



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **40th DIRECTING COUNCIL**

49th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 22 - 26 September 1997*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD40.R20***

### **VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION**

*THE 40th DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having examined the report of the Director (Document CD40/22) on the progress made by the Special Program for Vaccines and Immunization and on the regional initiative calling for the elimination of measles in the Americas by the year 2000;

Recognizing the continued commitment of Member States to assigning high priority to immunization programs and their efforts to introduce new vaccines into the national vaccination schedule;

Noting with satisfaction that Member States who have followed PAHO's recommended three-step vaccination strategy against measles are effectively protecting children in the 1-15-year age range, but expressing concern that despite these advances the virus is still circulating in some parts of the Region and is affecting susceptible populations;

Concerned about the declining attention to the four acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance indicators, which are used to detect possible circulation of poliovirus;

Recognizing that the effectiveness of immunization strategies depends on the utilization of vaccines of assured quality; and

Recognizing the tremendous advances in vaccine research and development worldwide that will lead to important new vaccines,

***RESOLVES***

1. To urge Member States to:

(a) allocate the necessary financial and human resources to support routine immunization programs in the Region;

(b) maintain the Region of the Americas polio free, with appropriate surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis;

(c) consider the changes in the epidemiology of measles, review their current vaccination strategies for measles accordingly, insure that all susceptible populations are protected, and determine the need for a follow-up campaign among all children 1-4 years of age, including appropriate international coordination;

(d) coordinate the mobilization of resources from the public and private sectors, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in support of overall immunization programs, through inter-agency coordinating committees;

(e) strengthen the vaccine quality control system at the national and regional level through the continued support of the Regional Network of Vaccine Quality Control Laboratories and national control authorities;

(f) organize national advisory groups for vaccines and immunization to strengthen and coordinate activities of all institutions and laboratories involved in vaccine research, development, production, and quality control;

(g) strengthen surveillance in preparation for the introduction of new vaccines (such as Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), hepatitis B, and measles/mumps/rubella (MMR)), to accurately determine disease burden and develop appropriate vaccination strategy;

(h) provide resources and participate actively in vaccine research and development, in order to facilitate the availability of new vaccines of regional importance.

2. Request the Director to:

(a) continue his efforts to secure funds for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Measles Elimination in the Americas by the year 2000;

(b) coordinate activities related to research, development, production, and quality control of vaccines in the Region;

(c) promote actions by the Organization and the countries to make the highest quality vaccines accessible to their peoples at the lowest possible cost.

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