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

Cairo, Egypt
13 - 15 October 2026

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

Agenda item : *6(b) A multi-communicable disease elimination approach for the Eastern Mediterranean Region*

English version:

The Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) welcomes this technical paper and commends WHO and Member States for advancing an integrated, people-centred approach to communicable disease elimination across the Eastern Mediterranean Region. We particularly support the emphasis on strengthening primary health care and improving access to prevention and diagnostic services.

GSCF recognizes that empowering individuals and communities to actively participate in disease prevention and health management is essential to achieving sustainable elimination outcomes. Responsible, evidence-based self-care can complement communicable disease programmes by promoting preventive behaviours, improving early recognition of symptoms and supporting timely access to appropriate self-care interventions to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and the spread of viral and bacterial infections, and ensure proper sanitation.

We welcome the paper's focus on addressing gaps in access to diagnostics, screening tools and innovative health technologies. Where appropriate and supported by national regulatory frameworks, self-testing and other self-care interventions can help expand access to early detection, self-management and treatment, particularly among underserved populations. These interventions should be accompanied by reliable health information, appropriate professional guidance and clear referral pathways to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.

GSCF also encourages greater recognition of community-based health professionals, including pharmacists, who can play an important role in health promotion, prevention, health literacy and appropriate care-seeking. Strengthening community engagement and empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools to protect their health can reinforce integrated disease elimination efforts.

GSCF stands ready to collaborate with WHO, Member States and partners to advance evidence-based self-care as a key component of integrated, equitable and sustainable communicable disease prevention and elimination strategies.

Thank you.