



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **51st DIRECTING COUNCIL**

### **63rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2011*

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CD51.R6 (Eng.)  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### ***RESOLUTION***

#### ***CD51.R6***

#### **PLAN OF ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY**

##### ***THE 51st DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having examined the *Plan of Action on Road Safety* (Document CD51/7);

Recognizing the burden that road traffic injuries represent in the Region of the Americas as the leading cause of death in children aged 5 to 14 and the second leading cause of death in people aged 15 to 44, as well as the urgent need to adopt public health measures and promote public policies in coordination with other sectors to reduce the burden of lost lives and suffering caused by road traffic injuries;

Recalling World Health Assembly Resolution WHA57.10 (2004) on road safety and health and the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/58/289 (2004), on improving global road safety; the celebration of World Health Day 2004, with its emphasis on road safety; and the release of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, the *Global Status Report on Road Safety*, and the status report on road safety in the Region of the Americas;

Recalling also Resolution CD48.R11 (2008) of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, *Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: A Call for Action in the Region*;

Recalling further that in March 2010 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (A/RES/64/255);

Recognizing the opportunities offered by the adoption of a public health approach that promotes multisectoral action in which the health sector plays a coordinating role in tackling the urgent need to effectively protect the poor, marginalized, and most vulnerable population, which is the most affected by road traffic injuries in the Region,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To approve the Plan of Action on Road Safety.
2. To urge the Member States to adopt intersectoral public policies that include, among other measures, the following:
  - (a) prioritize road safety through the development of national, subnational, and local plans for the Decade of Action for Road Safety;
  - (b) improve the urban road and highway infrastructure;
  - (c) improve mass transportation policies and laws by adopting the principles of safety, equity, and accessibility to promote safety and protect the human rights of all persons;
  - (d) reduce the incidence of risk factors (speed and alcohol consumption) in traffic-related injuries and increase the use of protective equipment (helmets, seat belts, and child restraint systems in automobiles);
  - (e) set urban speed limits at up to 50 km/h, promote decentralization so that local governments can adjust speed limits, and promote public awareness of the need for setting speed limits;
  - (f) adopt a maximum blood alcohol level for drivers that is less than or equal to 0.05 g/dl;
  - (g) enforce the laws on compulsory helmet use, taking quality and safety standards into account;
  - (h) enforce the laws on compulsory seat belt use, taking quality and safety standards into account, and promote seat belt use;

- (i) enforce the laws on the compulsory use of child restraint systems in automobiles, taking quality and safety standards into account, and promote the use of these systems;
  - (j) establish or improve a technical vehicle inspection and testing system;
  - (k) strengthen the technical and institutional capacity for providing care to victims of road traffic injuries, particularly in the prehospitalization phase, hospital care, and rehabilitation;
  - (l) improve data on road traffic injuries by designing surveillance services to increase understanding and awareness of the burden, causes, and consequences of road traffic injuries, so that victim prevention, care, and rehabilitation programs and investments can be better targeted, monitored, and evaluated;
  - (m) promote studies that yield scientific and technical information on the risks associated with distractions, both inside and outside the vehicle, that can cause traffic accidents (for example, the use of electronic devices such as cellular phones and navigation systems; eating, drinking, or smoking while driving; and highway billboards).
3. To request the Director to:
- (a) support the Member States in their efforts to improve road safety and in the preparation of national and subnational plans for the Decade of Action for Road Safety;
  - (b) facilitate the identification and sharing of good practices for the prevention of road traffic injuries;
  - (c) encourage and support the national focal points network and foster collaboration with other networks of experts, professionals, and nongovernmental organizations;
  - (d) provide cooperation for the creation of technical and policy-making capacity to facilitate data collection and dissemination, and promote research and surveillance systems related to the prevention of road traffic injuries;
  - (e) provide technical assistance to improve prehospital treatment and care for victims of road traffic injuries;

- (f) promote associations and collaboration with international agencies, networks of experts, civil society, foundations, the private sector, and other social actors in order to further an intersectoral approach.

*(Sixth meeting, 28 September 2011)*