



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **26<sup>th</sup> PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE** **54<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 23-27 September 2002*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CSP26.R17***

#### **MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS (HEMA)**

#### ***THE 26<sup>th</sup> PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,***

Recalling Resolution CD43.R15, which instructed the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to work with the Government of Canada and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to convene the Meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA);

Having considered the report of the HEMA, which took place in Ottawa, 4 and 5 March 2002; and

Recognizing the link between health and the environment; noting the impact on health of environmental factors such as water and sanitation, outdoor and indoor air pollution, and exposure to agro-industrial chemicals and wastes; and particularly aware of the relationship between environmental conditions and diseases such as diarrhea and respiratory infections,

#### ***RESOLVES:***

1. To urge the Member States to:
  - (a) work along the lines agreed to in the Ministerial Communiqué in its three defined areas: setting future directions for health and environment in the Americas, issues of common concern and shared goals, and building and sharing capacities to respond to threats;
  - (b) build bridges at the national and local levels between the health and environmental sectors in an inclusive alliance which will call upon actors in the relevant public sector, private sector, and civil society;

- (c) participate and support the work of the Task Force defined in the Ministerial Communiqué and being convened by the Government of Canada with the collaboration of PAHO and UNEP.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) collaborate with the Government of Canada, UNEP, and other international organizations, which will make proposals for the follow-up process on HEMA as registered in the Ministerial Communiqué;
  - (b) integrate the proposals of the Task Force and the work under way in 2002-2003 into PAHO's ongoing technical cooperation work, with special emphasis on the collaboration with countries in capacity-building and the work in hygiene, water and sanitation, air pollution, and chemical safety.
3. To recognize and praise the leadership role of the Government of Canada in promoting collaborative actions between the health and environmental sectors in the construction of sustainable human development.

*(Ninth meeting, 27 September 2002)*