

*Thimphu  
Declaration*

on International Health Security in the  
South-East Asia Region

September 1, 2007



**World Health  
Organization**  
Regional Office for South-East Asia  
New Delhi



Twenty-fifth  
Meeting of Ministers of Health  
Thimphu, Bhutan

31 August - 1 September 2007

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on International Health Security in the  
South-East Asia Region



*We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region participating in the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Ministers of Health in Thimphu, Bhutan, recognize*

that in the concept of International Health Security lies the realization that there is a need to reduce the vulnerability of people around the world to the escalation of existing, new, acute or rapidly spreading risks to health, particularly those that threaten to transcend international borders.

*We also recognize* that rapid globalization with easy, frequent travel, as well as large-scale trade, give an ample opportunity for communicable diseases to spread across borders quickly and with ease.

*We are aware* that the world climate is changing. Temperatures are rising; tropical storms are increasing in frequency and intensity; polar ice caps and permafrost regions are melting. The acute impact of climate change-related events may be local, but their causes are global.

*We are also concerned* that no single institution, sector or country has all the capacities needed to respond to international public health emergencies caused by epidemics, natural disasters and humanitarian or environmental emergencies.

*We are of the view* that the impact of the above threats on human health has serious implications for morbidity and mortality, and will delay internationally agreed upon development goals.

*We reiterate* our commitment to the World Health Assembly Resolutions related to Emergency Preparedness and Response and International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.

*We note* the efforts of WHO's Regional Office for South-East Asia to:

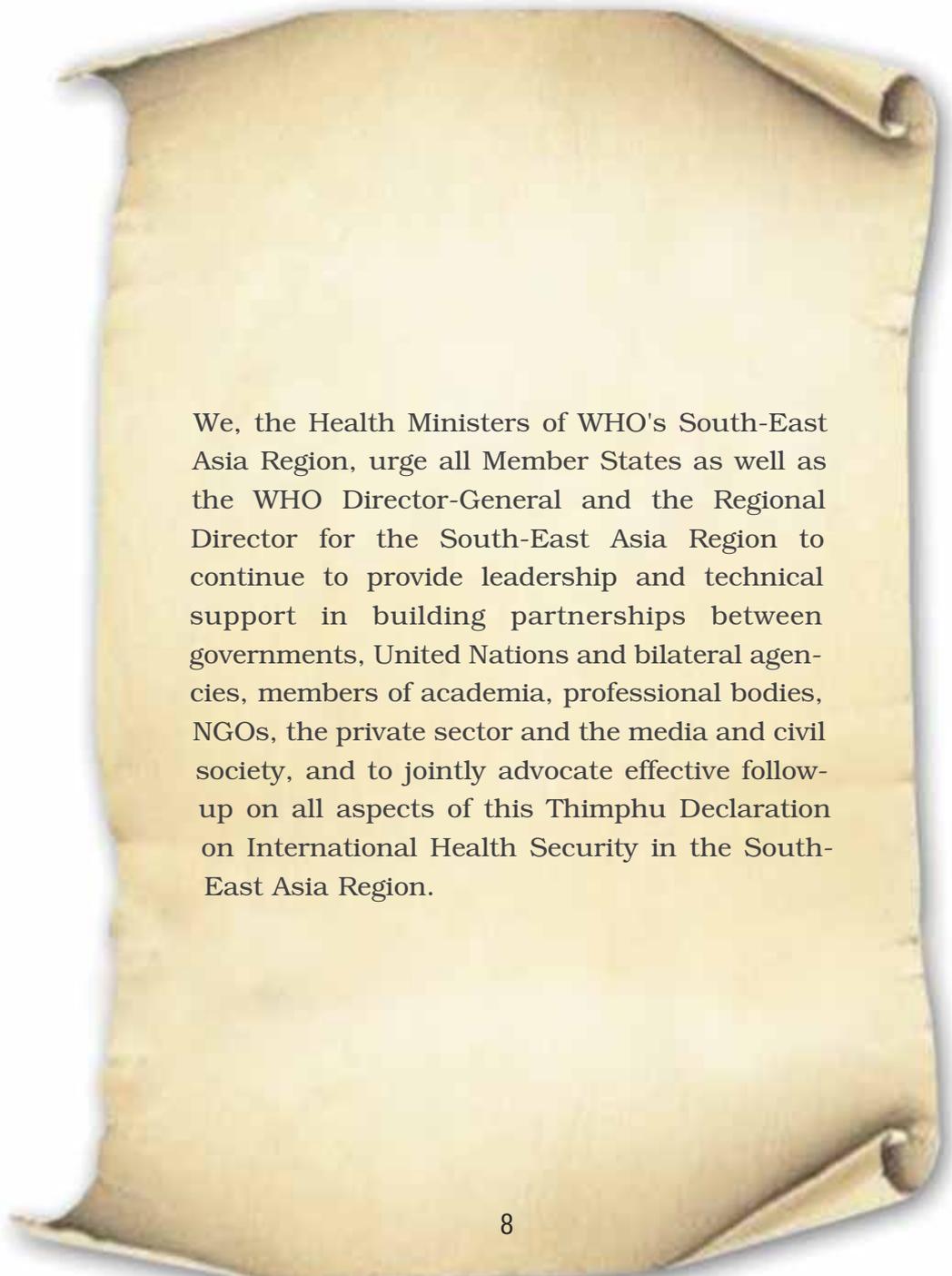
1. Systematize and measure emergency preparedness and response in health systems through benchmarks, standards and indicators;
2. Systematically support countries in the full implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 and in strengthening core capacities;
3. Support short-term strategies in stockpiling anti-virals, personal protective devices and pre-pandemic vaccines, as well as long-term strategies to increase influenza vaccine production capacity in the Region; and
4. To mobilize adequate resources to support these activities.

To achieve effective solutions to address issues related to International Health Security, we are committed to:

1. Take further action to improve emergency preparedness and response in line with the World Health Assembly and Regional Committee Resolutions WHA 58.1, WHA 59.22, SEA/RC 57/3, and SEA/RC 58/3;
2. Take further action to implement the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 in line with World Health Assembly and Regional Committee Resolutions WHA 58.3 and WHA 59.2, and SEA/RC 58/7;
3. Develop and systematically implement National Emergency Preparedness Plans, taking into account the significant role of private health providers based on country-specific priority benchmarks and indicators within one year and to revisit the plans regularly;

4. Develop and implement action plans towards strengthening core capacities for countries for International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005;
5. Develop and implement national action plans for mitigation and adaptation to address the health impacts of global warming and climate change.
6. Mobilize adequate resources for these initiatives and participate actively in developing and maintaining partnerships related to improving these areas of health.

We, the Health Ministers of WHO's South-East Asia Region, fully support the establishment of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund and commit to the function of the Working Group as well as efforts towards resource mobilization.



We, the Health Ministers of WHO's South-East Asia Region, urge all Member States as well as the WHO Director-General and the Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region to continue to provide leadership and technical support in building partnerships between governments, United Nations and bilateral agencies, members of academia, professional bodies, NGOs, the private sector and the media and civil society, and to jointly advocate effective follow-up on all aspects of this Thimphu Declaration on International Health Security in the South-East Asia Region.





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