



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**22nd DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
25th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Washington D.C., 8 – 18 October 1973*

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***RESOLUTION***

***CD22.R28***

**STUDY OF CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR EARTHQUAKE-  
PROOF CONSTRUCTION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION  
OF THE AMERICAS**

*THE 22<sup>nd</sup> DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Taking into account the frequency and regularity with which disasters due to seismic disturbances occur in certain countries of the Region;

Mindful of the fact that the grave loss of life and material damage caused by such calamities can be largely prevented by the establishment and application of construction standards designed to ensure that buildings are earthquake-proof; and

Considering the implications that the prevention of such damage has for health, and the responsibility which therefore rests with the Pan American Health Organization in this matter,

***RESOLVES***

1. To recommend to the Director that, in consultation with appropriate agencies of the United Nations and of the inter-American system, steps be taken to convene a group of experts to study the

criteria—standards, and methods of building inspection currently prevailing in the Member Countries, especially those most subject to disasters due to seismic disturbances, and that the necessary technical manuals be prepared to guide the Member Governments in the review and updating of their relevant legal instruments and assure the use of suitable indicators for guaranteeing the safety of buildings to the greatest possible extent.

2. To urge the Director, in the light of the recommendations of the group of experts referred to in the preceding paragraph, to take measures to encourage a review of university curricula related to building techniques with a view to inclusion of the necessary course material to create the awareness and the technical competence in future professionals that in the course of their work they will take into account, and comply with appropriate requirements for preventing damage to buildings by seismic disturbances.

*Oct. 1973 OD 127, 58*