



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



42nd DIRECTING COUNCIL
52nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., 25-29 September 2000

RESOLUTION

CD42.R13

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

THE 42nd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas (Document CD42/7);

Acknowledging the strong relationship between the sexual and vertical transmission of HIV and the presence of other sexually transmitted infections (STI);

Cognizant of the evolution of the HIV/AIDS/STI epidemics in the Americas and of the challenges raised by the increasing numbers of people requiring comprehensive prevention and care services for HIV/AIDS/STI; and

Taking into account the technological developments and successful interventions and experiences in the Region and in the world to prevent and control the sexual, blood-borne, and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) consolidate national HIV/AIDS/STI efforts, foster horizontal technical cooperation, and maximize intercountry collaboration through regional, subregional, and national programs and initiatives;

- (b) strengthen the surveillance capacity of the technical programs to better monitor the trends in the HIV/AIDS/STI epidemics and adjust national responses and strategies accordingly;
 - (c) continue to focus on prevention, especially the sexual and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and its transmission through the illegal use of injectable drugs, through voluntary counseling and testing, as well as appropriate measures, including universal access to inputs for prevention, drugs, and breast-feeding policies based on scientific advances;
 - (d) consider HIV prevention and the care of people living with HIV/AIDS as a continuum based on the principle of safeguarding human rights, which requires a comprehensive approach that responds to local needs and uses resources efficiently ("building blocks" approach);
 - (e) facilitate people living with AIDS and HIV-positive pregnant women and their children to have access to treatment, especially to antiretroviral drugs, health care, and other inputs necessary for maintaining their health;
 - (f) take the necessary action for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections;
 - (g) collaborate at the national level in the collection of pricing data for antiretroviral drugs and share this information with other countries, through PAHO.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) continue to facilitate a wider participation and collaboration with other institutions and agencies, particularly with UNAIDS, in the fight against HIV/AIDS/STI in the Americas;
 - (b) promote initiatives such as the horizontal technical cooperation group of Latin America and the Caribbean on HIV/AIDS and support efforts to develop studies and proposals to improve national responses to HIV/AIDS;
 - (c) strengthen regional capacity for technical cooperation, especially in the areas of science and technology development, communication and social marketing, the promotion of healthy sexuality, and comprehensive services for HIV prevention and care for people living with HIV/AIDS/STI;

- (d) continue working toward the development of the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies and mechanisms whereby Member States can access the Fund to obtain lower prices;
- (e) promote, together with the Member States, infrastructure and technology development for the adoption of common strategies on drugs for AIDS—strategies that should include facilitating the sharing of information on databanks that have pricing information on antiretroviral drugs used in the treatment of AIDS.

(Ninth meeting, 29 September 2000)