



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

## 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

### 66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2014

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CD53.R13  
Original: English

#### *RESOLUTION*

#### *CD53.R13*

#### **PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF OBESITY IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

#### *THE 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents* for 2014-2019 (Document CD53/9, Rev. 2);

Recalling the right of children to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as set forth in the Constitution of the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Mindful that overweight and obesity have reached epidemic proportions among children and adolescents in the Americas and that the problem is already prompting diverse control efforts at the local as well as national levels by Member States;

Recognizing that the scientific and public health knowledge about the mechanisms involved in the current obesity epidemic and the public action required to control it is vast and robust;

Cognizant that the present Plan of Action aligns with international mandates emerging from the World Health Assembly, in particular the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (WHA57.17 [2004]) and the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (WHA65.6 [2012]), in addition to mandates by PAHO Governing Bodies, including the Strategy and Plan of Action for Integrated Child Health (CSP28/10 [2012]), the Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health (CD48.R5 [2008]), the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, 2006-2015 (CD47/18 [2006]),

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and the Strategy and the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Documents CSP28/9, Rev. 1 [2012] and CD52/7, Rev. 1 [2013]), as well as with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989),

**RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the *Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents* for 2014-2019.
2. To urge Member States to:
  - a) give priority and advocate at the highest levels for the implementation of this Plan of Action;
  - b) promote coordination between ministries and public institutions, primarily in the sectors of education, agriculture, finance, trade, transportation, and urban planning, as well as with local city authorities, to achieve national consensus and synergize actions to halt progression of the obesity epidemic among children;
  - c) support and lead joint efforts between the public and private sectors and civil society organizations around the Plan of Action;
  - d) develop evidence-informed mass communication plans and programs to disseminate the Plan of Action and educate the public on matters of physical activity, food, healthy eating, and the value of local culinary traditions consistent with healthy eating;
  - e) establish an integrated monitoring, evaluation, and accountability system for policies, plans, programs, legislation, and interventions that will make it possible to determine the impact of implementing the Plan of Action;
  - f) ensure that processes are established with multiple sectors and stakeholders to review and analyze the Plan's implementation based on national priorities, needs, and capabilities.
3. To request the Director to:
  - a) provide support to the Member States in collaboration with other UN agencies and committees such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, other stakeholders and donors, as well as national sectors, to work collectively on the Plan of Action, particularly its activities at the subregional and country levels;
  - b) promote implementation and coordination of the Plan of Action to ensure that activities cut across the Organization's various program areas and different regional and subregional contexts;

- c) promote and consolidate cooperation with and among countries, with sharing of the experiences and lessons learned;
- d) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on progress and constraints in implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as on its adaptation to new contexts and needs.

*(Eighth meeting, 2 October 2014)*