



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2014

CD53.R2
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RESOLUTION

CD53.R2

PLAN OF ACTION ON HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

THE 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action on Health in All Policies* (Document CD53/10, Rev. 1);

Considering the Helsinki Statement on Health in All Policies as an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity, as well as the WHO Health in All Policies (HiAP) Framework for Country Action, which sets out six key components that should be addressed in order to put the HiAP approach into action;

Recalling the Alma-Ata Declaration, with its emphasis on a primary health care strategy, and the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, with its call for coordination, cooperation, and intersectoral action for health among relevant sectors and aspects of national and community development, as well as the call of the Ottawa Charter for building healthy public policies and creating supportive environments;

Acknowledging the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health and its call for the development and implementation of robust, evidence-based, reliable measures of societal well-being, building where possible on existing indicators, standards, and programs and across the social gradient, that go beyond economic growth, and recognizing the important advocacy role of health ministries in this regard;

Acknowledging the United Nations General Assembly document *The Future We Want*, in particular its recognition that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development, and its call for the

involvement of all relevant sectors for coordinated multisectoral action to address urgently the health needs of the world's population;

Recognizing that health gains have not been shared equally between and within countries in the Region, that inequity remains one of the greatest challenges for health and sustainable development in the Americas, and that increased migration, the aging of the population, and the related increase in noncommunicable diseases are the most important trends shaping health in the Americas;

Recognizing the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and especially its Category 3 (determinants of health and promoting health throughout the life course),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action on Health in All Policies* for 2014-2019.
2. To urge Member States, as appropriate and taking into account their national context and priorities, to:
 - a) champion health and the promotion of health equity as a priority and take efficient action on the social determinants of health, universal health coverage, strengthening of health systems, and health equity;
 - b) take effective measures, including, where appropriate, legislation, structures, processes, and resources that enable public policies which take into account and address their impacts on health, health equity, and the determinants of health, and implement mechanisms to measure and monitor the determinants of health and health disparities;
 - c) develop and maintain, as appropriate, adequate and sustainable institutional capacity and skills to achieve, through actions across sectors, improved outcomes from the perspective of health and health equity;
 - d) utilize relevant tools to identify, assess, promote, and strengthen multisectoral participation and actions for health, including, as appropriate, interministerial committees, integrated budgets and accounting, and health impact analysis;
 - e) strengthen due diligence and accountability, and increase the transparency of decision-making and engagement;
 - f) involve, as appropriate, local communities and civil society actors in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies across sectors, including mechanisms for community engagement and public participation;
 - g) contribute to the development of the post-2015 development agenda by emphasizing that policies in sectors other than health have a significant impact on health outcomes, and by identifying synergies between policy objectives in health and other sectors;

- h) encourage the active participation of the authorities of other sectors in health-related issues.
3. To request the Director to:
- a) support national efforts to improve health and well-being and ensure health equity, including action across sectors on determinants of health and risk factors for diseases, by strengthening knowledge and evidence to promote health in all policies;
 - b) provide guidance and technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in their efforts to implement Health in All Policies, including building necessary capacities, structures, mechanisms, and processes for measuring and tracking determinants of health and health disparities;
 - c) strengthen PAHO's role, capacities, and knowledge resources for giving guidance and technical assistance to support implementation of policies across sectors at the various levels of governance, and ensure coherence and collaboration with PAHO's own initiatives requiring actions across sectors, including in the regional response to the challenges posed by noncommunicable diseases;
 - d) strengthen the exchange of experiences between countries and the work among United Nations System and Inter-American System agencies.

(Fourth meeting, 30 September 2014)