



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



43rd DIRECTING COUNCIL
53rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 24-28 September 2001

RESOLUTION

CD43.R16

**ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)
IN THE AMERICAS**

THE 43rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having analyzed and discussed the report on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas (Document CD43/6);

Considering the trends in the HIV/AIDS/STI epidemic in the Americas and their present and future impact on young people, women, and children;

Aware of the need to apply and extend the coverage of effective, affordable methods and technologies to the most vulnerable populations by strengthening health systems and services;

Recognizing the need for a commitment by governments and society to respond effectively and with solidarity to needs for the prevention and treatment of HIV infection, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections in the Member States of the Region;

Taking into account the Plan of Action, Annex A, #14, Health, of the III Summit of the Americas (Quebec, Canada, 20-22 April 2001), Resolution WHA54.10 of the World Health Assembly, and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of the 26th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, the United States, 25-27 June 2001); and

Taking note of the UN Human Rights Commission Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2001/33 on Access to Medications in the Context of Pandemics Such as HIV/AIDS,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) actively contribute to the time-bound goals set at the June 2001 special session of the United Nations General Assembly in its Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;
 - (b) accord HIV/AIDS/STI the highest-level of priority among health and development issues and to allocate the necessary and essential resources for their prevention and control, including financial and human resources to curb and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS/STI;
 - (c) focus greater efforts on preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections through education; mass communication; social marketing; the promotion of abstinence, fidelity, and increased access to condoms; voluntary counseling and testing; and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, targeting young adults and adolescents, as well as vulnerable populations;
 - (d) ensure the provision of a safe blood supply, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and the establishment of high-quality surveillance in order to control the epidemic;
 - (e) heighten their national response, promoting greater intersectoral involvement that includes the private sector and broadening the coverage and scope of the prevention and care services for the communities most affected by and vulnerable to the epidemic;
 - (f) continue to fight the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS by strengthening the necessary legislative measures, and raising awareness among the population;
 - (g) join and support subregional initiatives such as the Pan Caribbean Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS/STI, horizontal cooperation processes, and the development of networks for cooperation and the exchange of technology among countries;
 - (h) enhance prevention efforts directed toward particularly affected and vulnerable groups and include the active participation of these populations and community-based organizations in a peer education approach;

- (i) support the development of the Global Health Fund, particularly encouraging the active participation of developing countries and urging financial and other contributions from governments, public and private sectors, and all civil society to help reach the UNGASS goal of US\$ 7 to 10 billion as the annual expenditure on the epidemic in low- and middle-income countries and those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS;
 - (j) promote the participation of all civil society actors, including people living with HIV/AIDS, as essential partners in addressing the epidemic;
 - (k) in partnership with civil society and the business sector, strengthen health care systems and address factors affecting the provision of HIV-related drugs, including anti-retroviral drugs, *inter alia*, affordability and pricing, including differential pricing, and technical and health care system capacity;
 - (l) consider using the existing flexibility available within international trade agreements in order to promote access to medicines to treat HIV/AIDS;
 - (m) strengthen the national commitment of each of the Member States to implement prevention programs;
 - (n) support education intervention initiatives which may include harm-reduction efforts, with the goal of diminishing infection rates among injecting drug users.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) continue to facilitate the interagency, interinstitutional, and intersectoral response promoted by UNAIDS to support the design, execution, and evaluation of national and regional strategic plans and programs for the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS/STI;
 - (b) promote increased capacity to offer comprehensive care to people with HIV/AIDS in the Americas, including greater access to drugs, both anti-retrovirals and drugs against opportunistic infections, and clinical laboratory supplies in order to improve the diagnosis of STI/HIV and the monitoring of treatment of these and related conditions;
 - (c) build on PAHO's experience and that of its partners in addressing gender issues, including the vulnerability of women and the role of men, as an integral part of HIV prevention and care activities;

- (d) provide technical support to Member States to strengthen health care systems and address factors affecting the provision of HIV-related drugs, including anti-retroviral drugs;
- (e) promote the sharing of information on prices of anti-retroviral drugs, provided to the Anti-retroviral Drugs Data Bank by Member States on a voluntary basis, in collaboration with the Group of Horizontal Technical Cooperation;
- (f) explore the use of PAHO's Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies in order to negotiate and acquire anti-retroviral drugs and condoms at the lowest possible price;
- (g) support policies to encourage voluntary technology exchanges to promote innovation and the local manufacture of anti-retroviral medicines where practicable, consistent with international laws and agreements acceded to;
- (h) incorporate a perspective on gender, sexuality, and social inclusion in HIV/AIDS-related activities and documents, including resolutions, of the Organization.

(Eighth meeting, 27 September 2001)