

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS
Virtual Session, 10 December 2020

CDSS1.R1
Original: English

RESOLUTION

CDSS1.R1

UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS, COVAX PREPAREDNESS, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES

THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Update on the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Region of the Americas, COVAX Preparedness, and Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines* (Document CDSS1/2);

Considering the global crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of timely, equitable, and affordable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines of demonstrated quality;

Recognizing the critical role of the overall technical cooperation package of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to support country readiness for successfully introducing COVID-19 vaccines;

Acknowledging the efforts by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB or the Bureau) to partner with the COVAX Facility and to facilitate the participation of PAHO Member States in the Facility;

Reaffirming the principles, terms and conditions, and procedures of the PAHO Revolving Fund for Access to Vaccines (the Revolving Fund) and its benefit for public health in the Region of the Americas (Resolution CD52.R5 [2013]) and the Revolving Fund's role as one of the mechanisms within the COVAX Facility for PAHO Member States to secure COVID-19 vaccines;

Taking into account that there could be severe supply constraints for COVID-19 vaccines;

Noting that 27 self-financing countries and territories in the Region of the Americas have signed commitment agreements directly with Gavi to participate in the COVAX Facility and that 10 countries will apply to participate in the COVAX Facility Advanced Market Commitment;

Recognizing that the Bureau requires the approval of the Member States of PAHO in order to conduct any special negotiations that may be needed under these unique global circumstances,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - a) advance with national preparatory plans to introduce COVID-19 vaccines;
 - b) recognize the Bureau and the Revolving Fund as the Pan American technical cooperation mechanism most suitable for providing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines throughout the Region;
 - c) actively participate in the COVAX Facility and advocate for solidarity, affordable pricing, equitable allocation, and sustainable access principles, without undermining incentives for innovation.
2. To request the Director to:
 - a) continue to support Member States in preparing for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines, with the commitment to preserve the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health;
 - b) maintain coordination with international partners and advocate with them to leverage existing capacities and economies of scale through joint pooled procurement in an effort to secure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for the population, including migrant populations, at a low flat price for PAHO Member States participating in the Revolving Fund;
 - c) negotiate to attain for those Member States participating in the Revolving Fund access to COVID-19 vaccines at the best possible price and, if necessary and exceptionally, adjust the terms and conditions of the Revolving Fund in order to address the special circumstances to secure the supply of COVID-19 vaccines;
 - d) report in 2021 to the 59th Directing Council on the Bureau's efforts to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

(Single Plenary, 10 December 2020)