



**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (FIPA)**

OTTAWA, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2009

PROSPERITY AND COOPERATION: A NEW AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS

Recommendation

Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemics

(subject to stylistic amendments)

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009.

The Plenary Assembly of FIPA,

Considering that globalization has developed profound ties in the world, facilitating the exchange of people, goods and services, and indirectly, it also has increased the possibility of transmitting diseases;

Conscious that a pandemic could endanger the health systems of States, with significant impact in their social and economic systems;

Recognizing the global preparedness system for pandemics of the World Health Organization and the mechanisms established by the new International Health Regulations (IHR-2005), adopted by all WHO Member States, whose objective is the early detection of acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide, and the application of national and international responses;

Convinced of the importance that all countries in the Hemisphere comply with IHR-2005 and that, through the strengthening of national systems of alert and response, countries comply with the obligation of notifying to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the WHO, through the National Focal Points of the IHR in each country, about any public health event of international importance, particularly those related with an extreme potential for spreading;

Observing the effectiveness of the mechanism of early and detailed communications about a potential public health emergency, established by Mexico, the US and Canada under the auspices of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, which allowed for the identification in laboratories of the US and Canada the pandemic virus H1N1 2009, and alert the international community;

Acknowledging that the full compliance by Mexico on notifying to the WHO/PAHO the number of cases identified and deceased, at the beginning and during the development of the pandemic of the H1N1 2009



virus, brought benefits to the world sanitary system, regardless the possible negative consequences to its economy;

Recognizing the need to promote transparency and international cooperation in sanitary matters;

Taking into account that the pandemic caused by the H1N1 virus will continue in the coming months, as it continues to extend in vulnerable populations;

Informed by the WHO/PAHO that the impact of the pandemic could deepen in the coming months, caused by a larger number of infected persons, and that the existence of a high number of severely ill patients will demand an increase in health services thus pressuring further the sanitary systems, and that such pressure could congest the units of intensive care, in detriment of other patients that may demand such care for other diseases;

Aware of the perils those vulnerable groups and other minorities face, and that a vaccine will not be available in enough quantities to cover all the populations in all States;

MAKES the following recommendations:

1. To Recommend FIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen, through legislation and increased budgets, the health sector so as to face pandemics like the current H1N1 virus, and guarantee the responsible used of recommended and effective resource including antiviral drugs;
2. To Encourage FIPA Member Parliaments to protect the vulnerable groups through the necessary legal mechanisms to assure their access to the appropriate medical services;
3. To Call on FIPA Member Parliaments to actively participate on education campaigns so as to prevent and mitigate any outbreaks or pandemics;
4. To Appeal to the media of the region to publicize the important role of preventive measures, and to promote the fair management of the resources available;
5. To Encourage FIPA Member Parliaments to promote in their states the development of early warning systems with neighboring States, and to rigorously comply with IHR -2005 and related mechanisms and systems of surveillance to keep the commitments of the General Assembly of the WHO;
6. To Encourage international financial organizations, such as the World bank and the International Monetary Fund, to provide compensation on a priority basis to countries that notify in a timely manner potential events of public health of international importance;
7. To Appeal FIPA Member Parliaments to commit themselves in promoting, as long as the WHO so recommends, the non-discrimination of travelers and the unnecessary limitation of transportation of people and goods, so as to promote the notification of epidemiological events that could threaten the international public health;



8. To Applaud the government of Mexico for its transparency and its appropriate response to the outbreak of the H1N1 2009 virus;
9. To Request the increase of international cooperation in the international community and further solidarity in its response to the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemics.