



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



22nd DIRECTING COUNCIL

25th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 8 – 18 October 1973

RESOLUTION

CD22.R17

SMALLPOX ERADICATION

THE 22nd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that the interruption of smallpox transmission in the Americas since 19 April 1971 has been confirmed on the basis of documents presented to and conclusions reached by the Special Commission for the Assessment of the Smallpox Eradication Program in South America, which met in Brazil in August 1973;

Bearing in mind that, despite the importance accorded to epidemiological surveillance by the countries of the Region among the activities of their health services, this activity needs to be further intensified in certain areas of some of the countries.

Being aware that, in general, the level of protection of children under five years of age and of other high-risk groups is not adequate; and

Considering that, in view of the rapidity of the means of transportation presently in use, the risk of importation of variola major into this Region still remains.

RESOLVES

1. To note that, in terms of the criteria set by the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Smallpox, the disease has been eradicated in the Region of the Americas.

2. To congratulate all the countries of the Hemisphere, especially Brazil, for their vigorous and decisive efforts to eradicate smallpox.
3. To request the health authorities to give special attention to programs for maintenance and epidemiological surveillance, being sure not to prematurely interrupt application of the measures recommended under the International Health Regulations.

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