



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



20th DIRECTING COUNCIL
23rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 27 September – 8 October 1971

RESOLUTION

CD20.R23

SMALLPOX ERADICATION

THE 20th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Director on the status of the smallpox eradication campaign in the Americas (Document CD20/6);¹

Considering that in that campaign considerable progress has been made which must be consolidated;

Considering that the statement of the Government of the United States of America that it is recommending to the states within the U.S.A. that they suspend compulsory smallpox vaccination is justified because of the existence of excellent epidemiological surveillance services in that country;

Recognizing that most of the other countries of the Hemisphere are not in a similar position; and

Considering that it is necessary to maintain and intensify efforts to achieve eradication of the disease by improving case-reporting, surveillance, and maintenance services,

RESOLVES

1. To reaffirm that the eradication of smallpox continues to have high priority for the Americas and for the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization.

2. To thank the Governments for the efforts they have made to eradicate the disease, in particular the Government of Brazil for the activities it is carrying out to achieve that objective.
3. To urge all the Governments to continue to cooperate with and aid countries that request assistance by supplying vaccine, laboratory diagnosis facilities, and technical advisory services.
4. To take note of the statement of the Government of the United States of America to the effect that, taking into account its epidemiological situation, it has recommended to the state authorities within the U.S.A. that they suspend compulsory smallpox vaccination.
5. To recommend to the other countries of the Americas that, before adopting a similar measure to that adopted by the United States of America, they study the risks it involves and that they maintain their vaccination services and improve their epidemiological surveillance systems in order to proceed with the immediate investigation of any suspect case of smallpox and with revaccinations whenever necessary.
6. To instruct the Director of the Bureau to keep the Governing Bodies of the Organization informed of the progress of the smallpox eradication campaign.

Sept.–Oct. 1971 OD 111, 64