

**R E S O L U T I O N**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE RÉGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC63.R5
27 September 2012

ELIMINATION OF MEASLES AND ACCELERATION OF RUBELLA CONTROL

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions WPR/RC54.R3 that called for measles elimination, WPR/RC56.R8 that established the target year of 2012, and WPR/RC61.R7 that reaffirmed the 2012 measles elimination goal and called for acceleration of rubella control;

Recalling the May 2012 resolution WHA65.17 endorsing the Global Vaccine Action Plan that calls for achieving and sustaining high and equitable vaccine coverage;

Acknowledging the dramatic decline in the number of measles cases from almost 146 000 in 2008 to 21 000 (an 86% reduction) in 2011; and that measles transmission continues in few countries in 2012 and continues to decrease;

Recognizing the Region is now on the verge of eliminating measles and could be the second Region to achieve measles elimination;

Noting the Western Pacific Regional Verification Commission on Measles Elimination has been established, and the verification mechanism has been elaborated in consultation with Member States;

Aware that three years will be required for national and regional verification from the last endemic measles case, to demonstrate the achievement is sustainable;

Mindful of various opportunities to synergize measles elimination and rubella control activities,

1. REAFFIRMS its commitment to eliminate measles and accelerate rubella control in the Western Pacific Region;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to interrupt all residual endemic measles virus transmission as rapidly as possible, through ensuring high population immunity with measles vaccine;
 - (2) to implement effective immunization strategies to identify and reach all vulnerable underserved communities in both rural and urban settings;
 - (3) to enhance systems and capacity for preparedness, rapid detection and response to measles outbreaks whether caused by an endemic or imported virus, to prevent the spread and re-establishment of measles virus transmission;
 - (4) to improve sensitivity and performance of epidemiological surveillance and laboratory capacity to identify the source of infection, and demonstrate the absence of endemic transmission, for eventual verification;
 - (5) to establish national verification committees that develop regular progress reports for submission to the Regional Verification Commission;
 - (6) to further accelerate control of rubella and prevention of congenital rubella syndrome through integration of measles and rubella immunization and surveillance activities;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to continue supporting Member States in their efforts to eliminate measles;
- (2) to continue advocating for measles elimination, seek additional resources to achieve and sustain measles elimination and accelerate rubella control;
- (3) to enhance international collaboration in measles elimination across regions and national borders;
- (4) to report progress to the Regional Committee.

Sixth meeting, 27 September 2012