



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



42nd DIRECTING COUNCIL

52nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 25-29 September 2000

RESOLUTION

CD42.R3

FOOD PROTECTION

THE 42nd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having analyzed the report on food protection in the Americas (Document CD42/10), which describes the current problems deriving from foodborne diseases and the action that the Pan American Health Organization is taking to assist the countries in solving these problems through technical cooperation to organize food protection programs;

Taking into account that the Fifty-third World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA53.15 on food safety, emphasizing the importance of this topic as an essential public health activity;

Considering that, according to the reports prepared by the Pan American Health Organization through the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ), a significant number of outbreaks of foodborne disease have been observed, with a high number of cases and deaths from this cause; and

Bearing in mind that international trade poses a high risk for outbreaks of foodborne disease unless technical action is taken to prevent food contamination,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:

(a) organize food protection programs as an essential public health function, promoting active coordination among the health and agriculture sectors and industry;

(b) update and modernize their food inspection and protection systems, taking into account the Codex Alimentarius standards and the sanitary measures contained in the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards;

(c) consider, when implementing food safety measures, food for both domestic consumption and the export market, as well as medium and small enterprises;

(d) strengthen the surveillance systems for foodborne diseases so that the information obtained can be used to orient measures for the prevention and control of these diseases;

(e) encourage the active participation of producers, food processors, food handlers, and consumers through communication and health education programs;

(f) provide the necessary resources for the development of food protection programs;

(g) create, as soon as possible, national Codex Alimentarius committees in Member States where they do not exist.

2. To thank the Government of Argentina for its continued support for the maintenance and operation of INPPAZ, and to urge the rest of the countries to contribute to its financing.

3. To request that the Director:

(a) continue with the development and execution of the strategic plan on food protection;

(b) explore the need for a regional commission on food protection to deal with matters related to the development of regional policies in this area;

(c) establish mechanisms for coordination with other international technical cooperation agencies to offer the pertinent technical cooperation to the countries, avoid duplication of efforts, and make better use of resources;

(d) urge countries to establish a regional network of laboratories with a view to harmonizing methodologies and information exchange, which would result in improvements in quality.

(Final Report, CD42, 9-10)