



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



40th DIRECTING COUNCIL
49th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 22 - 26 September 1997

RESOLUTION

CD40.R12

**STEERING ROLE OF THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH IN THE
PROCESSES OF HEALTH SECTOR REFORM**

THE 40th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the document on the steering role of the ministries of health in the processes of health sector reform;

Bearing in mind the issues raised by the Member States in the technical discussions held on the topic;

Aware that the sectoral reform processes in the Region are producing a redefinition of institutional roles in the health sector, particularly that of the ministries of health, in order to guarantee the exercise of their steering role in health;

Taking into account the trend toward the separation of functions in financing, insurance coverage, and service delivery, which demands a greater capacity to direct, regulate, and evaluate, while performing the essential public health functions corresponding to the health authority; and

Recognizing that PAHO has been cooperating with the countries in the design and implementation of their health sector reform processes in response to the mandates of the Summit of the Americas held in Miami and the resolutions of the Governing Bodies,

RESOLVES

1. To endorse Document CD40/13, which traces the evolution of the steering role of the ministries of health within the context of the reform processes and proposes areas for concentrating PAHO cooperation, with a view to strengthening and developing the capacity to exercise that role as one of the key areas for the institutional development of the sector.

2. To urge the Member States to:

(a) strengthen the steering role of the ministries of health in the sector and their intersectoral leadership role in order to achieve the national health objectives that have been adopted;

(b) enhance the regulatory role of the health authority and its institutional capacity to execute the essential public health functions corresponding to the State;

(c) develop the mechanisms that will permit them to monitor, supervise, agree on, and take corrective action with respect to financing, insurance coverage, and service delivery by the various public and private sectors operating in the sector;

(d) encourage the development of new institutional and leadership capabilities and their supporting legal frameworks, undertaking the structural and functional reorganization of the ministries of health that will facilitate the full exercise of their steering role in the sector.

3. To request the Director to:

(a) assign the highest priority, within the Organization's efforts to develop health systems and services and the sectoral reform processes of the Member States, to cooperation activities geared toward consolidating the exercise of the steering role of the ministries of health and their institutional strengthening in order to achieve this goal;

(b) promote information exchange on national experiences in exercising the steering role of the ministries of health and on institutional development toward this end;

(c) establish and support an ongoing process of discussion, conceptual development, and reflection on application of the steering role of the ministries of health.

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