



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



# **31st DIRECTING COUNCIL**

37th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 23-28 September 1985*

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## ***RESOLUTION***

### ***CD31.R14***

## **WOMEN, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

*THE 31<sup>st</sup> DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Acknowledging that the International Decade for Women has revealed that women's health is an important determinant of national development and that a nation's health is also dependent upon women's development, particularly in the sectors of health, education and employment;

Recognizing that women represent approximately 80% of all health care providers in the majority of countries of the Region, but are still underrepresented at policy, planning and decision-making levels;

Taking into consideration that the Region's poorest segments of urban and rural society are overrepresented by women, particularly those who have sole responsibility for children or who are aged and infirm;

Reaffirming the continuing importance of all PAHO resolutions dealing with women, health and development

(CSP19.R37, CD23.R10, CD24.R25, CD27.R17, CD28.R15, CSP21.R27, CD29.R22, CD30.R6),  
as well as the most recent World Health Assembly resolution on the subject (WHA38.271);

Commending the Director on the achievements thus far in collaboration with the Member Governments, the inter-agency cooperation, as well as the beginning of collaboration with the nongovernmental sector, particularly in health education;

Further commending the Director for the notable progress in the establishment and development of women, health and development Focal Points in Member Countries and in PAHO, for the help and encouragement of the Regional Focal Point through field visits, workshops and seminars, for the important paper on cervical cancer, and on the recent publication<sup>2</sup> on the health of women in the Americas;

Realizing that at the end of the Decade significant efforts are required to improve the health status of women and to enhance their effective participation in health care in the Region;

Furthermore, recognizing that the women, health and development goals and activities remain an integral part of the regional strategies to attain health for all by the year 2000 and, indeed, that its attainment is impossible without women's active participation as agents and beneficiaries; and

Acknowledging that the Forward-Looking Strategies recently articulated by WHO and more generally stated at the 1985 World Conference on Women require regional interpretation and implementation,

#### *RESOLVES*

1. To urge the Member Governments;

a) To review, reaffirm and renew their commitment to the goals of women, health and development which address the physical and mental health needs of women in their productive and reproductive roles in the context of socioeconomic development and adopt effective action plans based on the Forward-Looking Strategies as well as the Regional Strategies to achieve health for all by the year 2000;

b) To recognize the actual and potential contributions of women to the health sector and to overall socioeconomic development by working systematically to integrate women into all levels of health planning, organization and delivery of health care;

c) To strengthen the capacities of women, health and development Focal Points to stimulate appropriate action and to monitor and report on progress attained.

2 To request that the Director:

a) Reaffirm PAHO's commitment to carrying out the continuing mandates of the Organization related to women, health and development and the Forward-Looking Strategies by:

- i) Providing full support for the Regional Program on Women, Health and Development as an integral part of PAHO's overall responsibilities, and ensuring that PAHO's programs focus clearly on women's health needs and contributions;
  - ii) Stimulating education for women as users and providers of health and, in coordination with other international organizations, encouraging Member Governments to assist women to overcome obstacles to the fulfillment of their roles in the health sector;
  - iii) Developing regional forward-looking strategies and guidelines for action to be integrated into short-term plans, medium-term plans, and long-term plans for women, health and development as part of the regional strategies to achieve health for all by the year 2000;
- b) Convene the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health and Development once a year to monitor progress, to propose solutions to problems identified and to promote concerted action on women, health and development.
3. To recommend to the Executive Committee that it expand the membership of its Special Subcommittee on Women, Health and Development from three to five members for the purpose of broadening representation from the subregions of the Region of the Americas.

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