



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

57th DIRECTING COUNCIL

71st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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RESOLUTION

CD57.R7

PAHO DISEASE ELIMINATION INITIATIVE: A POLICY FOR AN INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE AMERICAS

THE 57th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative: A Policy for an Integrated Sustainable Approach to Communicable Diseases in the Americas* (Document CD57/7), which articulates and illustrates the corporate approach and comprehensive strategy of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for communicable disease elimination;

Considering that this initiative reflects the commitment made by Member States to advance toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the goals of the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030;

Cognizant of the impact that these diseases and conditions have in the Americas, especially among populations in situations of vulnerability;

Acknowledging the potential financial benefits of implementing cost-effective public health programs and strategies that consider target diseases and conditions throughout the life course and that take a multisectoral approach across health systems and networks at the country level throughout the Americas;

Considering the ongoing work toward achieving universal health as addressed in PAHO's Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Resolution CD53.R14 [2014]) and the framework for action of the World Health Organization (WHO) for strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes (2007), and recognizing the first level of care as the main pillar of disease elimination;

Considering the numerous PAHO and WHO strategies and plans of action focusing on various health conditions related to this initiative;

Acknowledging PAHO's historic role in important disease elimination achievements in the Region and globally;

Recognizing that this initiative provides countries in the Americas orientation and direction toward the elimination of communicable diseases through adoption of a common and sustainable approach,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the *PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative: A Policy for an Integrated Sustainable Approach to Communicable Diseases in the Americas* (Document CD57/7).
2. To urge Member States, according to their national contexts and priorities, to:
 - a) adopt and implement the strategic approach of the Elimination Initiative to promote and step up elimination of communicable diseases and related conditions within their national public health agendas;
 - b) ensure that the overarching principle of the Elimination Initiative, the life course approach, is realized across all levels of the national health system and network services;
 - c) strengthen institutional and community capacity to produce quality data that can be used to monitor progress toward elimination of communicable diseases and related conditions, as well as to generate further evidence;
 - d) make efforts to promote intersectoral governmental coordination and the participation of civil society and the community toward elimination of communicable diseases and related conditions;
 - e) foster better access to quality health services by strengthening primary health care and working to achieve universal health.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) secure political, managerial, administrative, and financial support, including by intensifying external resource mobilization, for successful implementation of the Elimination Initiative;
 - b) promote and enhance interprogrammatic, multisectoral collaboration to pursue synergies across all stakeholders expected to contribute to the implementation of the Elimination Initiative;

- c) enhance coordination at regional and country levels to improve access to vaccines, medicines, diagnostic tests, and other key commodities, such as bed nets, vector control products, and water/sanitation disinfection equipment, through the PAHO Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies and the PAHO Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement;
- d) measure progress toward elimination of communicable diseases and related conditions by strengthening health information systems that can ensure the availability and analysis of quality robust data throughout the life course from health services including maternal and child health, community health services, specialized clinics, and other facilities;
- e) continue to prioritize the Region's national laboratory networks and supply-chain management (clinical and environmental laboratory services, transport and delivery services) for medicines, diagnostic tests, insecticides, and other public health goods;
- f) coordinate, promote, and provide regional-level technical cooperation to countries and territories for integrated health care delivery, especially at the primary health care level, to achieve communicable disease elimination;
- g) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress made and challenges faced in implementation of the initiative, through three progress reports in 2023, 2026, and 2029, and a final report in 2031.

(Fourth meeting, 1 October 2019)