



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **51st DIRECTING COUNCIL**

### **63rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2011*

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CD51.R12 (Eng.)  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD51.R12***

### **PLAN OF ACTION TO ACCELERATE THE REDUCTION IN MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY**

#### ***THE 51st DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction in Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity* (Document CD51/12);

Taking into account the proposed international mandates in the Regional Plan of Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality in the Americas (Document CSP23/10 [1990]); the resolution *Population and Reproductive Health* (CSP25.R13 [1998]); the Regional Strategy for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction (Document CSP26/14 [2002]); the Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis (Document CD50/15 (2010)); Resolutions WHA55.19 (2002), WHA57.13 (2004), and EB113.R11 (2004) on reproductive health, adopted by the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board, respectively; the forums of Nairobi, Kenya (1987), Cairo, Egypt (1994), and Beijing, China (1995); the Millennium Declaration (2000); and the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;

Taking into account Resolution R11/8 of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (2009), Resolution CD50.R8 of the 50th Directing Council of PAHO (2010) and the technical document *Health and Human Rights* (CD50/12), as well as the high degree of complementarity between this plan and other objectives established in the *PAHO Strategic Plan 2008-2012, Amended* (Official Document 328 [2009]);

Considering the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2010 and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health;

Mindful of the need for scaling up the management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and risk factors (diabetes, hypertension, obesity, smoking) in maternal health care protocols, as discussed in the High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases;

Emphasizing that maternal mortality is a manifestation of inequity that affects every country in the Region, and that there are cost-effective interventions within the sector to effect the desired reduction that are capable of having a real impact within a short timeframe;

Considering the importance of having a plan of action that makes it possible for Member States to respond effectively and efficiently,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To approve the Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction in Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity and to further its consideration in policies, plans, and development programs, as well as in proposals and discussions of national budgets, allowing them to address the issue of improving maternal health.
2. To urge the Member States to:
  - (a) consider the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 and the call by the United Nations Secretary General in 2010 to implement a plan to help reduce maternal mortality;
  - (b) adopt national policies, strategies, plans, and programs that increase women's access to culturally appropriate, quality health services adapted to their needs, including, in particular, promotion and prevention programs based on primary health care provided by skilled personnel; that integrate preconceptional (including family planning), pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum care (including prevention and treatment of HIV infection); and that also take into consideration the provision of these services free of charge to the most vulnerable populations;

- (c) promote a dialogue between institutions in the public and private sector and civil society to prioritize women's lives as a human rights and development issue;
- (d) promote the empowerment of women and the participation and co-responsibility of men in sexual and reproductive health;
- (e) adopt a human resources policy that addresses the issues of recruitment, training, and retention to respond to the needs of women and newborns;
- (f) improve the capacity to generate information and research on sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality, and severe maternal morbidity for the development of evidence-based strategies that permit monitoring and evaluation of their results, in keeping with the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health;
- (g) undertake internal review and analysis of the Plan of Action, for implementation in the national context;
- (h) advocate for dedicated public budgets, where applicable, based on strategic results aimed at improving the coverage and quality of care for women and children;
- (i) promote the development of social protection programs for women and children.

3. To request the Director to:

- (a) support the Member States in implementing the Plan of Action, in keeping with their needs and their particular demographic and epidemiological characteristics;
- (b) promote implementation and coordination of the Plan of Action, ensuring its integration into programs;
- (c) promote and strengthen information systems and maternal health surveillance, including a regional repository available to all stakeholders, and encourage operations research to design relevant strategies and carry out interventions based on the Region's specific needs and contexts;
- (d) support the Member States in developing and creating capacities for training and appropriate distribution of maternal and neonatal health personnel;
- (e) consolidate and strengthen technical cooperation with the committees, organs, and rapporteurships of the United Nations and inter-American bodies, in addition to promoting partnerships with other international and regional organizations,

- scientific and technical institutions, organized civil society, the private sector and others, within the framework of the Regional Working Group for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality;
- (f) report periodically to the PAHO Governing Bodies on progress and constraints in implementing the Plan of Action, as well as on changes made to the Plan to adapt it, as necessary, to new circumstances and needs.

*(Eighth meeting, 29 September 2011)*