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IPA Statement on the 76th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the South-East Asia on agenda 8.5 Data-driven Policy-making and Sharing of Information on a Common Platform

The International Pediatric Association, a global organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children, recognizes the vital role of data-driven policy-making in addressing the specific health challenges faced by children in the South-East Asia region.

Data-driven policy-making is fundamental for evidence-based decision-making in pediatric healthcare. It ensures that policies and interventions are grounded in reliable data, addressing children's unique needs and vulnerabilities. By utilizing data from various sources, such as population health surveys, disease surveillance systems, and healthcare facility records, policymakers can identify the major health issues affecting children, understand the trends and patterns, and develop effective strategies for prevention, treatment, and care.

In the South-East Asia region, there are several pressing pediatric health challenges that require data-driven policy-making. For instance, the region faces significant burdens of malnutrition, vaccine-preventable diseases, respiratory infections, and neonatal mortality. By collecting and analyzing data on these issues, policymakers can target interventions in high-risk areas, ensure adequate allocation of resources, and monitor the impact of interventions over time. This will lead to better health outcomes for children in the region.

Furthermore, sharing information on a common platform enables collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building among member states. Establishing a platform that allows for exchanging information, experiences, and best practices in pediatric healthcare will facilitate developing and implementing evidence-based policies. It will enhance regional cooperation, foster collective learning, and ensure that limited resources are used efficiently and effectively.

A common platform can also address the challenges of pediatric healthcare equity and service delivery in the South-East Asia region. By sharing data on access to healthcare services, nutritional status, immunization coverage, and quality of care, member states can identify disparities and implement targeted interventions to reduce inequities in pediatric health outcomes. This will help ensure that every child, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location, has access to quality healthcare services.



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To achieve effective data-driven policy-making and information sharing, several actions need to be taken. Firstly, member states should invest in strengthening their pediatric healthcare information systems, focusing on data collection, storage, analysis, and reporting. This will require improving the quality and completeness of data, establishing robust surveillance systems for childhood diseases, and building the necessary infrastructure for data management.

Secondly, countries should collaborate with each other and with international organizations, such as WHO and IPA, to develop a common platform for sharing pediatric health information. This platform should be user-friendly, secure, and accessible to all stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and the public. It should facilitate data sharing, exchange of best practices, and joint research initiatives that address pediatric health challenges in the region.

Lastly, member states should prioritize capacity building in data analysis and interpretation, as well as evidence-based decision-making, among policymakers and healthcare professionals. This could involve training programs, workshops, and mentorship initiatives that enhance data analysis, epidemiology, research, and policy development skills. Building a skilled workforce will ensure that data-driven policies are effectively implemented and monitored, leading to improved pediatric health outcomes in the South-East Asia region.