

156th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 22-26 June 2015

CE156.R3
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RESOLUTION

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PLAN OF ACTION ON WORKERS' HEALTH

THE 156th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the proposed *Plan of Action on Workers' Health* (Document CE156/15, Rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Directing Council adopt a resolution in the following terms:

PLAN OF ACTION ON WORKERS' HEALTH

THE 54th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action on Workers' Health* (Document CD54/___);

Recalling the specific mandates of the Governing Bodies of PAHO on workers' health and, in particular, Resolution CSP23.R14 of the 23rd Pan American Sanitary Conference (1990), which urges the Member States to increase the development of different institutional workers' health care arrangements in order to promote the attainment of universal coverage, and Resolution CD41.R13 of the 41st Directing Council (1999), which urges the Member States to include in their national health plans, as appropriate, the Regional Plan on Workers' Health contained in Document CD41/15, which proposes specific programmatic lines for the action of the Member States and for international cooperation;

Considering Resolution WHA49.12 of the World Health Assembly, which endorsed the Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All, and Resolution WHA60.26 (2007), which adopts the Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008-2017, with its

principal objectives, targets, and indicators, and requests the Director-General of WHO to step up collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other relevant international organizations for the implementation of the global plan at the national and international levels;

Taking into account the document *The Future We Want*, of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular its recognition that health is a precondition for the three dimensions of sustainable development and is both an outcome and an indicator of those dimensions, and the document's call for participation by all relevant sectors in coordinated multisectoral action to urgently address the health needs of the world's population;

Recognizing that work and employment are health-related human rights and social determinants of health; that the Rio Political Declaration on the Social Determinants of Health calls for the design and implementation of robust, evidence-based, reliable measures of societal well-being, building where possible on existing indicators, standards, and programs across the social gradient, that go beyond economic growth; and the importance of promoting the health in all policies approach, led by the ministries of health;

Recognizing that increases in migration, aging populations, and occupational and noncommunicable diseases are very important trends shaping the profile of health in the Americas; and that health benefits have not been shared equally among and within the countries of the Region, meaning that inequality remains one of the greatest challenges facing workers' health and sustainable development in the Region of the Americas;

Aware that health systems are assuming the burden and costs of providing health services to formal and informal workers as a result of occupational diseases, which remain invisible due to the lack of diagnosis and adequate registration, and due to low investment in programs to prevent damage to workers' health, which would help the public sector contain these costs;

Aware of the large social, economic, and health-related inequalities and inequities that affect workers' health, especially in the informal sector, and recognizing that workers' health and healthy work environments are essential in order to achieve individual and community health and well-being, which are crucial for the sustainable development of the Member States;

Considering the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2014-2019 and, especially, the principles of category 3, on the determinants of health and promoting health throughout the life course,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action on Workers' Health* for the period 2015-2025.
2. To urge the Member States, as appropriate, and taking into account their national context, priorities, and financial capacity, to:
 - a) advocate for equality and the promotion of workers' health as a priority, and adopt effective measures to control employment and working conditions as social determinants of health, increase universal health coverage, and strengthen health systems and health equity;
 - b) adopt effective measures, including, where appropriate, measures involving current legislation, structures, processes, and resources in order to establish public policies that take into account impacts on workers' health and equity in workers' health; and implement mechanisms to measure and monitor working and employment conditions that impact workers' health;
 - c) develop and maintain, as appropriate, adequate and sustainable institutional capacity and competencies to achieve, through action in all sectors, better outcomes from the perspective of workers' health and equity in workers' health;
 - d) use the relevant tools to identify, evaluate, mobilize, and strengthen participation and multisectoral activities to promote workers' health, including, as appropriate, the work of the interministerial committees and the analysis of impacts on health;
 - e) strengthen due diligence and accountability and increase transparency in decision-making and commitment to action;
 - f) involve, as appropriate, workers and labor unions, employers and sectoral organizations, local communities, and other civil society actors in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies in all economic sectors, especially those identified as priorities, including mechanisms for community and public participation;
 - g) contribute to the preparation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda by emphasizing that policies in sectors other than the health sector have significant impacts on health outcomes; and determine the synergies between policy objectives in the health sector, the labor sector, and other sectors;
 - h) promote active participation of the health authorities with other sectors when implementing the strategy of health in all policies.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) promote and support the dissemination and implementation of the integrated approach to action proposed in the *Plan of Action on Workers' Health*;

- b) pay special attention to the development of institutional partnerships, both in the national and international contexts, including the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to implement intersectoral activities that facilitate the design and consolidation of preventive activities within the framework of the integrated approach to prevention;
- c) continue to support the ministers of health in their efforts to promote and improve workers' health and well-being;
- d) continue to promote and support the development of the network of PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers and scientific institutions in order for them to contribute to the strengthening of the technical, scientific, and administrative capacity of institutions and programs in the field of workers' health;
- e) promote and support cooperation among countries in the field of workers' health and, in particular, operational research on human resources development.

(Second meeting, 22 June 2015)