



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.R14

HANTAVIRUS

THE 40th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Mindful of the situation created by human Hantavirus infection and the action already taken by PAHO in this area since 1994, as well as the concern expressed by the ministers of health at this meeting;

Considering the increase in the number of cases observed and their geographical dispersal in several countries of the Region;

Aware of the social, economic, and public health impact of Hantavirus infection; and

Recognizing the need to take action to prevent infection with these viruses and improve knowledge in this area,

RESOLVES

1. To request the Member States to:

- (a) intensify surveillance measures for the detection of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome;
- (b) strengthen the capacity to establish collaboration agreements and mechanisms among the countries for developing a diagnostic laboratory network for this pathology;

(c) promote multidisciplinary intersectoral research on the ecology of the infection, with a view to defining prevention measures appropriate to the epidemiological situation;

(d) promote, through information, education, and communication geared to all levels of the community, the adoption of good environmental sanitation practices.

2. To request the Director to:

(a) create, in the short term, a task force to issue recommendations on Hantavirus infection/disease with respect to epidemiological surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention;

(b) promote and support horizontal cooperation between the interested countries;

(c) prepare a progress report on this topic for presentation at the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1998.

September 1997 OD 285