

Resolution

CD61.R3

POLICY FOR STRENGTHENING EQUITY-ORIENTED HEALTH SECTOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

The 61st Directing Council,

Having considered the *Policy for Strengthening Equity-Oriented Health Sector Action on Climate Change and Health* (Document CD61/6);

Bearing in mind Member States' commitments to the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions to protect the health of populations from the impacts of climate change;

Recognizing that climate risks threaten societal foundations in the Region of the Americas, and considering the urgent need to implement adaptation and mitigation measures that can anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to climate-related shocks and improve the health of the population;

Understanding that health sector emissions also contribute to climate change and acknowledging the need to curb emissions and reduce waste in the health sector, with decarbonization targets and procurement standards for national health systems, including supply chains;

Considering that policies and interventions on adaptation and mitigation must be designed with social participation and should aim to reduce health inequities and protect those in situations of vulnerability, including women and girls in all their diversity;

Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of this policy, which serves as a bridge between the agendas of climate change and health, sustainable development, biodiversity protection, conservation, social determinants of health, and health equity, building upon global and regional agreements, strategies, and initiatives,

Resolves:

1. To approve the *Policy for Strengthening Equity-Oriented Health Sector Action on Climate Change and Health* (Document CD61/6).

2. To urge all Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) promote the implementation of the lines of action contained in the *Policy for Strengthening Equity-Oriented Health Sector Action on Climate Change and Health*;
 - b) strengthen the health sector's capacity for adaptation to anticipate, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change while reducing health inequities;
 - c) strengthen the capacities of the health sector for mitigation to build low-carbon health systems and societies, aimed at achieving health co-benefits and reducing health inequities;
 - d) create awareness and strengthen community and civil society participation on climate change and health, using an equity- and human rights-oriented approach;
 - e) improve the surveillance of climate change and health, and the generation and use of evidence to inform the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies that protect health and reduce health inequities;
 - f) increase health sector financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation with emphasis on populations in situations of vulnerability.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) provide technical cooperation to Member States to strengthen capacities that contribute to the implementation of the policy;
 - b) report to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization on the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of this regional policy and its adaptation to specific contexts and needs, through a progress report in 2029 and a final report in 2034.

(Fourth meeting, 1 October 2024)
