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Matters arising out of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board

The Sixtieth World Health Assembly adopted 30 resolutions, which are listed in the attached Annex 1.

The Executive Board at its 121st session adopted two resolutions, which are listed in Annex 2.

This document reviews those resolutions, of both a technical and an administrative nature, that are of particular interest to the work of WHO in the European Region.

Documents and resolutions mentioned in this document are available from the Secretariat and can also be downloaded from the Internet (<http://www.who.int/gb>).

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Resolutions adopted by the Sixtieth World Health Assembly of particular interest to the European Region of WHO

Policy and technical matters

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.1	Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks	Reaffirms previous World Health Assembly decisions that remaining stocks of variola virus should be destroyed. However, consensus on a new date is awaited, pending the availability of research outcomes.	The WHO Collaborating Centre for Orthopoxvirus Diagnosis and Repository for Variola Virus Strains and DNA, located at the State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology “VECTOR”, Koltsovo, Novosibirsk Region, Russian Federation is one of the two global repositories for smallpox strains. A delegation from “VECTOR” was present at the World Health Assembly during adoption of the resolution and agrees with its current wording. The Regional Office will continue close collaboration with “VECTOR” to ensure its compliance.
WHA60.11	Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008–2013	<p>The Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) was adopted and is now structured around 13 strategic objectives (SOs). The cross-cutting nature of the SOs was seen as an improved mode of delivery that would enable more synergies and collaboration between individual programmes.</p> <p>The MTSP (covering six years) will be reviewed every two years. For each SO, there are several well-defined Organization-wide results, the achievement of which requires input from all levels of the Organization.</p>	<p>The planning process at the Regional Office is now adjusted to the new SO structure, and teams across division, centre and country offices are collaborating on defining country and regional expected results in support of the Organization-wide expected results.</p> <p>The European Region (both Member States and the Secretariat) have been widely involved in the process of developing the MTSP, and a number of changes were suggested by the Region.</p> <p>See also resolution WHA 60.12 on the 2008–2009 programme budget (below, page 14).</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.14	Polio myelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication	<p>There have been no changes to the Regional Office's position after the discussions and adoption of the resolution by the World Health Assembly. The European Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (RCC) is concerned that the risk of importation of wild poliovirus into the European Region is high. Sustaining awareness and vigilance in polio surveillance and immunization calls for strong political commitment from all Member States. Member States are urged to continue leading the global preparation for the post-eradication era as set out in the current edition of the WHO global action plan for laboratory containment of wild polioviruses.</p> <p>Member States are also urged to enhance political commitment to polio eradication and to establish mechanisms for sustaining the highest levels of polio immunization and surveillance, particularly by strengthening prevention activities among vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>The resolution was adopted with some changes after very positive discussions. Of particular importance is the fact that the World Health Assembly concurred on the need to enhance capacity to limit the international spread of polioviruses, calling on Member States to review and, if appropriate, revise national policies in that regard and requesting the Director-General to take all appropriate actions to reduce international spread including, if and when necessary, the use of temporary or standing recommendations under the International Health Regulations (2005).</p> <p>The European Region has, once again, been certified in June 2007 as remaining polio-free.</p>
WHA60.15	WHO's role and responsibilities in health research	<p>The recommendations within this resolution lend support to the Regional Office's strategic directions for the future. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Regional Office focuses on country support and health systems research; – the resolution supports the continued use of evidence and research to formulate policy options, which is the recommendation of both the global Advisory Committee on Health Research as well as the regional advisory committee; – the recommendation to build effective health information systems can be supported by creating an effective health intelligence service for the benefit of Member States, both for gathering information and evidence, and for disseminating research findings and evidence. 	<p>The Regional Office will continue to promote the use of syntheses of research and evidence and access to evidence-based research networks, in order to draw on the best available research evidence when formulating recommendations to Member States.</p> <p>The Regional Office will continue to emphasize the importance of context and the use of 'contextualized' research evidence, in order to translate research findings and evidence from one Member State to another.</p> <p>The Regional Office will support Member States in gaining access to the best available research on key health topics in the Region through the various information and evidence functions within the Office such as the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the Health Evidence Network, and the Health Intelligence Service.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.16	Progress in the rational use of medicines	<p>The resolution provides a strong rationale for Member States to invest in making better use of medicines, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing waste.</p> <p>The resolution is action-oriented; it stresses the importance of training, of using reimbursement mechanisms for rationalizing drug use, of regulating drug promotion activities, of addressing the use of medicines in hospitals, and of monitoring their use at local and national levels.</p>	<p>The Regional Office will further intensify its assistance to countries both implementing national programmes and approaches to improve the prescribing and use of medicines. It will also strengthen its policy advice on appropriate use of medicines and further involvement of health professionals and patients.</p>
WHA60.17	Oral health: action plan for promotion and integrated disease prevention	<p>Member States are asked to use evidence-based approaches in order to incorporate oral health in integrated policies for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCD), as well as maternal and child health. The resolution also focuses specifically on preschool and schoolchildren. Countries are urged to consider fluoridation of water, milk or salt where systematic programmes have not yet been established. The resolution stresses the general importance of oral health to good health and quality of life, with additional links made to a broad range of programmes such as healthy ageing, HIV/AIDS, human resources for health and tobacco control.</p>	<p>The European NCD strategy already includes oral conditions within the group of noncommunicable diseases to be tackled through an integrated approach. The Regional Office's technical support to countries is strengthened through the active network of WHO collaborating centres for oral health and colleagues at WHO headquarters. Further opportunities for enhancing oral health considerations in a wide range of programmes are being explored.</p>
WHA60.18	Malaria, including proposal for establishment of World Malaria Day	<p>All malaria elimination issues proposed by the regional malaria programme have been very well taken into consideration.</p> <p>A decision has been taken to commemorate World Malaria Day annually on 25 April.</p> <p>International organizations and financing bodies are requested to provide support for capacity-building in countries.</p>	<p>Particular attention is presently being paid to facilitating and promoting national efforts to interrupt <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> malaria in Tajikistan and <i>P. vivax</i> malaria in Turkmenistan and Armenia.</p> <p>Inter-regional collaboration between the European and Eastern Mediterranean regions is being developed.</p> <p>A national malaria elimination campaign has been launched in Turkmenistan.</p> <p>Technical assistance is being provided to develop national plans of action to eliminate <i>P. vivax</i> malaria in Turkmenistan and Armenia by 2010.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.19	Tuberculosis control: progress and long-term planning	<p>There is wide variety among the 53 Member States in terms of the epidemiological situation for tuberculosis, TB control programmes and the organization of health systems.</p> <p>The scale and spread of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug resistant TB in eastern Europe is serious.</p> <p>There is a lack of laboratory capacity and quality to perform high-quality bacteriological investigations.</p> <p>There are increasing numbers of HIV-related TB cases, with the worrying possibility of overlap between HIV and multidrug-resistant TB.</p>	<p>The Regional Office's 2007–2015 Plan to Stop TB in the 18 high-priority countries in the WHO European Region is under preparation. This process is based on the national context and linked to the development of national plans in the Region.</p> <p>WHO offered extensive technical assistance to all countries eligible to apply to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) under round 6, as well as to countries implementing previous GFATM grants. In 2006, the European Region had the highest approval rate of GFATM TB proposals in the world: 11 countries applied and 10 countries were approved. This support is envisaged to continue in 2007.</p> <p>The WHO European Ministerial Forum on TB will be held in Berlin, Germany on 22 October 2007, to bring together ministers of health, finance and economic planning with recognized global TB control leaders and donor representatives in order to focus attention on the serious economic and social consequences of the TB epidemic. The anticipated result of the forum will be a Declaration of Commitment to strengthen political commitment and leverage human and financial resources for TB control efforts.</p>
