



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**24th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
28th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 27 September – 7 October 1976*

---

***RESOLUTION***

***CD24.R10***

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS**

*THE 24<sup>th</sup> DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Bearing in mind the assistance given by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau on the occasion of the earthquake that occurred in Guatemala on 4 February 1976, the provisions of Resolution XXX approved by the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in connection with the earthquake in Peru in 1970, and the recommendations concerning natural disasters contained in the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas;

Being convinced that similar emergency situations are bound to occur in the disaster-prone parts of the Region and are likely to affect countries that do not as yet possess comprehensive emergency relief plans or that need technical assistance in order to update and apply them;

Considering that most of the assistance agencies are not properly equipped to provide help in the health field in carrying out their reconstruction, rehabilitation and planning tasks; and

Being anxious that the international assistance given to countries affected by natural disasters should be better coordinated, rational and more effective,

***RESOLVES***

1. To thank the Director and the Secretariat, and particularly the personnel assigned to Guatemala, for the assistance given to that country in connection with the earthquake of 4 February 1976.
2. To request the Member Governments to develop plans and, where necessary, enact legislation, set standards, and take preventive or palliative measures against natural disasters and disseminate such measures throughout the sectors concerned, coordinating their action with that taken by the corresponding services of PASB.
3. To request the Director to set up within the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, after first compiling and analyzing the appropriate data and information, a disaster unit with instructions to define the policy of the Organization, to formulate a plan of action for the various types of disasters, to make an inventory of the human and other resources available, to train the necessary personnel, to prepare and disseminate appropriate guidelines and manuals, to promote operations research to meet the needs of the countries in disaster situations, and to ensure that this unit establish effective coordination with the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the International Red Cross, and other national and international bodies providing disaster assistance.
4. To request the Director to set up a natural disaster relief voluntary fund which can be used promptly and readily by the disaster unit.

*Sept.-Oct. 1976 OD 146, 55*