



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



25th DIRECTING COUNCIL

29th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 27 September – 6 October 1977

RESOLUTION

CD25.R14

REPORT OF THE IV SPECIAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF THE AMERICAS

THE 25th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having taken note of the Final Report of the IV Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas, which was held in compliance with Resolution XXXII of the XXIV Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization at the Headquarters of the Organization in Washington, D.C. on 26 and 27 September 1977; and

Considering that its conclusions contain recommendations that provide valuable guidance for accelerating the process of extending coverage of health services in all the countries of the Americas,

RESOLVES

1. To incorporate the development of community participation and primary health care into the policy of PAHO as basic strategies, and administrative development and the development of appropriate technologies as instruments for guaranteeing health service coverage that is universal, comprehensive, accessible, effective, and continuous, in the context of general socioeconomic development of the countries of the Hemisphere.

2. To recommend to the Governments that they renew their efforts to extend health services to the underserved population in rural and urban areas with the required vigor and speed, directing their efforts primarily toward:

a) programming to strengthen the strategies of community participation and primary health care, in accordance with the political realities and the socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of each country;

b) development of the administrative process in the planning and programming of investments and services, logistics, evaluation, and control of operations, in order to guarantee the effective and efficient delivery of services;

c) restructuring of health systems on the basis of the establishment of functional levels of care, with clearly defined referral procedures and effective intrasectoral and intersectoral coordination machinery.

d) reviewing of manpower development plans at all levels in both the institutional and the traditional community systems, and introduction or strengthening of measures for improving the training of that manpower so that it will contribute harmoniously to the process of change required by the extension of coverage,

e) development by countries with similar characteristics and common health problems of joint programs for evaluating, selecting, and adapting or creating appropriate technologies that will expedite the extension of coverage;

f) planned interchange of specialized personnel and experiences, with strategies and methods used in the countries for extending coverage; and

g) systematized analysis of the requirements of the countries for external cooperation and financing, and of their capacity to make appropriate use of it in supplementing their national resources.

3. To request the Director to make a study of the impact of the foregoing recommendations and of the changes they imply in the PAHO/WHO program of collaboration with the Governments in implementing these recommendations as soon as possible, and to report on the matter to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference.

4. To recommend to PAHO that the conclusions of the IV Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas the summary of the presentations made by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations on the status of the process of extending the coverage of services in their respective countries be presented as a contribution of the Region of the Americas to the International Conference on Primary Health Care to be held in Alma-Ata, USSR, in September 1978.²

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