



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



35th DIRECTING COUNCIL
42nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 23-28 September 1991

RESOLUTION

CD35.R17

CHOLERA IN THE AMERICAS

THE 35th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering the spread of the cholera epidemic in several countries of the Region;

Recognizing that, in the face of the threat of introduction of the disease to other countries of the Region, concrete measures must be adopted to limit its spread and to prevent mortality and reduce morbidity from the disease;

Cognizant that the parenteral vaccines presently available are not recommended for the prevention or control of cholera;

Aware of the link between the occurrence of cholera and the socioeconomic and sanitary situations in affected areas;

Noting the Director's initiative to coordinate the Organization's response to this emergency;

Mindful of the subregional action of the Andean and Central American countries to prepare coordinated plans for dealing with the emergency and to reinforce preparations against the threat;
and

Informed of the general strategy proposed by the Organization to address the problem, and of Resolution WHA44.6,1

RESOLVES

1. To call upon the international community to intensify its cooperation with the countries affected or threatened by cholera.
2. To urge the international and regional agencies concerned to give more priority to granting to these countries the technical and financial cooperation they may request for their struggle against cholera.
3. To express appreciation for the Organization's response, to date, in support of Member Governments' efforts to contain the cholera epidemic in the Region.
4. To urge the Member Governments:
 - a) To report any case of cholera immediately, in compliance with the International Sanitary Regulations;
 - b) Not to apply to countries affected by the epidemic restrictions on passenger transit and imports of products which are not justified from the standpoint of public health;
 - c) To establish and execute national plans for the prevention and control of cholera that identify the most vulnerable areas and population groups, allocate the resources required to launch those plans, assure use of an intersectoral approach, address the need for effective social communications, and indicate the need for international technical and financial cooperation in the context of the Organization's general strategy;
 - d) In the countries as yet untouched by the epidemic, to strengthen capabilities for epidemiological surveillance, control of the quality of drinking water, basic sanitation and food protection and control, social communication, and to strengthen diarrhea control programs with emphasis on proper case management, public information, and health personnel training.
5. To request the Director:
 - a) To strengthen measures that will ensure a prompt and effective response by the Organization to the needs of countries affected or threatened by cholera;
 - b) To assure that the Organization plays an active, creative role in mobilizing resources from all sources to provide the countries in the Region with the financial support required for their cholera prevention and control plans;
 - c) To coordinate regional measures against cholera so that technical and financial resources will be put to the most efficient possible use;
 - d) To continue activities for the development and evaluation of effective new vaccines against cholera;

e) To continue his efforts, in collaboration with the Member Governments and interested agencies and organizations, to implement the proposed general strategy by drawing up plans, programs, and projects for its implementation and full execution;

f) To prepare, in close collaboration with the Member Countries and other cooperation agencies, a long-term plan of investment in health and the environment for meeting the infrastructural requirements in those areas.

September 1991 OD 247, 131