

**Directing Council
PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
XL Meeting**

**Regional Committee
WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
XLIX Meeting**

Washington, D.C.
September 1997

Provisional Agenda Item 5.10

CD40/21 (Eng.)

8 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The health of adolescents and young people is a key element in the social, economic, and political progress of the countries of the Region of the Americas and for ensuring the Region's success, development, and competitiveness in the next century.

The Pan American Health Organization has been a pioneer in addressing the health of adolescents and young people within the context of their social and economic environment, and in developing the mechanisms for meeting their needs for health services, particularly health promotion.

At the XXXVI Directing Council (1992), the Member States approved the Plan of Action for the Health of Adolescents in the Americas. The Council adopted Resolution CD36.R18, which urged the governments to establish national policies and plans for comprehensive adolescent health; develop bonds of collaboration between the agencies responsible for the health of this age group; promote the participation of adolescents in health promotion; and collaborate on specific programs.

During the period 1992-1997, PAHO's Division of Health Promotion and Protection has been carrying out the Plan of Action, and national and international resources have been mobilized that have allowed substantial progress to be made.

The subject of adolescent health was submitted to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming at its 27th Session in December 1996 and to the 120th Session of the Executive Committee in June 1997. An evaluation of the progress of the Plan of Action and a discussion of future approaches was conducted. Both Bodies endorsed the comprehensive, holistic approach advocated by the Program, and comments and suggestions made have been incorporated into the present document. Resolution CE120.R8, annexed, was adopted taking into account these changes.

Based on this background, it is proposed that the XL Directing Council evaluate the progress of the Plan of Action and discuss its future approach; consider a new conceptual framework for adolescent health and development; and consider providing decisive support to the search for national and international resources that will allow for appropriate implementation of the Plan of Action for the period 1998-2001.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pan American Health Organization has been a pioneer in addressing the health of adolescents and young people within the context of their social and economic environment, and in developing the mechanisms for meeting their needs for health services, particularly health promotion.

At the XXXVI Directing Council (September 1992), the Member States approved the Plan of Action for the Health of Adolescents in the Americas. At that time, Resolution CD36.R18 was adopted, urging the governments of the Region to: establish national policies and plans for promoting the comprehensive health of adolescents; develop bonds of collaboration between the agencies responsible for the health of this age group; promote the participation of adolescents in health promotion activities; and initiate collaborative projects between the different governmental sectors.

During the period 1992-1997, PAHO's Division of Health Promotion and Protection has been carrying out the Plan of Action and national and international resources have been mobilized for adolescent health. Support primarily from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and also from the United Nations Population Fund played a key role in the initiation of the Plan of Action. The overall objective of the joint PAHOKellogg Initiative was to improve the scientific, technical, and administrative capacity of the national governments to initiate and strengthen comprehensive health programs for adolescents. The evaluation of progress made in following the Plan of Action found that while the countries have made tremendous progress in a short time in developing the infrastructure for adolescent health, there is still a long way to go and a stronger commitment is needed by all parties.

This paper describes PAHO's regional strategy for adolescent health and development for the next four years, analyzes the operational guidelines, and establishes a new plan of action for the period 1998-2001.

Based on this background, the progress achieved, and the lessons learned, the Executive Committee:

- evaluated the progress of the Plan of Action and discuss future approaches;
- considered a new conceptual framework for adolescent health and development;
- considered providing support for mobilizing national and international resources that will allow for appropriate implementation of the new Plan of Action;
- reviewed the Plan of Action 1998-2001 and recommended its adoption by the Directing Council.

If adopted by the XL Directing Council, Resolution CE120.R8 would call for the

Member States to advocate for the inclusion of adolescents and youth into the public and political agenda in order to improve the capacity of the countries to satisfy the needs of adolescents through development of appropriate policies and the fostering of intersectoral collaboration involving governments, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and the media.

TO CONSULT THE COMPLETE DOCUMENT YOU MAY [CLICK HERE ON DOC. NO. 131, CE12013](#), presented to the 120th Executive Committee.

ANNEX: CE120.R8

ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

THE 120th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having seen the report on adolescent health (Document CE12013)

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Directing Council the adoption of a resolution in the following terms:

THE XL MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the Director's report on adolescent health and development in the Americas and the Plan of Action for strengthening and developing plans and programs in this area (Document CD4021);

Considering the decisions adopted by the World Summit for Children and the resolutions of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization at the Forty-second World Health Assembly (WHA42.41) and the XXXV and XXXVI Meetings of the Directing Council (CD35.R16 and CD36.R18), respectively;

Recognizing the importance of adolescent health and development for the economic and social future of the countries of the Region;

Recognizing that the adolescent health situation has consequences for today's adolescents, in their adult life and in the generations to come;

Valuing the participation of young people and their contribution to the social, economic,

and political progress of the Americas; and

Considering the support that PAHO has provided for the development of plans and programs and the cooperation of the international agencies, especially the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the conceptual framework and Plan of Action 1998-2001 on adolescent health and development in the Americas presented in Document CD4021.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) advocate the inclusion of the topic of adolescence and youth on the political and public agenda;
 - (b) improve the capacity of the countries to meet the needs of adolescents by designing public policies for young people and training of human resources;
 - (c) strengthen networking and intersectoral actions involving universities, nongovernmental organizations, and the media;
 - (d) provide for the participation of young people in plans and programs, and encourage the active participation of adolescents in the promotion of their own health and that of their communities.
3. To recommend that the Director:
 - (a) support the development and dissemination of the conceptual framework of the Program on Adolescent Health in the Americas;
 - (b) collaborate in the development of human resources to attend to the multiple needs in health;
 - (c) strengthen and activate national, regional, and international networks that work with adolescents;
 - (d) promote operational research in this area.

*(Adopted at the seventh plenary session,
26 June 1997)*

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