WHA60.20	Better medicines for children	<p>This resolution will help to encourage research and development on medicines for children, and to strengthen regulatory approaches. Specific emphasis will be placed on including medicines for children in national drug reimbursement lists.</p> <p>European experts will support the extended normative work in line with this resolution. Finland was one of the main sponsors of this resolution.</p>	<p>The Regional Office will continue to support Member States in updating their national formularies and clinical guidelines, specifically with regard to medicines for children, and ensuring that these paediatric medicines are increasingly accessible in national health systems.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.21	Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders	<p>The elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) in Bulgaria and Armenia has jointly been recognized by WHO, UNICEF and the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Attention is currently focused on improving the quality and coverage of salt iodization. In view of the high prevalence of hypertension and the need to reduce sodium intake, salt iodization strategies should be adequately monitored and revised.</p>	<p>WHO has organized a technical consultation to discuss the reconciliation of recommendations concerning salt and iodine. The conclusions from such consultations should be implemented in countries.</p> <p>Collaboration with UNICEF on this topic will be strengthened.</p>
WHA60.22	Health systems: emergency-care systems	<p>The Regional Office already has considerable experience in the field of emergency care: tools for contextual analysis and for planning and system development have been developed and tested.</p> <p>Intersectoral integration and, ultimately, future sustainability should be the focus of new research activities.</p> <p>More attention will be focused on emergency care as part of an integrated model of care for acute patients.</p> <p>The Regional Office will assist Member States in drawing up norms and standards appropriate to national conditions and will help them with curricula development.</p>	<p>The number of Member States who request WHO assistance in the field of emergency care is growing exponentially.</p> <p>In particular, guidance on the creation and strengthening of mass casualty management systems needs to be adopted and disseminated throughout the Region and beyond.</p> <p>The results of the Regional Office's work on emergency care will be taken up as part of the background documentation for the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems in 2008.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.23	Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy	<p>Member States are urged to strengthen national and local political will to prevent and control NCD; to establish national coordinating mechanisms; to ensure that multisectoral action is taken; to draw up evidence-based national action plans; and to make NCD prevention and control an integral part of programmes aimed at strengthening primary health care systems.</p> <p>The resolution refers to personal responsibility but emphasizes the key role of governments, including their regulatory function, when combating NCD.</p> <p>The resolution makes explicit mention of musculoskeletal conditions and also refers to a link to mental health, which is a relatively new approach globally but already reflected in the European NCD strategy.</p> <p>New emphasis is placed on increasing the availability of healthy food and promoting the responsible marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, in dialogue with stakeholders, including the private sector.</p> <p>Alcohol was neglected in the recent global NCD report but it is now explicitly mentioned in the resolution; this is a welcome move, in line with the European approach.</p> <p>The resolution calls for a global NCD action plan 2008–2013, which should also include action at regional level.</p>	<p>At the Regional Office, the adoption of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (resolution EUR/RC56/R2) guides the support that the Secretariat will provide to Member States. This strategy already refers to interventions at population level, targeting high-risk groups and better disease management, all of which are features of the global resolution.</p> <p>Other important strategies and their corresponding action plans include the European Strategy on Tobacco Control (resolution EUR/RC52/R12), the Framework for Alcohol Policy (discussed by the Regional Committee in 2005), the Mental Health Action Plan for Europe (resolution EUR/RC55/R2), and the upcoming Second European Food and Nutrition Action Plan, building on the first action plan and backed up by the European Ministerial Conference and the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity. Given these recent initiatives and related work, the Regional Office is well placed to support the new emphasis on food marketing.</p> <p>Internally, greater collaboration and synergy have been forged between NCD programmes and those dealing with specific risk factors, as well as with the Health Systems Division.</p> <p>The Regional Office will offer support regarding alcohol, since it has traditionally a lead position and experience in this area.</p> <p>A global action plan for NCD prevention and control is being prepared for submission to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly. The Regional Office has already offered support and shared its action plan for implementation of the European Strategy.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.24	Health promotion in a globalized world	The resolution includes a mandate to address the wider determinants of health and provides a framework for work already taking place in the Region within the overall approach of strengthening health systems, including initiatives to build public health capacity and encourage investment for health. It will be important to ensure that Member States have an integrated approach to promoting health that matches their capacity and also focuses on decreasing health inequities.	Actions taken by the Regional Office include: integrating a focus on health promotion, social determinants and equity into the strategy for building public health capacity; and integrating know-how on these issues into the approach for strengthening health systems (including primary health care).
WHA60.25	Integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO: draft strategy	<p>This resolution urges Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – incorporate gender considerations into strategic, operational and budget planning; – address gender issues in health policies; – ensure that a gender equality perspective is included in health care services, including those for adolescents and young people; – collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data; and – make progress towards gender equality in the health sector. 	<p>The Regional Office will integrate the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across all its technical assistance at regional and country levels. It will also strengthen the ability of Member States to integrate gender analysis in their health policies and programmes through capacity-building, collection and dissemination of good practices and direct technical assistance.</p> <p>The Regional Office will link with the European Union’s Gender Institute and the Council of Europe to monitor progress on integrating gender into health policies.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.26	Workers' health: global plan of action	<p>In this resolution the World Health Assembly endorses the Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008–2017 and urges Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – devise national policies, plans, mechanisms and legal frameworks to implement the Plan; – cover vulnerable working populations with basic occupational health services; – build institutional and human capabilities for dealing with the special health needs of working populations; – ensure collaboration among all the national health programmes relevant to workers' health; – promote international cooperation between developed and developing countries. <p>It also requests the Director-General to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – implement the Plan with a definite timeline and indicators; – strengthen collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other related international organizations on workers' health; – strengthen the network of WHO collaborating centres as an important mechanism for implementation. 	<p>The Regional Office will support Member States in strengthening their health systems by addressing workers' health and implementing the Global Plan, with the following activities tailored to the specific situation in each country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – develop or update national strategy, action plan and programmes on workers' health; – produce good practice guidelines and an information base for primary prevention and health promotion at the workplace; – strengthen cooperation between services responsible for occupational health, NCD and the prevention of accidents and injuries within government systems; – mobilize the resources of WHO collaborating centres for occupational health as key partners. <p>As intercountry activities, the Regional Office will collaborate with ILO, the European Union and other subregional networks for joint regional and country efforts on workers' health, narrowing the inequalities between the countries.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.27	Strengthening of health information systems	<p>This resolution recognizes that strengthening health information systems is a core strategy for the overall development of national health systems, and it urges Member States to mobilize human, financial and other resources to support this work.</p> <p>The resolution also forms the background and common framework for strengthening activities on health statistics and information in the Region.</p>	<p>The Regional Office's Health Information unit and other parts of its Health Intelligence service are being strengthened to ensure the availability and quality of core data and information across the whole Office.</p> <p>The Regional Office will continue to improve access to and dissemination of international health statistics through the development and regular updating of statistical databases, thus maintaining and enhancing the Office's function as a source of international health data.</p> <p>Direct support to countries for strengthening their health information systems is included in the respective biennial cooperation agreements (BCAs).</p> <p>The Regional Office will continue to support the guiding principles set out in the Health Metrics Network Framework.</p> <p>The Regional Office will intensify its work with other international agencies, primarily the European Commission and OECD, on developing common standards and harmonizing international health data collection.</p>

