



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-24 June 2005

RESOLUTION

CE136.R7

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL FOR 2005-2015

THE 136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having seen the document “Regional Strategy for the Control of Tuberculosis for 2005-2015” (Document CE136 /17);

Recognizing that, although preventable and curable, tuberculosis remains an important public health problem in the Americas, as each year it is responsible for more than 230,000 cases and 53,000 deaths;

Considering the diverse epidemiological situation of the Member States, as well as the different characteristics of their health systems and the development levels of their national tuberculosis programs;

Mindful that tuberculosis control faces challenges such as TB/HIV coinfection, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, and health sector reform;

Considering that the internationally recognized strategy for tuberculosis control is “directly observed treatment, short course” (DOTS), which attained coverage of 78% of the population of the Americas in 2003 and is making great strides in the detection and management of tuberculosis cases;

Considering the need to step up efforts to meet the indicators and goals for tuberculosis set by the World Health Organization’s Stop TB Initiative, as well as those within the framework of the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration set for the year 2015; and

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Recognizing World Health Assembly Resolution 58.14 “Sustainable Financing for Tuberculosis Prevention and Control,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) confirm tuberculosis control as a priority health program and expand, improve, or maintain implementation of the DOTS strategy;
 - (b) consider the Regional Plan when formulating national plans, with the objectives of preserving recent gains and attaining the internationally agreed-upon health-related development goals of the Millennium Declaration by the year 2015;
 - (c) strengthen health systems to implement and reinforce strategies for the control of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, including DOTS plus, to improve collaboration between tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programs;
 - (d) foster collaboration between the public and private sectors, civil society, United Nations agencies, and other interested stakeholders, as well as consider forming national Stop-TB Partnerships in order to maintain and increase support for national tuberculosis programs;
 - (e) allocate the necessary financial and human resources for tuberculosis control so that tuberculosis patients have access to the universal standard of care based on proper diagnosis, treatment and reporting, consistent with the DOTS strategy.
2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) consolidate and strengthen PAHO’s commitment to supporting the expansion and sustainability of the DOTS strategy in the Region;
 - (b) cooperate technically with the countries to tackle the new challenges posed by tuberculosis;
 - (c) encourage partnerships with the public and private sectors and technical and financial agencies that work in tuberculosis control to support the Stop-TB Partnerships in the Americas;
 - (d) improve the formulation and implementation of comprehensive public health strategies for tuberculosis control through resource allocation, sharing of experiences, and development of evaluative tools.

(Ninth meeting, 24 June 2005)