



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



34th DIRECTING COUNCIL
41st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 25-29 September 1989

RESOLUTION

CD34.16

BLINDNESS PREVENTION IN THE AMERICAS

THE 34th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having examined Document CD34/9. "Blindness Prevention in the Americas," and ResolutionCD26.R13 of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council (1979);

Recognizing that a great part of the eye damage which causes so much human suffering and economic loss can be prevented, cured, or minimized through rehabilitation;

Considering that many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean need technical cooperation and coordination in the introduction of local, national, or subregional programs on blindness prevention, primarily to identify populations at risk and in training personnel for the various levels of care; and

Taking into account the growing interest and support on the part of the governmental and nongovernmental organizations to develop activities in this area,

RESOLVES

1. To urge that Member Governments:

a) Maintain and strengthen their policies and programs for eye health and prevention of blindness integrated into general health services on the basis of the primary health care strategy and according to local needs;

b) Give special emphasis to the development of uncomplicated prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitative technologies related to the principal causes of blindness, enlisting ample participation from the community and from other sectors, especially the education sector.

2. To request that the Director:

a) Continue collaborating with the Governments of Member Countries and with nongovernmental organizations in the promotion of research, personnel training programs, and in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of national programs of blindness prevention, including the promotion of eye health, and aimed at the major causes of preventable blindness, particularly cataracts, glaucoma, onchocerciasis, and vitamin A deficiency;

b) Take steps to obtain extrabudgetary funds and other resources from nongovernmental, bilateral, and multilateral organizations, and from any other source capable of assisting national and regional programs for blindness prevention.

3. To congratulate the nongovernmental organizations on their efforts in the prevention and control of blindness in the Americas.

September 1989 OD 232, 121