

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



37th Meeting
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DECLARATION OF THE XV PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, 1958

The XV Pan American Sanitary Conference,

After considering the reports submitted by the Member Governments of the Pan American Health Organization on the health progress achieved during the period 1954 to 1957, and after taking note of the discussions which also reflect the status of health in the Americas,

Formulates the present "Declaration of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1958," in which it

AFFIRMS:

That there has been marked progress in health in the countries of the Americas resulting from the various campaigns against preventable diseases and from the programs for the promotion and restoration of health;

That nevertheless there are still many health problems that cause an appreciable loss of lives and the reduction of working capacity of the inhabitants of the Americas;

That in many countries there are appreciable deficiencies in environmental sanitation and in the health organizations, as well as an insufficiency of means for public health programs, which should reach all the inhabitants of the countries;

That the funds assigned by the governments for public health are disproportionate to population numbers and in many cases not in harmony with the nations' total financial resources;

That health programs are still not given preferential consideration in the plans for economic development;

That the number of specialized professionals, technicians, and auxiliary workers in medicine and public health is insufficient for the growing needs and demands of the countries; and

In view of these facts, and in the desire to advance solutions, the Conference

DECLARES:

- I. That health care is a prime obligation of governments and peoples and that it should be within reach of all the inhabitants of the Americas as an effective means for attaining well-being for the individual and the family;
- II. That health is an inalienable first right of every individual;
- III. That health is the culmination of the cooperative efforts of the individual, the family, and the State;
- IV. That health should be given a preferential place in all programs for the economic development of societies;
- V. That health is an index to the economic, cultural, and social conditions of the individual and the community;

And in the interest of attaining the highest level of health for the people of the Hemisphere,

RECOMMENDS:

1. The assignment of preference to activities for the promotion, protection, and restoration of health of the American peoples, and the increase of resources for this purpose.
2. The planning of national health activities, with strict priorities, and with special attention given to environmental sanitation.
3. The preparation and training of professional, technical, and auxiliary personnel, according to the needs of the health programs.
4. The inclusion of health programs in any plan for economic development of the countries.
5. Full cooperation, mutual assistance, and continuous exchange of experience, information, and results among the countries, with a view to gradually resolving health problems.