



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL

61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2009

CD49.R10 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

CD49.R10

POLICY ON RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the document *Policy on Research for Health* (Document CD49/10);

Recalling Resolutions WHA58.34 on the Ministerial Summit on Health Research, and WHA60.15 on WHO's Role and Responsibilities in Health Research; PAHO's Regional Contribution to the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, including the progress report on Resolution WHA58.34 delivered to the 48th Directing Council; and the report by the Advisory Committee on Health Research to the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference;

Aware that as our rapidly changing world faces significant environmental, demographic, social, and economic challenges, research will be increasingly essential to elucidate the nature and scope of health problems; identify effective, safe, and appropriate interventions and strategies; address health equity and determinants for health; and fulfill the Millennium Development Goals and the 2008-2017 Health Agenda for the Americas;

Realizing that improving health outcomes requires research that is multidisciplinary and intersectoral;

Acknowledging that research for health is an essential public health function that needs to be further developed and strengthened in Member States;

Affirming PAHO's important role and responsibilities in research for health, as the leading Regional public health organization;

Recognizing the need to strengthen the public sector's capacity in health research;

Cognizant of the need to better communicate and integrate PAHO's research results and activities throughout the Organization and with its Member States and partners;

Conscious that PAHO and its Member States need to maintain functional governance mechanisms for research for health, and aware that functional national health research systems can gain greater advantage from research by promoting efficiencies, pursuing effective management, and coordinating research for health activities;

Taking into account Resolution WHA61.21 on the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property, and Resolution CD48.R15 of the 48th Directing Council on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property: a Regional Perspective;

Noting the references to research for health in the report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH), as well as the relevant conclusions and recommendations of WHO's Commission on Social Determinants of Health;

Taking into account the outcomes of the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako, 17-19 November 2008), the Regional contributions presented to the Directing Council, the conclusion of the 1st Latin American Conference on Research and Innovation for Health, and WHO's Strategy on Research for Health,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse PAHO's Policy on Research for Health (Document CD49/10).
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) recognize the importance of research for health and health equity and to adopt and implement policies for research for health that are aligned with national health plans, include all relevant sectors public and private, align external support around mutual priorities, and strengthen key national institutions;

- (b) consider drawing on PAHO's Policy on Research for Health according to their national circumstances and contexts, and as part of their overall policies on health and health research;
- (c) work with PAHO to strengthen and monitor national health research systems by improving the quality, leadership and management of research for health, focusing on national needs, establishing effective institutional research mechanisms, systematically using evidence to develop health policies, having the necessary skills in place through increased training of health researchers, encouraging research participation and harmonizing and coordinating national and external support;
- (d) establish, as necessary and appropriate, governance mechanisms for research for health to achieve effective coordination and strategic approaches between relevant sectors, ensure the rigorous application of good research norms and standards, including providing protection for human subjects involved in research, and promote an open dialogue between policymakers and researchers on national health needs, capacities, and constraints;
- (e) continue working with PAHO and its specialized centers to support the point of view that holds that research evidence essential for health and development continue to be accessible and available, including, when appropriate, in the public domain;
- (f) promote intersectoral collaboration and quality research to produce the research evidence necessary for ensuring that policies adopted in all sectors contribute to improving health and health equity;
- (g) initiate or strengthen intercountry and subregional collaboration as a way to obtain efficiencies of scale in research by sharing experiences, best practices, and resources, by pooling training and procurement mechanisms, and by using common and standardized research evaluation methods;
- (h) continue to pursue financing of research for health and its monitoring, as articulated in Resolution WHA58.34 and in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;
- (i) establish ethical review boards and implement ethical principles for clinical trials involving human subjects, with reference to the Declaration of Helsinki and other appropriate texts on ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects.

3. To invite Member States, the research for health community, the inter-American system, the UN system, and other international organizations, supporters of research, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other concerned stakeholders to:

- (a) provide support to the PAHO Secretariat for implementing the Policy on Research for Health and monitoring and evaluating its effectiveness;
- (b) collaborate with PAHO, within the framework of the Policy, to identify research for health priorities, develop guidelines relating to research for health, develop registries and monitoring mechanisms, and share helpful information and data;
- (c) assist PAHO and its research partners to mobilize and monitor resources for the identified Regional and subregional priorities for research for health;
- (d) collaborate with PAHO to better align and coordinate the global and regional research for health architecture and its governance through the rationalization of existing partnerships, in order to improve coherence and impact and to increase efficiencies and equity;
- (e) pay particular attention to the research cooperation requests from Member States with pressing needs, notably in areas such as technology transfer, research workforce, infrastructure development, and determinants for health, particularly where this will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, health equity, and better health for all;
- (f) support, where appropriate, technical cooperation aimed at raising research for health standards in Member States.

4. To request the Director to:

- (a) provide leadership in identifying regional priorities for research for health by promoting collaboration systems for detecting research needs and problems jointly with the Member States;
- (b) implement and mainstream the Policy on Research for Health at all levels of the Organization, as well as with partners, and align it with relevant resolutions such as Resolution CD48.R15, *Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property: a Regional Perspective*;
- (c) ensure that the highest norms and standards of good research are upheld within PAHO, including technical, ethical, and methodological aspects, disseminate and promote access to research results and advocate their translation into policy and

- practice, and review and align the architecture and governance of the Organization's research activities and partnerships;
- (d) continue to facilitate the development of PAHO staff with the necessary skills to appropriately and effectively use research in every relevant PAHO activity;
 - (e) provide adequate core resources in proposed program budgets for the implementation of the Policy on Research for Health;
 - (f) provide support to Member States, upon request and as resources permit, to strengthen national health research systems and the development of efficient intersectoral collaboration;
 - (g) collaborate constructively with other international organizations, networks, and stakeholders, including centers of excellence and WHO collaborating centers, to promote efficiencies and achieve a higher impact with this policy;
 - (h) support the effective promotion and implementation of WHO's Research for Health Strategy, with periodic reporting to Member States, the active involvement of all relevant constituencies in PAHO, and the development of strategies and action plans for the Policy on Research for Health with the participation of Member States and in consultation with other stakeholders, including civil society;
 - (i) promote transparency, with the collaboration of the Member States and, when appropriate, the dissemination of information useful for research and development and for research findings.

(Fifth plenary, 30 September 2009)