

AG/RES. 2346 (XXXVII O/07)

SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ERADICATE
CHILD MALNUTRITION IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its declarations AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/DEC. 36 (XXXIV-O/04) and its resolution AG/RES. 2171 (XXXVI-O/06);

NOTING that Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of American States declares that the member states, inspired by the principles of solidarity and inter-American cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security;

RECALLING that Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States lists among its essential purposes the need to “eradicate extreme poverty” and that one of the manifestations of that poverty is child malnutrition, the impact of which on individual and collective well-being undermines health, education, productivity, and social cohesion, while perpetuating poverty and slowing economic and social growth;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions on this matter contained in this Plan of Action signed by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1998;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas;

TAKING NOTE of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador,” in particular its Article 12 on the “Right to Food”;

RECOGNIZING the role of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) as the specialized organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) with responsibility for promoting the study of topics related to children, adolescents, and the family in the Americas;

CONSIDERING that at the United Nations Millennium Summit the Heads of State and Government adopted the Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to reducing by half the proportion of the world’s people living on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, by 2015;

RECOGNIZING that notwithstanding the progress made toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, drafted as a result of that Summit, today there are still nine million children suffering from chronic malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that malnutrition affects children from vulnerable groups, including indigenous and Afro-descendent children, to a disproportionately greater extent than other children in the region;

CONSIDERING that school nutrition plans and programs play an important role in combating child malnutrition;

UNDERSCORING the special role of the World Food Programme (WFP), which strives to protect and assist the victims of all forms of hunger in the world and in the Hemisphere while helping to ensure that the issue of hunger is at the heart of international community concerns, and which proposes policies, strategies, and operations that directly benefit people stricken by poverty and hunger;

CONSIDERING the interest of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in strengthening their ties through the conclusion of an agreement for cooperation in the efforts of governments of the region to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, in preparation for and in response to emergency situations, with the participation of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network of the White Helmets Initiative, promoted by the Argentine Republic, and/or of other organizations with competence in international cooperation areas;

RECOGNIZING that vast experience has been gained in implementing plans, projects, and programs to combat malnutrition and, despite results obtained, the nutritional status of children under the age of 5 in the region remains a concern in many countries, requiring further targeted and cost-effective efforts to achieve sustainable progress, in the efforts by countries and international organizations aimed at eradicating child malnutrition;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the political support obtained from the following regional forums for efforts aimed at eradicating child malnutrition:

The Annual Meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Ministers of Health (RESSCAD XXI), held in Belize in September 2005; the Special Meeting of the Central American Integration System (SICA), held on March 9, 2006; the initiative and agreements of the Regional Technical Consultation, held in Panama in June 2006; the Annual Meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Ministers of Health (RESSCAD XXII), held in September 2006; the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB, held in Guatemala City on March 19, 2007; and the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Region (XXVIII REMSAA), held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in March 2007; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (resolution CD47.R8),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to give top priority in their poverty reduction strategies to eradication of child malnutrition in the Hemisphere, with particular emphasis on effective measures to prevent and eradicate malnutrition of children under five years of age, paying particular attention to children from vulnerable groups, including indigenous and Afro-descendent children, among others, and to put together a strategy to combat the lack of the micronutrients that are essential for their physical and mental development.

2. To urge those member states that have not already done so to consider joining in these efforts and supporting the actions of the states of the region most affected by child malnutrition, by facilitating, through allocation of the necessary resources, the execution of programs to eradicate child malnutrition by means of affordable and provenly reliable actions.

3. To call upon member states to continue supporting the work of national bodies dedicated to eradicating child malnutrition or, in the case of states lacking such bodies, to consider establishing such bodies.

4. To thank the World Food Programme (WFP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for their support for this initiative and to urge them and the rest of the international community to consider providing such cooperation as is needed to develop a plan of action and program to support and strengthen horizontal cooperation mechanisms among countries, including, inter alia, solidarity in emergency situations, regular exchanges of standardized technical, economic, and epidemiological information, and joint activities in nutrition-related research projects, technical assistance, human resource training, and knowledge management.

5. To request the General Secretariat to develop, in coordination with the WFP, a work plan for disseminating and reinforcing implementation of the efforts aimed at eradicating child malnutrition, that would include the organization of government conferences, as well as courses and seminars, for personnel in the areas of health, education, nutrition, and agriculture, and from other pertinent agencies in the member states.

6. To instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to follow up on this resolution and to report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.