



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



# **13rd DIRECTING COUNCIL**

## **13rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington D.C., 3 - 13 October 1961*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD13.R8***

### **IMPROVEMENT OF MORTALITY STATISTICS**

*THE 13<sup>rd</sup> DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Bearing in mind that procedures for the certification of the cause of death vary widely in the Americas, where in some countries all, or nearly all, death certificates are issued by physicians, while in others less than half the deaths are medically certified; and

Considering that accurate data on the causes of death are essential for health planning and for measuring the progress made in programs such as malaria and smallpox eradication,

#### ***RESOLVES***

1. To recommend that the Member Governments adopt a standard form of death certificate, in accordance with the International Form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death contained in WHO Regulations No. 1 (1948), Nomenclature Regulations, so that comparable mortality statistics for the entire Region may be available.
2. To recommend that the Member Governments promote as an important activity and responsibility of the health services the wider use of medical certificates of the cause of death and the improvement of the quality of such certificates in the Americas as soon as possible, so that data may be available for the planning and evaluation of health programs.

3. To recommend that the Member Governments encourage the tabulation of mortality statistics that distinguish and present separately the causes of death that have not been medically certified.
4. To recommend to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that the Organization assist the countries in this field and encourage the national committees on vital and health statistics to take the necessary steps to coordinate the activities of the ministries that are entrusted with the registration, compilation, and analysis of vital statistics.

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