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Resolutions of the PAHO Directing Council

The XXXVII Meeting of the PAHO Directing Council/XLV Meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas was held at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., from 27 September to 2 October 1993. The Council adopted 19 resolutions on a variety of topics, ranging from budgetary and administrative matters to specific health issues in the Americas. Salient recommendations in these latter resolutions are summarized below.

Health of indigenous peoples (Resolution V). The Council requested the Director to promote the participation of indigenous persons and their communities in all aspects of the Organization's work on the health of indigenous peoples; to identify existing technical cooperation resources and support the mobilization of additional international and national resources for the "Health of Indigenous Peoples" initiative; to promote the establishment of information and mutual cooperation networks between organization, centers, and institutions concerned with the health of indigenous peoples; and to promote collaborative research on high-priority health issues among indigenous peoples.

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas (Resolution VI). The Council fully supported the resolution of the World Health Assembly (WHA46.37), adopted in May 1993, which requested the Director-General of WHO to study the feasibility of establishing a joint and cosponsored United Nations program on HIV/AIDS. It also urged the Director to assist Member Governments in their efforts to establish intersectoral coordinating mechanisms regarding HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted diseases at the

country level, and to improve the coordination of activities of the various agencies of the United Nations and inter-American systems.

Regional Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas (Resolution VII). The Council requested the Director to provide support for activities aimed at the prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality, especially the mobilization of national and international technical and financial resources that will make it possible to execute the activities proposed in the Plan.

Establishment of the Regional Program on Bioethics in Chile (Resolution IX). The Council approved the establishment of this Regional Program and requested the Director to promote the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources to support and expand it. He was also requested to carry out an evaluation of the Program's work after 5 years of operation.

Regional Plan for Investment in the Environment and Health (Resolution XI). The Council requested the Director to ensure the Organization's continued support for strengthening national planning capacity in the area of environment and health, to carry out or update sectoral studies, and to develop investment proposals that will increase the mobilization of internal and external resources directed toward both health and environmental concerns. He was also asked to continue promoting contributions to the Preinvestment Fund in Environment and Health as well as analyzing investment in this area at the country level.

Expanded Program on Immunization (Resolution XIII). The Council noted with great satisfaction the more than 2 years had

passed since the last case of poliomyelitis due to wild poliovirus had been detected; that tremendous progress has been made toward control and elimination of measles and control of neonatal tetanus; and that the levels of vaccination coverage have been maintained or increased in most countries. At the same time, it recognized the need for further commitment on the part of all governments and agencies collaborating with the Program. The Director was requested to continue efforts to mobilize additional resources for Program initiatives and to establish a special fund for the control and elimination of measles.

Health promotion in the Americas (Resolution XIV). The Council asked the Director to prepare a regional plan containing concrete objectives and targets to enable monitoring and evaluation of advances in health promotion made in the countries and to present this plan to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming of the PAHO Executive Committee. He was also requested to continue efforts to identify and promote strategies to mobilize national and international resources for health promotion and protection initiatives.

Workers' health (Resolution IV). The Council asked the Director to continue to cooperate with the Member Governments in the implementation and development of national workers' health plans

and to assist them in mobilizing the necessary financial and technical resources for execution of those plans.

Family planning, reproductive health, and population (Resolution XVI). The Council requested the Director to ensure that the Organization provide the necessary technical support so that population and health, reproductive health, and family planning are included in the proposed regional and global plans of action on population; to collaborate with the countries in situation studies, policy design, and the development of strategies and programs to provide family planning and reproductive health services that are integrated with other primary health care and HIV/AIDS prevention programs; and to continue the search for resources to expand the Organization's activities in this area.

Violence and health (Resolution XIX). Considering that violent behavior is a public health problem of great magnitude and importance in the Region of the Americas, the Council asked the Director to formulate a regional plan of action on violence and health that contains a special component on violence against women while also considering all risk groups; to collaborate with the countries in the identification and mobilization of financial resources; and to ensure that effective measures are taken in PAHO/WHO for the compilation and dissemination of accurate data on this health problem.