

Executive committee of
the directing council

**PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

working group of
the regional committee

**WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

120th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1997

Provisional Agenda Item 4.7

CE120/16 (Eng.)
13 May 1997
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REPORT OF THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON ANIMAL HEALTH

The X Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization from 23 to 25 April 1997. The objective of the Meeting was to strengthen aspects of mutual interest to the agriculture and health sectors.

Delegates from 34 Member States attended the Meeting. Among the delegates, 14 ministers and 12 vice ministers of agriculture or health and 3 ambassadors attended as heads of delegation. Also participating as observers were representatives of international technical and financial cooperation agencies and the private sector, represented by livestock associations, the food industry, and other nongovernmental organizations.

The ministers of agriculture recommended that the Governing Bodies of the Organization approve the program budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses for 1998-1999 and 2000-2001.

The Meeting adopted eight resolutions on the technical cooperation activities of the Program on Veterinary Public Health of PAHO, the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, and bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, and the strengthening of cooperation in food protection and food safety and of intersectoral activities in agriculture and health.

CONTENT

Page

Introduction 3

*ANNEX: X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL,
ON ANIMAL HEALTH: FINAL REPORT* 5

Introduction

The X Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (X RIMSA) was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) from 23 to 25 April 1997, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Health Organization in compliance with Resolution CD27.R8, adopted by the Directing Council of the Organization at its XXVII Meeting.

The Meeting unanimously elected the following Officers: President, Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, Minister of Animal and Crop Production and Fisheries of Uruguay; Vice Presidents, the Hon. Horace A. Clarke, M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Mining of Jamaica, and Ms. Vilma Hernández de Calderón, Vice Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador; and Rapporteur, Dr. Elsa E. Carbonell Torres, National Head of the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria of the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru.

The Provisional President of the Meeting, Dr. Marco Polo Micheletti, Under Secretary of Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture of Honduras, presided over the inaugural session. Mr. Michael V. Dunn, Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, and Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, offered words of welcome.

Delegates from 34 Member States attended the Meeting. Among the delegates, 14 ministers and 12 vice ministers of agriculture or health and 3 ambassadors attended as heads of delegation. Participating as observers were representatives of international technical and financial cooperation agencies and the private sector, represented by livestock associations, the food industry, and schools of veterinary medicine. The Governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Philippines also attended as observers.

The objective of the Meeting was to strengthen aspects of mutual interest to the agriculture and health sectors. Bearing in mind the strategic approaches of the PAHO Program on Veterinary Public Health, the advances made by the regional programs that the countries are implementing with PAHO cooperation, such as the elimination of rabies, the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and bovine tuberculosis, and food protection, were presented for consideration and discussion. The program budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) and the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ) for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001 were presented for consideration and approval. The delegates to the Meeting unanimously recommended that the Governing Bodies of the Organization approve the program budgets of both centers.

Within the guidelines of the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of PAHO, 1995-1998, two panels were presented for the consideration of the Meeting, the first on “The Codex Alimentarius and Food Safety”, with presentations on The Codex Alimentarius: Trade and Food Security; The Codex Alimentarius and its Importance for Public Health; and The Codex

Alimentarius and the Collaboration of the Pan American Health Organization in the Implementation of its Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The second panel was on “Organization and Development of Integrated Food Protection Programs in the Region of the Americas” with presentations on the Interinstitutional Committee on Food Protection, Guatemala; National Food Advisory Commission, Uruguay; the Food Protection Program, Venezuela; Food Control in Argentina; Reform of the Canadian Food Safety Program; and The Chain of Production and Private Sector Participation in Integrated Food Protection Programs, which included the subtopics: Production of Raw Materials (meat); Industrial Transformation (fruits, vegetables, and tubers); and Food Preservation (fish and shellfish). At the request of several Member States two special presentations were made: “Reducing the Potential Dangers of Food Contamination and Foodborne Diseases” and “The Intersectoral Approach and Emerging Zoonoses.”

