

158th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

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PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS 2016-2021

THE 158th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having examined the proposed *Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021* (Document CE158/18, Rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Directing Council adopt a resolution along the following lines:

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS 2016-2021

THE 55th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having examined the *Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021* (Document CD55/__);

Considering that the Plan is aligned with the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Sector Strategies for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for 2016-2021, the Global Strategy of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for 2016-2021, and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3,¹ and provides a clear long-term goal of ending AIDS and STI epidemics as public health problems in the Americas by 2030;

¹ Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015).

Referring to the proposed 2016 World Health Assembly resolution in support of plans and strategies to achieve the above goal at the global level;

Cognizant of the impact these epidemics have in the Americas, especially among key populations and other priority populations in situations of vulnerability;

Acknowledging the need to decrease and eliminate the scourge of stigma, discrimination, and violation of the human rights of key populations and people living with HIV;

Reaffirming that the Plan provides continuity and builds upon the achievements of the previous Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI (2006-2015) and the Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis (2010-2015);

Aware of the synergistic effect of the implementation of this Plan with other PAHO plans and strategies approved by the Governing Bodies;

Taking into account that the Plan reflects the priorities and commitment of Member States, civil society, and multilateral and bilateral agencies to end AIDS and STI epidemics in the Americas as a public health problem by 2030,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021* (Document CD55/___).
2. To urge Member States, as appropriate and taking into account their contexts, needs, and priorities, to:
 - a) continue to prioritize the prevention and control of HIV and STIs in the national agendas of the public health and social sectors;
 - b) strengthen the stewardship and governance of the HIV/STI response, with the active participation of civil society, to ensure effective and coordinated interprogrammatic and multisectoral interventions;
 - c) formulate, review, and align national HIV/STI strategies and plans, including setting national goals and targets for 2020 and 2030, in line with global and regional strategies, plans, and targets, and regularly reporting on the progress;
 - d) strengthen comprehensive strategic information systems to describe the HIV/STI epidemic and the continuum of HIV/STI services, increasing the granularity of data for subnational, gender, and other equity analyses;
 - e) develop and regularly review norms and guidelines in accordance with the latest WHO recommendations and scientific evidence;

- f) implement high-impact interventions along the continuum of health promotion, HIV/STI prevention, diagnosis, care, and treatment, tailored to the needs of key populations and others in situations of vulnerability and based on local epidemic characteristics, addressing the integrated management of opportunistic infections, other co-infections, and comorbidities;
- g) continue actions already in place to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis, with special attention to the diagnosis and treatment of maternal syphilis and the second phase of the elimination strategy, which includes the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of other infections relevant to public health, such as hepatitis B and Chagas disease in endemic areas;
- h) develop and implement plans and strategies for the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance, with special emphasis on gonococcal resistance and HIV drug resistance, and strengthen national laboratory capacity to monitor resistance;
- i) adapt delivery of HIV/STI services based on a people- and community-centered approach, through multidisciplinary teams, including trained lay providers, and an integrated network of health services that increases the resolution capacity of the first level of care, to address the clinical and psychosocial needs of people living with HIV, key populations and others in conditions of vulnerability based on the local epidemic, with culturally, linguistically and age-appropriate approaches, to achieve equity, maximize impact, ensure quality, and eliminate stigma and discrimination;
- j) improve integration of HIV/STI services to adequately address maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV co-infections, with special emphasis on TB-HIV, and co-morbidities, including specific interventions for harm reduction in substance and alcohol use disorders, and early identification and treatment of mental illnesses;
- k) strengthen laboratory capacity for screening and diagnosis of HIV, STIs, opportunistic infections and other co-infections, as well as for clinical monitoring, based on the latest WHO recommendations, prioritizing the use of WHO prequalified diagnostics, and ensuring quality assurance practices;
- l) secure the uninterrupted supply of quality-assured and affordable vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, condoms, and other strategic commodities related to HIV/STIs and opportunistic infections, strengthening supply chain management structures and processes, including forecasting, procurement, warehousing, and distribution;
- m) strengthen the technical capacity and competencies of the national health workforce, and address and eliminate stigma, discrimination and other forms of human rights violations in the health sector;
- n) facilitate the empowerment of civil society and enable engagement in the provision of effective and sustainable health promotion, and HIV/STI prevention, care and treatment services;

- o) increase and optimize public financing with equity and efficiency for the sustainability of the response to HIV/STI, and integrate prevention, care and treatment interventions into comprehensive, quality, universal, and progressively expanded health services according to need, and with a people-centered approach, noting that, in most cases, public expenditure of 6% of GDP for the health sector is a useful benchmark;
 - p) improve efficiency in the procurement of strategic commodities through regional and subregional mechanisms for price negotiation and procurement, including the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies (Strategic Fund).
3. To request the Director to:
- a) support the implementation of this Plan of Action through a coordinated and interprogrammatic approach to technical cooperation to address integration of the HIV/STI response in the broader universal health access and coverage strategy and in linkage with other regional plans and strategies;
 - b) provide support to Member States for the development and review of national HIV/STI strategies and plans, including target setting and program reviews to monitor progress;
 - c) provide technical support to Member States to strengthen information systems and HIV/STI surveillance and monitoring strategies, and build country capacity to generate quality strategic information on HIV/STI;
 - d) provide technical support to Member States for the development and review of policies and norms, and for the implementation of high-impact interventions along the continuum of HIV/STI prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment, based on latest WHO recommendations and ensuring quality and equity;
 - e) provide support to countries to accelerate the progress towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis, as well as other mother-to-child transmitted infections relevant to public health, such as hepatitis B and Chagas disease in endemic areas, and coordinate the process of validation of elimination at the regional level;
 - f) advocate for an enabling environment that ensures access to health for people living with HIV, key populations and other groups in conditions of vulnerability, promoting, upon the request of Member States, policies, guidelines, and health-related human rights instruments that address gender inequality, gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination, and other restrictions of human rights;
 - g) advocate for the empowerment of people and communities and for their meaningful, effective, and sustainable engagement in the provision of care;
 - h) advocate for building the capacity of the national work force to provide good quality and people-centered care in health services free from stigma and discrimination;

- i) advocate for full funding of the HIV/STI response and the inclusion of HIV/STI prevention, care, and treatment interventions into comprehensive, quality, universal, and progressively expanded health services according to need and with a people-centered approach;
- j) provide support to Member States through PAHO's Strategic Fund to improve the processes of procurement and supply management and distribution to ensure uninterrupted access to quality-assured and affordable vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, condoms, and other HIV/STI-related commodities, aligned with WHO prequalification;
- k) present a mid-term review to the Governing Bodies in 2018 and a final report in 2021.

(Fourth meeting, 21 June 2016)