



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**35th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
42nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 23-28 September 1991*

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***RESOLUTION***

***CD35.R16***

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING  
PROGRAMS**

*THE 35th DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having considered Document CD35/17 on maternal and child health and family planning programs, which contains the third progress report presented by the Director on execution of the Organization's action policy on population matters;

Recognizing the progress made in execution of the strategies recommended by the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1990 and by the Directing Council of PAHO in its meetings of 1984,<sup>2</sup> 1985,<sup>3</sup> and 1988,<sup>4</sup> Considering the present state of development of the national programs in the field of maternal and child health and family planning, and of the areas that require strengthening;

Cognizant of the improvement in the indicators of maternal and child health and family planning in the population of Latin America and the Caribbean at the close of the 1980s and of the expected trends in the 1990s; and

Mindful of the commitments undertaken by the Presidents or Heads of State of the Americas in the Declaration of the World Summit for Children,

***RESOLVES***

1. To urge the Governments:

- a) To review and update their national maternal and child health and family planning programs before December 1991 so that they will reflect the spirit, strategies, and goals recommended in their respective plans of action;
- b) To promote at the central, regional, and local levels in their countries the decisions and commitments of the Summit, and to call upon the public and private sectors to join in attaining the national goals on behalf of women and children;
- c) To help devise a methodology for better estimating the costs of the maternal and child health and family planning programs in the 1990s, which will facilitate the design of financial strategies and the mobilization of resources;
- d) To facilitate obtaining better working conditions for mothers, and reducing the unemployment of parents of children under one year of age;
- e) To give priority in their actions to i) coverage of as yet neglected geographic areas, ii) marginal urban and rural population groups, and iii) comprehensive care of women, children, and adolescents, with strengthened sex and health education, and to make efforts to improve the quality of care in order to close existing gaps;
- f) To strengthen the establishment and consolidation of interagency coordination mechanisms for maternal and child health, through a committee to be headed by a Government employee with decision-making authority;
- g) To continue developing their epidemiological surveillance systems and data bases for improved monitoring and evaluation of programs;
- h) To ensure that in their countries the aspects of population, development, health, and reproductive health are covered in their reports and proposals at the International Conference on Population in 1994;
- i) To continue implementing the recommendations and resolutions issued by the Governing Bodies of PAHO in the area of maternal and child health and population;
- j) To give special attention to comprehensive care for preschool children through strategies for the stimulation of their optimal growth and development.

2. To request the Director:

- a) To continue his guidance of technical cooperation in the field of maternal and child health toward execution of the mandates of the Governing Bodies in support of implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, in keeping with the strategic priorities of the

quadrennium, especially by participating actively with the countries in each phase of development and in the implementation of national maternal and child health plans;

b) To continue his efforts to find and to support strategies for financing and mobilization of national and international resources;

c) To give priority to development of the data bases needed for the monitoring and evaluation of conditions of maternal and child health and reproductive health;

d) To promote, in conjunction with the Governments, the formation and development of interagency committees as an arrangement for making better use of existing resources;

e) To include the topic "Comprehensive Health of Adolescents" on the agenda of the next meeting of the Directing Council.

3. To take note of the "Memorandum of Interagency Collaboration to Support Implementation of the Agreements of the World Summit for Children in the Region of the Americas," and to commend and express its satisfaction to the Heads of the signatory agencies for the actions taken in developing an interagency work plan for 1991–1992 which will contribute to achieving the common goal of promoting the health of children, adolescents, and women in the Region.

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