



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



50th DIRECTING COUNCIL
62nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION

CD50.R11

**STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE REDUCTION
OF CHRONIC MALNUTRITION**

THE 50th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the Director's report, *Strategy and Plan of Action for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition* (Document CD50/13);

Mindful of the international mandates emerging from the World Health Assembly, in particular Resolutions WHA55.23 (2002) and WHA56.23 (2003), as well as the commitments by the Member States of the Region of the Americas to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

Recognizing the consequences of child undernutrition for physical and cognitive development, immune response, and the risk of illness or premature death, as well as for educational performance and functional capacity, human capital formation, productivity, and individual and collective well-being;

Recognizing the right of children to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually, and socially in a healthy and normal manner and with freedom and dignity;

Recognizing that living conditions and undernutrition early in life contribute to the development of overweight, obesity, and chronic diseases (including diabetes, hypertension, and atherosclerosis, and others), with serious consequences for the well-

being of the population, the social burden of resulting disability, and the years of productive life lost;

Underscoring that, in the Region of the Americas, the height-for-age indicator is a better reflection of both prolonged lack of access to an adequate diet and the effect of other social factors associated with poverty, and that, with the current trend in this indicator, several countries may not be able to meet target 2 of MDG 1 by the year 2015 and are unlikely to achieve MDGs 4 and 5;

Reiterating that nutrition is a determinant of human development and, at the same time, is affected by a series of social and economic determinants;

Recognizing that while chronic malnutrition still exists, especially among the rural poor in the Region, the simultaneous and alarming rise in childhood obesity cannot be neglected, and interventions should therefore be comprehensive to tackle all forms of childhood malnutrition;

Recognizing the high degree of complementarity between this and other strategies, such as the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, 2006–2015, and OAS General Assembly resolution “Support for Efforts to Eradicate Child Malnutrition in the Americas” (AG/RES. 2346 [XXXVII-O/07]);

Welcoming the conceptual and operational framework for addressing malnutrition (acute and chronic malnutrition, overweight, obesity, and specific micronutrient deficiencies) reached by interagency consensus in the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development (APND),

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Strategy and approve the Plan of Action for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition and its consideration in development policies, plans and programs, proposals, and the discussion of national budgets to enable the creation of the conditions for preventing chronic malnutrition.
2. To urge Member States to:
 - (a) give priority to intersectoral actions for the prevention of chronic malnutrition;
 - (b) promote dialogue and coordination between ministries and other public institutions, as well as between the public and private sectors and civil society, in order to achieve national consensus on the social determinants and life course approaches to the prevention of chronic malnutrition;

- (c) propose and implement interministerial policies, plans, programs, and interventions at all levels of government of the Member States, with a view to preventing chronic malnutrition;
 - (d) set up an integrated monitoring, evaluation, and accountability system for policies, plans, programs, and interventions that will make it possible not only to determine their impact in terms of reducing chronic malnutrition but also to understand the situation of its social determinants and guide timely decision-making;
 - (e) put processes in place for internal review and analysis of the relevance and viability of the Strategy and Plan of Action based on national priorities, needs, and capabilities.
3. To request the Director to:
- (a) provide support to the Member States, in collaboration with other international agencies, for an internal analysis of the applicability of the Strategy and Plan of Action and the implementation of activities for its execution;
 - (b) promote the implementation and coordination of the Strategy and Plan of Action, ensuring that it cuts across the Organization's various program areas and different regional and subregional contexts;
 - (c) promote and consolidate cooperation with and among countries, as well as the sharing of experiences and lessons learned;
 - (d) promote the inclusion of independent external evaluations in measuring the reduction of chronic malnutrition;
 - (e) support human resources development and capacity building and the delivery of quality services;
 - (f) promote the establishment of international, national, municipal, and local partnerships with other agencies, scientific and technical institutions, nongovernmental organizations, organized civil society, the private sector, and others, employing the integrated interventions agreed upon by the Alliance;
 - (g) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on progress and constraints in the execution of the Strategy and Plan of Action, as well as its adaptation to new contexts and needs.

(Eighth plenary, 30 September 2010)