



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **33rd DIRECTING COUNCIL**

40th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 26-30 September 1988*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD33.R16***

### **POLICY AND LINES OF ACTION IN FOOD AND NUTRITION**

*THE 33rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having seen Document CD33/23 on the Organization's food and nutrition policy;

Considering the persistence of serious food and nutrition problems in the Region, largely due to the marginal social and economic conditions of important population groups and to the severe economic situation in the countries;

Aware that the nature of the problem will require coordinated multisectoral action, in which the ministries of health carry out specific measures in the national health systems and provide leadership in the technical aspects of their interaction with the other sectors involved;

Concerned that the stabilization and structural adjustment measures being adopted by the countries may aggravate existing deficits in the availability and consumption of food in low-income groups and increase the prevalence of undernutrition;

Recognizing that, in addition to protein-energy malnutrition, there are specific iodine, iron, and vitamin A deficiencies, as well as malnutrition from nutrient excesses and imbalances in the diets of many population groups; and

Taking into account the important role that the Organization plays in the food and nutrition area, both directly and in coordination with other technical cooperation agencies,

***RESOLVES***

1. To urge the Member Governments:

- a) To strengthen their multisectoral policies and strategies for increasing purchasing power and improving the availability and consumption of food, particularly in low-income populations and groups at high biological risk, in order to improve their nutritional status;
- b) To carry out measures for improving the food habits of the population that will result in a nutritionally balanced diet;
- c) To step up food and nutrition activities in national health systems and under the primary health care strategy, with broad social participation, through the effective mobilization of local and external resources, and taking account of the important part played by women in this work.

2. To request the Director, in working with Member Countries, to emphasize technical cooperation in the following aspects:

- a) The planning, execution, and evaluation of food and nutrition strategies directed at low-income populations and priority groups;
- b) Food and nutrition surveillance;
- c) Distribution of food to priority groups, especially mothers and children and other groups at the poverty level;
- d) Education and social communication in food and nutrition, including warning against the effects of malnutrition caused by insufficiencies and excesses;
- e) Control of specific nutrition deficiencies: iodine, iron, and vitamin A;
- f) Preventive nutrition in the management of chronic diseases associated with food and nutrition;
- g) Research into balanced diets using basic foods which, to the extent possible, are locally produced.

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