



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



26th DIRECTING COUNCIL

31st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 24 September – 5 October 1979

RESOLUTION

CD26.R13

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

THE 26th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that the prevention of blindness has been declared a priority of WHO's Global Technical Cooperation Program, international strategies and technical guidelines have already been established, and the Advisory Group on the Global Prevention of Blindness Program has now emphasized the need for regional action;

Considering that eye health care requires special attention and that the primary health care systems should be appropriately strengthened in order to achieve these objectives;

Considering that the four principal causes of blindness, which have priority under the Global Program for the Prevention of Blindness—infectious eye diseases, onchocerciasis, xerophthalmia, and cataracts—are present in Latin America and the Caribbean area, and that to them must be added glaucoma and eye accidents as causes of blindness in the Region;

Noting that some Latin American and Caribbean Governments are formulating national programs for the prevention of blindness; that, consequently, technical cooperation and coordination, particularly in assessing the extent of the problems, are needed in order to identify communities at risk, and that manpower training programs are required in that field and for the same purposes; and

Noting that various nongovernmental agencies, particularly the regional and national committees of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the Latin American Organization for the

Blind and Visually Disabled (OLAP), and the Pan American Ophthalmology Association, are actively addressing the problem,

RESOLVES

1. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to give all possible support to the Governments and to properly accredited nongovernmental organizations in the promotion of research, training programs, and the formulation of national and regional plans for the prevention of blindness, and in all aspects of visual impairment problems.
2. To request the Director to establish a Regional Advisory Group on the Prevention of Blindness to assist in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the program.
3. To strengthen technical cooperation for the development of regional blindness prevention programs.
4. To authorize the Director to obtain extrabudgetary funds for the implementation of this resolution by calling, where necessary, on the Governments and on nongovernmental organizations, and to invest the funds so obtained in blindness prevention programs.

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