



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.R9***

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

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas (Document CD41/9);

Taking into account the characteristics and trends of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Americas, which is affecting larger numbers of vulnerable young men, women, and children;

Cognizant of the well-known and important association of HIV transmission and the presence of other sexually transmitted infections; and

Recognizing the efforts, expertise, and experience developed throughout the last 15 years by the national AIDS/STD programs in preventing the sexual, bloodborne, and perinatal transmission of HIV in the Region,

#### ***RESOLVES***

1. To urge Member States to:

(a) further expand the national response against HIV/AIDS by actively engaging non-governmental organizations, the private sector, persons living with HIV/AIDS, religious organizations, and other community groups;

(b) continue to strengthen the Regional capacity for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections, specifically that caused by HIV, especially in the areas of laboratory diagnosis, drug procurement, epidemiological surveillance, and patient care and management;

(c) put special emphasis on the sexual and perinatal transmission of HIV and the prevention and control of other sexually transmitted infections through the adoption and/or adaptation of global and regional guidelines and protocols;

(d) maintain the gains obtained in the last decade in the prevention of the bloodborne transmission of HIV and other pathogens through ongoing training of health personnel, broader public information and education, and implementation of quality assurance in laboratories and blood banks;

(e) develop and implement national protocols for providing comprehensive care to people living with HIV/AIDS, taking into consideration standards of quality, efficiency and equity that ensure improvement in the quality of life of those affected by the epidemic;

(f) undertake integrated actions for the prevention, treatment, and mitigation of the harm to health caused by drug abuse, particularly intravenous drug abuse, as an important approach for reducing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

(g) emphasize the importance of having an expanded United Nations Theme Group to support and strengthen the national response to HIV/AIDS, in keeping with the national priorities set by each country;

(h) promote the establishment of binational, multilateral, South-South, or regional networks and mechanisms for cooperation on HIV/AIDS, particularly in contexts characterized by great population mobility, to permit the development of regional projects for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in these populations.

2. To request that the Director:

(a) keep Member States informed about developments in regional mechanisms for antiretroviral drug procurement to ensure equitable, appropriate and effective medical care of people with HIV/AIDS, and to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

(b) continue to strengthen the technical capacity of the health sector by forming alliances with national and regional professional associations, academic and research institutions and relevant nongovernmental organizations, while preserving and increasing the national expertise available in the ministries of health, social security institutions and other agencies that provide health services.

*(Seventh meeting, 30 September 1999)*