



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.R20

HEALTH AND AGING

THE 26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Taking into account the importance of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, to address the health problems of the older population of the Americas;

Acknowledging the shift of paradigm to healthy and active aging and the efforts made towards reducing the negative stereotypes and misunderstandings about aging since the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference and its adoption of Resolution CSP25.R6;

Understanding the enormous implications of population aging for many of the health priorities of the Americas; and

Considering the need to promote a comprehensive system to support active healthy aging, in collaboration with other partners,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) build on the momentum created by the 2nd World Assembly on Aging, adopt national policies and plans for the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, and provide adequate support for the implementation of priority areas;
 - (b) advocate for the promotion and protection of the human rights and basic freedoms of older persons;
 - (c) adopt appropriate health promotion priorities for older persons and develop gender- and ethno-specific targets, as well as surveillance strategies in the areas

- of nutritional health, physical activity, unintentional injury and fall prevention, mental health, and prevention of aggression against older persons;
- (d) commit to increase the access of older persons, especially those that are resource-poor, to age-appropriate health care, essential drugs, and vaccinations, under the principle of equity;
 - (e) promote initiatives for the development of community-based long-term care options (including supportive housing and assisted living) and regulate the delivery of care in such settings;
 - (f) promote research for the monitoring and evaluation of program effectiveness;
 - (g) develop a plan to train primary health workers and other health professionals at the undergraduate and graduate level in the basics of health promotion and the fundamentals of appropriate health care for older persons and of geriatric medicine.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) support regional implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, in coordination with other collaborating partners;
 - (b) assist the Member States in developing healthy aging targets and indicators;
 - (c) encourage the Member States to develop coordinated community-based strategies to support active aging and to disseminate information in this regard;
 - (d) help the Member States work toward the development of enabling and supportive environments for older persons, including regulated long-term care facilities.

(Ninth meeting, 27 September 2002)