



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Sixty-second session

Luanda, Republic of Angola, 19–23 November 2012

**RESOLUTION**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CURRENT SITUATION AND WAY  
FORWARD IN THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC62/11)**

The Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa,

Having considered the report on “Health and human rights: current situation and way forward in the African Region” (Document AFR/RC62/11);

Bearing in mind that the 1946 Constitution of the World Health Organization asserts that “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition”;

Recalling the principles of the 1978 Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care, the 1998 Health-for-All Policy for the Twenty-first Century, and the 2008 Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa: Achieving Better Health for Africa in the New Millennium, which reaffirm health as a fundamental human right;

Recalling further that the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights states that “every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health” and that States “shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick”;

Aware that the Strategic Directions for WHO in the African Region (2010-2015) commit WHO to supporting countries to develop health policies and strategies that enhance equity and are responsive to gender and based on human rights;

Recognizing that international and regional human rights treaties as well as national constitutions make it incumbent upon State Parties to protect, fulfil and promote the right to health;

Recognizing the principle of progressive realization that requires Member States to take steps using maximum available resources towards progressively achieving the full realization of their citizens’ right to health;

1. **ENDORSES** Document AFR/RC62/11 entitled “Health and human rights: current situation and way forward in the African Region”;

2. **URGES** Member States:

- (a) to uphold the right to health in legal frameworks including national constitutions and put in place mechanisms for their implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- (b) to protect the right to healthcare of marginalized and vulnerable groups of people without any discrimination within the context of national legal frameworks; and conduct research on health and human rights;
- (c) to ensure universal health coverage through equitable and efficient health financing strategies, in order to define the minimum essential elements of the right to health to include equitable access to health facilities, goods and services; access to health-related education and information;
- (d) to adopt an overarching policy and/or law on the regulation of health research and establish adequately resourced national and institutional ethics committees to review and approve research involving human participants;
- (e) to strengthen the technical capacities of the ministries of health, health-related sectors and other stakeholders to work with human rights bodies and the Regional Office to monitor, evaluate and uphold the right to health;
- (f) to strengthen the competencies of health workers with regard to knowledge of human rights treaties, conventions, standards and norms and their application in health care and health research;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director:

- (a) to promote the human rights approach in health development in the light of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and UN Human Rights mechanisms;
- (b) to support Member States in designing health policies and strategies based on human rights standards and norms of relevance to their health systems' needs;
- (c) to support Member States in strengthening capacities and expertise in human rights-based approach to health development;
- (d) to develop monitoring tools in order to evaluate progress;
- (e) to develop guidelines, grounded on basic human rights tenets, for health research;
- (f) to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Sixty-fifth session of the Regional Committee and thereafter.