



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Africa

AFR/RC51/R3

29 August 2001

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 27 August–1 September 2001

RESOLUTION

ADOLESCENT HEALTH: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the Regional Committee resolution AFR/RC45/R7 on “The health of youth and adolescents: A situation report and trends analysis”, and the concern for the health and well-being of adolescents expressed through various instruments, both globally and regionally;

Cognizant of adolescence as an important phase in human development, characterized by significant changes that typify the transition from childhood to adulthood;

Recognizing that common health problems of adolescents such as early and high-risk pregnancies, complications of abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, noncommunicable diseases, depression and suicides are linked to behaviour and are inter-related;

Aware of the critical roles that families, schools, communities, religious institutions, governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and work, leisure and recreational places play in contributing to the health and development of adolescents;

Conscious of the multisectoral and multidisciplinary approaches to address adolescent health and development;

Appreciating the efforts of Member States and partners to improve the health and development of adolescents;

1. APPROVES the regional strategy on adolescent health as proposed in document AFR/RC51/10;
2. COMMENDS the Regional Director for promoting and supporting adolescent health and development in the Region;
3. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to accord adolescent health and development priority in their national social and economic development agenda;
 - (b) to review, develop, implement and evaluate national policies and programmes on adolescent health and development;

- (c) to reorient and build the capacity of the health sector to provide basic services to meet the special needs of adolescents, including those in difficult circumstances, through the active participation of young people, families, communities, religious leaders, local NGOs and other relevant partners;
- (d) to build multisectoral partnerships and strengthen collaboration to increase resources for adolescent health and development;
- (e) to equip young people with the requisite skills to enable them to participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of adolescent health policies and programmes;

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to continue to advocate for adolescent health programmes and to mobilize adequate resources for their implementation;
- (b) to provide technical support to Member States for the development and implementation of national policies and programmes on adolescent health;
- (c) to mobilize governments, agencies of the United Nations, NGOs and other stakeholders to organize youth seminars and conferences to discuss the problems and challenges of adolescents in order to improve their health and development;
- (d) to support institutions and national experts to carry out research on the problems and needs of adolescent health;
- (e) to report to the Regional Committee in 2003 on progress made in implementing adolescent health programmes at national and regional levels.

Fifth meeting, 29 August 2001