



R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE REGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC57.R5
21 September 2006

REGIONAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the draft Regional Strategy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm;¹

Recalling previous resolutions by the World Health Assembly and the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific related to public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol, particularly WHA58.26, WHA36.12, WHA32.40, WPR/RC36.R7 and WPR/RC33.R15;

Noting that in the Western Pacific Region harmful use of alcohol accounts for 5.5% of the burden of disease;²

Alarmed by the extent of public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol in the Western Pacific Region;

Appreciating the existence of cultural, religious and social differences regarding the use of alcohol;

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¹ Document WPR/RC57/7.

² *The World Health Report 2002. Reducing Risks, Promoting Healthy Life.* Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

Acknowledging that the harmful use of alcohol not only affects individual drinkers but also has significant impact on others, the community and society at large;

Recognizing that the patterns, context and overall level of alcohol consumption influence the health of the population;

Further recognizing that alcohol consumption in the Region is increasing;³

Concerned about hazardous patterns of drinking, particularly among young people, in many Member States;

Noting the need to strengthen public awareness of and the political determination to address the harmful use of alcohol;

Mindful that a multisectoral approach is needed at the country level to reduce public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol;

Acknowledging the need to link the Strategy to relevant regional and subregional plans and strategies;

Recognizing that evidence-based, cost-effective approaches are available to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, and that these can be implemented in socially and culturally appropriate ways,

1. ENDORSES the Regional Strategy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm as a guide for alcohol policy development and implementation according to national context;

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³ *Global Status Report on Alcohol 2004*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

2. URGES Member States:

- (1) to use the Strategy as a guide to develop and strengthen policies and regulations as appropriate to reduce public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol;
- (2) to strengthen capacity development at national and local levels for efficient planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes intended to reduce the harmful use of alcohol;
- (3) to develop a system for the routine collection, analysis and dissemination of data on patterns of alcohol consumption and public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol;
- (4) to develop evidence-based, multisectoral approaches for the prevention and control of public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol;
- (5) to provide adequate support for projects and programmes that are proven to be effective in reducing the harmful use of alcohol;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to provide technical assistance to Member States to support their efforts in the development and implementation of policies and programmes for reducing the harmful use of alcohol;
- (2) to assist Member States as they develop their systems for the routine collection, analysis and dissemination of data on patterns of alcohol consumption and public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol to further improve the evidence base at the national and regional levels;

- (3) to establish regional mechanisms for cooperation and the regular exchange of information on reducing alcohol-related harm and the implementation of the Strategy;
- (4) to collaborate with Member States, relevant international agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and other appropriate stakeholders to promote evidence-based, multisectoral approaches for the prevention and reduction of public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol;
- (5) to continue consulting with the private sector, particularly the alcohol beverage industry, over ways it could contribute to reducing the harmful use of alcohol;
- (6) to report to the Regional Committee periodically the status of the harmful use of alcohol in the Region and progress achieved in addressing public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol.