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RESOLUTION

CHILD SURVIVAL: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION
(document AFR/RC56/13)

The Regional Committee,

Alarmed that of the 10.6 million children who die every year globally, 4.6 million are from the African Region, and that the majority of these under-five deaths are due to a small number of common, preventable and treatable conditions;

Taking due account of the fact that Millennium Development Goal number 4 aims to reduce under-five mortality by two thirds by 2015 compared to 1990 levels;

Recognizing that international treaties and conventions, including the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Special Session on Children (2002) and the WHO/UNICEF Global Consultation on Child and Adolescent Health and Development (2002), emphasize the inherent right to quality life and the urgency to reduce child mortality;

Considering that children represent the future of Africa and that investing in their health is imperative to ensure a healthier and more productive generation for the socioeconomic development and prosperity of the Region;

Mindful of the fact that the OAU African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990), the strategy for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in 1999, and the Tripoli Declaration on Child Survival adopted by the African Union Assembly in 2005, recognize the urgent need to accelerate action for child survival;

Having carefully examined the document entitled "Child survival: a strategy for the African Region", jointly developed by WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank, proposing a strategy on child survival for the African Region;

1. APPROVES the proposed strategy for child survival in the African Region;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to put in place the policies needed for effective implementation of the child survival strategy;
 - (b) to strengthen national capacity to effectively plan, implement and monitor activities, including implementing policies that address the issue of child survival in the context of health-care delivery systems;
 - (c) to ensure the relevance and consistency of messages for priority child survival preventive interventions and develop national communication strategies to support integrated health promotion activities with a focus on empowering individuals, families and communities;
 - (d) to ensure consensus-building, harmonization of interventions and resource mobilization from within and outside the country, within the framework of maternal, newborn and child health partnerships;
 - (e) to conduct operational research in priority areas in order to improve policy, planning, implementation and scaling up of cost-effective child survival interventions;
 - (f) to assess, document and share experiences and programmatic efforts to achieve set goals so as to apply the lessons learnt during the expansion phase and for advocacy purposes;
 - (g) to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, including gathering baseline data and tracking progress, documenting the data and sharing them among countries and regions;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to stimulate partnerships and work with UNICEF, the World Bank and other relevant partners to support the implementation of this strategy;
 - (b) to advocate for the scaling up of priority interventions and mobilization of resources;

- (c) to provide technical support to countries to scale up child survival interventions by strengthening country and intercountry capacities, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and health management information;
- (d) to support countries to identify, document and widely disseminate best practices in implementing these interventions;
- (e) to support countries to develop capacity for operational research;
- (f) to facilitate coordination and collaboration with the African Union and regional economic communities;
- (g) to report every other year on progress in the implementation of the child survival strategy for the African Region.

Fourth meeting, 29 August 2006