

58th DIRECTING COUNCIL

72nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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RESOLUTION

CD58.R9

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

THE 58th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the document *COVID-19 Pandemic in the Region of the Americas* (Document CD58/6);

Recalling resolutions COVID-19 response (Resolution WHA73.1 [2020]), International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 (Resolution A/RES/74/274 [2020]), Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Resolution A/RES/74/270 [2020]), Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021 (Resolution CD55.R10 [2016]), Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution A/RES/70/1 [2015]), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Resolution A/RES/69/283 [2015]), Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Resolution CD53.R14 [2014]), Plan of Action for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (Resolution CD53.R9 [2014]), and Revision of the International Health Regulations (Resolution WHA58.3 [2005]);

Recognizing that, in each and every single country and territory, the COVID-19 pandemic is, and will be, requiring national leadership and responsibility as well as the whole-of-government and the whole-of-society commitment to sustain consistent and robust response, mitigation, and recovery efforts in the medium and long terms;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA73.1 on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular the call, in the spirit of unity and solidarity, to intensify cooperation and collaboration at all levels in order to contain and control the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact;

Recognizing the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing, and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end once safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible, and affordable vaccines are available;

Considering warranted that the commitment and requests expressed in the World Health Assembly's resolution WHA73.1 on COVID-19 response for responding to, mitigating the impact of, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic are reemphasized and renewed in the Region of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) maintain, enhance, expand, and plan for sustained and sustainable, whole-of-government and whole-of-society policies, strategies, and actions to continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - b) continue investing, and leveraging advantages and innovation resulting from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in population- and individual based services throughout the health system, with emphasis on the essential public health functions;
 - c) initiate preparatory activities for immunization in anticipation of the availability of a safe, efficacious, and accessible COVID-19 vaccine;
 - d) comply with the provisions of the International Health Regulations (IHR), in particular with those related to the timely sharing of information: *i*) allowing for the comprehensive monitoring of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic; *ii*) enabling States Parties to undertake risk management activities accordingly; *iii*) allowing the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (the Bureau) to deploy support in the field;
 - e) conduct and document—with the support of the Bureau as necessary—reviews of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - f) take into account the movement of people (e.g., humanitarian and health workers, essential workers, aircraft, and vessel crew members), equipment, and supplies needed for COVID-19 pandemic response operations; as well as of essential goods;
 - g) provide sustainable funding to the Pan American Health Organization so that it can fulfill its mandates while responding to, mitigating the impact of, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in developing Member States.

2. To request the Director to:
 - a) continue providing evidence-based technical cooperation to Member States, promote innovation and sharing of experiences, to resume and maintain uninterrupted operations and interventions of the health system in all relevant aspects necessary for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - b) exert transparency, independence, and impartiality, when calling upon States Parties to timely and responsible sharing of truthful information—pursuant to the provisions of the IHR—about the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in their territory;
 - c) maintain the regional network for the surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses, and expand them through the creation of a Regional Genomic Surveillance Network;
 - d) support Member States through the Bureau’s technical areas, the Revolving Fund for Access to Vaccines (Revolving Fund), and the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies (Strategic Fund) to improve equitable access to, without undermining incentives for innovation, and appropriate use of, affordable, safe, efficacious and quality vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, biomedical equipment, and personal protective equipment that can improve health outcomes and reduce the impact of the pandemic;
 - e) support Member States in engaging with global initiatives, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, the Solidarity Call to Action and all other relevant initiatives for the development and access to essential health technologies for COVID-19;
 - f) continue to develop actions and tools that promote international cooperation, in the framework of Resolution CD52.R15, *Cooperation for Health Development in the Americas*, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Region of the Americas;
 - g) provide support to Member States, in the framework of the IHR and in coordination with the World Health Organization, through the development and publication of regional guidelines and recommendations on the management of international travelers, for example, the effectiveness of traveler screening tools, among others, in order to allow Member States to undertake the corresponding risk management activities;
 - h) inform Member States on a regular basis on advances in the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, as well as recommendations for use, principles for access and allocation, regulatory requirements, and actions that the Revolving Fund and the Strategic Fund have initiated to ensure access to vaccines and products for COVID-19;
 - i) promote, facilitate and consolidate reviews of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic conducted by Member States, as well as carry out and document an equivalent exercise focusing on the response by the Bureau in alignment with Resolution WHA73.1;

- j) maintain and continue to strengthen the capacity of the Bureau at all organizational levels to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies and disasters;
- k) report regularly to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization on the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of this Resolution.

(Fourth meeting, 29 September 2020)