

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Seventy-first session, Doha, Qatar, 14–17 October 2024

Theme: Health beyond borders: solidarity for access and equity in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Sunday, 13 October 2024 – WALK THE TALK	
18.00–20.00	Walk the Talk event – Oxygen Park
Monday, 14 October 2024 – MINISTERIAL PLENARY SESSIONS	
09:45–10:00	Opening remarks and setting ground rules
1-Session 1 10:00–10:30	Overview of the Flagship Initiatives
1-Session 2 10:30–11:30	Regional Flagship Initiative 1: Improving access to affordable medical commodities/securing equitable supply chains
1-Session 3 11:30–12:30	Regional Flagship Initiative 2: Investing in and empowering human resources for health
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
1-Session 4 13:30–14:30	Regional Flagship Initiative 3: Accelerating control of substance use
1-Session 5 14:30–15:30	Eastern Mediterranean Region strategic operational plan, 2025–2028
15:30–16:00	Break
1-Session 6: OPENING CEREMONY – 16:00–17:30	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recital from the Holy Quran • Opening address by the Chair of the 70th session of the Regional Committee • Address by Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean (<i>followed by a video</i>) • Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General • High-level segment • Awards • Group photo
20:00–22:00	Regional Director's special event on the Investment Round followed by dinner

Tuesday, 15 October 2024 – REGULAR SESSIONS OF RC71		
2-Session 1 09:00–09:30	(a) Election of officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • 2 Vice-Chairs (b) Adoption of the provisional agenda and provisional daily timetable (c) Decision on the establishment of the Drafting Committee	
2-Session 2 09:30–11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report of the Regional Director 2023 and the Vision of the Regional Director (Regional strategic operational plan and Flagship Initiatives) • Discussion 	
11:00–11:30	Break	
2-Session 3 11:30–13:00	Update on emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Special update on the health and humanitarian situation in Palestine • Latest on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) • Discussion 	
13:00–14:00	Lunch break Hosted ministerial lunch by H.E. The Minister of Public Health of Qatar and Chair of RC71 under the theme “Health and Sports”	
2-Session 4 14:00–15:00	Special updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polio eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region including the reports of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks • Discussion 	
2-Session 5 15:00–16:30	Governance matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first meetings of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee • Membership of WHO bodies and committees • Procedure for accreditation of regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean • Place and date of future sessions of the Regional Committee • Application from the Russian Federation to attend the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in an observer capacity 	
2-Session 6 16:30–17:30	Side event: Dengue and vector control in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	
2-Session 7 17:30–18:30	Side event: Launch of the regional framework for Immunization Agenda 2030	

Wednesday, 16 October 2024 – REGULAR SESSIONS OF RC71		
3-Session 1 09:00–10:00	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting collaborative action to accelerate the regional response to antimicrobial resistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Discussion 	
3-Session 2 10:00–11:00	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement and digitalization of health information systems in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a regional strategy, 2024–2028 • Discussion 	
11:00–11:30	Break	
3-Session 3 11:30–12:30	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the increasing burden of trauma in humanitarian settings in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Discussion 	
3-Session 4 12:30–13:30	Technical paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional action plan for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies, including substance use (2024–2030) • Discussion 	
13:30–14:30	Lunch break	
3-Session 5 14:30–15:30	Panel discussion Artificial intelligence for achieving universal health coverage and health security: nurturing the opportunities and mitigating the risks	
3-Session 6 15:30–16:30	Closed meeting (side event): The impact of economic sanctions on health and health services in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: What are the real consequences?	
16:30–17:00	Break	
17:00–18:00	Closed meeting: Foundation for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	
17:00–20:00	Meeting of the Drafting Committee	

Thursday, 17 October 2024 – REGULAR SESSIONS OF RC71

4-Session 1 09:00–10:30	<p>World Health Assembly and Executive Board follow-up – Governance and administrative matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 156th session of the WHO Executive Board • Update on implementation of the WHO Transformation Agenda in the Eastern Mediterranean Region • Discussion <p>Closed meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for the nomination and appointment of Regional Directors • Process of handling and investigating potential allegations against WHO Directors-General • Discussion
4-Session 2 10:30–11:00	<p>Coordination of work of the Health Assembly, Executive Board and the Regional Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 154th and 155th sessions • Discussion
11:00–11:30	Break
4-Session 3 11:30–12:30	<p>World Health Assembly and Executive Board – Programme and budget matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14) 2025–2028: regional analysis • WHO Investment Case 2025–2028 and latest on the WHO Investment Round • Discussion
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–13:40	Statement from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Staff Association (EMRSA)
13:40–13:50	Statement by the Association of Retired and Former WHO Staff in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR/RFS)
4-Session 4 13:50–15.00	Adoption of resolutions and decisions
4-Session 5 15.00–15.30	Closing session