



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



48th DIRECTING COUNCIL
60th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2008

CD48.R11 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTION

CD48.R11

**PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND INJURIES AND PROMOTING SAFETY:
A CALL FOR ACTION IN THE REGION**

THE 48th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report of the Director, *Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: A Call for Action in the Region* (Document CD48/20), which covers the First Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas, convened by the Minister of Health of Mexico and the Pan American Health Organization (Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, 14 March 2008), to support the health sector's role and intersectoral work for the prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries, defined as externally caused injuries (ECIs);

Recalling that the Directing Council, in its 37th session in 1993, 39th in 1996 and 44th in 2003, has clearly defined and ratified violence as a public health problem, requesting the Director to continue efforts and cooperation with Member States in the search for tools and solutions for these problems;

Noting that the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, and the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Road Safety have adopted resolutions and published documents on the subjects of preventing ECIs and promoting safety, clearly addressed, with recommendations for action;

Considering the timely meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Americas and the Ministerial Declaration on Violence and Injury Prevention in the Americas signed at the 14 March 2008 meeting, whose content is relevant for decision-making; and

Recognizing that although the Directing Council of PAHO has adopted resolutions on violence prevention, it is necessary to expand the framework of action to all externally caused injuries, not only because of the high burden of cases but also because of the availability of interventions that can have preventive effects on common risk factors in the occurrence of various forms of externally caused injuries,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) define ECI prevention and safety promotion actions and plans and give greater visibility to the programs and plans that are in progress or will be implemented in the near future with budget and predefined mandates by the ministries of health;
 - (b) take into account the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Violence and Injury Prevention in the Americas (Mérida, March 2008) as an opportunity to advance their commitment to prevent all types of externally caused injuries and promote safety;
 - (c) promote responsibilities in the areas of government, civil society, private sector, justice, and the police so that existing laws, standards and regulations on violence, road safety, use of firearms, alcohol, and others that prevent the occurrence of ECIs or deaths, are effectively enforced in their countries;
 - (d) promote and spearhead the necessary processes, and promote partnerships with other sectors to help prevent violence and injuries and promote safety, given the multicausal nature of externally caused injuries.
2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) strengthen PAHO's actions and initiatives in the areas or projects related to the prevention of externally caused injuries, such as human safety, road safety, urban health, and *Faces, Voices and Places*;
 - (b) help countries improve and customize their initiatives in areas such as information systems and observatories on violence, identify best preventive practices, and perform evaluations and cost studies, among others;

- (c) support actions aimed at strengthening injury prevention programs and safety promotion at the ministries of health, and train key personnel, when necessary;
- (d) spearhead interagency coordination processes and maintain a PAHO presence in the intersectoral cooperation entities, both national and international, which deal with prevention of externally caused injuries and safety promotion;
- (e) promote studies on the causes and risk factors of externally caused injuries and safety according to the framework of the relevant social determinants in the Region.

(Eighth meeting, 2 October 2008)