



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Regional Committee for Europe

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Decision

Strengthening Member State collaboration on improving access to medicines in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

In view of the increasing challenges faced by Member States of the WHO European Region to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines;

Referring to the findings of the report *Access to new medicines in Europe: technical review of policy initiatives and opportunities for collaboration and research*,¹ highlighting the increasing number of new medicines introduced, particularly for chronic diseases, and the costs to national health systems; and of the report *Challenges and opportunities in improving access to medicines through efficient public procurement in the WHO European Region*,² highlighting the importance of strengthening procurement and supply management as an essential component of access to quality medicines at affordable prices, as described in document EUR/RC67/11;

¹ Access to new medicines in Europe: technical review of policy initiatives and opportunities for collaboration and research. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2015 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/health-technologies-and-medicines/publications/2015/access-to-new-medicines-in-europe-technical-review-of-policy-initiatives-and-opportunities-for-collaboration-and-research-2015>, accessed 14 August 2017).

² Challenges and opportunities in improving access to medicines through efficient public procurement in the WHO European Region. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/challenges-and-opportunities-in-improving-access-to-medicines-through-efficient-public-procurement-in-the-who-european-region-2016>, accessed 14 August 2017).

1. WELCOMES the report on strengthening Member State collaboration on improving access to medicines in the WHO European Region (document EUR/RC67/11) as a vital part of the health systems strengthening agenda of Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being, with its focus on equity, and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the commitment “to ensure that no one is left behind”;
2. SUPPORTS the focus of the WHO Regional Office for Europe on technical support on pricing and reimbursement, strategic procurement, and information-sharing and mutual learning as three key areas for action in promoting the efforts of Member States and in facilitating their collaboration on the advancement of the access to medicines agenda in the European Region;
3. SUPPORTS the proposed WHO actions described in document EUR/RC67/11, depending on the resources available;
4. RECOGNIZES the primary role of Member States in taking action in these key areas with the support of the Regional Office, working with other relevant initiatives of partners such as the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as appropriate, understanding that political commitment, resources and mutual trust among Member States will be essential for successful collaboration;
5. CALLS FOR the Regional Office to assess the interest and commitment of Member States in these areas for the 2018–2019 biennium, while ensuring synergy and continuity with global processes and directions, in particular the outcomes of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly sessions in 2018.

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