



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



39th DIRECTING COUNCIL
48th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 23-27 September 1996

RESOLUTION

CD39.R10

TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AMERICAS

THE 39th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed Document CD39/20 on tuberculosis in the Americas;

Acknowledging the declaration by the World Health Organization that tuberculosis represents a global health emergency and the establishment by the World Health Assembly of global control targets for the year 2000 cure of 85% of new sputum smear-positive cases detected and detection of 70% of these newly infectious cases;

Convinced that tuberculosis continues to pose a grave threat to the public's health and development in the Region;

Considering that conditions exist in many areas of the Region that have been shown to facilitate the resurgence of the disease and the emergence of drug resistance; and

Recognizing that the proven cost-effective tuberculosis control strategy, DOTS—"directly observed treatment, short-course"—has been successfully implemented in some countries in the Region, thereby providing powerful models for adaptation to other countries,

RESOLVES

1. To urge Member Governments:

(a) To adopt the DOTS strategy and its five principal components of: government commitment to a tuberculosis program; case detection through predominantly passive case-finding; standardized and directly-observed short-course treatment for all pulmonary smear-positive cases; regular drug supply; and a program monitoring and evaluation system;

(b) To evaluate tuberculosis control programs using the principal indicators of cure and case detection rates, in order to quickly identify and resolve problems as well as report on progress towards the year 2000 global tuberculosis control targets;

(c) To collaborate with each other in these activities;

(d) To promote the involvement of communities, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions in these efforts.

2. To request the Director, as resources permit:

(a) To provide relevant technical information, training, and tools for effective tuberculosis control to Member Governments, with particular attention to countries with moderate and high tuberculosis incidence;

(b) To provide technical cooperation in the creation and expansion of DOTS demonstration areas, with a focus on high-incidence countries;

(c) To continue to build consensus and cooperation within and among countries for the control of tuberculosis by fostering the development of advisory groups, organizing meetings, supporting intercountry visits and operational research, and advocating for efficient and effective investment in control programs;

(d) To continue to focus attention on and encourage the scientific community of the countries to develop new and better vaccines against tuberculosis.

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