



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **26<sup>th</sup> PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE** **54<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 23-27 September 2002*

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### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CSP26.R14***

#### **CREATION OF A VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE AMERICAS**

##### ***THE 26<sup>th</sup> PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,***

Having examined document CSP26/14, whereas:

Guaranteeing the life of women throughout pregnancy and childbirth, the moment they give life, is guaranteeing a basic human right;

None of the countries of the Americas has succeeded in meeting the maternal mortality reduction goal set by the World Summit for Children for the year 2000;

It will be difficult to achieve the goal of reducing maternal mortality by 75% by the year 2015, established in the Declaration of the United Nations Millennium Summit, without immediate major efforts and investment by the entire Hemisphere;

The drop in fertility in the vast majority of countries in the Americas has been obtained through national efforts, coupled with a significant financial investment on the part of the United Nations and social development agencies, has contributed to a reduction in the absolute number of maternal deaths, but has been insufficient to lower the risk of a woman dying with each pregnancy; and

Now that the anticipated drop in fertility has been achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean, significant cutbacks are progressively being made in international funding for reproductive health,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To approve the creation of a Voluntary Fund for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas, administered by the Pan American Health Organization.
2. To ensure that resources from this Fund are used to:
  - (a) support countries that present a national plan for this purpose that clearly indicates the action to be taken, as well as the national resources to pay for it to meet the goal of the Millennium Summit;
  - (b) provide matching funds for civil society activities aimed at empowering women and increasing their understanding about pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, and improving their ability to identify eventual problems early on and seek health care;
  - (c) finance national initiatives to raise awareness among local health workers and professionals and train them to adequately deal with the problem;
  - (d) monitor national outcomes.
3. To request the Director to:
  - (a) establish a Voluntary Fund for Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas, and develop the corresponding Terms of Reference;
  - (b) report to the Directing Council on a timely basis on the Fund's status and progress.

*(Eighth meeting, 26 September 2002)*