



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



48th DIRECTING COUNCIL
60th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2008

CD48.R5 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

CD48.R5

**REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING ADOLESCENT
AND YOUTH HEALTH**

THE 48th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report of the Director, *Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health* (Document CD48/8), based on the PASB Strategic Plan 2008-2012;

Noting the World Health Assembly resolution on the Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Development (WHA56.21, 2003), calling on governments to strengthen and expand efforts to strive for full coverage of services, and to promote access to a full range of health information for adolescents; and Resolution CD40.R16 of the PAHO Directing Council on adolescent health, in which governments formally recognized the differentiated needs of the youth population and approved a framework and action plan;

Recalling the right of adolescents and youth to the enjoyment to the highest attainable standard of health, as set forth in the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international and regional human rights instruments;

Understanding that successful passage through adolescence and youth is essential for healthy, engaged and economically well-developed societies;

Recognizing that adolescent and youth health is a key aspect of economic and social development in the Americas; that their behaviors and health problems are an important part of the overall disease burden; that the cost associated with the treatment of chronic diseases is high; and that effective prevention and early intervention measures are available;

Considering that the outcomes for adolescent and youth health will be more effective if health promotion, primary health care, social protection, and social determinants are taken into consideration when addressing priority health topics for these populations;

Recognizing that PAHO has cooperated with the countries of the Region in establishing conceptual and technical bases and infrastructure for the development of national adolescent and youth health programs and policies; and

Concerned that the specific needs of adolescents and youth have not been adequately addressed and that the achievement of international goals will require additional efforts in adolescent and youth health,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health to effectively and efficiently respond to current and emerging needs in adolescent and youth health with specific consideration of prevailing inequalities in health status, and to strengthen the health system response to develop and implement policies, plans, programs, laws and services for adolescents and young people.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) promote the collection and use of data on adolescent and youth health disaggregated by age, sex and ethnicity and the use of a gender-based analysis, new technologies (e.g. geographical information systems) and projection models to strengthen the planning, delivery, and monitoring of national plans, policies, programs, laws and interventions related to adolescent and youth health;
 - (b) strengthen and expand efforts to meet international commitments for adolescent and youth health;
 - (c) promote and establish enabling environments that foster adolescent and youth health and development;

- (d) scale up the coverage of and access to quality health services—including promotion, prevention, effective treatment, and ongoing care—to increase their demand and utilization by adolescents and youth;
 - (e) support capacity building for policymakers, program managers, and health care providers to develop policies and programs that aim to promote community development and provide effective quality health services addressing the health needs of adolescents and youth and their related determinants of health;
 - (f) engage adolescents and youth, their families, communities, schools, and other appropriate institutions and organizations in the provision of culturally sensitive and age-appropriate promotion and prevention programs as part of the comprehensive approach to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and youth;
 - (g) improve coordination within the health sector and with partners in other sectors to ensure that actions and initiatives in adolescent and youth health and development are implemented, minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing impact of limited resources;
 - (h) establish partnerships with the media to promote positive images of adolescents and youth which promote appropriate behaviors, social norms and commitment to health issues.
3. To request the Director to:
- (a) maintain the Organization's commitment to and support for achieving and sustaining high levels of coverage of evidence-based interventions through the integration of actions by PAHO programmatic areas;
 - (b) support the establishment and coordination of strategic alliances to improve the health and development of adolescents and youth;
 - (c) encourage technical cooperation among countries, subregions, international organizations, government entities, private organizations, universities, media, civil society, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, and communities, in activities that promote adolescent and youth health;
 - (d) establish a time limited technical advisory group for guidance on topics pertinent to adolescent and youth health and development.

- (e) develop a plan of action (2010-2018) based on the Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health;
- (f) encourage the development of collaborative research initiatives that can provide the evidence base needed to establish and deliver effective and developmentally and age appropriate programs and interventions for adolescents and youth.

(Sixth meeting, 1 October 2008)