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.28	Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits	<p>This resolution defines in detail the roles and responsibilities of Member States and WHO in influenza surveillance and response to avian or pandemic influenza.</p> <p><u>Operative paragraph 1</u></p> <p>Subparagraph (1) emphasizes that Member States, by sharing viruses with the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN), are making a major contribution to public health and that they have a role to play in the process of ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits (diagnostics, medicines, vaccines). This subparagraph makes no distinction between seasonal and novel influenza viruses.</p> <p>Subparagraph (3) stipulates Member States' role in enhancing equitable access to pandemic vaccines.</p>	<p>The situation in some Member States in the European Region is similar to that in south-east Asian countries (this partly accounted for the need to draft resolution WHA60.28), namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Member States' contribution to GISN has stagnated due to the collapse of influenza surveillance in countries of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia (action by the Regional Office: capacity-building is ongoing); – Member States are dependent on WHO laboratories for testing capacity (action by the Regional Office: efforts to ensure smooth shipment and develop laboratory capacity are ongoing); – seasonal influenza vaccine uptake is low (action by the Regional Office: make an inventory and influence policy); – vaccine manufacturing capacity is lacking, except in the Russian Federation (action by the Regional Office: identify opportunities); and – virus-sharing may be influenced by a recent decision by the Russian Federation to ban the export of materials for clinical research and analysis. This is particularly relevant as the Russian Federation has agreements with countries that are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for sharing of avian influenza viruses (action by the Regional Office: determine the consequences).

