



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



48th DIRECTING COUNCIL
60th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

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**HEALTH AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: LINKAGES WITH
NATIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT**

THE 48th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the document submitted by the Director, *Health and International Relations: Linkages with National Health Development* (Document CD48/15);

Recognizing the importance accorded to health in diverse international forums, owing to its growing linkage with dimensions of foreign policy;

Considering the recommendations of the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century;

Bearing in mind the many actors with different functions and responsibilities that impact on global health governance;

Considering the impact of these phenomena on the health authorities' exercise of their leadership function and on national health development; and

Considering that in light of the foregoing, the international agenda of the health authorities is becoming increasingly important and intense,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) strengthen coordination and exchange between the health authorities and the authorities responsible for the governments' foreign policy and international cooperation;
 - (b) promote institutional mechanisms for consultation between the health and foreign affairs sectors to promote dialogue and negotiation on relevant global and regional health issues that are discussed in international forums;
 - (c) strengthen the health authorities' governance function to respond to the growing demands arising from international agreements and regulations linked to national health development;
 - (d) strengthen the institutional capacity of governments for managing cooperation and international relations in health, providing the necessary resources for better performance of those functions, including an appropriate position within the organizational structure;
 - (e) promote the inclusion of international health issues in the professional training of diplomats, and international relations issues in the professional training of public health specialists and leaders.
2. To request the Director to:
 - (a) encourage dialogue and the sharing of experiences among the Member States on new international health dimensions and their importance for national health development;
 - (b) collaborate with governments and academia in the development of specific training programs in international health including, in particular, the national professionals responsible for international relations and cooperation;
 - (c) maintain the Organization's presence in relevant political forums, advocating for the health of the Hemisphere and its positioning in the international scene;
 - (d) periodically update information on the experiences of the Pan American Health Organization and the countries in this field and disseminate it to the Member States;

- (e) cooperate in strengthening the governments' institutional capacities to address matters linked to international relations and cooperation in the field of health;
- (f) continue and expand the Leaders' Training Program in International Health and promote synergies and complementarity with the initiatives that the countries may develop to train specialists in the fields of health and international relations;
- (g) facilitate the analysis of the health dimension when considering, adopting, and implementing policies at the international level that may or do have an impact on public health in the Member States;
- (h) in consultation with the Member States, revisit the recommendations of the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century that can support implementation of this initiative;
- (i) continue and intensify action for the mobilization of resources, in order to support the policies, programs, and initiatives of the developing countries that pursue the objectives of universal access and comprehensive health care.

(Ninth meeting, 3 October 2008)