



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



144th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 22-26 June 2009

CE144.R9 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
24 June 2009

RESOLUTION

CE144.R9

PLAN OF ACTION ON THE PREVENTION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

THE 144th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the draft Regional Plan of Action on the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment (Document CE144/20),

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Directing Council that it adopt a resolution along the following lines:

PLAN OF ACTION ON THE PREVENTION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed Document CD49/___ *Plan of Action on the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment*;

Recalling Resolution WHA56.26 of the World Health Assembly on the elimination of avoidable blindness;

Noting that visual disability is a prevalent problem in the Region and is related to poverty and social marginalization;

Aware that most of the causes of blindness are avoidable and that treatments available are among the most successful and cost-effective of all health interventions;

Acknowledging that preventing blindness and visual impairment relieves poverty and improves opportunities for education and employment; and

Appreciating the efforts made by Member States in recent years to prevent avoidable blindness, but mindful of the need for further action,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Plan of Action on the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) establish national coordinating committees to help develop and implement national blindness prevention plans;
 - (b) include prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in national development plans and goals;
 - (c) advance the integration of prevention of blindness and visual impairment in existing plans and programs for primary health care at the national level, ensuring their sensitivity to gender and ethnicity;
 - (d) support the mobilization of resources for eliminating avoidable blindness;
 - (e) encourage partnerships between the public sector, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society, and communities in programs and activities that promote the prevention of blindness; and
 - (f) encourage intercountry cooperation in the areas of blindness and visual impairment prevention and care.
3. To request the Director to:
 - (a) support the implementation of the Plan of Action on the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment;

- (b) maintain and strengthen PAHO Secretariat's collaboration with Member States on the prevention of blindness; and
- (c) promote technical cooperation among countries and the development of strategic partnerships in activities to protect ocular health.

(Fifth meeting, 24 June 2009)