



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

## 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

### 66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2014

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CD53.R8  
Original: Spanish

#### **RESOLUTION**

#### **CD53.R8**

#### **PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

#### ***THE 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action for the Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment* (Document CD53/11);

Observing that visual impairment is a major problem in the Region associated with poverty and social marginalization;

Aware that the majority of the causes of blindness are avoidable and that current treatments are among the most successful and cost-effective of all health interventions;

Appreciating the efforts of the Member States in recent years to prevent avoidable blindness but aware of the need to consolidate the achievements;

Recalling Directing Council Resolution CD47.R1 (2006), *Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Context of the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and Other Related Rights*,

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the *Plan of Action for the Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment 2014-2019*.
  2. To urge the Member States, taking into account their national context and priorities, to:
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- a) strengthen national initiatives to prevent avoidable visual impairments through better integration of eye health into national health plans and the delivery of health services, among other actions, as appropriate;
  - b) implement the actions proposed in the Plan of Action 2014-2019, in keeping with national priorities and universal access to services;
  - c) consider the related budgetary implications;
  - d) promote partnerships among the public sector, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, and communities in programs and activities geared to the prevention of blindness;
  - e) promote cooperation among countries in the prevention and treatment of blindness and visual impairment;
  - f) protect the human rights of persons with disabilities and update laws on disability, as appropriate, adapting them to the applicable regulations and international standards.
3. To request the Director to:
- a) support implementation of the Plan of Action in order to maintain and strengthen collaboration between the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Member States in the prevention of blindness;
  - b) provide technical assistance to the Member States for implementing the measures proposed in this Plan of Action, in keeping with national priorities and the universal and regional human rights instruments applicable to health and disability;
  - c) support implementation of this Plan of Action, especially with respect to the inclusion of universal and equitable access to services;
  - d) continue to prioritize the prevention of avoidable blindness and consider the possibility of allocating resources for implementing this Plan of Action;
  - e) promote technical cooperation among countries and forge strategic partnerships to carry out activities for the protection of eye health.

*(Seventh meeting, 2 October 2014)*