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EVALUATION OF THE TEN-YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR THE AMERICAS

Progress Report

The XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference, held in September-October 1974, discussed and approved Document CSP19/24 in which the Bureau proposed a method and a program of work for evaluating the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, and adopted the following Resolution XV:

EVALUATION OF THE TEN-YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR THE AMERICAS

THE XIX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having examined the Director's report (Document CSP19/24) on the progress made and the measures adopted by the countries and the Organization pursuant to the provisions of Resolutions XIII of the XXI Meeting and VI of the XXII Meeting of the Directing Council, and Resolution XX of the 72nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO;

Recognizing that the achievement of the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas requires that the policies and strategies decided upon by the countries be put into practice by means of programs and actions based on the health priorities identified; and

Considering that in 1974 a start is to be made on the implementation of the system of evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas and that the Director of the Bureau has placed at the disposal of the countries, on the recommendation of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, guidelines for the

review and adjustment of national policies and strategies, together with a series of forms and accompanying instructions ensuring comparability between the different countries in regard to evaluation of the plan at the continental level,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the countries which have not yet been able to review their health policies and strategies on the basis of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas to intensify their efforts to do so, and to urge those which have done so to concentrate on the process of programming and implementing the priority programs decided upon.
2. To request the Member Governments, with a view to establishing an initial frame of reference for subsequent stages in the process of evaluating the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, to forward the necessary information to PAHO in good time on the forms designed for this purpose by the Organization.
3. To request the Director to assist the countries, at their request, in producing and organizing the information in question, and to take steps to enable the Organization to analyze and systematize the information.
4. To urge the Director to continue to assist the countries in developing these processes and to report to the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council on the progress made.

In addition, the Executive Committee at its 74th Meeting (June-July 1975), after discussing the programming and evaluation of health activities, recognized, in operative paragraph 2 of Resolution XIV, that the countries should participate in the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan:

2. To urge the necessity for the countries to participate more fully in the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan and to improve the evaluation and programming of the international assistance they consider necessary.

In accordance with operative paragraph 4 of Resolution XV of the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference, the purpose of this report is to inform the Directing Council of the present status of the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas.

In accordance with the indications embodied in the various resolutions adopted on this subject by the Governing Bodies of the Organization and the recommendations made by the Director to the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Bureau, through its Country Representatives and advisors in planning, information and statistics, has provided the countries that requested it with assistance in interpretation of guidelines, collection of data, and preparation of the information required.

At the time of this writing, 18 countries in the Region had sent the relevant report, using the forms and methods suggested by the Bureau. An additional three countries reported that they would complete their statement by the end of August. No replies have been received from the remaining eight countries. Since the participation of the largest possible number of countries is essential if the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas is to be significant, this lack of response from eight countries has held up the second stage of the work program, which comprises a substantive and statistical analysis of the information provided by the countries. In this regard, the Director, in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions of the Governing Bodies, has again sent communications to those countries urging them to take the necessary steps to comply with this joint commitment of the countries of the Region, and has again offered the assistance of the Bureau to those countries that consider it necessary.

In view of the urgent need to complete the analysis of the first stage of the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, the Bureau suggests to the Directing Council that it establish a deadline for the receipt of the information, namely 31 October 1975, the purpose being to enable the Bureau to submit to the countries of the Hemisphere in January 1976 the results of the first stage of this evaluation.

Nevertheless, a preliminary analysis of the information received so far makes it possible to state that most of the countries:

- a) have adopted the priorities established for the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, in particular with respect to the conduct of programs for extending service coverage to unserved groups of the population, both in rural areas and in urban shanty towns;
- b) are focusing their attention on the development of their infrastructure, in particular the planned increase of sectoral resources, and the improvement of its organization and administration; and
- c) are further defining their policies and strategies.

In this regard, it is appropriate to point out that from 1973 to date eight countries have applied for and/or obtained loans from the Inter-American Development Bank in the amount of US\$75 million to extend service coverage to the above-mentioned unserved areas. It must be recognized that these loan applications were supported by a careful review of national health policies and the consequent programming of the necessary activities for implementing them. In 1976 an additional three countries will have prepared loan applications to be submitted to the IDB for another US\$50 million. This fact illustrates the resolute decision of the countries of the Region to improve and expand service coverage through a genuine planning process that involves the systematic improvement of their organization and administration, all of which is based on the search for new solutions to the problems and new sources of financing. Concomitantly, they have initiated programs for analyzing production functions and costs, the purpose of which is to increase the efficiency and productivity of their health service systems. This attitude of the countries indicates the possibility that the Hemisphere may be able to achieve the substantial goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas by 1980.