



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **27th DIRECTING COUNCIL**

32nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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

---

### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD27.R17***

### **WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT**

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

Recognizing that health is an integral part of development, and that to ensure the achievement of health for all by the year 2000, women must be actively involved in the development process;

Considering that the health goals and priorities of the 1975 United Nations World Plan of Action remain valid and represent basic aspirations of Member Governments;

Recalling that the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in 1980 reported that insufficient progress has been attained at the mid-point of the Decade to achieve the objectives set forth by the Governments for improving the status of women;

Bearing in mind Resolution XXXVII of the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference, Resolution X adopted by the Directing Council at its XXIII Meeting, and Resolution XXV adopted by the Directing Council at its XXIV Meeting;

Having reviewed the report of the Director (Document CD27,33), which describes the activities of PASB in relation to the role of women in health during the first half of the Decade for Women;

Noting that although there has been some progress, much more remains to be achieved in advancing the status of women as well as their placement in decision-making positions in the health sector and in PAHO; and

Considering that in many countries the basic problem of inequality of opportunities for women as well as discrimination against women in all fields results from the traditional orientation of life style and from a type of education which gives preferential placement to men,

*RESOLVES*

1. To thank the Director for the review of the status of women in the Region and within the Bureau.
2. To urge the Governments to renew their commitment to the goals of the Decade for Women and to provide for the specific physical and mental health and development needs of women through effective national and international action to develop and implement primary health care throughout the Region.
3. To further urge the Governments to introduce the concept of equality between the sexes in their basic educational programs with the aim of eliminating prejudice and discrimination against women.
4. To recommend that Governments, with assistance from PAHO, give increased attention to the special need of disabled women of all ages for medical and social rehabilitation, particularly during 1981, the International Year of the Disabled.
5. To recommend that a special subcommittee of the Executive Committee be established to examine, with the cooperation of PASB, the World Plan of Action proposed by the Copenhagen Conference and develop a plan of implementation specifically oriented toward meeting the health needs of the Region and seeking solutions to the obstacles which interfered with the progress in the first half of the Decade, and that this plan, after review by the Member Governments, be presented to the 86th Meeting of the Executive Committee in June 1981.
6. To further recommend that the special subcommittee of the Executive Committee mentioned in paragraph 5 continue to monitor the progress made in the implementation of this Plan of Action and the achievement of the goals of the Decade.
7. To encourage the Governments to make it possible for women to play an active role in health development, particularly at the decision-making and planning levels, and to provide facilities for training them for appropriate positions.
8. To recommend to the Governments that they promote the development of technologies appropriate to ease the burden of families in regard to household activities, water supplies, and food production and preparation.

9. To recommend to the Governments that they consider the possibility of developing specific community projects, with the active participation of women, aimed at accomplishing the goals of the Decade.

10. To recommend to the Director that the Organization:

10.1 Cooperate with Member Governments in the development of plans of action which incorporate women in decision-making positions at all levels.

10.2 Strengthen its mechanisms for coordination with other organizations of the Inter-American System and the United Nations System in order to avoid duplication of efforts and utilize the available resources most effectively.

10.3 Provide technical cooperation in the development of educational material aimed at enhancing women's role in health and community development.

10.4 Provide technical cooperation in identifying and formulating projects that involve the active participation of women in health and community development.

10.5 Intensify the selection and recruitment of women for professional posts, including those at the highest levels, and promote the leadership abilities of women within PAHO, particularly in policy-making positions.

10.6 Further develop a focal point at the highest level of the Bureau to ensure that women's needs and roles are adequately considered in the formulation and implementation of health programs and to encourage the enhancement of the status of women within the Bureau, utilizing mechanisms such as career counseling and in-service training.

10.7 Present a report on the progress achieved in these areas to the XXX Meeting of the Directing Council.

*Sept.–Oct. 1980 OD 174, 76*