



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



51st DIRECTING COUNCIL

63rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2011

CD51.R15 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

CD51.R15

STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE 51st DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the *Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change* (Document CD51/6);

Recognizing that climate change is a current and projected threat to health and that it presents challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

Acknowledging that climate change poses a current and projected threat to public health in the Region of the Americas and that the impacts of this change will be most strongly felt by vulnerable populations living in low-lying and coastal areas, small islands, mountainous regions, water-stressed regions, and by the rural and urban poor;

Noting that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change defines “adverse effects of climate change” as meaning changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare;

Recalling the 2008 *Roundtable on Climate Change and its Impacts on Public Health: a Regional Perspective* (Document CD48/16) and its Final Report (Document CD48/16, Add. II), and the proposed plan of action to protect health from the effects of climate change in the Region of the Americas;

Recalling Resolution WHA61.19 (2008) on climate change and health and the WHO work plan on climate change and health submitted to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly in 2009 (Document A62/11);

Realizing that there is an urgent need for the health sector in the Americas to protect health from the consequences of climate change,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Strategy and approve the Plan of Action on Climate Change and health.
2. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) strengthen their capacity to measure the impacts of climate change on health at the national and local levels, focusing on socioeconomic, ethnic, and gender inequities;
 - (b) strengthen the capacity of health systems for monitoring and analyzing climate and health information to implement timely and effective prevention measures;
 - (c) build capacity and awareness among public health leaders to provide technical guidance in developing and implementing strategies to address the health effects of climate change;
 - (d) support the development of training materials, methods, and tools to build capacity within and outside the health sector to address adaptation and mitigation measures to cope with climate change;
 - (e) promote the engagement of the health sector with all related sectors, agencies, and key national and international partners to implement interventions that reduce current and projected health risks from climate change;
 - (f) gradually implement the activities proposed in the Plan of Action, in order to empower and strengthen national and local health systems so they can effectively protect human health from current and projected risks related to climate change.
3. To request the Director to:
 - (a) continue to cooperate closely with Member States to support networks that facilitate the gathering and dissemination of information, and to promote research and surveillance systems related to climate and health;
 - (b) support the countries' efforts to launch campaigns for raising awareness about climate change, to reduce the health sector's carbon footprint, and to prepare health professionals to implement effective adaptation interventions;

- (c) work with countries, subregional integration mechanisms, international agencies, networks of experts, civil society, and the private sector to create partnerships that promote environmentally sustainable actions that take into account the impact on health at all levels;
- (d) support Member States in assessing their population's vulnerability to climate change and in developing adaptation options based on these assessments;
- (e) assist Member States in implementing the Plan of Action, in developing national plans tailored to local needs, and in informing of their progress in this regard in relevant high-level venues such as the 2012 Earth Summit.

(Ninth meeting, 30 September 2011)