The Meeting adopted eight resolutions: Statement of Solidarity with the Republic of Peru; Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, 1998-1999 and 2000-2001; Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA); Technical Cooperation in Veterinary Public Health; Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses, 1998-1999 and 2000-2001; The Codex Alimentarius and Food Protection; Organization and Development of Integrated Food Protection Programs, and Prevalent and Emerging Zoonoses. To summarize these resolutions, the Member States are requested to strengthen their intersectoral activities to ensure the quality of food, increase their participation in the activities of Codex Alimentarius, maintain their political decision to eradicate prevalent zoonoses, and strengthen information systems, especially for foodborne diseases. In addition, the Director of PAHO is requested to continue to provide cooperation on zoonoses and food protection through the Organization’s Program on Veterinary Public Health, encouraging the centers to articulate their experiences to provide better assistance and cooperation to the countries and promoting intersectoral action. These resolutions are included in the Final Report, which is annexed.

Annex

**ANNEX
X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL,
ON ANIMAL HEALTH: FINAL REPORT**

Washington, D.C., 23-25 April 1997

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

RIMSA10FR
25 April 1997

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Preamble	3
Officers	3
Participants	4
Member States	4
Observers	4
Sessions	4
Inaugural Session	4
First Plenary Session	5
Second Plenary Session	5
Third Plenary Session	5
Fourth Plenary Session	6
Fifth Plenary Session	6
Sixth Plenary Session	7
Closing Session	7
Resolutions Adopted	7

FINAL REPORT

The X Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA X) was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from 23 to 25 April 1997, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Health Organization in compliance with Resolution CD27.R8 approved by the Directing Council of PAHO in its XXVII Meeting.

OFFICERS

The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

President: Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri
Minister of Animal and Crop Production and Fisheries
Uruguay

Vice Presidents: Hon. Horace A. Clarke, M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Mining
Jamaica

Ms. Vilma Hernández de Calderón
Vice Minister of Agriculture
El Salvador

Rapporteur: Dr. Elsa E. Carbonell Torres
National Head
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria
Ministry of Agriculture
Peru

Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, served as Secretary ex officio, and Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, Coordinator of the Veterinary Public Health Program of PAHO, as Technical Secretary of RIMSA X.

PARTICIPANTS

Member States

The following Member States were represented in the Meeting: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Observers

Representatives of the Governments of the Philippines and South Africa and from the following organizations attended the Meeting as observers: American Veterinary Medical Association, Asociación Paraguaya de Tecnólogos de Alimentos, Asociación Rural del Paraguay, Association of American Veterinary Colleges, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Development Finance International, Federación Latinoamericana de la Industria de Salud Animal (FILASA), Fondo Nacional del Ganado de Colombia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Office of Epizootics (IOE), Livestock Co-op Federation of Korea, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), Programa de Apoyo Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (PARSA), SabritasFrito Lay International, Sociedad Rural Argentina, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Tuskegee University, University of Miami, University of Minnesota, University of Texas, World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO).

SESSIONS

RIMSA X held an inaugural session, six plenary sessions, and a closing session.

Inaugural Session

The Provisional President, Dr. Marco Polo Micheletti, Under Secretary for Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture of Honduras, declared RIMSA X officially open and invited Mr. Michael V. Dunn, Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, to make some welcoming remarks on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture of the host country. Following these remarks Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO, addressed the assembly.

The Inaugural Session closed with the election of the President, the two Vice Presidents, and the Rapporteur.

First Plenary Session

The provisional agenda and provisional program of sessions were approved without modification.

During this first plenary session, chaired by Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, the following items were discussed: the Report of the External Advisory Group to the Director of PAHO on the Program on Veterinary Public Health, presented by Dr. Lester Crawford, Member of the External Study Group, United States of America; and the Report on the III Regular Meeting of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses, presented by Dr. Francisco J. Gurria, Mexico, Rapporteur of the ICC.

Second Plenary Session

The second plenary session opened with the Hon. Horace A. Clarke, Vice President of the Meeting, in the chair. The Report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health on Compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Health Organization, 1995-1998, was presented by Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, PAHO.

The chair then gave the floor to the Representative of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), who referred to the need to strengthen a project on veterinary public health in that Subregion.

The session continued with a presentation by Dr. Vicente Astudillo, Director of PANAFTOSA, who presented the analysis of the proposed program budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1998-2001. He was followed by Mr. Juan Alfonso Borgognon, Minister of Agriculture of Paraguay, who presented, as Chairman of COHEFA, the Report on the VI Regular Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

Third Plenary Session

In this session, chaired by Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, President of the Meeting, Dr. Jaime Estupiñán, Director of INPPAZ, presented an analysis of the proposed program budget of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses for 1998-1999 and 2000-2001.

