

29th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

69th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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CSP29.R3
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RESOLUTION

CSP29.R3

POLICY ON ETHNICITY AND HEALTH

THE 29th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having reviewed the *Policy on Ethnicity and Health* (Document CSP29/7, Rev. 1);

Considering the need to promote an intercultural approach to health to eliminate health inequities among indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups, as applicable to the national context;

Recognizing the differences among ethnic groups between and within countries and acknowledging the differences in their challenges, needs, and respective historical contexts;

Recalling the principles enshrined in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001); the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007); the Rio Political Declaration on the Social Determinants of Health (2011); the World Summit of Afro-descendants (2011); the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 (2013); the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014); and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), as well as the principles enshrined in other international instruments related to ethnicity and health;

Referring to the framework of PAHO mandates related to the health of indigenous peoples, the mainstreaming of ethnicity as a cross-cutting theme of the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019, and the lessons learned;

Recognizing the importance of PAHO as a whole (PASB and Member States) emphasizing efforts to strengthen the intercultural approach to health to achieve the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health by indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups, based on their respective national context;

Bearing in mind the need to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the intercultural approach to health and equal treatment of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups from the standpoint of equality and mutual respect, considering the value of their cultural practices, which include their lifestyles, value systems, traditions, and world views,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the *Policy on Ethnicity and Health* (Document CSP29/7, Rev. 1).
2. To urge the Member States, as appropriate, and taking their national context, regulatory frameworks, priorities, and financial and budgetary situation into account, to:
 - a) promote public policies that address ethnicity as a social determinant of health, from the perspective of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups;
 - b) foster better access to quality health services, among other things, promoting intercultural health models that, through dialogue, include the perspective of the ancestral and spiritual wisdom and practices of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups, based on the respective national context;
 - c) strengthen institutional and community capacity in the Member States to produce sufficient quality data and generate evidence for policy-making with respect to the inequalities and inequities in health experienced by indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups, for intersectoral policy-making in health;
 - d) strengthen institutional and community capacity at all levels to implement the intercultural approach to health systems and services, helping, among other things, to guarantee access to quality health services;
 - e) increase, promote, and ensure the social participation of all indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups in the development and implementation of health policies, considering gender differences and life-course perspective;
 - f) promote the generation of knowledge and dedicated spaces for ancestral medicine and wisdom to strengthen the intercultural approach to health;

- g) integrate the ethnic approach and vision of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups in the implementation of the Plan of Action on Health in All Policies (Document CD53/10, Rev.1 [2014]), in keeping with national realities;
 - h) promote intersectoral cooperation for the sustainable development of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups.
3. Request the Director, as the financial resources of the Organization permit, to:
- a) advocate for the inclusion of strategic components on ethnicity and health in the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 and the PAHO strategic plan for the period 2020-2025;
 - b) prioritize technical cooperation to assist countries in strengthening health system capacity to include ethnicity as a social determinant of health from the perspective of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and applicable international and regional human rights instruments;
 - c) continue prioritizing ethnicity as a cross-cutting theme of PAHO technical cooperation, in harmony with gender, equity, and human rights;
 - d) strengthen interinstitutional coordination and collaboration mechanisms to achieve synergies and efficiency in technical cooperation within the United Nations and Inter-American systems and with other stakeholder entities working in the field of ethnicity in health, especially subregional integration mechanisms and pertinent international financial institutions.

(Third meeting, 26 September 2017)