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RESOLUTION

POLIOMYELITIS ERADICATION IN THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC61/11)

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the progress report of the Regional Director on the current status of poliomyelitis eradication in the African Region;

Recalling resolutions AFR/RC52/R2 on the Regional strategy for immunization during the period 2003-2005; AFR/RC56/R1 on the Regional strategic plan for the Expanded Programme on Immunization 2006-2009; and AFR/RC60/R4 on Routine Immunization and polio eradication in the African Region;

Recognizing that while significant gains have been made in reducing wild poliovirus transmission in the African Region since the beginning of the polio eradication programme in the Region, a few countries continue to have persistent transmission of wild poliovirus;

Concerned that the remaining countries with poliovirus transmission in the African Region have been adjudged by the Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative as being unlikely to achieve interruption of persistent wild poliovirus transmission at the current level of programme performance;

Noting that transmission of poliovirus in any country poses risks of cross-border spread to countries within and beyond the Region;

Appreciating the very high level of commitment to the goal of Poliomyelitis Eradication among political leaders in the African Region;

Appreciating that some Member States are increasing domestic resources for the implementation of Polio Eradication strategies;

1. **ADOPTS** the Report of the Regional Director (Document AFR/RC61/11) and endorses the proposed actions to address the remaining challenges to Polio Eradication in the Region;

2. URGES all Member States where poliovirus continues to circulate or is newly detected:
 - (a) to declare the persistence of polio a national public health emergency;
 - (b) to systematically engage all leaders including political, traditional and other community leaders, at national and local levels, to ensure that all targeted children are reached during vaccination campaigns so that all the remaining transmission of wild poliovirus is interrupted as rapidly as possible;
3. URGES countries with re-established transmission of wild poliovirus (Angola, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo) and endemic for poliovirus transmission (Nigeria) to implement priority actions articulated in Emergency Plans aimed at ensuring interruption of poliovirus transmission within the shortest possible time;
4. URGES all Member States of the African Region:
 - (a) to achieve and maintain routine immunization coverage of at least 90%;
 - (b) to enhance surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and attain certification level standards at subnational level to rapidly detect any poliovirus circulation, and to ensure that response activities are implemented within four weeks of confirmation of any poliomyelitis case due to a new importation in a polio-free area;
 - (c) to improve the quality of poliomyelitis eradication Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) through improving vaccination delivery strategies, community demand and participation as well as strengthening independent monitoring of SIAs and use of the independent monitoring data to guide implementation of immediate remedial action where coverage is less than 90%;
 - (d) to strengthen cross-border collaboration in enhancing the quality of immunization and surveillance activities;
 - (e) to ensure that adequate level of domestic resources are mobilized for the implementation of the polio eradication strategies.
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to provide technical support to Member States for the implementation of identified poliomyelitis eradication priority activities;
 - (b) to liaise with the African Union and regional economic communities to promote subregional poliomyelitis eradication initiatives;
 - (c) to strengthen partnerships with international and multilateral agencies, donor organizations and philanthropic foundations in order to mobilize the financial resources required for full implementation of the intensified eradication efforts;
 - (d) to report on progress to the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee and on a regular basis thereafter until the transmission of wild poliovirus is stopped in the African Region.