports on technical programmes**

### **Part 1.**

#### **16.1 Health security**

The Acting Director, Programme Management, introduced the first part of the progress reports on technical programmes by discussing updates on health security. He focused on the impact of the *Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies* (APSED III), the *Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Management for Health*, and the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region*. He said that the first two plans offered Member States common strategic action frameworks to address public health threats and provided guidance on building core capacities required under the International Health Regulations, or IHR (2005). He said that, as a result, the Region is better prepared to face emerging diseases, emergencies and disasters.

The Acting Director, Programme Management, further noted that the Action Agenda for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) had led to substantial progress, with 15 Member States having developed national AMR actions plans. He said the Region must focus on strengthening systems to combat AMR and work on priority diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. He concluded by saying that, despite progress, the Region continues to face enormous challenges and remains under-resourced, both in terms of financial and human resources and systemic capacity to combat AMR.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Australia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Japan, the United States of America, the Federated States of Micronesia, China, Hong Kong SAR (China), the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, Macao SAR (China), Mongolia, Tonga, New Caledonia, Kiribati, Fiji, France, the Marshall Islands and Cook Islands.

The Regional Emergencies Director thanked representatives for their comments and noted their recommendations and requests for support. She highlighted progress on health security over the past year in five areas: 1) strengthened regional surveillance; 2) improved preparedness, citing the exemplary response to the recent Middle East respiratory syndrome outbreak in the Republic of Korea;

3) the value of IHR (2005) monitoring and evaluation framework and related Joint External Evaluations; 4) the special challenges of strengthening health security capacities and preparedness in Pacific island countries and areas; and 5) new developments, including the increase in international Emergency Medical Teams to assist countries in times of need.

The Acting Director, Division of Health Systems, thanked representatives for their interventions and wide support for the OneHealth approach in efforts to combat AMR. He noted that 15 Member States have national AMR action plans in place and five more are being developed, adding that developing action plans with remaining Member States will be a priority in 2019. In addition to assisting countries with plans, he said WHO technical support focused on strengthening health systems around surveillance and advocating behavioural change in the use of antimicrobials. He also noted that elements of other agenda items, such as e-health and health law, would contribute to efforts to combat AMR.

## **Eighth meeting**

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**Chairperson:** Honourable Sir Dr Puka Temu  
Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Papua New Guinea

### **Item 16 Progress reports on technical programmes**

#### **Part 2.**

#### **16.2 Noncommunicable diseases**

#### **16.3 Environmental health**

#### **16.4 Communicable diseases**

The Acting Director, Programme Management, presented the second part of the progress reports on technical programmes, which included combating noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), environmental health and communicable diseases.

With regard to NCDs, he noted the contributions by the programmes on health promotion, mental health and nutrition, as well as the Tobacco Free Initiative, in combating NCDs and advancing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal target of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030.

In the area of environmental health, the Acting Director, Programme Management, noted that WHO is developing a new comprehensive global strategy on health, environment and climate change. He further noted that climate change and air pollution continue to be major public health threats in the Region and cited the efforts of the Director-General and Regional Director in raising the priority of the initiative addressing climate change and the environmental determinants of health in small island developing states and vulnerable settings.

With regard to communicable diseases, the Acting Director, Programme Management, asked the Regional Committee to note the progress made in the implementation of the *Regional Framework for Implementation of the Global Vaccine Action Plan in the Western Pacific* and the *Regional Action Framework for Malaria Control and Elimination in the Western Pacific*, both of which were endorsed in 2016.

In closing, the Acting Director, Programme Management, assured the Regional Committee that WHO is working diligently with Member States across the Region to ensure that efforts to promote health and well-being reach everyone and leave no one behind.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): the Lao People's Democratic Republic, China, Cambodia, Malaysia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Brunei Darussalam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Philippines, Kiribati, Macao SAR (China), Samoa, Japan, the United States of America, Hong Kong SAR (China), New Zealand, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, Tonga, Mongolia, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and France.

Additional interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR (China), Kiribati, the United States of America, New Zealand, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia and Viet Nam.

The Director, NCD and Health through the Life-Course, thanked the representatives for their interventions and noted the links between NCDs and the frameworks and plans adopted during this session, including those on e-health, health law, and hospital planning and management. She said continued progress in fighting NCDs will require national multisectoral responses and whole-of-society, equity-based, life-course approaches. She emphasized the need for approaches that are both top-down and bottom-up, engaging governments, parliamentarians and regulatory authorities, as well as strengthening the health workforce. The Director, NCD and Health through the Life-Course, also emphasized the need to focus on reducing the impact of two significant NCD risk factors: the harmful use of alcohol and tobacco use.

The Acting Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, applauded the leadership of Member States in achieving the goals of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) and pledged WHO support to increase vaccination coverage, and strengthen surveillance and laboratory capacity. He cited the Region's many recent immunization successes, adding that WHO and partners are committed to supporting Papua New Guinea to bring the current polio outbreak under control as soon as possible. He concluded by congratulating the 10 malaria-endemic countries in the Region on progress towards the goal of an Asia Pacific region free of malaria by 2030, highlighting efforts in the Greater Mekong Subregion to combat artemisinin- and insecticide-resistant strains of the disease.

The Acting Director, Programme Management, agreed with the representative who challenged WHO and fellow Member States to do a better job of tackling the NCD crisis. He also emphasized the importance of environmental health and climate change, which he said was an existential issue for some Pacific island countries and areas. He concluded by pointing out the grouping of the three items – NCDs, environmental health and communicable diseases – in this part of the progress reports was not arbitrary. He noted the link between environmental health and NCDs, environmental health and communicable diseases, and co-morbidities involving communicable diseases and NCDs. He pointed out that cervical cancer, rheumatic heart disease, and liver cirrhosis and cancer are NCDs that are complications of communicable diseases, and they can be prevented through targeting their infectious disease causes. Efforts to tackle these conditions must be linked more effectively.

The Regional Director drew attention to special challenges related to hepatitis B and C, noting that the Region has roughly 25% of the world population but 40% of the hepatitis burden. He said hepatitis had been a major challenge during his

decade-long tenure, but one in which there had been important progress. The Regional Director noted the effectiveness of drugs available to cure hepatitis C with an affordable three-month regimen. He added that beyond prevention, there was a need to treat and manage chronic hepatitis cases that could lead to cirrhosis and cancer if left untreated.

In other business, the Regional Director said that informal consultations in the spirit of regional solidarity would continue to achieve consensus on the Region's two nominees for the Executive Board.

#### **Consideration of draft resolutions:**

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft resolution on Harnessing e-health for improved service delivery (WPR/RC69/Conf. Paper No. 1). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft resolution. The draft resolution, with amendments, was adopted (WPR/RC69.R2).

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft resolution on Improving hospital planning and management (WPR/RC69/Conf. Paper No. 2). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted (WPR/RC69.R3).

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft resolution on Neglected tropical diseases (WPR/RC69/Conf. Paper No. 3). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted (WPR/RC69.R4).

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft resolution on Strengthening legal frameworks for health in the Sustainable Development Goals (WPR/RC69/Conf. Paper No. 4). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft resolution. The draft resolution, with amendment, was adopted (WPR/RC69.R5).

### **III. OTHER MEETINGS**

#### **Friday, 12 October 2018**

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<b>12:45–13:45</b>	Let's be active: Everyone, everywhere, everyday (Conference Hall)
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