

## 55th DIRECTING COUNCIL

### 68th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2016

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CD55.R10  
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### *RESOLUTION*

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#### **PLAN OF ACTION FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2016-2021**

#### ***THE 55th DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having examined the *Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021* (Document CD55/17, Rev. 1), which includes the final report on the Plan of Action on Safe Hospitals for 2010-2015;

Taking into account the advances made in the implementation of Disaster Preparedness and Response (Resolution CD45.R8 [2004]); Safe Hospitals: A Regional Initiative on Disaster-Resilient Health Facilities (Resolution CSP27.R14 [2007]); and Plan of Action on Safe Hospitals (Resolution CD50.R15 [2010]);

Observing that the implementation of the Plan of Action on Safe Hospitals (Document CD50/10) 2010-2015 has demonstrated advances and challenges that have contributed to the adoption of national programs and policies for safe hospitals, to the implementation of activities aimed at ensuring that all new hospitals are built with a higher level of protection, and to the implementation of measures to cope with climate change in terms both of disaster adaptation and mitigation in order to strengthen existing health facilities;

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Agenda for Humanity, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 all affirm that the health of the population is a priority in disaster risk reduction, and that, therefore, special attention should be paid to the capacity to respond to natural events and events caused by human activity, including those of an environmental, biological, or radiological nature, and emphasize access to

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medical services after disasters, care for the needs of priority care groups such as persons with disabilities and ethnic groups, and mental health, taking a gender approach;

Taking into account the conclusions of the Regional Meeting of Health Disaster Coordinators held in Managua, Nicaragua, on October 2015, at which 29 countries and territories of the Region identified advances in disaster risk reduction and prioritized interventions with regard to existing gaps;

Aware of the importance of having a Plan of Action that enables the Member States of the Organization to implement actions to better protect the health of the population against emergencies and disasters,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To approve and implement the *Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021* (Document CD55/17, Rev. 1).
2. To urge the Member States to:
  - a) strengthen emergency and disaster response programs in the health sector;
  - b) incorporate health sector disaster risk management into national policies, plans, and budgets, and promote the integration of health into national plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction;
  - c) promote initiatives in partnership with the scientific and technological community, academia, and others, to investigate, disseminate, and share good practices in disaster risk management in the health sector, and to include these in human resources training;
  - d) continue implementing the Safe Hospitals initiative and incorporate criteria for disaster mitigation and adaptation to climate change into health facility policies, planning, design, construction, operation, and accreditation;
  - e) strengthen national-level efforts to develop and update the knowledge and procedures of emergency and disaster response teams;
  - f) promote the creation of strategic reserves and the proper management of critical supplies for preparedness, response, and early recovery.
3. To request the Director to:
  - a) collaborate with the Member States in the coordination and implementation of the *Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021* at the national, subregional, and regional levels;
  - b) support the development of methodologies, technical guidelines, and information systems to facilitate disaster risk assessment;

- c) promote the strengthening of partnerships with specialized agencies in order to mobilize the human and financial resources and the technology necessary to improve disaster risk management;
- d) report to the Governing Bodies on the advances and limitations in the implementation of this Plan of Action at the end of each biennium and prepare a final evaluation in its last year.

*(Seventh meeting, 29 September 2016)*