



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



50th DIRECTING COUNCIL

62nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 27 September–1 October 2010

CD50.R15 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTION

CD50.R15

PLAN OF ACTION ON SAFE HOSPITALS

THE 50th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Director, *Plan of Action on Safe Hospitals* (Document CD50/10), based on the PAHO Strategic Plan 2008–2012;

Taking into account that the Governing Bodies of PAHO have firmly supported the adoption of a regional initiative on safe hospitals;

Considering that Resolution CD45.R8 of the 45th Directing Council (2004) resolves “to urge Member States to adopt 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster' as a national risk reduction policy, set the goal that all new hospitals are built with a level of protection that better guarantees that they will remain functional in disaster situations, and implement appropriate mitigation measures to reinforce existing health facilities, particularly those providing primary care;”

Stressing that the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (2005) approved the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, in which the 169 participating countries adopted the goal that by 2015 all of the countries should “integrate disaster risk reduction planning into the health sector; promote the objective of hospitals safe from disaster...;”

Recalling that the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference (2007) adopted Resolution CSP27.R14, *Safe Hospitals: Regional Initiative on Disaster-Resilient Health Facilities*;

Considering that the final report of the Roundtable, *Safe Hospitals: A Goal within Our Reach*, presented at the 49th Directing Council, recommends that the countries prepare work plans to reach the goal of safe hospitals;

Recognizing that to reach the goal of hospitals safe from disaster by 2015, a regional plan of action with extensive participation by the Member States of the Organization and the support of the Secretariat needs to be implemented,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Plan of Action on Safe Hospitals.
2. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) prioritize adoption of a national safe hospitals policy;
 - (b) improve coordination inside and outside the health sector to harmonize efforts at the national and subnational levels to make better use of available resources;
 - (c) gradually implement the activities included in the Plan of Action to achieve the goal of constructing all new hospitals with a level of protection that guarantees their operations in the event of a disaster;
 - (d) institute appropriate mitigation measures to reinforce existing health facilities;
 - (e) coordinate the sharing, with other countries of the Region, of experiences and tools, joint advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation of progress in implementing the Plan of Action.
3. To request the Director to:
 - (a) promote coordination and implementation of the Plan of Action through the integration of actions by the program areas of PAHO at the national, subregional, regional, and interagency levels;
 - (b) continue to strengthen the Organization's capacity to provide technical cooperation to the Member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action, in keeping with their specific national priorities and needs;

- (c) support the development of common technical instruments and guidelines such as the Hospital Safety Index and checklist to facilitate the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action;
- (d) promote the strengthening of partnerships with specialized agencies and centers of excellence in the field of disaster risk reduction in order to mobilize the human and financial resources and technology required to improve the safety of the health services in disasters;
- (e) submit periodic progress reports to the Governing Bodies on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

(Eighth plenary, 30 September 2010)