

55th DIRECTING COUNCIL

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

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RESOLUTION

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PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF NEGLECTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND POST-ELIMINATION ACTIONS 2016-2022

THE 55th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having examined the *Plan of Action for the Elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases and Post-elimination Actions 2016-2022* (Document CD55/15);

Considering that the World Health Organization (WHO) has provided an overarching framework to address the challenge of prevention, elimination, and control of neglected tropical diseases at the global level;

Considering the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 (2007), the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2014-2019 (*Official Document 345* [2014]), the Report on the 16th Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSAs 16) (Document CD52/INF/3 [2013]), the Plan of Action on Health in All Policies (Resolution CD53.R2 [2014]), the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Resolution CD53.R14 [2014]), and the concept paper on Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]);

Acknowledging the impact of neglected infectious diseases on morbidity and mortality, disability, and stigma in the Region of the Americas, especially among high-risk populations and groups in situations of vulnerability;

Recognizing that neglected infectious diseases both reflect and accentuate inequities in coverage of health services by affecting populations at the economic margins of society;

Acknowledging that measures of prevention and treatment of neglected infectious diseases implemented in childhood and among women of childbearing age in the Region may protect these vulnerable groups from acute and chronic illness and premature death and reduce the risk of disability and stigma;

Acknowledging that some neglected infectious diseases are also a risk for the periurban, rural, and agricultural workforce in the Region and impair the economic development of the individuals, families, and communities at risk;

Acknowledging that in the Region there is evidence of the elimination and interruption of transmission of several priority neglected infectious diseases and the elimination as a public health problem of other neglected infectious diseases;

Acknowledging that some countries that have eliminated neglected infectious diseases have implemented monitoring/surveillance measures for the post-elimination phase to prevent reintroduction or recrudescence and to consolidate sustainability;

Considering that prevention, elimination, expanded control, and post-elimination monitoring/surveillance of neglected infectious diseases in the Region are possible in each country and territory in the foreseeable future,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action for the Elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases and Post-elimination Actions 2016-2022* (Document CD55/15).
2. To urge all Member States, taking into account their epidemiological situation, national context, and priorities, to:
 - a) prioritize neglected infectious diseases and their elimination as an important public health priority, promoting an integrated comprehensive response based on PAHO/WHO recommendations and establishing specific targets to face the challenges entailed by these diseases with the goal of eliminating as many as possible by 2022 or earlier;
 - b) foster interprogrammatic alliances, initiatives, synergies, and activities within and outside of the health system, engaging all relevant partners and stakeholders, including civil society, in the work of prevention, elimination, control, and post-elimination surveillance of neglected infectious diseases;
 - c) promote mechanisms in each country to ensure the professionalization and stability of technical personnel and the political continuity of programmatic strategies;
 - d) establish specific strategies for integrated surveillance and management of vectors of neglected infectious diseases and for strengthening the prevention of select neglected zoonoses through a veterinary public health/One Health approach,

- including collaboration with animal health and production areas, and outreach and educational interventions for neglected key populations and groups living in vulnerable conditions, with involvement of affected communities and key stakeholders;
- e) support promotion of treatment, rehabilitation, and related support services through an approach focused on integrated morbidity management and disability prevention for individuals and families afflicted by those neglected infectious diseases that cause disability and generate stigma;
 - f) support the development of health-related policies, regulations, norms, and capacities at the country level for surveillance, screening, diagnosis, care, and treatment of neglected infectious diseases both within and outside of health care settings (according to evidence-based normative guidance developed by PAHO and WHO), and ensure their implementation, monitoring, and periodic evaluation;
 - g) promote inter-country collaboration and coordination in the monitoring of progress towards elimination goals and monitoring/surveillance in the post-elimination phase;
 - h) ensure inclusion of medicines, diagnostics, and equipment related to neglected infectious disease elimination in national essential medicine lists and formularies; negotiate expedited importation of medicines with the national regulatory, customs, and taxation authorities, and promote access to them through price negotiation processes and national and regional procurement mechanisms such as PAHO's Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies;
 - i) strengthen countries' capacity to generate and disseminate timely and quality strategic information (and mapping) on neglected infectious diseases, disaggregated by age, gender, and ethnic group;
 - j) support the development of integrated strategies for provision of safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene, improved housing conditions, health promotion and education, vector control, and veterinary public health based on intersectoral approaches, taking into account and addressing the social determinants of health, for elimination of neglected infectious diseases; and assume a leadership role to champion such strategies at the highest level of authority;
 - k) eliminate gender, geographical, economic, sociocultural, legal, and organizational barriers that prevent universal equitable access to comprehensive health services for those affected by neglected infectious diseases, following the PAHO Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage.

3. To request the Director to:
 - a) establish a technical advisory group on elimination and interruption of transmission among humans of neglected infectious diseases to advise PASB and, through it, the Member States;
 - b) support the implementation of the Plan of Action, especially with respect to strengthening services for innovative and intensified disease surveillance and case management (surveillance, screening, diagnosis, care, and treatment) and for preventive chemotherapy of neglected infectious diseases as part of the expansion of primary health care and universal health coverage in the Region of the Americas;
 - c) support Member States in reinforcing national and regional information and surveillance systems on neglected infectious diseases in order to monitor progress in control and elimination and to support decision making in countries according to their epidemiological status;
 - d) provide technical assistance to Member States to scale up actions to eliminate neglected infectious diseases, strengthen integrated management of vectors of these diseases, and strengthen the prevention of select neglected zoonoses through a veterinary public health/One Health approach, in keeping with national priorities;
 - e) support Member States in increasing access to affordable neglected infectious disease medicines and commodities, including through price negotiation processes and other mechanisms for sustainable procurement;
 - f) promote strategic partnerships, alliances, and technical cooperation among countries in the Region in carrying out the activities included in this Plan of Action considering the foreseeable goal of elimination and interruption of transmission among humans of select neglected infectious diseases in the Americas;
 - g) present to the Governing Bodies a mid-term evaluation in 2019 and a final evaluation report in 2023.

(Seventh meeting, 29 September 2016)