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.28 <i>continued</i>	Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits <i>continued</i>	<p><u>Operative paragraph 2</u></p> <p>Global surveillance is not explicitly mentioned; WHO is tasked to build capacity in countries to detect, diagnose and manage outbreaks of influenza and to perform and participate in research; to establish a stockpile of vaccines for H5N1 or other influenza viruses, to establish mechanisms for equitable access to pandemic vaccines, to build country capacities for vaccine manufacturing, to include equal representation of developed and developing countries in the interdisciplinary working group, to provide an expert report on patent issues related to influenza viruses and their genes, and to revise the terms of reference of WHO collaborating centres, H5 reference laboratories and national influenza centres, including the terms and conditions for sharing viruses.</p> <p>In general, WHO should empower developing countries, in particular, to participate in the global surveillance of influenza at a much deeper level than just supplying the viruses.</p>	Revision of the terms of reference of WHO laboratories (WHO collaborating centres, H5 reference laboratories and national influenza centres) should take into account the important role that the Regional Office plays in detecting and responding to outbreaks and in facilitating the sharing of information and viruses by Member States.
WHA60.29	Health technologies	<p>The economic and technical challenges posed by health technologies (HT) to health systems need to be addressed.</p> <p>In this resolution, Member States are urged to collect and exchange information on HT for appropriate prioritization and subsequent national policy development; to establish national/regional regulatory structures and tools for the production, selection/assessment, procurement, and use as applicable of HT (particularly medical devices).</p> <p>Partnership with various stakeholders (health care, industry, patients) is part of this process.</p>	<p>The definition of health technologies remains vague: “organized knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of lives”. However emphasis is placed on devices.</p> <p>The Regional Office Secretariat will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) encourage Member States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to collect, review and exchange information on existing HT; – to establish regulatory structures for management of medical devices; (b) support the development and use of modern tools for assessing HT/medical devices; (c) help Member States to identify appropriate HT/ medical devices that facilitate quality services in PHC and address priority diseases.

