



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

59th DIRECTING COUNCIL

73rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Virtual Session, 20-24 September 2021

CD59.R13
Original: English

RESOLUTION

CD59.R13

REINVIGORATING IMMUNIZATION AS A PUBLIC GOOD FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH

THE 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the policy document *Reinvigorating Immunization as a Public Good for Universal Health* (Document CD59/10), which sets out the approach of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and a strategic framework for revitalizing immunization programs in the Region of the Americas;

Considering that, despite the tremendous achievements of immunization programs in past decades, progress has stalled or even reversed in many countries in the Region, putting past achievements at risk;

Acknowledging that immunization is among the most cost-effective public health strategies available, and that in addition to its health benefits, immunization provides a high rate of return on investment, resulting in contributions to socioeconomic development and educational attainment;

Cognizant that this policy reflects and supports the commitment made by Member States to advance toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the goals of the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030, and the goals of the Immunization Agenda 2030 of the World Health Organization (WHO),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the policy *Reinvigorating Immunization as a Public Good for Universal Health* (Document CD59/10).
-

2. To urge Member States, according to their national context and priorities, to:
 - a) adopt and implement the strategic lines of action of this policy to reinvigorate immunization programs through the implementation of innovative approaches and best practices, incorporating technological, communication, behavioral, and data analysis tools;
 - b) declare the role of extensive immunization as a global public good and raise awareness among health care workers to advise individuals regarding immunization, among parents and guardians to have their children immunized, and among individuals to be vaccinated, following the officially recommended immunization schedule;
 - c) strengthen governance and leadership of immunization programs—combined with effective oversight, accountability, coalition building, regulation, and attention to system design—to ensure adequate and efficient implementation of this policy and progress toward universal health;
 - d) ensure and protect immunization-specific budgets, including but not limited to the costs of vaccines and supplies, human resources, and immunization operations;
 - e) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially in the global context of immunization and international travel requirements, implement, as appropriate, measures to facilitate free movement of travelers, consistent with the International Health Regulations and taking into account WHO recommendations and guidance on immunization and travel.

3. To request the Director to:
 - a) provide technical cooperation and promote collaboration within and across all levels of the Organization and Member States in support of revitalized immunization efforts to increase regional immunization and facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and promote the acknowledgement, acceptance, and use of safe, effective, and quality-assured vaccines authorized according to the international standards recommended by WHO for the production, control, and oversight of these essential health technologies;
 - b) promote and enhance constructive collaboration with other stakeholders relevant to the implementation of this policy—including but not limited to other international organizations, existing networks, programs, and collaborating centers—to pursue synergies and to increase efficiencies;
 - c) enhance coordination at regional and country levels to improve access to vaccines, diagnostic tests for laboratory networks supporting surveillance, and other key supplies relevant to primary health care, through the Revolving Fund for Access to Vaccines and the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies;
 - d) promote the dissemination of evidence-based information available on immunization, especially against SARS-CoV-2, and encourage its use in Member

- State decision-making, favoring, as appropriate, the recognition of WHO and PAHO guidelines on immunization;
- e) facilitate, at the request of Member States, the coordination of processes related to immunization, as appropriate, including through technical support for implementation and verification of digital and/or “smart” vaccination certificates, in accordance with national priorities and policies;
 - f) report to the Governing Bodies on the progress made and challenges faced in implementation of this policy in 2027 and 2031.

(Ninth meeting, 24 September 2021)