



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



27th DIRECTING COUNCIL
32nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 22 September – 3 October 1980

RESOLUTION

CD27.R34

**TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS: "COMMUNITY HEALTH
EDUCATION: EVALUATION OF PRESENT PROGRAMS, NEW
APPROACHES, AND STRATEGIES"**

THE 27th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having examined the Final Report of the Technical Discussions on "Community Health Education Evaluation of Present Programs, New Approaches, and Strategies" (Document CD27/DT/3);

Recalling that at the Conference of Alma-Ata and in the strategies formulated by the Governments of the Region of the Americas for attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000, the countries have acknowledged the need to develop mechanisms for facilitating community participation in health and the use of local resources through community health education;

Taking cognizance of the growing importance of community health education in increasing community participation as a basic strategy for extending the coverage of health services, promoting primary health care, and improving the environment; and

Recognizing that community health education is a multisectoral and multidisciplinary function in all health and community development programs, and that the Ministries of Health bear the responsibility of being catalysts and sources of guidance for other development sectors in order to attain appropriate levels of participation by the community in the improvement of its health,

RESOLVES

1. To take note of the Final Report of the Technical Discussions and to express satisfaction with the proceedings.
2. To urge the Member Governments:
 - a) To intensify their efforts to formulate policies and define strategies for promoting community health education as an indispensable means of extending the coverage of health services and promoting primary health care so as to assist in attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000;
 - b) To give high priority to the inclusion of community participation as a process, and of community health education as a means of achieving it, in all national health plans and programs, including the planning, operation, evaluation, and adjustment of the administrative structures of the health sector;
 - c) To promote community participation so as to ensure that local economic, social, and cultural characteristics are borne in mind in the development, selection, and application of appropriate primary health care techniques;
 - d) To ensure that all programs for the training and instruction of health personnel include community education and participation components, and that adequate resources are provided for their implementation;
 - e) To promote and conduct operations research in community participation, and to utilize the results in the promotion of training activities and the application of appropriate methods and techniques.
3. To request the Director to include in the plan of action to be drawn up for implementation of the regional strategies for attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000, guidelines for educational activities and community participation in health as a basic element of these strategies, with particular attention to the following:
 - a) Technical cooperation with Member Governments in primary health care programs that emphasize community participation and community health education as a means of obtaining it;
 - b) Intercountry exchanges and utilization of information, experiences, training facilities, and appropriate technologies in community health education;
 - c) Identification, preparation, and funding for implementation of projects that emphasize active participation by the community in the extension of coverage of health services;
 - d) Inclusion in the progress reports on the various cooperation projects in which the Organization participates of specific information on the progress of the aforementioned activities.