



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **33rd DIRECTING COUNCIL**

40th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 26-30 September 1988*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD33.R14***

## **PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF THE INDIGENOUS TRANSMISSION OF WILD POLIOVIRUS**

*THE 33rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having examined and reviewed the progress report presented by the Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of the Indigenous Transmission of Wild Poliovirus from the Americas by 1990;

Noting with satisfaction that most countries have prepared five-year plans outlining the activities to be carried out and the costing of the program, with identification of the national and international funding sources;

Concerned that many countries have not made enough progress toward implementation of the strategies outlined in the Plan of Action and others have not maintained the strategies over time, and that immunization coverage remains critically low in several of them;

Cognizant that less than three years are left before the target date for eradication of wild poliovirus transmission from the Americas and that much remains to be done; and

Considering Resolution WHA41.281 (Global Eradication of Poliomyelitis by the Year 2000) of the Forty-first World Health Assembly,

***RESOLVES***

1. To thank the United States Agency for International Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNICEF, Rotary International, and the Canadian International Development Agency/Canadian Public Health Association for the level of cooperation and coordination achieved among themselves and with the PAHO Member Countries in carrying out the campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis from the Americas by 1990.

2. To urge all Member Countries to make every effort to carry out their adopted national plans of action in accordance with the general guidelines of the Regional Plan of Action and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

3. To urge the acceleration and reinforcement of the work of the network of laboratories capable of performing virological tests, in support of diagnostic, surveillance, and control activities in programs of the Member Countries.

4. To place emphasis on the following critical actions requiring the immediate and continuing attention of the Member Countries for attainment of the goal of polio eradication:

4.1 Countries still endemic for polio should:

a) Hold at least two regular national mass vaccination days per year as part of their national vaccination programs;

b) Utilize these national vaccination days to deliver TOPV as well as other EPI antigens, so that the overall EPI coverage will be increased;

c) Continue these measures until eradication of the indigenous transmission of wild poliovirus is achieved and certified.

4.2 Countries not endemic for polio should ensure that high levels of immunization are maintained throughout the country and offer their technical knowledge, resources, and support to countries that may require them.

4.3 All Member Countries should:

a) Monitor immunization coverage at the level of the smallest political administrative units;

b) Take special measures to improve immunization rates in children under one year of age in areas where TOPV coverage is below 90% in that age group, and use this indicator as a measure of the functioning of the health infrastructure and as a basis for the reallocation of resources.

4.4 Surveillance systems should be strengthened to detect all cases of acute flaccid paralysis:

a) All cases of acute flaccid paralysis occurring in persons less than 15 years old should be considered a national emergency and investigated immediately to determine if they represent poliomyelitis;

b) Special control measures should be instituted immediately for all cases classified as probable polio cases;

c) All cases classified as probable polio cases should be reported as soon as possible to the international level, and specimens immediately sent to designated reference laboratories for prompt and accurate testing.

5. To request that the Director present a progress report to the XXXIV Meeting of the Directing Council in 1989, just one year before the target date for achievement of the goal of polio eradication.

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