



R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE RÉGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC74.R3
19 October 2023

HEALTH SECURITY

The Regional Committee,

Recalling Member State commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, including to strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks; the WHO *Thirteenth General Programme of Work (2019–2025)* global target of a billion more people better protected from health emergencies by 2025; and the health security thematic priority in the Western Pacific vision, *For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region*;

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolutions: during the COVID-19 response in 2020 requesting that WHO strengthen capacities at all levels to perform its functions under the International Health Regulations (2005) (WHA73.1); in 2021 on strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies to support governments in their efforts to prepare for and respond to health emergencies (WHA74.7); in 2022 on strengthening health emergency preparedness and response in urban settings (WHA75.7); and in 2022 on strengthening clinical trials to provide evidence and improve research quality and coordination (WHA75.8);

Recognizing the threat of widening inequities due to public health emergencies, and the subsequent importance of health security strengthening in enabling and driving sustainable development for all;

Noting the complex mix of social, economic and environmental challenges faced by Pacific island countries and areas, and their consequently greater vulnerability to the impacts of public health emergencies;

Affirming the value of strategic investments in health security made in the Region over nearly two decades, guided by the *Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies*, and the collective experiences of countries and areas in responding to public health emergencies;

Stressing the need for more comprehensive, integrated, multi-hazard and multisectoral approaches to health security, and for capacity development at national and subnational levels,

1. ENDORSES the *Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework*;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to use the Framework as a guide to develop or adapt national action plans for health security or similar strategies and policies, according to local situations, capacities and resources;
 - (2) to foster high-level commitment and multisectoral collaboration among government agencies as well as community and civil society organizations, in support of a coordinated approach at national and subnational levels;
 - (3) to ensure adequate and sustainable resources are dedicated to strengthening health security capacities and meeting obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005) and future amendments;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (1) to provide technical support for Member States to develop and implement national and subnational strategies and plans in line with the Framework;
 - (2) to facilitate advocacy and collaboration among Member States, partners and other stakeholders to strengthen health security capacities;
 - (3) to report periodically on progress in the implementation of the *Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework*.

Eighth meeting, 19 October 2023