



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



20th DIRECTING COUNCIL

23rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 27 September – 8 October 1971

RESOLUTION

CD20.R31

MAN-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND GOALS FOR 1970-80

THE 20th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the Director's report on man-environment relationships (Document CD20/7)1 including suggested goals for 1971–1980, submitted pursuant to Resolution XXXIV of the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference;

Recognizing that population growth and accelerating technological advances in urbanizing societies are producing unprecedented changes and a host of new stresses having in totality ill-defined impacts on the health and well-being of peoples;

Recognizing the need for appropriate diagnostic mechanisms to identify and predict the physiological, toxicological, epidemiological, and sociological consequences of rapid environmental change;

Bearing in mind that the continental and global dimensions of environmental pollution require international collaboration in order to understand and evaluate impacts on health;

Recognizing the need for continental and global networks for the monitoring and surveillance of environmental impacts on man, and the importance of the Organization's existing centers as a part of those continental and global networks; and

Noting the unprecedented advances in traditional sanitation achieved over the past decade by Member Governments, especially in providing water supply and sewerage services; in

strengthening national institutions essential to environmental-quality controls; in establishing the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences; and in initiating continental networks for monitoring and for continuing education, research, and graduate study,

RESOLVES

1. To commend the Director for his report and for his effective support in collaborating with Governments in order to provide basic sanitation services, and for his vision and initiatives toward meeting emerging environmental challenges.
2. To urge ministries of health that, in the course of economic development, they expand and strengthen their capabilities to cope with health-related problems of the changing human environment.
3. To reaffirm Resolution XXXIV of the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, requesting that ministries of health continue to emphasize the provision of basic sanitation services to urban and rural peoples, with special attention to community organization, self-help concepts, and revolving-fund mechanisms to support mass-approach techniques.
4. To thank the international lending agencies for their support to Governments in projects to improve sanitation and health and to request them to continue their collaboration.
5. To suggest that the Director reassess the Organization's total resources with a view toward strengthening the Region's total capabilities to meet the problems related to environmental health, including programs to promote the understanding, diagnosis, and assessment of environmental impacts on health, to monitor trends, and to provide educational and other support for environmental programs.
6. To request that the Director explore means for the establishment of a center for human ecology and health sciences, as a supplement to existing centers, keeping in mind the potential value of a regional center that will serve as a prototype in a global network for the study of human ecology.
7. To suggest that the Director arrange for liaison and collaboration with appropriate national and international agencies to exchange information, evaluate trends, and improve understanding of hemispheric and global environmental changes.

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