



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **41st DIRECTING COUNCIL**

51st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*San Juan, Puerto Rico, 27 September-1 October 1999*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD41.R10***

#### **VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION**

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the progress report by the Director on vaccines and immunization (Document CD41/10);

Taking into account that countries' immunization programs have had a tremendous impact on disease control and eradication throughout the Americas and that transmission of measles is on the verge of being interrupted;

Noting with satisfaction that new vaccines are being introduced in national programs and cognizant that the advent of new and improved vaccines will give the health sector new tools for improving the health of the population of the Americas;

Realizing that the sustainability of immunization programs and the introduction of new vaccines will require the continued availability of significant financial resources;

Aware that the process of health sector reform has to be conducted in a way that strengthens the delivery of all health interventions; and

Recognizing that maintaining the Region of the Americas polio free and achieving the target of measles eradication by the year 2000 will require extraordinary efforts,

*RESOLVES*

1. To commend all countries for the priority that has been accorded to immunization programs and to the introduction of new vaccines into routine use.

2. To thank all partner agencies that are collaborating with the program at the regional and country level, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional, and to welcome the support received recently from the March of Dimes and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the eradication of measles.

3. To urge Member States to:

(a) emphasize that the quality and effectiveness of national immunization programs and disease surveillance be maintained in the process of health sector reform;

(b) ensure that immunization strategies and surveillance activities outlined for measles eradication are fully implemented;

(c) ensure that resources are made available for sustaining immunization programs, including the maintenance of polio eradication and the use of quality vaccines and the introduction of new ones, whenever warranted by the disease burden.

4. To request that the Director:

(a) continue his efforts to secure the human and financial resources needed to achieve the objectives of the vaccine and immunization program and the eradication of measles by the year 2000;

(b) share with other regions of the world the practices and experiences gained in the Region of the Americas in the delivery of technical cooperation for the control and eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases;

(c) indicate to the PAHO/WHO Representatives in the Region the need to promote bilateral and trilateral initiatives, as the case may be, with a view to planning and implementing vaccination activities in border areas.

*(Seventh meeting, 30 September 1999)*