



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



27th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

59th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CSP27.R13

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY

Implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005))

THE 27th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Considering that a functioning International Health Regulations National Focal Point (IHR-NFP) is a key element to the successful implementation of the IHR (2005);

Considering that all PAHO Member States have designated and provided to WHO contact information on their IHR-NFP;

Considering that different structures and organization in each Member State lead to different levels of capacity to fulfill the requirements as described in the IHR (2005);

Considering that the IHR (2005) require each State Party to develop, strengthen and maintain core public health capacities at the primary, intermediate and national levels in order to detect, assess, notify and report events and to respond promptly to public health emergencies;

Considering that specific capacities are also required for implementing health measures at international ports, airports and certain ground crossings designated by States Parties,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) Reinforce the capacities of the IHR-NFP by ensuring its availability and ability to communicate internationally at all times;
 - (b) Strengthen the capacity of the IHR-NFP for intersectoral collaboration in both the dissemination of information and the consolidation of input from all relevant sectors;
 - (c) Take immediate steps to assess the ability of their existing national public health structures and resources to meet the core surveillance and response capacity requirements described in Annex 1a of the IHR (2005);
 - (d) Develop, by mid-2009, national action plans to ensure that core capacities for surveillance and response and for designated points of entry are established in accordance with the requirements of the IHR; within these plans, to identify priorities among the main components to be addressed (human resources, earmarking budget, material resources, legal tools, training, regional collaborations) and the alternatives for national resource mobilization;
 - (e) Support each other in strengthening and maintaining the public health capacities required under the IHR (2005).
2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) Provide support to Member States during the assessment of existing national surveillance and response systems by providing tools, guidelines and technical cooperation;
 - (b) Provide technical and logistical support to Member States at their request during the development and implementation of national action plans for strengthening the capacities required under IHR (2005);
 - (c) Develop and strengthen the capacities of PAHO to fully and effectively perform the functions entrusted to it under the revised IHR, in particular through a strategic health operations center to support countries in detecting, assessing and responding to public health events;

- (d) Convene a technical working group to develop common tools for reporting and information exchange among Member States and between Member States and PAHO;
- (e) Provide technical cooperation for the routine application of the decision instrument to assess events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern;
- (f) Collaborate with States Parties insofar as possible in the mobilization of financial resources to support countries in building, strengthening and maintaining the capacities required under the IHR (2005);
- (g) Continue to promote and support the active participation of regional integration systems in developing and implementing subregional and regional plans for IHR-related activities.

(Eighth plenary meeting, 4 October 2007)