

RESOLUTION

OF THE

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC68/R5

CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL—THE WAY FORWARD

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in 2011, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA 58.22 on cancer control strategy and WHA 65.10 on prevention and control of NCDs, and WHO South-East Asia Regional Committee Resolutions SEA/RC/65/R5, SEA/RC66/R6 and SEA/RC67/ R4 related to NCDs,

Concerned at the high and increased disease burden of cancer in SEAR Member States and its negative health and socioeconomic impacts,

Aware that tobacco use is the single greatest avoidable risk factor for cancer mortality worldwide, causing an estimated 22% of cancer deaths per year; physical inactivity, dietary factors, obesity and overweight are risk factors for certain cancers, excess consumption of red and preserved meat is associated with increased risk of colorectal cancer, and alcohol use is a risk factor for certain cancers; infectious agents are responsible for 22% of cancer mortality in the developing countries and 6% in developed countries; and air pollution and exposure to occupational carcinogens contribute to certain cancers,

Noting that many cancers are preventable, can be detected early and treated, which improves survival and quality of life; and concerned that late stage cancers result in catastrophic health expenditures and impoverishing households, and noting the inequities within and across countries on cancer prevention and control,

Recognizing the need for comprehensive cancer services including promotion, prevention of modifiable risk factors, early detection and treatment, and the availability of affordable diagnostics, medical products and palliative care,

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to develop/strengthen a comprehensive national cancer prevention and control programme, integrated within a broader multisectoral NCD action plan, with time-bound benchmarks and targets, effective governance and accountability, adequate and sustainable financing for programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- (b) to prioritize cancer prevention and implement multisectoral actions for primary prevention of cancer risk factors, in particular tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet and diet-related, physical inactivity, infections causing cancers, behavioural risk factors, exposure to environmental risk factors and occupational carcinogens; create public awareness to reduce modifiable risk factors and strengthen community-based interventions;
- (c) to consider introducing or strengthening the innovative financing such as tobacco and alcohol taxes to support primary preventions of cancer, and in the context of comprehensive NCD preventions and control;
- (d) to strengthen national Hepatitis B immunization programme for births and infants, strengthen cervical cancer screening; consider introduction of affordable vaccination programmes, as appropriate in line with national policy and priorities;
- (e) to strengthen all levels of the health delivery system to provide prevention, early detection and screening, diagnostic and the ranges of cancer treatment, effective pain management and palliative care including opioid as appropriate, while ensuring the availability of affordable essential medicines, technologies and vaccines;
- (f) to establish or strengthen population-based cancer registries for effective programme monitoring and evaluation, as well as epidemiological, applied and operational research to generate local evidence for effective policy formulations; and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to support Member States in developing and implementing comprehensive cancer prevention and control programme and establishment of population-based cancer registries;
- (b) to establish, strengthen and expand partnership with multisectoral stakeholders to continue advocacy for cancer prevention and control; and
- (c) to promote epidemiological, applied and operational research and training on cancer through close collaboration with national research agencies and International Agency for Research in Cancer including to identify effective and affordable cancer-related medical products.

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