



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



46th DIRECTING COUNCIL
57th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2005

RESOLUTION

CD46.R12

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL FOR 2005-2015

THE 46th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Recognizing that, although preventable and curable, tuberculosis remains an important public health problem in the Americas, as each year it is responsible for more than 230,000 cases and 53,000 deaths;

Considering the diverse epidemiological situation of the Member States, as well as the different characteristics of their health systems and the development levels of their national tuberculosis programs;

Mindful that tuberculosis control faces challenges such as TB/HIV coinfection, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, and health sector reform;

Considering that the internationally recognized strategy for tuberculosis control is “directly observed treatment, short course” (DOTS), which attained coverage of 78% of the population of the Americas in 2003 and is making great strides in the detection and management of tuberculosis cases;

Considering the need to step up efforts to meet the indicators and goals for tuberculosis set by the World Health Organization’s Stop TB Initiative, as well as those within the framework of the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration set for the year 2015; and

Recognizing World Health Assembly Resolution WHA58.14 “Sustainable Financing for Tuberculosis Prevention and Control,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) confirm tuberculosis control as a priority health program and expand, improve, or maintain implementation of the DOTS strategy;
 - (b) consider the Regional Plan when formulating national plans, with the objectives of consolidating gains and attaining the goals set for 2015 in the Millennium Declaration;
 - (c) strengthen health systems to implement and reinforce strategies for the prevention and control of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, including DOTS-Plus, to improve collaboration between tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programs;
 - (d) promote advocacy, communication, and social participation in national tuberculosis plans, fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, civil society, the people affected, United Nations agencies, and other interested stakeholders, and forming national Stop TB committees in order to maintain and increase support for national tuberculosis programs;
 - (e) allocate the necessary financial and human resources for tuberculosis control so that tuberculosis patients have access to the universal standard of care based on proper diagnosis, treatment and reporting, consistent with the new DOTS strategy.
2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) consolidate and strengthen PAHO's commitment to supporting the expansion and sustainability of the new DOTS strategy in the Region;
 - (b) cooperate technically with the countries to tackle the new challenges posed by tuberculosis;
 - (c) encourage partnerships with the public and private sectors and technical and financial agencies that work in tuberculosis control to support the Stop-TB Partnership in the Americas;
 - (d) improve the formulation and implementation of comprehensive public health strategies for tuberculosis control through resource allocation, sharing of experiences, and development of evaluative tools;

- (e) periodically evaluate and report to the Directing Council on the progress made toward achieving Goal 6 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, especially in the area of tuberculosis control.

(Ninth meeting, 30 September 2005)