

170th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA (hybrid session), 20-24 June 2022

CE170.R5
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RESOLUTION

CE170.R5

STRATEGY ON REGIONAL GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

THE 170th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the proposed Strategy on Regional Genomic Surveillance for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response (Document CE170/18),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference adopt a resolution in the following terms:

STRATEGY ON REGIONAL GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

THE 30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having reviewed the Strategy on Regional Genomic Surveillance for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response (Document CSP30/__);

Considering the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as previous epidemics in the Region of the Americas linked to socioeconomic inequities;

Considering that the Region of the Americas is at great risk for the emergence and reemergence of pathogens with epidemic and pandemic potential due to its ecological diversity, increased urbanization and other changes in human settlement, and the intense movement of people;

Recognizing the need for enhanced multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches in the preparedness and response to pathogens with pandemic and epidemic potential, including at the human-animal-environment interface;

Acknowledging the key contribution of genomic surveillance in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the role that genomic surveillance will likely play in future health emergencies,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Strategy on Regional Genomic Surveillance for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response (Document CSP30/___).
2. To urge all Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) contribute to the expansion and consolidation of a regional genomic surveillance network of public health, animal health, and environmental health laboratories for early detection and monitoring of emerging and existing pathogens of potential public health concern, including at the human-animal-environment interface and, where appropriate, to the establishment of national networks;
 - b) strengthen technical capacity for genomic sequencing, including in bioinformatics, and assure its sustainability in periods between outbreaks and epidemics through investment and funding for infrastructures and facilities, equipment, supplies, and personnel;
 - c) assure timely reporting of genomic data through validated sequence repositories and their integration with public health systems, including strengthened communication and integration of information among national public, animal, wildlife, and environmental health laboratories;
 - d) build capacities and participate in the definition of regional best practices for the use of genomic data in response to outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics, including mechanisms for intersectoral coordination and integration among public, animal, and environmental health surveillance teams.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) provide technical cooperation to Member States to strengthen technical and managerial capacities that contribute to implementation of the strategy and achievement of its lines of action;
 - b) propose governance modalities for a regional genomic surveillance network for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, including the role of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau as its secretariat;
 - c) support the planning, establishment, and strengthening of supply chains for equipment, reagents, and other laboratory products during interepidemic periods, including strategic procurement and distribution of supplies during the initial phases of the strategy and during health emergencies;

- d) urge the international donor community to increase its financial assistance to strengthen country programs for health emergency prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, thus increasing the health sector's resilience;
- e) report periodically to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization on the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of this strategy, with a mid-term report in 2026 and a final report in 2029.

(Second meeting, 20 June 2022)
