



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

## 54th DIRECTING COUNCIL

### 67th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2015

---

CD54.R18  
Original: Spanish

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **CD54.R18**

#### **METHOD FOR THE ESTIMATION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE PERIOD 1990-2015**

#### ***THE 54th DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having considered the document *Method for the Estimation of Maternal Mortality in the Period 1990-2015* (Document CD54/23);

Recalling that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established in September 2000 to achieve eight goals to fight a range of problems related to poverty, education, gender, health, the environment, and development by 2015 through the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution A/RES/55/2);

Noting that, thanks the efforts made by the Member States and other stakeholders within the framework of achieving the MDGs, very significant improvements were achieved, including a global reduction in maternal mortality;

Recognizing the importance of periodically evaluating progress toward meeting the MDG targets;

Recalling that the initial indicators were prepared in 2002 and first used in 2003;

Considering that, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, the initial indicators were modified in Resolution A/RES/60/1 (2005) of the United Nations General Assembly to include four new targets, replacing the method adopted in 2003;

Considering that after two years of public consultations, interaction with civil society, and negotiations among the Member States of the United Nations, the 2030

---

Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted on 25 September at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015;

Having observed that intense work has been done in recent years to end the stagnation in maternal mortality and accelerate its reduction, resulting in a significant decline and global progress toward the established target; and observing, furthermore, that reducing maternal mortality has been one of the main lines of action in policies and programs to improve women's health, and that, through national and regional efforts, maternal mortality declined by 40%, on average, between 1990 and 2013 in the Region;

Recognizing that most of the countries have not reached the MDG target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio by 75% between 1990 and 2015, and that, as a result, its reduction remains a central challenge on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is why agreement has been reached with other regions to keep this target in the Sustainable Development Goals;

Considering that the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group—composed of WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the United Nations Population Division—has made estimates of maternal mortality for the period 1990-2015 using a revised statistical model that does not coincide with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10);

Concerned, because the recent revision in the method used by the Inter-agency Group to estimate this indicator was adopted without due consultation with the Member States, which has raised concern with regard to comparability between countries, and historical traceability, and may result in problems for the technical teams of the ministries of health in terms of comprehension and replicability;

Considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals that will govern global development programs over the next 15 years,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To call on WHO, in coordination with the Inter-agency Group, to:
  - a) hold workshops with Member States on the revised methodology for the 1990-2015 maternal mortality estimates in order to facilitate open dialogue and to advance agreement;
  - b) postpone the publication of the estimates until after the workshops, once agreement has been reached; and
  - c) produce a document that explains the differences between the methods and the reason for the revision.

2. To request WHO, in coordination with the Inter-agency Group, not to include late maternal deaths and maternal deaths from sequelae in the 1990-2015 estimates, in accordance with the ICD-10.
3. To request WHO, in coordination with the Inter-agency Group, in the event that agreement is reached on a revised estimation system, in consultation with the Member States, to produce, in time for the approval of the indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a set of relevant data on the maternal mortality ratio that uses the revised method, in order to facilitate comparability with the 1990-2015 measurement period.
4. To request WHO, in coordination with the Inter-agency Group, to work with the Member States to adjust 1990-2015 estimates, where appropriate and where reliable evidence is available from official national sources.
5. To recognize the importance of improving the availability and quality of statistical data on maternal deaths, including late deaths and deaths from sequelae, with a view to achieving continuous improvement in the presentation of statistical information.
6. To request WHO, in coordination with the Inter-agency Group, if agreement is not reached with the Member States on revised methodology for estimating 1990-2015 maternal mortality, and in consultation with other regions, to consider returning to the definition established in the ICD-10 and, where appropriate, to use reliable evidence from official national information sources.
7. To reiterate the need to establish a broad and inclusive consultation process aimed at addressing all the issues related to the revised methodology.
8. To urge the Member States to:
  - a) reaffirm their commitment to the target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio, as established in the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - b) work with the support of WHO and experts of the Inter-agency Group in the processes for estimating the maternal mortality ratio.
9. To request the Director to:
  - a) advocate, in her capacity as Director of the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, for WHO to inform the members of the Inter-agency Group that the Member States have an interest in establishing a forum for dialogue to review the proposed modification of the method to ensure that it is uniform, transparent, evidence-based, and replicable, and that it helps to improve accountability;
  - b) promote the reporting of the maternal mortality ratio using the ICD-10 definition for estimating maternal mortality for the period 1990-2015;

- c) advocate for adherence to and monitoring of quality standards when data are published; and for consultation with the Member States on any change or modification in order to ensure that the estimates corresponding to each country are coherent and timely;
- d) prioritize regional efforts to contribute to meeting commitments that guarantee well-being and human health, based on the principles of transparency and accountability that have guided the countries of the Region toward the achievement of the MDGs;
- e) in coordination with the WHO Secretariat, contribute technical information to the deliberations on this issue by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, established by the Statistical Commission.

*(Ninth meeting, 2 October 2015)*