



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.R36

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION PROGRAM IN THE AMERICAS

THE 26th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Bearing in mind Resolution X of the XXIV Meeting of the Directing Council on emergency assistance to countries of the Americas, and Resolution XXII of the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee on the emergency preparedness and disaster relief coordination program in the Americas;

Having examined the document presented by the Director on the disaster preparedness program in the Americas (Document CD26/11);

Considering that emergency situations caused by natural or man-made disasters are bound to affect the health status of the countries of the Region, and that the ministries of health should play a leading role, within the civil defense system, in emergency preparedness and relief activities related to health; and

Convinced that the most valuable contribution of the Organization in the wake of a disaster may be the speedy provision of technical cooperation.

RESOLVES

1. To thank and commend the Director for the development of the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Program and for the technical cooperation and assistance provided to Member Countries during emergency situations since its inception.
2. To urge Member Governments to establish a high-level multisectoral group to coordinate all relief measures and an ongoing program to update emergency plans, train health personnel, and promote research and case studies to improve disaster management.
3. To urge Member Governments and funding agencies to contribute to the Natural Disaster Relief Voluntary Fund (PD) and promptly to provide the Organization with technical cooperation immediately following a disaster on the basis of agreements signed prior to the emergency.
4. To request the Director to maintain direct contact with all funding agencies and institutions in order to channel relief assistance towards areas of need in the health sector.
5. To invite the Director to increase the cooperation of the Organization in assessing emergency needs, preparation of damage estimates, and rehabilitation projects following a disaster.
6. To request the Director to center the efforts of the Organization on the training of health officials in charge of emergency preparedness and the coordination of relief efforts in Member Countries, including in actual emergencies whenever possible.

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