



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE
54th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 23-27 September 2002

RESOLUTION

CSP26.R9

VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION

THE 26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having considered the report of the Director on vaccines and immunization (Document CSP26/7) and taking note of the Region's leadership in the area of vaccines and immunization, and the critical contribution of immunization to the progress of child survival initiatives;

Recognizing the need to accelerate the use of new vaccines of proven efficacy to reduce health threats to the children of the Region;

Recognizing the progress being made in the Americas towards the interruption of indigenous transmission of measles, but cognizant of the fact that the Region is under constant threat of importations, which can lead to extensive measles outbreaks if coverage levels are inadequate;

Taking note of the remarkable commitment of health and government authorities of the island of Hispaniola to control successfully the Sabin type 1 vaccine-derived poliomyelitis and measles outbreaks in 2001;

Acknowledging the need to achieve uniform vaccination coverage in all municipalities and to improve the quality of vaccination and surveillance data;

Considering the important advances being made by Member States in accelerating the control of rubella and the prevention of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), to achieve a more rapid decrease of rubella cases and infants born with CRS;

Noting that while yellow fever transmission in enzootic areas has recently decreased as a result of intensive vaccination, there is evidence of its circulation in non-enzootic areas and widespread distribution of *Aedes aegypti*, the urban vector of the disease;

Bearing in mind the importance of working to ensure access by all Member States to every type of vaccine indicated for use in public health, at an affordable cost and of the highest quality; and

Aware of the potential use of smallpox virus as a bioterrorism weapon,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) allocate adequate resources to finance all aspects of national immunization programs, to ensure the sustainable achievement of at least 95% vaccination coverage with all antigens in all municipalities, the realization of the goal of interruption of indigenous measles transmission, the maintenance of poliomyelitis eradication, and the inclusion of new vaccines and initiatives of public health importance;
 - (b) undertake accelerated control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome prevention initiatives and continue improving epidemiological surveillance of rubella and CRS, as well as laboratory diagnosis and investigation procedures;
 - (c) remain vigilant of the yellow fever situation using sensitive surveillance systems, particularly in enzootic areas and areas infested with *Aedes aegypti*, and to sustain high vaccination coverage in high-risk areas to prevent the occurrence of jungle cases and urbanization of the disease;
 - (d) strengthen national regulatory authorities and national control laboratories to ensure that vaccines of quality, either imported or locally produced and approved by competent authorities, are used in national immunization programs and the private sector;
 - (e) consider that any outbreak of smallpox is a threat to the Region and to the world, promptly report any suspect cases that may occur, and be prepared to provide the necessary emergency assistance, including vaccines, to contain the outbreak as rapidly as possible.

2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) advocate for the active mobilization of national and international resources to reach the goal of interruption of indigenous measles transmission, including the adoption of eradication strategies in Regions where conditions permit the substantial achievement of this goal;
 - (b) encourage the collaboration among vaccine-producing countries in the Americas to support the joint development of vaccines;
 - (c) explore, together with The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other partners, financing mechanisms that complement the PAHO Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement, with a view to ensuring an uninterrupted supply of vaccines to the Member States at affordable prices and of the highest quality;
 - (d) advocate for the adoption of strategies that will make it possible for our public health programs to immediately incorporate new vaccines of proven efficacy against serious childhood illness;
 - (e) establish the necessary measures to guarantee that 95% of women of childbearing age are immunized against tetanus;
 - (f) offer guidance to the Member States on immunizations that have proven to be cost-effective for use in older adults.

(Sixth meeting, 25 September 2002)