



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL

61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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CD49.R20 (Eng.)
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTION

CD49.R20

HEALTH AND TOURISM

THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report of the Director *Health and Tourism* (Document CD49/15);

Acknowledging the importance of raising awareness about the relevance of the health/tourism interaction to the promotion of national tourism policies that are favorable to health and concerning fostering the participation of private enterprise, communities, and the mass media;

Acknowledging, as well, the importance of considering health and environmental factors that threaten sustainable tourism in the Region, through an examination of the leading opportunities and barriers that are involved in its development in the Americas;

Considering the need to create a cooperation framework among international, Regional, and specialized health and tourism agencies;

Emphasizing the relevance of producing information based on scientific evidence to determine the impact of tourism on public health and sustainable development in the countries of the Region;

Considering the need to promote epidemiological studies to measure the burden of disease related to tourism and its prevalence in specific population groups and to adopt key indicators for surveillance and for determining the quality of healthy tourism;

Acknowledging the importance of devising a framework of joint measures with agencies that can promote these measures, as well as a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of a plan of action,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the concepts on health and tourism contained in Document CD49/15.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) include health and tourism in their national health plans, considering relevant aspects for tourism, such as proper nutrition, physical activity, hygiene, security, and protection against health risks;
 - (b) conduct assessments of the burden of disease attributed to tourism and examine the perspectives, beliefs, and requirements to lay the foundation for decision-making, following the recommendations issued by the Regional Forum on Health and Tourism;
 - (c) promote and consider the existing health surveillance and risk assessment mechanisms, which could include the national hotel systems in every country in the Region;
 - (d) promote an approach based on the strengthening of favorable environments, the promotion of healthy behaviors, and people's control over their health determinants;
 - (e) strengthen their capacity to analyze public health events and outbreaks related to tourist and traveler facilities, in accordance with the International Health Regulations;
 - (f) strengthen the health system's capacity to produce information based on strategic evidence linking health, tourism, and development through the evaluation of current investments, coverage, monitoring, and the quality of national programs;
 - (g) promote, establish, and strengthen information systems and networks for sharing information and good practices in this area;

- (h) promote environmental and occupational health methods in the planning, design, construction, and operation of hotels and other tourist facilities that will make it possible to systematize information for the design of methodologies for the health certification of facilities as value added for the industry;
 - (i) promote the development of healthy communities that will benefit both the population and the tourism industry.
3. To request the Director to:
- (a) maintain the commitment of the organization to this issue, update its cooperation strategy, and develop a regional plan of action (2010-2020) that encompasses the different program areas;
 - (b) create the Regional Forum on Health and Tourism to examine the concept of healthy tourism, promote technical cooperation among countries, foster knowledge and information sharing, and encourage partnerships with private and community organizations for the purpose of having countries adopt specific policies linking health and tourism;
 - (c) mobilize resources and act interprogrammatically for effective and sustained application of the regional strategy and plan of action;
 - (d) promote the establishment of and compliance with quality standards for health and tourism to improve the competitiveness of the countries of the Region in tourism;
 - (e) strengthen the capacity of public and private sector personnel, including environmental health and hotel workers, in best practices for tourism and environmental management (such as wastewater and solid waste disposal in tourist facilities, food handling, etc.);
 - (f) promote the adoption of standards and regulations in countries interested in developing “health travel” as a tourism product (restoration and recovery, surgery, well-being products, other medical procedures).

(Ninth plenary, 2 October 2009)