



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**48th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
**60th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2008*

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CD48.R7 (Eng.)  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

***RESOLUTION***

***CD48.R7***

**IMPROVING BLOOD AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFUSION SAFETY  
IN THE AMERICAS**

***THE 48th DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having considered the report of the Director on blood transfusion safety (Document CD48/11), which summarizes the difficulties observed in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Transfusion Safety 2006-2010;

Aware of the central role that transfusions play in the appropriate medical care of patients and in the reduction of mortality among mothers, infants, victims of traffic accidents and other traumas, patients suffering from cancer or clotting disorders, and transplant patients;

Concerned that the current levels of availability and safety of blood for transfusion in the Region are unsatisfactory;

Recognizing that the current national organizational systems limit the efficacy of blood transfusions, have negative effects on morbidity and mortality, and result in major financial losses;

Considering that the concepts of Resolutions CD41.R15 (1999) and CD46.R5 (2005) still apply to the Region of the Americas, and that action is required by national authorities to implement the strategies of the Regional Plan of Action 2006-2010, approved by the 46th Directing Council; and

Recognizing that modifications in current national approaches are needed in order to achieve the regional goals set for transfusion safety by 2010,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To urge Member States to:
  - (a) proactively implement the Regional Plan of Action for Transfusion Safety 2006-2010 by:
    - i. defining a specific entity within the normative level of their ministries of health as responsible for the planning, oversight and overall efficient operation of the national blood system;
    - ii. estimating the annual national need for blood components, taking into consideration unforeseen emergencies, expected increases of the general and elderly population, social inclusion of currently excluded populations, road traffic injuries, and local adoption of medical technologies, such as transplants and cancer treatment, and the financial resources necessary to cover those needs;
    - iii. establishing a network of volunteers to educate the community and to promote voluntary blood donation and service blood donors, with special attention to youth programs;
  - (b) except in limited circumstances of emergency medical necessity, terminate replacement and paid blood donation by the end of 2010, with a goal of 100% voluntary, altruistic, non-remunerated blood donation, using the information obtained from socio-anthropological surveys conducted in the countries, given that blood collection should not be solely the responsibility of hospital medical teams;
  - (c) terminate mandatory patient replacement of transfused blood by the end of 2010;
  - (d) share best practices in the recruitment and retention of voluntary blood donors.
2. To request the Director to:
  - (a) cooperate with the Member States in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Transfusion Safety 2006-2010 using a multidisciplinary and coordinated approach for health promotion, public education, human and patient rights, quality assurance and financial efficiency;

- (b) work with Member States and international organizations to assess the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action 2006-2010 and to identify country-specific interventions needed to assure sufficiency and acceptable quality and safety of blood for transfusions at the national level;
- (c) prepare annual reports on the situation of blood transfusion safety in the Region.

*(Seventh meeting, 2 October 2008)*