



Pan American
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World Health
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

160th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CE160.R2

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MEASLES, RUBELLA, AND CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME ELIMINATION IN THE AMERICAS 2018-2023

THE 160th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the proposed *Plan of Action for the Sustainability of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Americas 2018-2023* (Document CE160/16),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference adopt a resolution in the following terms:

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MEASLES, RUBELLA, AND CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME ELIMINATION IN THE AMERICAS 2018-2023

THE 29th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action for the Sustainability of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Americas 2018-2023* (Document CSP29/___);

Having considered the declaration of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome elimination in the Americas in the report submitted by the chairman of the International Expert Committee for Documenting and Verifying Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Americas (IEC) to the Director and to

the Member States at the 55th Directing Council of PAHO, 68th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, in September 2016;

Having reviewed the recommendations of the IEC to maintain the Region of the Americas free from the endemic transmission of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome;

Recognizing the enormous work that the Member States have done in finalizing the documentation and verification of interruption of the endemic transmission of measles and rubella in the Region of the Americas, as requested in Resolution CSP28.R14 of September 2012;

Noting with concern that the global initiative to eliminate measles and rubella in other regions of the world has not progressed significantly, and that, as long as transmission of the two viruses is not interrupted on a global scale, importation of the viruses is possible and the achievements of the Region of the Americas are at risk;

Considering that the sustainability phase of measles and rubella elimination requires the highest level of political commitment on the part of the PAHO Member States to address the challenges in their vaccination programs and their surveillance systems to avoid threats to the elimination of these diseases;

Recognizing the need for an action plan to protect the achievements of our Region, maintain elimination on an ongoing basis, and avoid the risk of endemic reestablishment of these viruses through importation of cases from other regions of the world,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate all the Member States and their health workers on the historic achievement of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome elimination in the Region of the Americas.
2. To approve and implement the *Plan of Action for the Sustainability of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Americas 2018-2023* (Document CSP29/___) in the context of the particular conditions in each country.
3. To urge all Member States to:
 - a) promote implementation of the objectives and indicators contained in the PAHO Plan of Action on Immunization for 2015-2019 (Document CD54/7, Rev. 2 [2015]) in order to achieve at least 95% vaccination coverage at the national and municipal levels with the first and second doses of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, as well as least 95% national and municipal coverage of follow-up vaccination campaigns against measles and rubella;

- b) strengthen epidemiological surveillance of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome for achieving timely detection of all suspected and confirmed cases of these diseases in the context of emerging new diseases that are public health priorities, such as arbovirus diseases;
 - c) build national operational capacity in the countries to sustain measles and rubella elimination by creating or maintaining national committees to monitor fulfillment of plans for the sustainability of elimination, and also by using regional and national tools to update and train health workers in the public and private sectors;
 - d) establish standardized mechanisms for rapid response to imported cases of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome in order to prevent the reestablishment of endemic transmission of these diseases within countries, while also creating or activating rapid response teams trained for this purpose and implementing national rapid response plans in the event of imported cases.
4. To request the Director to:
- a) continue to provide Member States with technical cooperation for strengthening national capacity to carry out the activities needed to immunize the population and conduct high-quality epidemiological surveillance of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome, as described in this Plan of Action, to ensure the sustainability of elimination of these viruses;
 - b) continue to mobilize the additional financing necessary to support Member States in preparing their response to measles and rubella outbreaks associated with imported cases, as well as in conducting follow-up vaccination campaigns and other activities described in this Plan of Action;
 - c) continue to promote efforts at the highest political level in other regions of the world and with partners and allies to move rapidly toward reaching the targets established by WHO for the global elimination of measles and rubella and the ultimate eradication of both viruses.

(First meeting, 26 June 2017)