



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



44th DIRECTING COUNCIL

55th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 22-26 September 2003

RESOLUTION

CD44.R13

IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATIONS IN THE AMERICAS

THE 44th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report on the Impact of Violence on the Health of the Populations in the Americas (CD44/15) and on the progress achieved by the prevention and control of the different forms of violence;

Recalling that the Directing Council in its 37th Session in 1993 and 39th Session in 1996, clearly defined violence as a public health problem and requested the Director to continue to cooperate with the Member States in the solution of this problem;

Taking into account that the World Health Organization has published the *World Report on Violence and Health*, highlighting the significance of the problem at the global level and proposing recommendations to face this situation; and

Considering that the indicators of interpersonal and self-inflicted violence have increased or remain high in many countries, while there are effective interventions that can reduce the problem,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) give priority and support for the development of plans, programs, and projects at national, intermediate, and local levels for the prevention of social and gender violence, ethnicity, and social class;
 - (b) apply the recommendations of the *World Report on Violence and Health*;

- (c) take the necessary steps for improving information systems, epidemiological monitoring of the different forms of violence; and monitor the progress of the interventions with the collaboration of the different committed stakeholders;
- (d) promote research on the causes of violence in specific contexts that are useful for its prevention and control;
- (e) strengthen the links with other sectors in order to address the risk factors related to violence such as access to firearms and illicit narcotics.

2. To request the Director to:

- (a) intensify cooperation with Member States in support of their efforts for the prevention of social and gender-based violence, including the dissemination of best practices and successful experiences in reducing its burden;
- (b) prepare a Regional Program for the Prevention of Violence that takes into account the progress, observed changes, and lessons learned from the First Regional Violence Prevention Plan;
- (c) continue efforts in the formation of networks, national and international coalitions, and interagency working groups which make possible coordination of activities and plans with greater efficacy;
- (d) disseminate the successful experiences for their study and application in other corresponding contexts;
- (e) foster initiatives that promote healthy social behaviors and discourage violence in the media.

(Ninth meeting, 26 September 2003)