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.30	Public health, innovation and intellectual property	The resolution stresses the importance of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG) and calls for increased (financial) support and commitment by Member States and the WHO Secretariat.	<p>The Regional Office will organize (with the Portuguese Ministry of Health) a consultation for all European Member States to discuss the draft global strategy and plan of action, before the fifty-seventh session of the Regional Committee.</p> <p>The second session of the IGWG is planned for 5–10 November 2007.</p> <p>The Regional Office will continue to work with the WHO headquarters Secretariat and the IGWG Bureau on preparation of the relevant documentation.</p> <p>The Regional Office may provide support to Member States that express interest in using the flexibilities available under the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) for improving access to medicines.</p>

Administrative, financial and budgetary matters

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.3	Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2006 and comments thereon made by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board	<p>The interim unaudited financial report for 2006 was noted. Key global figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – programme income US\$ 2 billion; – expenditure US\$ 1.4 billion; – overall global implementation rate: 47%; – rate of implementation of voluntary contributions (VC): 39%. 	<p>For the Regional Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – compared with the regular budget (RB) of US\$ 58.1 million, implementation has been 53.8%; – compared with VC of US\$ 154.9 million, implementation has been 31.6%; – Overall Regional Office implementation rate: 37.7%.

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.4	Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	The rate of collection for 2006 was 89%. Contributions were received in full from 133 of 193 Member States. Unpaid contributions amounted to US\$ 87 million, with a further US\$ 56 million under special repayment arrangements previously authorized by the World Health Assembly.	Only one Regional Office Member State remains without voting right (amount due US\$ 1.2 million). Nine Member States have negotiated repayment schedules previously endorsed by the World Health Assembly and are all keeping to their individual payment plans. Of the unpaid contributions under this arrangement, US\$ 48.6 million (of US\$ 56 million total) are due from these nine European Member States.
WHA60.5	Scale of assessments 2008–2009	This is a statutory item that lays down the actual scale of assessments for all Member States. The United Nations scale will be used for 2008–2009.	The need for timely payments by all European Member States should be stressed.
WHA60.6	Assessment of new Member	The World Health Assembly welcomed the Republic of Montenegro as a new Member State of WHO.	Montenegro became the 193rd Member State of WHO. The scale of assessment for Montenegro is 0.001%.
WHA60.7	Appointment of External Auditor	Nominations were sought for a four-year period. Valid nominations were received from India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Nominations from Ghana, Malaysia and Ukraine were received too late. After a vote, India was appointed for second term.	The Regional Office will continue to work closely with the external auditor. The Office has hitherto had very good collaboration with the Indian auditors and hence welcomes their function for the second and last term.
WHA60.8	Financial period 2006–2007: implementation of resolution WHA58.4	This resolution takes its point of departure from resolution WHA58.4, which requested the Director-General to set up a tracking system for follow-up of internal/external audit recommendations. The resolution provides that surplus miscellaneous income from 2006–2007 up to US\$ 7 million may be used for financing informatics technology and other investment costs for implementation of the Global Management System (GSM).	The Regional Office has already systematically started implementing this resolution in response to the most recent internal audit. Our response was tabulated and noted the responsible officers. The Regional Office's internal audit of spring 2007 was satisfactorily responded to and closed by the time of WHA60.

