



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



134th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 21-25 June 2004

RESOLUTION

CE134.R4

SCALING-UP OF TREATMENT WITHIN A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS

THE 134th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having considered the report, “Scaling-up of Treatment within a Comprehensive Response to HIV/AIDS” (Document CE134/13),

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Directing Council the adoption of a resolution along the following lines:

THE 45TH DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report, “Scaling-up of Treatment within a Comprehensive Response to HIV/AIDS” (Document CD45/__);

Recognizing the escalating epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean with more than 2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the region and having lost 200,000 lives to AIDS in 2003;

Acknowledging that the Caribbean has the second highest prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS in the world after sub-Saharan Africa and that the prevalence rates are rapidly growing in Central America;

Cognizant that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is challenging health systems in all countries of the Americas;

Considering that attention to treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Americas has not kept pace with prevention efforts, due until recently to the high costs of medication and considerable stigma and discrimination resulting in the limited use of counseling and testing services;

Taking into account the technological developments, successful interventions, and closer partnerships among stakeholders, as well as increased financial opportunities for scaling-up access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS; and

Considering the launching of the “3 by 5” Initiative by the Director-General of the World Health Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) scale up efforts to treat HIV/AIDS/STI within the context of a comprehensive response to the epidemic;
 - (b) strengthen health systems for the effective response to the challenges of HIV/AIDS/STI, and to expand links with related services, including those of tuberculosis and maternal-and-child health;
 - (c) ensure the effective, reliable supply of medicines, diagnostics, and other commodities necessary for scaling up of treatment;
 - (d) ensure an enabling environment, including political commitment and leadership, partnerships, and community mobilization;
 - (e) sustain and reinforce prevention activities and the reduction of stigma within the health services, especially those to prevent mother-to-child transmission, voluntary counseling and testing, control of STI and the elimination of congenital syphilis, and services for vulnerable groups, including youth, men who have sex with men, migrants, sex workers, and intravenous drug users;
 - (f) strengthen the surveillance capacity of technical programs to monitor the trends in the epidemic and the impact of interventions, adjusting national responses and strategies accordingly;

- (g) track the flow of internal and external resources in support to the comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and to identify the necessary resources for scaling up treatment.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) continue to develop mechanisms to scale up treatment within a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS in the Americas, including the expansion of the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Health Supplies, the application of tools and guidelines, human resource development and training, and other appropriate measures in support of health systems and services strengthening;
 - (b) articulate and consolidate PAHO efforts for scaling up treatment with the global “3 by 5” Initiative promoted by World Health Organization so Member States benefit from the synergies of these endeavours;
 - (c) continue to foster partnerships with the cosponsoring agencies of the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS), as well as with other institutions and agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Americas;
 - (d) continue to promote the sharing of regional and extra regional experiences and capacity development in HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and control.

(Seventh meeting, 24 June 2004)