168th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Virtual Session, 21-25 June 2021

CE168.R2
Original: English

RESOLUTION

CE168.R2

POLICY ON THE APPLICATION OF DATA SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

THE 168th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having considered the *Policy on the Application of Data Science in Public Health Using Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies* (Document CE168/11),

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the 59th Directing Council adopt a resolution along the following lines:

POLICY ON THE APPLICATION OF DATA SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

THE 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the *Policy on the Application of Data Science in Public Health Using Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies* (Document CD59/__);

Bearing in mind Member States' commitments with regard to the strengthening of information systems and data-driven solutions for improving health analysis and forecasting;

Recalling the principles enshrined in the report commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General on mobilizing the data revolution for sustainable development;

Considering the need to accelerate progress towards the adoption of emerging technologies at all levels of the health sector;

Observing that Member States in the Region of the Americas have officially affirmed their commitment to health data management with the highest level of quality since 1954;

Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of this policy and its complementarity with the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 of the Pan American Health Organization and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2023,

RESOLVES:

1.   To approve the *Policy on the Application of Data Science in Public Health Using Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies* (Document CD59/__).

2.   To urge Member States, in accordance with their national contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:

a)   strengthen institutional and health worker capacity at all levels to implement data science tools and methods, supporting, among other things, the appropriate management of big data, information, and knowledge through the application of emerging technologies to improve and streamline data processes for descriptive, prescriptive, and predictive health-related analyses to inform decision-making processes;

b)   increase, promote, and support the participation of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and members of other ethnic groups, in the development and implementation of data science policies, considering data biases due to gender differences and other factors;

c)   as appropriate, prepare and implement national and subnational policies, plans, programs, and interventions informed by the regional Policy on the Application of Data Science in Public Health Using Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies, making the necessary resources and legal framework available and focusing on the needs of at-risk populations in situations of vulnerability.

3.   To request the Director to:

a)   provide technical support to Member States for the development and implementation of a regional roadmap for the incorporation of data science techniques and methods at the national, subregional, regional, and inter-institutional levels and facilitate technical cooperation both with and among countries for the preparation and implementation of their national policies;

b)   prioritize technical cooperation to assist countries in strengthening health analysis capacity, including the use of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies;

c)   facilitate access to open educational materials, tools, networks, and scientific information for improving health worker capacity for data management and health analysis and for the use of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies;

d)   report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of this regional policy, as well as its adaptation to specific contexts and needs.

(First meeting, 21 June 2021)