With Ms. Vilma Hernández de Calderón, Vice President of the Meeting, in the chair, the third plenary session was given over to the panel on the Codex Alimentarius and Food Security, with presentations on The Codex Alimentarius and its Links with the World Trade Organization, by Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri, Chairman at the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and The Codex Alimentarius: Trade and Food Security, by Dr. María de Lourdes Costarrica, Food Control Officer, FAO.

The second part of the session, devoted to the panel on the Codex Alimentarius and Food Security, was chaired by the Hon. Horace A. Clarke, Vice President of the Meeting. Dr. F. K. Kaferstein, Director, Food Safety and Food Aid Program, WHO, made a presentation: The Codex Alimentarius and its Importance for Public Health. He was followed by Ms. María Cristina Vaz, Regional Coordinating Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Uruguay, who made a presentation: The Codex Alimentarius and the Collaboration of the Pan American Health Organization in the Implementation of its Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fourth Plenary Session

In the fourth session, chaired by Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, President of the Meeting, was given over to the panel on the Organization and Development of Integrated Food Protection Programs in the Region of the Americas. The following items were considered: Interinstitutional Committee on Food Protection of Guatemala, presented by Dr. Carlos Andrade Lara, Vice Minister of Public Health and Social Security, Guatemala; National Advisory Food Commission of Uruguay, presented by Dr. Raúl Bustos, Minister of Public Health, Uruguay; Food Protection in Venezuela, by Dr. José F. Oletta, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Venezuela; Food Control in Argentina, by Mr. Felipe Carlos Solá, Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries, Argentina; Reform of the Canadian Food Safety Program, by Mr. Ronald L. Doering, Executive Vice President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Dr. George M. Paterson, Director General, Food Directorate, Health Canada.

Fifth Plenary Session

The fifth session, chaired by Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, President of the Meeting, discussed the topic of the Chain of Production and Private Sector Participation in Integrated Food Protection Programs. Under this main topic, Dr. João Carlos de Souza Meirelles, President, Conselho Nacional da Pecuária de Corte of Brazil, addressed the subtopic of the Production of Raw Materials (meat). The subtopic of Industrial Transformation was treated by Mr. José Rafael Villar, President, Asociación de Exportadores de Vegetales Orientales y Frutas of the Dominican Republic, who considered fruits and vegetables. Then, with the Hon. Horace A. Clarke, Vice President of the Meeting, in the chair, Dr. José Bruno del Río, Director, Desarrollo Agrícola y Biotecnología, Sabritas, Mexico, discussed the same topic with reference to tubers. Mr. Víctor Nishio Nisio, Executive Director, Instituto Tecnológico Pesquero, Peru, presented the subtopic of Food Preservation (fish and shellfish).

Sixth Plenary Session

In the sixth plenary session, chaired by Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri, President of the Meeting, there were two special presentations. Dr. Thomas J. Billy, Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, spoke about the reducing the potential hazards of food contamination and foodborne diseases. Dr. Juan José Amador, Director General of Health, Nicaragua, spoke about the intersectoral approach and emerging zoonoses.

Closing Session

The Final Report of RIMSA X was presented by the Rapporteur during this session. In closing, the Meeting was addressed by Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO, and the President of RIMSA X, Mr. Carlos E. Gasparri.

The President then declared the Meeting closed.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RIMSA X adopted the following eight resolutions:

RIMSA10.R1: Statement of Solidarity with the Republic of Peru

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having learned of the freeing on 22 April 1997 of the persons taken hostage in the residence of the Embassy of Japan in Lima on 17 December 1996;

Considering the violation of the human rights of those persons who were held for more than four months;
and

Taking into account that the countries represented at this meeting have expressed their repudiation of terrorism,

RESOLVES:

To ask the Director of the Pan American Health Organization to express to the Government of the Republic of Peru, on behalf of the X Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health, and through it to the Peruvian people, its rejoicing and solidarity for the freeing of the persons who had been deprived of their liberty, and in particular the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and the Vice Minister of Agriculture.

