



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



41st DIRECTING COUNCIL

51st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 27 September-1 October 1999

RESOLUTION

CD41.R14

EMERGING AND REEMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the progress report on the regional surveillance system for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance (Document CD41/16) and recognizing the need to adopt urgent measures at the regional and national level for implementing mechanisms that detect, investigate, and respond to new infectious diseases or to the reemergence of others formerly considered under control;

Taking into account that the opportunity to intervene with prevention and control measures is limited by the speed with which goods, food, and people are mobilized and by the emergence of pathogens resistant to the available antimicrobial arsenal; and

Considering that technologies exist for conducting surveillance and limiting the harm caused by outbreaks of emerging and reemerging diseases,

RESOLVES

1. To urge the Member States to:

(a) strengthen the infrastructure that will permit the efficient performance of epidemiological surveillance networks for communicable diseases, with special attention to early warning and rapid response systems;

(b) increase regional information exchange on outbreaks of emerging and reemerging diseases of importance to regional and global health through the mechanisms proposed in Document CD41/16 for this purpose;

(c) review the policies and legal mechanisms governing the rational use of antimicrobials, with a view to introducing changes aimed at controlling the growth of resistance to these drugs.

2. To request that the Director:

(a) foster ties with multilateral, bilateral, and private cooperation and development agencies so that they act synergistically in the financing and support of the proposed approaches;

(b) promote the maintenance and expansion of the subregional surveillance networks for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance;

(c) continue to coordinate the regional response to the emergencies caused by outbreaks of emerging and reemerging diseases.

(Eighth meeting, 30 September 1999)