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA60.9	Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules: Introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards	This resolution endorses the transition from the United Nations System Accounting Standards hitherto used by WHO to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Organization's financial regulations are revised accordingly. All changes are to be effective on 1 January 2008.	The Regional Office supports this change and sees it as a logical endeavour to modernize essential operational and administrative procedures to better support the result-based management framework embedded in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008–2013 (MTSP).
WHA60.10	Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules	The resolution makes provision for adjustment of the salary scale of senior WHO officers: Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Regional Directors and Assistant Directors-General.	
WHA60.12	Appropriation resolution for the financial period 2008–2009	<p>Appropriates the programme budget for 2008–2009 (first biennium of MTSP) at a total of US\$ 4.2 billion (US\$ 1 billion from assessed contributions and US\$ 3.2 billion from voluntary contributions).</p> <p>The appropriation resolution follows the strategic objective framework, and both RB and VC figures are by strategic objective level.</p>	The programme budget 2008–2009 for the European Region sets the total budget at US\$274 million (RB US\$ 63 million and VC US\$ 211 million). Of particular importance is the increase in RB from US\$ 58 million to US\$ 63 million; this notable increase for the Region is by decision of the Director-General and is the result of intervention and support from European Member States and final recognition that the Region was previously underfunded in terms of the RB.

Resolutions adopted by the 121st session of the Executive Board of particular interest to the European Region of WHO

Resolution	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
EB121.1	Methods of work of the Executive Board	<p>Criteria were agreed for additional items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of Executive Board sessions. Such items should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – address a global health issue; – constitute a new subject within the scope of WHO; or – represent a significant public health burden. <p>Resolutions introduced should contain a time-limit for validity, make provision for review, follow-up reporting on implementation and take account of policy, programmatic and financial implications.</p>	The criteria will be communicated to Member States by WHO headquarters when proposals for additional items are invited.
EB121.2	Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines: establishment of a subcommittee	This is a welcome addition to the normative work on essential medicines that WHO headquarters has been doing since 1977, and in line with resolution WHA60.20 on “Better medicines for children”.	The Regional Office is supportive and European experts will be invited to join the subcommittee.

Annex 1

**List of resolutions adopted by the Sixtieth World Health Assembly
Geneva, 14–23 May 2007**

- WHA60.1 Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks
- WHA60.2 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
- WHA60.3 Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2006 and comments thereon made by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board
- WHA60.4 Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution
- WHA60.5 Scale of assessments 2008–2009
- WHA60.6 Assessment of new Member
- WHA60.7 Appointment of the External Auditor
- WHA60.8 Financial period 2006–2007: implementation of resolution WHA58.4
- WHA60.9 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules Introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards
- WHA60.10 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules
- WHA60.11 Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008–2013
- WHA60.12 Appropriation resolution for the financial period 2008–2009
- WHA60.13 Control of leishmaniasis
- WHA60.14 Poliomyelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication
- WHA60.15 WHO's role and responsibilities in health research
- WHA60.16 Progress in the rational use of medicines
- WHA60.17 Oral health: action plan for promotion and integrated disease prevention
- WHA60.18 Malaria, including proposal for establishment of World Malaria Day
- WHA60.19 Tuberculosis control: progress and long-term planning
- WHA60.20 Better medicines for children
- WHA60.21 Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders
- WHA60.22 Health systems: emergency-care systems

- WHA60.23 Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy
- WHA60.24 Health promotion in a globalized world
- WHA60.25 Integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO: draft strategy
- WHA60.26 Workers' health: global plan of action
- WHA60.27 Strengthening of health information systems
- WHA60.28 Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits
- WHA60.29 Health technologies
- WHA60.30 Public health, innovation and intellectual property

Annex 2

**List of resolutions adopted by the 121st session of the Executive Board
Geneva, 24 May 2007**

- EB121.R1 Methods of work of the Executive Board
- EB121.R2 Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines: establishment of a subcommittee