



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



148th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTION

CE148.R14

PLAN OF ACTION TO ACCELERATE THE REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY

THE 148th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the Director's report, *Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity* (Document CE148/16),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Directing Council adopt a resolution written in the following terms:

PLAN OF ACTION TO ACCELERATE THE REDUCTION IN MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY

THE 51st DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the Director's report, *Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity* (Document CD51/___)

Taking into account the proposed international mandates in the Regional Plan of Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality in the Americas (document CSP23/10 [1990]); the resolution "Population and Reproductive Health" (CSP25.R13 [1998]); the Regional Strategy for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction (CSP26/14 [2002]); Resolutions WHA55.19 (2002), WHA57.13 (2004), and EB113.R11 (2004) on

reproductive health, adopted by the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board, respectively; the forums of Nairobi, Kenya (1987), Cairo, Egypt (1994), Beijing, China (1995); the Millennium Declaration (2000), and the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;

Taking into account Resolution R11/8 of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (2009), Resolution CD50.R8 of the 50th Directing Council of PAHO (2010), and the technical document “Health and Human Rights” (CD50/12), as well as the high degree of complementarity between this plan and other objectives established in the *PAHO Strategic Plan 2008-2012, Amended* (Official Document 328 [2009]);

Considering the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2010 and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health;

Emphasizing that maternal mortality is a manifestation of inequity that affects every country in the Region, that there are cost-effective interventions within the sector to effect the desired reduction that are capable of having a real impact within a short timeframe;

Considering the importance of having a plan of action that makes it possible for Member States to respond effectively and efficiently,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the present Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity and to further its consideration in policies, plans, and development programs, as well as in proposals and discussions of national budgets, allowing them to address the issue of improving maternal health.
2. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) consider the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 and the call by the United Nations Secretary General in 2010 to implement a plan to help reduce maternal mortality;

- (b) adopt national policies, strategies, plans, and programs that increase women's access to culturally appropriate, quality health services adapted to their needs, including in particular promotion and prevention programs based on primary health care provided by skilled personnel, that integrate preconceptional (including family planning), pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum care, in which, moreover, all of these services are free for the most vulnerable populations;
 - (c) promote a dialogue between institutions in the public and private sector and civil society to prioritize women's lives as a human rights and development issue;
 - (d) promote the empowerment of women and the participation and co-responsibility of men in sexual and reproductive health;
 - (e) adopt a human resources policy that addresses the issue of quantity and quality to respond to the needs of women and newborns, involving entities that train and credential human resources;
 - (f) improve the capacity to generate information and research on sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality, and severe maternal morbidity for the development of evidence-based strategies that permit monitoring and evaluation of their results, in keeping with the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health;
 - (g) undertake internal review and analysis of the relevance and viability of this plan in the national context, based on national priorities, needs, and capacities;
 - (h) advocate for dedicated public budgets, where applicable, based on strategic results, aimed at improving the coverage and quality of care for women and children;
 - (i) promote the development of social protection programs for women and children.
3. To request the Director to:
- (a) support the Member States in implementing the present Plan of Action, in keeping with their needs and their particular demographic and epidemiological characteristics;
 - (b) promote implementation and coordination of this Plan of Action, ensuring its horizontal nature through programs, the Organization's various regional and subregional offices, and collaboration with and among the countries in the design

- of strategies and sharing of resources and capacities to implement their women's health plans;
- (c) promote and strengthen information systems and maternal health surveillance, including a regional repository available to all stakeholders, and encourage operations research to design relevant strategies and carry out interventions based on the Region's specific needs and contexts;
 - (d) support the Member States in developing and creating capacities for training appropriately distributing of maternal and neonatal health personnel;
 - (e) consolidate and strengthen technical cooperation with the committees, organs, and rapporteurships of the United Nations and Inter-American bodies, in addition to promoting partnerships with other international and regional organizations, scientific and technical institutions, organized civil society, the private sector and others, within the framework of the Regional Working Group for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality;
 - (f) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on progress and constraints in implementing the Plan of Action, as well as on changes made in the Plan to adapt it, as necessary, to new circumstances and needs.

(Eighth meeting, 23 June 2011)