



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



46th DIRECTING COUNCIL
57th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2005

RESOLUTION

CD46.R14

**HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA AND
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS**

THE 46th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Regretting the profound devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the severe human toll on the population of the southern states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama of the United States of America, as well as the impact that these and other natural disasters have had on the Region in past months;

Taking into account that, despite the best efforts of Member States to reduce the impact of disasters on the health and well-being of their populations and to improve disaster preparedness, natural disasters continue to have a negative impact on the health of the peoples, on the health infrastructure, and on the social and economic development of Member States; and

Conscious of the many expressions of solidarity from countries in this Hemisphere and of the cooperation made available by the United Nations and inter-American systems, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), while at the same time acknowledging that the affected areas themselves are most often the first to assist the disaster-affected populations,

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RESOLVES:

1. To express sincere condolences to and solidarity with the United States of America for the losses suffered from hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as with those countries that also suffered losses due to recent hurricanes and other natural disasters.
2. To urge Member States to continue giving priority attention to the allocation of financial resources intended to reduce the vulnerability of their populations and health facilities and to strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms for major emergencies.
3. To request the Director of PAHO to further support Member States by establishing a regionwide mechanism for immediate disaster response.
4. To request the Director of PAHO to present a report to the 47th Directing Council regarding advances made on the above.

(Ninth meeting, 30 September 2005)