Seventy Third Session of the WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean

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Organization Name : *Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF)*

Agenda item : *5(j) Advancing the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Document EM/RC73/INF.DOC.10)*

English version:

The Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) welcomes this progress report and commends WHO, the Quadripartite organizations and Member States for the continued advancement of the One Health approach across the Eastern Mediterranean Region. We particularly support efforts to strengthen governance, multisectoral coordination, surveillance systems and workforce capacity to address health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

GSCF welcomes the report's recognition that successful One Health implementation requires engagement beyond government institutions, including with academia, civil society and the private sector. We encourage Member States and partners to further recognize the role that individuals, families and communities can play in preventing and responding to health threats through improved health literacy, responsible self-care practices and community engagement.

As countries strengthen preparedness and response capacities for zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and other emerging threats, GSCF encourages greater emphasis on empowering individuals with the knowledge, tools and support needed to prevent infection, recognize symptoms early and seek appropriate care. Responsible self-care and prevention-oriented behaviours can reduce avoidable illness and support more appropriate use of healthcare resources, reinforcing broader One Health objectives related to prevention and resilience. Public awareness and health education are essential complements to surveillance, laboratory and governance systems and contribute to more resilient health systems.

Community-based health professionals, including pharmacists, can play an important role in supporting health literacy, disease prevention, appropriate care-seeking and public engagement at the local level.

GSCF supports the call for stronger collaboration with the private sector and for innovative partnership approaches to advance One Health objectives. Self-care interventions and community-based approaches can help extend the reach of health systems, particularly in resource-constrained, fragile and conflict-affected settings, while supporting the broader goals of prevention, resilience and people-centred care.

Thank you.