



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



48th DIRECTING COUNCIL
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RESOLUTION

CD48.R13

**15th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON HEALTH
AND AGRICULTURE (RIMSA): “AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH: ALLIANCE
FOR EQUITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”**

THE 48th DIRECTING COUNCIL

Having considered the report of the Secretariat on the 15th Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 15) (Document CD48/19, Rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report on RIMSA15 and the conclusions and recommendations of the International Meeting on Trans Fat-free Americas; the 11th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA 11); the 5th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA 5); and the Agricultural-Health Forum of the Ministers of Agriculture and Health.
2. To urge Member States to establish or strengthen alliances and policies in order to address the determinants of health in the area shared by the health and agriculture sectors identified by RIMSA 15, particularly:

- (a) To adopt the determinants of health approach, and identify and reduce the gaps and disparities between population groups by applying convergent and synergistic strategies;
- (b) To advocate policies that favor improvement of the quality of life and integral development of the most vulnerable groups, with indicators of social development other than the unmet basic needs in rural and urban areas, in order to channel development and reach the MDGs, adhering to regional initiatives such as Faces, Voices, and Places; Healthy and Productive Municipalities and Communities; Microcredits for Rural Women; and Agrotourism and Ecotourism rural enterprises, preserving and promoting maintenance of biodiversity and the agricultural practices of native peoples; protecting traditional, local, and indigenous knowledge; and combining ancestral knowledge with the potential of new practices;
- (c) To promote actions within countries and between countries that seek to prevent and reduce the presence of endemic, neglected, and emerging diseases with behavior that has been or can be affected by social and environmental determinants linked to climate change, modification of ecosystems, and conversion of production systems;
- (d) To establish or strengthen multisectoral agreements and effective regulations in order to improve the nutritional quality of food, and reduce or eliminate the substances that can have an adverse effect on health through regulatory and voluntary measures to eliminate trans fats from human consumption and replace them with healthy oils, within the framework of public policies that seek to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce associated risks;
- (e) To execute and maintain the actions required to eliminate dog-transmitted human rabies from the hemisphere by 2012;
- (f) To implement cooperation initiatives between countries in order to expedite the elimination of foot-and-mouth disease from the hemisphere;
- (g) To strengthen the national food safety systems;
- (h) To strengthen the mechanisms of regional and global coordination for warning and early response to the health risks associated with zoonoses, foodborne diseases, and animal diseases, within the framework of the International Health Regulations (2005) linked to the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) for public health and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards for animal health.

3. To request the Director, within the framework of the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in association with the IICA and other international cooperation agencies, to undertake actions that favor integration and collaboration between the health and agriculture sectors in order to ensure and follow up, as appropriate, on the recommendations and conclusions of the meetings held within the framework of RIMSA 15.

(Eighth meeting, 2 October 2008)