



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

28th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

64th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 17-21 September 2012

CSP28.R18 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTION

CSP28.R18

BIOETHICS: TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION OF ETHICS IN HEALTH

THE 28th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having reviewed the concept paper *Bioethics: Towards the Integration of Ethics in Health* (Document CSP28/14, Rev. 1);

Taking into account that in the Health Agenda for the Americas (2008-2017), the ministers and secretaries of health underscored the importance of better disseminating and applying bioethics in the countries of the Americas;

Aware of the ethical controversies in the areas of medical care, research involving human participants, and the formulation and implementation of public health policies, and that new technologies and the diversity of contemporary societies increase the complexity of these ethical controversies;

Recognizing that bioethics is the discipline that seeks to clarify the ethical problems that arise in relation to health, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted by UNESCO in 2005;

Taking into account that since 1994, PAHO's Regional Program on Bioethics has cooperated with the Member States in the conceptual, normative, and applied development of bioethics;

Observing that the Directing Council has encouraged the Member States to boost their capacity for bioethical analysis and to develop health policies based on bioethical principles,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the concept paper *Bioethics: Towards the Integration of Ethics in Health*.
2. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) seek to ensure appropriate levels of technical capacity of the health authorities in the area of bioethical analysis;
 - (b) support and promote the incorporation of bioethical analysis into the formulation and implementation of policies and plans, and into decision-making on health;
 - (c) support and promote the formulation of national policies and normative and regulatory documents on bioethical issues;
 - (d) promote the dissemination of information on bioethics among civil society organizations and other social actors, clarifying the applications of bioethics in different areas of work in the health sphere;
 - (e) strengthen communications activities at the national level in order to build support for the incorporation of bioethics into health-related work;
 - (f) foster collaboration with academic institutions in order to develop training programs in bioethics, with an emphasis on public health ethics;
 - (g) support PAHO's technical cooperation for the integration of bioethics into different areas of health-related work;
 - (h) form independent, multidisciplinary, pluralistic national bioethics commissions in accordance with the UNESCO Declaration.
3. To request the Director to:
 - (a) continue to strengthen the technical cooperation that the Regional Program on Bioethics provides to the Member States;

- (b) promote the development of regional networks and encourage collaboration with academic institutions for the incorporation of bioethics into health-related work;
- (c) promote the development and dissemination of guidelines and tools that guide and galvanize the work in different areas of bioethics;
- (d) promote the inclusion of bioethical analysis in the different areas of PAHO's technical cooperation;
- (e) continue to support and promote PAHO's ethics review of research involving human participants in which PAHO takes part;
- (f) advocate the mobilization of national and international resources to support efforts to integrate ethics into health-related activities.

(Eighth meeting, 20 September 2012)