



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



40th DIRECTING COUNCIL

49th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 22 - 26 September 1997

RESOLUTION

CD40.R7

ORAL HEALTH

THE 40th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the report on the oral health of the population of the Americas (Document CD40/20);
Considering the strategic and programmatic guidelines of the Pan American Health Organization for the period 1995-1998 and the regional oral health strategy of the Organization;
Recognizing that oral health is a key aspect of general health conditions throughout the Region of the Americas, owing to its importance as part of the overall disease burden, the costs associated with its treatment, and the possibility of effective prevention measures; and
Recognizing that PAHO has cooperated with the countries of the Region in establishing conceptual and technical bases for the development of policies, infrastructures, and program capabilities in relation to national oral health programs,

RESOLVES

1. To endorse Document CD40/20 describing the oral health situation in the Region and the proposed strategies for support to government efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of preventive oral health programs and to strengthen the organization and delivery of oral health services in the Region.

2. To urge the Member States to:

- (a) promote the establishment and development of national programs for the prevention of oral and dental diseases, with emphasis on fluoridation via water, salt, or another vehicle as an effective and efficient way to reduce dental caries in the population;
- (b) promote the establishment and strengthening of effective and sustainable national oral health services that are accessible to the neediest populations;
- (c) strengthen the technical capabilities of the national and local institutions responsible for the oral health of the neediest population groups in their countries;
- (d) promote measures for intersectoral cooperation among the respective countries to foster the proper development of their national oral health programs.

3. To request the Director to:

- (a) support the establishment and coordination of strategic alliances to promote and facilitate the development of PAHO's regional strategy for oral health;
- (b) encourage technical cooperation among countries in activities that promote oral health.

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