

RESOLUTION 24R-41

To request the Trustees to consider establishing a PolioPlus Society

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of São Paulo-Aeroporto, District 4420, Brazil

1 WHEREAS, despite major advances, the persistence of polio in some areas of the
2 world poses a constant threat of global resurgence, especially in communities
3 with low vaccination coverage, and

4
5 WHEREAS, since the launch of PolioPlus, RI has been a leader in the global
6 effort to eradicate polio, reducing polio cases by more than 99 percent since 1988,
7 including a significant decrease from 30 cases in 2022 to 12 in 2023,
8 demonstrating the continued effectiveness of polio eradication efforts, and

9
10 WHEREAS, success in polio eradication depends on continued and robust
11 funding for vaccination campaigns, research, and outbreak monitoring, and

12
13 WHEREAS, the reduction in polio cases may lead to a decreased sense of urgency
14 and, consequently, a decrease in funding, which could result in a resurgence of
15 the disease, and

16
17 WHEREAS, eradicating polio would not only save lives but also significantly
18 reduce long-term health costs around the world, and

19
20 WHEREAS, the creation of a PolioPlus Society would strengthen collective action
21 by Rotarians and supporters, demonstrating a unified global commitment to the
22 fight against polio

23
24 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
25 International consider requesting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to
26 consider establishing as a global initiative a PolioPlus Society to mobilize fixed
27 annual contributions of at least US\$100, which may be paid in installments, from
28 Rotarians and supporters. These contributions, in addition to being instrumental
29 in funding polio eradication, symbolize Rotary's continued commitment to the
30 fight and will be counted towards Paul Harris Fellowship recognition, thus
31 fostering participation and strengthening the fight against the disease.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

32 This proposal aims to establish the PolioPlus Society, which would be designed to
33 mobilize sustainable and strategic resources to eradicate polio, as a global
34 initiative under the umbrella of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
35 The main goal is to address the ongoing funding challenge, which is one of the
36 biggest obstacles in the fight against this devastating disease.

1 While Rotary and its partners have managed to reduce polio cases by more than
2 99 percent since 1988, the virus still persists in vulnerable areas of the world,
3 threatening to reverse decades of progress. Polio is a disease that knows no
4 borders; a single case anywhere is a threat everywhere. Thus, total eradication
5 requires a continuous and intensified effort, especially in terms of funding.

6
7 The PolioPlus Society will address this challenge by encouraging Rotarians and
8 supporters to commit to fixed annual donations, thereby creating a predictable
9 and robust revenue stream solely dedicated to fighting polio. This funding will
10 ensure the continuity of vaccination campaigns, surveillance and monitoring
11 initiatives, and support for communities affected by the disease.

12
13 The creation of this society is not just a matter of fundraising; it is a statement of
14 our collective and unwavering commitment to see a polio-free world. It is a step
15 towards ensuring that future generations live in a world where the threat of polio
16 is only a memory of the past. By establishing the PolioPlus Society, RI would
17 reaffirm its historic and critical role in eradicating one of the world's most feared
18 diseases, bringing us even closer to our goal of a polio-free world.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

19 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on The Rotary
20 Foundation which cannot be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent
21 on the scope and extent of support provided by the Trustees to accomplish this
22 goal. Currently, PolioPlus Societies have been established at the club and district
23 level where they may choose the amount that is appropriate for their region.