



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



13rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

13rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 3 - 13 October 1961

RESOLUTION

CD13.R11

NUTRITION PROGRAM IN THE AMERICAS

THE 13rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having examined the nutrition program in the Americas presented by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Document CD13/14, 1 and having heard the opinions and suggestions of the representatives of all the countries;

Bearing in mind the seriousness of the nutrition problem, as evidenced, among other conditions, by the fact that the per capita production of food in Latin America in 1959-1960 was lower than that recorded prior to World War II;

Bearing in mind that among the factors aggravating this situation is the inadequate utilization of available foodstuffs, owing to cultural circumstances that could be overcome through effective educational measures;

Considering that the problem of nutrition in the Americas severely affects the state of health of the population, resulting in high mortality and morbidity, especially among children, as well as in inadequate physical development and output of work, all of which have deep repercussions on the social and economic development of the countries;

Considering that the shortage of properly trained personnel specialized in nutrition is one of the limitations faced by most of the countries today, and that a program for the improvement of

nutrition can be planned only on a long-term basis and with sufficient resources available for its progressive development; and

Considering the good results obtained with the high-protein, low-cost product developed by INCAP in Central America, as well as the trials conducted in other countries with different high-protein mixtures,

RESOLVES

1. To express its conviction that the production and supply of basic foods sufficient in quantity and quality to meet the needs of the population is a factor fundamental to health and essential to social and economic development.
2. To approve the nutrition program in the Americas, as set forth by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Document CD13/14, and to commend the Director for his cooperation with other international agencies, especially FAO and UNICEF, in nutrition activities.
3. To give its full support to the recently initiated intensification of activities in this field, and to recommend that, in view of the severity of the problem, the Director include in future proposed budgets the necessary allocations to ensure the progressive development of these activities.
4. To request the Director to give special attention to the training of the necessary personnel so that the different countries may be in a position to properly carry out their nutrition programs.
5. To recommend that the Member Governments:
 - a) Within their national health plans, and with due attention to the importance of this problem, include the programs related to nutrition among the activities accorded highest priority, encompassing both specific measures for the prevention of deficiency diseases and other measures to promote general improvement in the state of nutrition of the population;
 - b) Organize, or expand, the nutrition programs in the national health services;
 - c) Establish the means for achieving the proper planning of an agricultural policy that will take into account the basic nutritional needs of the population, and for attaining the proper coordination of efforts among the different official agencies, as part of the plan for social and economic development;
 - d) Promote the best utilization of high-protein, low-cost mixtures from products and by-products that are not at present used for the human diet;
 - e) Renew their efforts to achieve the effective application of a salt iodization program, as a preventive measure against endemic goiter; and

f) Take into account, as a complement to any program for improving nutrition in the population, the importance of raising, in all aspects, the level of education.

6.To request the Director to present annually to the meetings of the Council a report on the nutrition activities carried out in accordance with this program and on the progress made in overcoming the problems in this field.

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