



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE
54th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTION

CSP26.R19

**EXTENSION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH:
JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

THE 26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having seen Document CSP26/12, Extension of Social Protection in Health: Joint Initiative of the Pan American Health Organization and the International Labour Organization;

Mindful that the Pan American Health Organization and the International Labour Organization have launched a joint initiative aimed at reducing exclusion in health through the extension of social protection in health;

Having noted the respective Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations;

Having noted the different activities carried out under these arrangements to extend social protection in health in the Region;

Considering that the levels of exclusion in health remain high in the Hemisphere, notwithstanding the efforts and resources invested to improve the situation, which is deteriorating with the growth of the informal economy and the rising levels of poverty, and that innovative criteria must be used in addressing this problem; and

Bearing in mind the importance of redoubling national and hemispheric efforts to guarantee equitable access to health services within the framework of the goal of Health for All, regardless of the ability to pay,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) identify, monitor, and evaluate potential causes of social exclusion in health;
 - (b) consider adopting policies and practices dedicated to the reduction of income inequality, one of the underlying causes of health disparities in the Region;
 - (c) define national strategies to extend social protection in health;
 - (d) include the extension of social protection in health as a guiding element in sectoral reform processes;
 - (e) promote processes of social dialogue that will permit the definition of national objectives and strategies in this field;
 - (f) implement national strategies to extend social protection in health, including the participation of the public and private sectors and nongovernmental organizations, where appropriate;
 - (g) give special attention to the social protection in health of migrant populations.
2. To request the Directors of the PASB and ILO to:
 - (a) widely disseminate in the countries of the Region the conceptual and methodological documentation characterizing exclusion in health and how to combat it through the extension of social protection in health;
 - (b) work with the Member States to promote a social dialogue on this issue, analysis and discussion of how to address it in the countries, and regional cooperation mechanisms in support of these processes;
 - (c) help countries design and formulate strategies for identifying, monitoring, and evaluating social exclusion, and in designing models for extending social protection in health, based on individual country needs and priorities;
 - (d) continue to promote the extension of social protection in health as a line of work in their cooperation activities in the Region.

(Ninth meeting, 27 September 2002)