



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



51st DIRECTING COUNCIL

63rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CD51.R7

PLAN OF ACTION ON PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

THE 51st DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action on Psychoactive Substance Use and Public Health* (Document CD51/9);

Recognizing the burden of morbidity, mortality, and disability associated with substance use disorders in the world and in the Region of the Americas specifically, as well as the existing gap in treatment and care for persons affected by such disorders;

Understanding that approaches related to prevention, screening, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and support services are necessary actions to reduce the adverse consequences of psychoactive substance use;

Recognizing that these approaches require improving access to health care services and promoting the health and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities, while protecting and promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Considering the context and framework for action offered by the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017; the PAHO Strategic Plan 2008–2012; the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the Hemispheric Plan of Action of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICAD); the regional *Strategy and Plan of Action on Mental Health* (Document CD49/11 [2009]); and the

World Health Organization (WHO) Mental Health Gap Action Program: Scaling up care for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders (mhGAP), which reflect the importance of the issue of substance use and establish strategic objectives for addressing it;

Observing that the Strategy on Substance Use and Public Health approved in 2010 sets out the principal areas of work to be addressed and identifies areas for technical cooperation to address the varying needs of Member States with regard to substance use,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Plan of Action on Psychoactive Substance Use and Public Health and support its implementation within the context of each country's specific conditions, in order to respond appropriately to current and future needs in relation to substance use.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) identify psychoactive substance use as a public health priority and implement national and subnational plans to tackle psychoactive substance use problems that are consonant with their public health impact, especially with regard to reducing existing treatment gaps;
 - (b) contribute to and participate in the implementation of the Plan of Action.
3. To request the Director to:
 - (a) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action at five years and at the end of the implementation period;
 - (b) support the Member States in the preparation and implementation of national and subnational plans on psychoactive substance use within the framework of their specific conditions and public health policies, that take into account the provisions of the strategy on psychoactive substance use and public health;
 - (c) promote partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as with international organizations and other regional stakeholders, in support of the multisectoral response required to implement this Plan of Action.

(Seventh meeting, 29 September 2011)