



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



31st DIRECTING COUNCIL

37th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 23-28 September 1985

RESOLUTION

CD31.R23

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION

THE 31st DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the document presented by the Director on the progress of regional and national emergency preparedness programs (Document CD31/18);

Considering Resolutions X, XXXVI, and XL of the XXIV, XXVI, and XXVII Directing Council meetings, respectively, on the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Program;

Being aware of the increasing vulnerability of the Region of the Americas to negative health consequences of all types of disasters, and in particular those resulting from industrialization and urbanization processes;

Concerned about the need to maintain the technical cooperation provided by the Organization independently from the support received by PAHO from funding agencies;

Stressing that it is the national responsibility of each Member Government and especially of the Minister of Health as head of the sector to establish, as recommended by the Directing Council in its XXVI Meeting, an "ongoing program to update emergency plans, train health personnel, and promote research, and case studies to improve disaster management," and

Noting the importance of maintaining close cooperation between the Organization and other regional or global programs of WHO, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

(UNDRO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and nongovernmental organizations,

RESOLVES

1. To urge Member Governments who have not done so to establish within the Ministry of Health an emergency preparedness and disaster relief coordination program responsible for continuously updating emergency plans, training health personnel, developing national guidelines, and coordinating within and outside the sector.
2. To recommend to Member Governments that they cooperate with the Director in reinforcing the technical resources available to them for cooperation with other countries in preparing for disaster cases.
3. To request the Director to consider measures to maintain and increase the Organization's regular support to national programs.
4. To thank the Governments of Canada and the United States of America for their extrabudgetary support of the disaster preparedness program of the Organization.
5. To request the Director to strengthen, if possible, the Organization's technical cooperation and coordination in preparing the health sector to respond effectively to health problems caused by technological disasters, such as explosions and chemical accidents, as well as by displacements of large population groups caused by natural or man-made disasters.
6. To request the Director to explore the availability of additional funds from extrabudgetary sources and to continue the Organization's efforts to ensure that disaster prevention and preparedness be an integral part of the activities of the technical programs and professional staff of the Organization.
7. To encourage the Director to pursue his policy of joint activities and close cooperation with other regional offices of the World Health Organization, UNDRO, UNHCR, bilateral organizations, and governmental organizations, whenever appropriate.
8. To ask the Director to report on progress made towards compliance with this resolution at the Directing Council meeting in 1987.

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