



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



43rd DIRECTING COUNCIL
53rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 24-28 September 2001

RESOLUTION

CD43.R15

**HEALTH, DRINKING WATER, AND SANITATION IN
SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

THE 43rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered document CD43/10 on health, drinking water, and sanitation in sustainable human development;

Recognizing the need for ministries of health to strengthen their capacities and competencies to take action that will help to overcome limitations and inequities in access to drinking water and sanitation services, within the framework of sectoral reform and the current trends in the delivery of drinking water and sanitation services and integrated management of water resources;

Taking into account that the technical cooperation activities of the Pan American Health Organization in drinking water and sanitation are guided by the principles of health and environment in sustainable human development and that the establishment of partnerships, strategies, and priorities benefits from timely and relevant information on coverage, quality, and equity in the delivery of these services;

Responding to the call made in Montreal in March 2001 by the environment ministers of the Americas and by the Government of Canada, and endorsed within the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City in April 2001, urging PAHO and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) to support the convening of a regional meeting between ministers of health and ministers of the environment;

Recognizing the importance of developing a knowledge base on the linkages between human health and environmental degradation, establishing priorities for moving the health and environment agenda of the Americas forward, developing an appropriate follow-up mechanism for ministers to keep track of progress and contributing to and influencing the World Summit on Sustainable Development programmed for 2002 (Rio+10); and

Considering the recommendation of the 128th Session of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) strengthen the capacities with the ministries of health and their activities in environmental health, to fulfill their responsibilities, including drinking water quality surveillance and contributing to improve the quality of drinking water and sanitation services;
 - (b) promote and collaborate with other ministries or institutions in reforms aimed to improve coverage, quality, equity, and sustainability of drinking water and sanitation services, particularly in rural areas, small towns, and urban poor settlements;
 - (c) recognize the work of the countries and the technical cooperation of PAHO/WHO in *Evaluation 2000* on drinking water and sanitation in the Region and the study of inequalities in household spending and use of water supply services in 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries;
 - (d) participate actively in regional processes or activities preparatory to Rio+10 or in other activities within its framework, ensuring that health is well represented and identifying and promoting partnerships and priority activities that will facilitate progress in implementing the environmental health agenda, both in the Region and globally;
 - (e) participate in a joint meeting between health and environment ministers of the Americas in 2002 as part of a process to strengthen their capacity to effectively manage health and environment issues;
 - (f) promote actions and establish regulations to enable drinking water and sanitation services to contribute to environmental protection and conservation in the Americas.

2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) continue technical cooperation with the countries to strengthen capacities in the ministries of health, assisting in their work with other sectors and collaborating with other national and international institutions and the development banks that are part of the Shared Agenda to reduce the health risks associated with limitations in coverage, quality, and equity in access to drinking water and sanitation services;
 - (b) collaborate with the Member States in disseminating lessons learned from those countries involved in using methodologies for analyzing sustainability and health impact of investment projects in water supply and sanitation;
 - (c) continue to collaborate with the countries in regional processes or activities in connection with Rio+10 to promote and enrich partnerships that contribute to sustainable human development based on the health of populations;
 - (d) work with the UNEP and Canada to convene a meeting of health and environment ministers of the Americas in early 2002.

(Eighth meeting, 27 September 2001)