RESOLUTION

CD47.R18

HEALTH OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE AMERICAS

THE 47th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Recognizing the progress achieved by the Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative and cognizant of the findings of the evaluation of the International Decade of Indigenous People of the World;

Taking note of the existence of inequities in health and access to health care services that affect more than 45 million indigenous people living in the Region of the Americas; and

Considering that the attainment of the internationally agreed-upon health-related development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, cannot be reached unless the specific health needs of excluded populations, such as the indigenous peoples, are addressed,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the proposed strategic lines of action for PAHO’s technical cooperation on the health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas.

2. To urge Member States to:

(a) ensure the incorporation of indigenous peoples’ perspectives into the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and national health policies;

(b) improve information and knowledge management on indigenous health issues to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and monitoring capacities in
the Region;

(c) integrate the intercultural approach into the national health systems of the Region as part of the primary health care strategy;

(d) develop, together with PAHO/WHO, strategic alliances with indigenous peoples and other stakeholders to further advance the health of the indigenous peoples;

(e) promote the training, education and leadership development of indigenous healers, and their incorporation in the health system formally, where appropriate;

(f) promote the incorporation of the intercultural approach in the curricula of all training and degree programs in areas of health and related fields and its implementation in all health institutions;

(g) promote the establishment of permanent mechanisms of consultation with indigenous communities for health decisions related to them;

(h) train human resources from the health system to act as intercultural facilitators.

3. To request the Director to:

(a) support the development and implementation of the proposed strategic lines of action for PAHO’s technical cooperation, including the opportunity for developing a Regional Plan for the Health of the Indigenous Peoples;

(b) advocate the mobilization of national and international resources to support efforts to improve the health of the indigenous peoples in the Region;

(c) ensure the inclusion of the proposed strategic lines of action into the Pan American Sanitary Bureau Strategic Plan 2008-1012 and promote their inclusion in the Ten-Year Health Agenda for the Americas.

(Ninth Meeting, 29 September 2006)