



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.R15

**INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND
SANITATION DECADE : REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN THE
REGION AT THE END OF THE DECADE**

THE 35th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the document presented by the Director on the evaluation of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) (1981–1990);

Recalling Resolution XXII of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO (1979), and Resolutions WHA36.131 (1983) and WHA39.202 (1986) of the World Health Assembly on the Decade, which recognized water supplies and sanitation as essential elements for the achievement of Health for All by the Year 2000;

Noting the efforts made by the Governments, the contribution of the external support agencies (ESA), and the achievements of the IDWSSD program;

Aware of the efforts made by the Governments and the Director in the national and regional evaluation of the IDWSSD;

Considering that several countries of the Region were unable to attain their national goals due to the unfavorable socioeconomic conditions in the Region and to other factors;

Recognizing that the IDWSSD program has created considerable awareness of the need for water supplies and sanitation as essential elements for primary health care;

Noting further that the continued expansion of poor urban marginal areas where water and sanitation services are deficient constitutes high risks for transmission of diseases, particularly typhoid and cholera; and

Taking into account the recommendations of the Declaration of New Delhi, the Declaration of Puerto Rico, and the recommendations of the Director concerning a plan of action for IDWSSD,

RESOLVES

1. To urge Member Governments to:

a) Renew their political commitment to the improvement of water supplies and sanitation services, and to reiterate the importance of the relationship of health to access to adequate water supplies and sanitation services;

b) Intensify, with urgency, the action needed for the formulation and implementation of programs and projects to increase further the coverage of water supplies and of sewerage and excreta disposal services, particularly in poor marginal urban and rural areas, and to promote the rehabilitation of existing services where such services have shown signs of deterioration;

c) Improve water quality through the protection of water sources, including the treatment of waste that may affect them, and the improved management of water treatment and distribution systems,

d) Define policies and promote practices for water conservation, including the control of water losses, and to optimize the use of existing systems through better operation and maintenance and more efficient use of the facilities, and through the education of consumers about the conservation and use of water;

e) Define effective policies and promote practices for financial and engineering management of the systems that will provide more sustainable services, including appropriate recovery of costs with due regard for social equity and the adoption of appropriate technology;

f) Promote social mobilization in the water and sanitation sector, involving communities in planning, financing, and managing water and sanitation services;

g) Develop national monitoring and management information systems to improve knowledge of conditions in the sector and provide the basis for decision-making.

2. To urge bilateral, multilateral, and nongovernmental cooperation agencies to:

a) Recognize the importance of water and sanitation for socioeconomic development and to promote research in this area;

b) Increase their financial contribution to the water and sanitation sector in order to help the countries meet their respective objectives;

c) Develop effective mechanisms for coordination of sector activities within the external support community;

d) Support sector development and monitoring.

3. To request the Director to:

a) Continue to give high priority to the promotion of the development and efficient management of basic water supplies and sanitation services in the countries, with emphasis on the urban and rural poor and high-risk groups;

b) Develop, as soon as possible, a plan of action to guide and support the countries in their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Declarations of New Delhi and Puerto Rico toward the achievement of water and sanitation goals, within the strategy of Health for All by the Year 2000;

c) Assist the countries in developing and maintaining a national information system to monitor and evaluate program progress as well as sector and regional progress;

d) Support actively actions which are complementary to water and sanitation programs, and to increase their sanitary and health impact; these actions should include education and training programs, research, technology development, information exchange, and community participation;

e) Continue to work closely with bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies in order to optimize resource mobilization and to promote intersectoral collaboration among national sector agencies;

f) Support technical cooperation efforts among the countries by strengthening subregional and regional professional organizations;

g) Encourage translation of the results of the current country evaluations of programs and projects carried out during the Water Decade into effective action plans for programs during the decade of the nineties.

September 1991 OD 247, 127