



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



# **41st DIRECTING COUNCIL**

51st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*San Juan, Puerto Rico, 27 September-1 October 1999*

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## ***RESOLUTION***

### ***CD41.R6***

#### **HURRICANES GEORGES, MITCH, AND FLOYD**

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the report presented by the Director on the damages caused by hurricanes Georges and Mitch (Document CD41/8);

Noting with deepest regret the damages caused by hurricanes Georges, Mitch, and Floyd in the countries of the Caribbean and Central America and in the continental United States;

Aware of the efforts undertaken by the affected countries and the support given by the international community and by the Pan American Health Organization;

Convinced of the need for transparency in humanitarian supply management, using methods that help manage these resources;

Interested in including the necessary preparedness and mitigation measures in the post-hurricane reconstruction phase to guarantee a reduction in the health sector's vulnerability in the future; and

Noting the recommendations that emanated from the Meeting to Evaluate the Preparedness and Response to Hurricanes Georges and Mitch held in the Dominican Republic (16-19 February 1999),

#### ***RESOLVES***

1. To express its deepest regret for the thousands of lives lost and damage caused by hurricanes Georges, Mitch, and Floyd in the countries of the Caribbean and Central America in the continental United States.

2. To request the health ministers from the Member States to include disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness issues in their policies on social development and health sector reform and, in the countries where they do not already exist, that offices be organized dedicated to this field.

3. To recognize the SUMA system (supply management) as the regional standard to be used in emergencies and to request the highest level of training for personnel in this methodology.
4. To request the international donor community to increase its financial assistance to strengthen the countries' disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness programs, especially in the post-hurricane reconstruction phase, thus decreasing the health sector's vulnerability, and to include these practices in the sector's reform.
5. To adopt the document on lessons learned, prepared at the evaluation meeting on hurricanes Georges and Mitch, as official PAHO/WHO guidelines, and to suggest that each Member State adopt these in the development of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness policies.

*(Fourth meeting, 28 September 1999)*