Provisional agenda:

1. **Annual Report of the Regional Director 2011**  
   **including progress reports on:**
   - (a) Eradication of poliomyelitis  
     EM/RC59/INF.DOC.1
   - (b) Tobacco-Free Initiative  
     EM/RC59/INF.DOC.2
   - (c) Achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals and global health goals after 2015  
     EM/RC59/INF.DOC.3
   - (d) Regional strategy for health sector response to HIV 2011-2015  
     EM/RC59/INF.DOC.4
   - (e) Improving health care financing and progress towards social health protection in the Region  
     EM/RC59/INF.DOC.5

2. **Technical Discussions**

   Health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: challenges, priorities and options for future action  
   EM/RC59/Tech.Disc.1
3. Technical Papers

(a) The Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases: commitments of Member States and the way forward EM/RC59/3

(b) National core capacities for the International Health Regulations 2005: meeting the 2014 deadline EM/RC59/4

4. WHO reform: current status and regional perspectives EM/RC59/5


Thanks to the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Regional Committee Board.

This high-level discussion on health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region is a major opportunity to stimulate concerted regional action on public health. The prospect of consolidating high-level political commitment to tackling regional public health challenges including capacities, training and services provided is truly exciting and energizing.

We must realized that it is only by taking a public health approach that the our region can have any hope of conquering the vast burden of chronic life style diseases.

The strengthening of public health functions of national health systems throughout the EMR lies at the core of what must be done to enable the major public health problems to be tackled effectively, and this reinforcing of public health and workforce must surely lie at the heart of the discussions later on.
The WFPHA is an international, nongovernmental organization bringing together associations of public health professionals across the globe. The Federation’s members are national and regional public health associations, as well as regional associations of schools of public health.

The WFPHA stand ready to assist all WHO members to ensure that the voice of public health professionals and practitioners, through their regional or international association, is heard during the preparations and deliberations. Particular consideration is paid to the following key issues:

- Strengthening national public health systems or public health functions of national health systems.
- Enhancing the numbers, training and competence of the workforce responsible for public health functions both within and outside the health sector in all countries.
- Establishing flourishing national associations of public health professionals where they do not exist, and strengthening them further where they do.

We are convinced that the forthcoming public health conference in Dubai, 2013 has the potential to be a major landmark in the Arab World health and the World Federation of Public Health Associations offers its full support and co-operation, and fervently hopes for a successful outcome.
(2) **Side meeting:**

Meeting with Regional director Prof. Allwan to discuss the preparation for the 1st Arab World Public Health Conference in Dubai, 2013, and the proposed establishment of the Arab World Public Health Association (AWPHA).

The meeting attended by:

- Ms Laila Al Jassmi, CEO and Chair of steering committee, DHA, UAE
- Prof. Tawfik Al Khoja, Director of Executive Council health ministers GCC, Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Izzeldin Ibrahim, Head of preventive Medicine/DHA, UAE
- Dr. Mohamad Al Thani, Director of public health, Qatar
- Dr. Lubna Al Shaali, Public Health specialist/DHA, chair of scientific committee, UAE

(3) **Announcement for Dubai Public Health Conference, 2013:**

- Individual communications with all delegates representing Arab countries
- Handouts and leaflets were distributed. (attached)
- Provisional List of Arab countries’ experts to participate in public health mapping process.