



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



11th DIRECTING COUNCIL

11th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 21 - 30 September 1959

RESOLUTION

CD11.R21

STATUS OF SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN THE AMERICAS

THE 11th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that for a number of years there has been available an effective vaccine against smallpox, whose systematic and properly organized application is sufficient to ensure the complete protection of the population, and that, despite this fact, smallpox continues to be a serious public health problem in the Hemisphere;

Recognizing it to be essential that the efforts of all the countries of the Americas be coordinated in order to eradicate this disease; and

Taking into account the resolutions on this subject adopted by the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization,

RESOLVES

1. To express its satisfaction at the fact that in some countries of the Americas smallpox has already disappeared, and that other countries of the Continent are conducting nation-wide and intensive campaigns against this disease.

2. To recommend that the Member Governments give special attention to the continuation of programs directed toward the maintenance of high levels of immunity, in order that the gains achieved so far may be made permanent.
3. To call upon the Governments of countries where smallpox still exists and where nation-wide smallpox vaccination programs have not yet been initiated to undertake such programs as soon as possible, as a measure to protect public health and as a contribution to the continent-wide program to eradicate the disease.
4. To recommend that the Member Governments study ways and means of producing and storing adequate supplies of smallpox vaccine for use in national programs for vaccination and for control of possible outbreaks, and [that they] furnish, [at the] request of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the information needed to keep an up-to-date record of the supplies of vaccine available for use in the control of any new smallpox outbreak or in any emergency situation that might arise in any country.

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