



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.R22

POLIOMYELITIS

THE 20th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Director on poliomyelitis vaccination programs in the countries of Middle America and South America (Document CD20/27);1

Having heard the statement of Dr. Albert B. Sabin on the item;

Bearing in mind that poliomyelitis is a disease which affects almost all the countries of the Americas, with varying rates of morbidity, and which periodically occurs in epidemics of varying severity and extent;

Considering that, although poliomyelitis mortality rates are relatively low, the disease is one which is the cause of serious sequelae;

Bearing in mind that poliomyelitis can be controlled with live attenuated oral vaccine of proven effectiveness which is available and easy to administer and has been used successfully in several countries of the Region, to the point of virtually eliminating in some of them the occurrence of clinical cases; and

Considering that it is the objective of the Member Governments that poliomyelitis cease to be a health problem in the Americas,

RESOLVES

1. To recommend to the Member Governments that they study their own situation in order to organize, intensify, expand or maintain, whichever is applicable, national poliomyelitis control programs.
2. To request the Director to coordinate the studies on poliomyelitis and the development of control programs in the Americas, and to provide the countries, within available resources, with technical and material assistance in planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating the corresponding epidemiological surveillance programs.
3. To request the Director, furthermore, to provide the countries with all possible technical and material assistance in the event of the threat or the occurrence of epidemics.
4. To authorize the Director to establish a Special Fund, in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of PAHO, financed by voluntary contributions, for the purpose of expanding available assistance and undertaking poliomyelitis control programs in the Americas as indicated by the studies and by Document CD20/27.
5. To invite Member Governments to generously contribute funds, material, and equipment for the establishment and maintenance of the Special Fund so that the Organization may give effective and prompt assistance to the countries in their poliomyelitis control programs.
6. To request the Director to approach the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies or public and private institutions in order to obtain assistance for the poliomyelitis control program.
7. To establish a sufficient reserve of live attenuated poliomyelitis oral vaccine, the cost of which is to be borne by the Special Fund, to serve the needs for epidemic control and to be distributed to the countries in accordance with the needs of, and progress made by, the respective programs.
8. To request the Director, in agreement with the Member Governments and utilizing the manpower and material resources available, to take the necessary steps to promote the organization of a regional network of laboratories for the isolation, diagnosis, and typing of poliomyelitis virus; and to request the Member Governments of the countries in which these laboratories are established to facilitate their use by countries that do not have such laboratories.
9. To request the Director to submit to the Directing Council a periodic report on the progress of the program.