

59th DIRECTING COUNCIL

73rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Virtual Session, 20-24 September 2021

CD59.R1
Original: English

RESOLUTION

CD59.R1

ROADMAP FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEALTH SECTOR IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

THE 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the *Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas* (Document CD59/6);

Bearing in mind the commitments that Member States have made for the strengthening of information systems for health, vital statistics, critical data management, digital literacy, and digital health;

Recalling the principles enshrined by the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation;

Considering the need to accelerate progress toward inclusive digital health with emphasis on the most vulnerable populations, especially those in conditions of greater social, economic, geographic, or cultural vulnerability and population groups that are not digitally literate or lack internet access;

Observing that the Member States of the World Health Organization affirmed their commitment to digital health at the 71st World Health Assembly in 2018 by requesting development of a global strategy on digital health, which was approved by the 73rd World Health Assembly through Decision WHA73(28);

Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of this policy and its alignment with the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025 and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas* (Document CD59/6).
2. To urge Member States, considering their own contexts and priorities, to:
 - a) strengthen institutional and community capacity at all levels to implement digital health solutions, helping, among other things, to support access to quality health services to produce interoperability standards with the capacity to generate sufficient quality data, and to generate evidence in the adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, among others, where determined beneficial;
 - b) increase, promote, and support the participation of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, Roma, and members of other ethnic groups in the development and implementation of digital transformation policies, considering gender and cultural differences;
 - c) as appropriate, prepare and implement national and subnational policies, plans, programs, standards, and interventions informed by the Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas, making the necessary resources and legal framework available and focusing on the needs of at-risk populations in vulnerable situations.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) provide technical support to Member States in the implementation of a coordinated Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector at the national, subregional, regional, and inter-institutional levels;
 - b) promote technical cooperation to assist countries in strengthening health system capacity to include digital health solutions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and applicable international and regional human rights instruments;
 - c) facilitate the co-creation, production, and dissemination of tools, studies, and reports in support of national policies and digital health solutions;
 - d) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas.

(Second meeting, 20 September 2021)