



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**27th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
32nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 22 September – 3 October 1980*

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***RESOLUTION***

***CD27.R40***

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

*THE 27<sup>th</sup> DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Bearing in mind Resolution X and XXXVI of the XXIV and XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council, respectively, on the establishment of the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Program and the Natural Disaster Relief Voluntary Fund;

Having examined Document CD27/25 presented by the Director on the proposed medium-term program and strategy for the Emergency Preparedness Program and the role of the Organization in the immediate aftermath of disasters;

Believing that the Organization should extend its technical cooperation in all disaster or emergency situations presenting any serious threat to public health;

Being aware that emergency technical cooperation must be provided with the utmost promptness and a minimum of administrative or other delays; and

Being convinced that PAHO has the necessary technical and administrative capacity to coordinate international disaster health assistance in the Region and to offer technical advice to potential donors on appropriate assistance required,

***RESOLVES***

1. To approve the medium-term program and strategy proposed in Document CD27/25, and to request the Director to gradually increase technical cooperation within the Emergency Preparedness Program to assist the health sectors of Member Countries in the development of disaster preparedness programs also in case of natural or technological disasters of public health importance.
2. To request the Director to seek extrabudgetary funding for strengthening PAHO's technical cooperation at regional and area levels in emergency preparedness and disaster relief.
3. To request the Director to take the necessary steps to make a multidisciplinary team of PAHO experts available, on request, for providing emergency technical cooperation in case of a major disaster and to assist in the assessment of needs and in the coordination of the international health assistance.
4. To urge Member Governments of countries which are especially vulnerable to disasters and which so desire it to facilitate the entry of the multidisciplinary team of PAHO experts in the country after a disaster has occurred and, when deemed convenient, adopt the necessary measures prior to a disaster.
5. To request the Director-General of the World Health Organization to study the desirability of decentralizing to the Regional Office for the Americas the responsibility for the management and coordination of international disaster health assistance in the Region.
6. To request Member Governments, international organizations, bilateral agencies, and private donors to make contributions to the Natural Disaster Relief Voluntary Fund, which is operated by PAHO.

*Sept.–Oct. 1980 OD 174, 100*