



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL

61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CD49.R18

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report of the Director, *Policy Framework for Human Organ Donation and Transplantation* (Document CD49/14), which proposes that Member States have a policy framework that will facilitate the strengthening of national capacity to effectively and efficiently address the problem of cell, tissue, and organ donation and transplantation and achieve optimal utilization of the resources allocated for this purpose;

Recognizing the valuable contributions of the Ibero-American Network/Council on Donation and Transplantation (RDCIT) to the promotion and strengthening of national organ donation and transplantation programs in the Region, as well as the important work of other subregional entities in this area;

Taking into account the fact that some countries have developed institutional capabilities, as well as appropriate regulatory frameworks and information systems, for organ donation and transplantation in the Region;

Aware of the growing magnitude and usefulness of human cells, tissue, and organs for a wide range of disorders in high- and low-income countries alike;

Committed to the principles of human dignity and solidarity, which condemn the purchase of human body parts for transplantation and the exploitation of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, as well as the human trafficking stemming from such practices;

Convinced that voluntary, unpaid donation of organs, cells, and tissue from deceased or living donors helps guarantee the continued presence of a vital community resource;

Sensitive to the need for monitoring reactions and adverse events associated with the donation, processing, and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs as such, and for ensuring that this information is disseminated internationally to optimize the safety and efficacy of transplants,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) apply the Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue, and Organ Transplantation in the formulation and execution of their policies, laws, and regulations on human cell, tissue, and organ donation and transplantation, as the case may be;
 - (b) promote equitable access to transplantation services, as national capabilities permit, that serve as the foundation for public support and voluntary donations;
 - (c) fight efforts to obtain economic gain or comparable advantages in transactions with human body parts, organ trafficking, and transplant tourism, and to encourage health professionals to notify the proper authorities when they have knowledge of such practices, in accordance with national capabilities and national law;
 - (d) strengthen national public authorities and capabilities, providing them with support to guarantee the supervision, organization, and coordination of donation and transplantation activities, with special attention to ensuring that, insofar as possible, they use donations of organs from deceased people and protect the health and well-being of living donors;
 - (e) improve the safety and efficacy of donation and transplantation by promoting international best practices;
 - (f) collaborate in the collection of data, especially on adverse reactions and events related to the practices, safety, quality, efficacy, epidemiology, and ethics of donation and transplantation;

- (g) stay actively involved in the RDCIT and other subregional donation and transplantation entities (MERCOSUR Intergovernmental Donation and Transplantation Commission, among others);
 - (h) incorporate the pertinent guidelines and recommendations in their policies, laws, regulations, and practices related to cell, tissue, and organ procurement, donation, and transplantation, such as those related to the creation of umbilical cord cell banks, the diagnosis of brain death, and quality and safety systems for organ, tissue, and cell donation.
2. Request the Director to:
- (a) disseminate the updated Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue, and Organ Transplantation as widely as possible to all stakeholders;
 - (b) support Member States and nongovernmental organizations in matters related to the prohibition of trafficking in materials of human origin and transplant tourism;
 - (c) continue to gather and analyze regional data on practices, safety, quality, efficacy, epidemiology, and ethics in human cell, tissue, and organ donation and transplantation;
 - (d) provide technical assistance to the Member States that request it in the drafting of national laws and regulations on human cell, tissue, and organ donation and transplantation and set up appropriate systems for this purpose, facilitating international cooperation in particular, and provide support to the bilateral cooperation activities that the countries have undertaken in this area;
 - (e) facilitate Member States' access to appropriate information on the donation, processing, and transplantation of human cells, tissue, and organs, especially data on severe reactions and adverse events;
 - (f) provide technical assistance to the Caribbean countries to promote or improve their kidney transplant programs and propose a subregional kidney health service and transplantation system that would ensure the sustainability and viability of this type of program.

(Ninth meeting, 2 October 2009)