



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL
61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CD49.R14

PLAN OF ACTION ON ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH

THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the report of the Director *Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health* (Document CD49/12), based on the PAHO Strategic Plan 2008-2012;

Noting the World Health Assembly resolution on the Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Development (WHA56.21, 2003) calling on governments to strengthen and expand efforts to strive for full coverage of services and to promote access to a full range of health information for adolescents; the Ibero-American Cooperation and Integration Youth Plan 2009-2015; and Resolution CD48.R5 of the PAHO Directing Council on the Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health 2010-2018, in which governments formally recognized the differentiated needs of the youth population and approved the elaboration of a plan of action;

Recalling the right of adolescents and youth to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as set forth in the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international and regional human rights instruments;

Understanding that successful passage through adolescence and youth is essential for healthy, engaged and economically well-developed societies;

Recognizing that the health of adolescents and youth is a key aspect of economic and social development in the Americas; that their behaviors and health problems are an important part of the overall disease burden; that the cost associated with the treatment of chronic diseases is high; and that effective prevention and early intervention measures are available;

Considering that the outcomes for adolescent and youth health will be more effective if health promotion, primary health care, social protection, and social determinants are taken into consideration when addressing priority health topics for these populations;

Recognizing that PAHO has cooperated with the countries of the Region in establishing conceptual and technical bases and infrastructure for the development of national adolescent and youth health programs and policies;

Concerned that the specific needs of adolescents and youth have not been adequately addressed and that the achievement of international goals will require additional efforts in adolescent and youth health;

Considering the importance of a plan of action to operationalize the Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health, that will guide the preparation of future national adolescent and youth health plans, as appropriate, and the strategic plans of all organizations interested in cooperating for health with this age group in the countries of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health to effectively and efficiently respond to current and emerging needs in adolescent and youth health with specific consideration of prevailing inequalities in health status, and to strengthen the health system response to develop and implement policies, laws, plans, programs, and services for adolescents and youth.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) prioritize the improvement of adolescent and youth health and the reduction of risk factors, by establishing and/or strengthening national programs and ensuring the appropriate resources, and by improving coordination within the health sector and with partners in other sectors to ensure that actions and initiatives in adolescent and youth health and development are implemented, minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of limited resources;

- (b) develop and implement national plans and promote the implementation of public policies guided by the Plan of Action, focusing on the needs of low-income and vulnerable populations;
- (c) coordinate with other countries in the Region implementation of the activities contained in their plans of action and the dissemination and use of tools that promote adolescent and youth health;
- (d) implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, within an integrated health system approach based on primary health care, emphasizing intersectoral action and monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness and resource allocations;
- (e) promote the collection, sharing, and use of data on adolescent and youth health disaggregated by age, sex and ethnicity and the use of a gender-based analysis, new technologies (e.g. geographical information systems) and projection models to strengthen the planning, delivery, and monitoring of national plans, policies, programs, laws and interventions related to adolescent and youth health;
- (f) promote and establish enabling environments that foster adolescent and youth health and development;
- (g) scale up the coverage of and access to quality health services—including promotion, prevention, effective treatment, and ongoing care—to increase their demand and utilization by adolescents and youth;
- (h) support capacity building for policymakers, program managers, and health care providers to develop policies and programs that aim to promote community development and provide effective quality health services, addressing the health needs of adolescents and youth and their related determinants of health;
- (i) engage adolescents and youth, their families, communities, schools, and other appropriate institutions and organizations in the provision of culturally sensitive and age-appropriate promotion and prevention programs as part of the comprehensive approach to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and youth;
- (j) establish partnerships with the media to promote positive images of adolescents and youth which promote appropriate behaviors and commitment to health issues;
- (k) promote the collection, use, and sharing of data on adolescent and youth health to strengthen the local and Regional planning, delivery, and monitoring of national plans, programs, and public health interventions related to adolescent and youth health.

3. To request the Director to:
- (a) establish a time-limited technical advisory group to provide guidance on topics pertinent to adolescent and youth health and development;
 - (b) encourage coordination and implementation of the Plan of Action through the integration of actions by PAHO programmatic areas in the national, subregional, regional, and interagency levels;
 - (c) work with the Member States in implementing the Plan of Action according to their own national context and priorities and promote the dissemination and use of the products derived from it at the national, subregional, regional and interagency levels;
 - (d) encourage the development of collaborative research initiatives that can provide the evidence base needed to establish and deliver effective and developmentally and age appropriate programs and interventions for adolescents and youth;
 - (e) develop new or strengthen existing partnerships within the international community to identify the human resources, technology, and financial needs to guarantee the implementation of the Plan of Action;
 - (f) encourage technical cooperation among countries, subregions, international and regional organizations, government entities, private organizations, universities, media, civil society, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, and communities, in activities that promote adolescent and youth health;
 - (g) encourage coordination of the Plan of Action through similar initiatives by other international technical cooperation and financing agencies to improve and advocate for adolescent and youth health in the countries;
 - (h) periodically report to the PAHO Governing Bodies on the progress and constraints evaluated during implementation of the Plan of Action, and consider the adaptation of this Plan to respond to changing contexts and new challenges in the Region.

(Eighth plenary, 1 October 2009)