



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **32nd DIRECTING COUNCIL**

39th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 21-25 September 1987*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD32.R12***

## **ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) IN THE AMERICAS**

*THE 32nd DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having reviewed Document CD32/10 on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas and Resolution WHA40.261 of the Fortieth World Health Assembly;

Recognizing that the AIDS epidemic presents an unprecedented immediate and long-term threat to public health in the Region of the Americas, requiring urgent, coordinated action;

Aware that, under these conditions, special efforts must be made to prevent and control the spread of the disease, yet concerned that these efforts reaffirm human dignity; protect human rights while stressing the social responsibilities of individuals; foster political commitment to health; strengthen health systems based on the primary care approach; and protect freedom of travel, interpersonal communication, and international commerce;

Fully supporting the global response to this problem which is being implemented through the WHO Special Program on AIDS, and recognizing its responsibilities as WHO Regional Committee for the Americas to review annually the situation in the Americas, to monitor the use of regional resources, and to report annually to the Director-General of WHO; and

Aware of the impact AIDS has on health services,

## *RESOLVES*

### 1. To urge Member Countries:

- a) To develop, implement and sustain strong national AIDS prevention and control programs along the model recommended by the WHO Special Program on AIDS, adapted to individual national contexts;
- b) To strengthen national epidemiologic surveillance activities in order to improve national programs;
- c) To mobilize and coordinate the use of national and international resources for the prevention and control of AIDS while assuring that national health systems are maintained and strengthened in order to combat this epidemic;
- d) To provide accurate information to their citizens about AIDS, strengthening health information through all mass media and health promotion activities, and promoting responsible, appropriate public action to reduce the transmission of the virus and to provide compassionate responses to those with the disease;
- e) To continue permitting freedom of international travel, without restrictions based on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection status;
- f) To provide periodic situation and progress reports to PAHO/WHO, as requested;
- g) To make every effort to develop the Special Program on AIDS within the framework of the policy for health system development and strengthening, making use of the AIDS crisis to promote the needed changes in health services.

### 2. To request the Director, within available resources:

- a) To coordinate regional AIDS prevention and control activities with the global program in the establishment of a PAHO/WHO Special Program on AIDS;
- b) To provide urgently needed technical support to national AIDS prevention and control programs, including support for implementing, strengthening, and maintaining surveillance systems with appropriate laboratory support services; transmission prevention and control programs; health professional training programs; and research activities needed to define the epidemiology of AIDS;
- c) To develop AIDS control activities, especially those related to health care, together with the development and strengthening of health systems;
- d) To promote, coordinate, and conduct epidemiologic studies and related research in order to support regional control efforts;
- e) To disseminate information to the Member Countries concerning technological advances in combating AIDS, epidemiological information about the regional situation, and other information vital for the conduct of national AIDS prevention and control programs;

- f) To develop mechanisms to facilitate the interinstitutional exchange of technical and resource information at the operational level;
- g) To provide annual reports on the regional situation and the use of regional resources to the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas;
- h) To take further steps as may be needed, within his authority, to combat this epidemic.

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