*(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
24 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R2: Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, 1998-1999 and 2000-2001

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the significant progress made in recent years in the elimination of foot-and-mouth disease, particularly in the countries of the Southern Cone and the southern region of Brazil, with the decisive involvement of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center;

Taking into account the important contributions that the programs of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has made to technological and methodological development, especially in laboratory diagnostic procedures, development of vaccines, methods for the quality control of biologicals, surveillance systems, characterization of the ecosystems of disease, regionalization of strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, and the maintenance of policy commitment and social participation, to make possible the execution of programs and development of sanitary production proposals to improve the equity of care for small producers;

Recognizing the valuable role of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in the work of the countries to make the private sector an active participant in the programs;

Aware that the Center is the only international technical cooperation agency fully in a position to provide support to the countries and assistance in coordinating subregional projects for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the framework of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; and,

Considering that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, as a technical reference body recognized on other continents, has ineluctable obligations to the countries of the Region, and acts independently under guidelines provided by the Pan American Health Organization (*Off. Doc. 173*), in the Plan of Action for the Implementation of Regional Strategies (*Off. Doc. 179*), and in the Program on Veterinary Public Health of PAHOWHO,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization examine and approve the proposed program budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to provide it with financing commensurate with the needs of the technical cooperation program, in the amounts of US\$ 9,594,800 for the 1998-1999 biennium and \$10,251,100 for the 2000-2001 biennium, in accordance with Document RIMSA106.
2. To request the Director of the Pan American Health Organization to consider, with the urgency that the situation demands, assigning to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease new functions in relation to other diseases and zoonoses, in keeping with the recommendations of the External Advisory Group.
3. To thank the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for its regular contribution to the Center as the host country and for recognizing the need to revise the amount of that contribution to provide for improved maintenance of the Center's headquarters. Accordingly, the Government of Brazil is requested to consider that the amount be on the order of US\$800,000 in national currency for 1997 and the equivalent of US\$2 million for the subsequent financial periods until 2001, by which time the Center should be installed in its new headquarters.
4. To thank the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and especially the Minister of Agriculture, Senator Arlindo Porto, for the special arrangements that culminated in the offer of new headquarters for the Center.

5. To urge the Governments that still have balances outstanding with the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to make their best effort to pay them.

6. To request the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, in collaboration with the governments, to support efforts to obtain additional international extrabudgetary funds so that the Center may assume, in a manner satisfactory to the countries, the new and broader commitments imposed by compliance with the proposals of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and the External Advisory Group to the Director.

7. To recommend that the Member States and international organizations continue to make extraordinary contributions to PANAFTOSA for the implementation of specific projects related to programs for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and to carry out new missions it may be given in the future.

*(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
24 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R3: Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA)

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the report presented by the Secretariat at the VI Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA), which conveys the progress made in the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease with the progressive declaration of new areas free of the disease and the recruitment of more and more producers and other sectors involved in the livestock industry, all of which contributes to the Region's socioeconomic development;

Taking into account that the countries of North America, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as Chile, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Uruguay, have been kept free of foot-and-mouth disease;

Considering that the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease should continue the pursuit of its objectives; and

Recognizing that some countries have not yet attained the goals set for eradication of the disease.

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the VI Regular Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

2. To congratulate the countries participating in the River Plate Basin Project for the sanitary results achieved, expressing the hope that they will soon be recognized internationally and commending the efforts made in this work by the public and private sectors of those countries.

3. To urge the governments and private organizations involved directly or indirectly in livestock production in the countries in which the disease is still present, as well as their various social sectors, to focus on finding viable ways to strengthen the programs, and especially the local committees, so that the set objectives and targets may be attained within reasonable times.

4. To thank the Director of the Pan American Health Organization for the technical support provided and request him to make sustainable the technical cooperation of PAHO to the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

*(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
24 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R4: Technical Cooperation in Veterinary Public Health

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the Report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health on Compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Health Organization, 1995-1998 (Document RIMSA104);

Having reviewed Document RIMSA105 on the Report of the External Advisory Group to the Director of PAHO on the Program on Veterinary Public Health;

Aware of the importance of the regional activities of PAHO technical cooperation and the progress achieved in the eradication of prevalent diseases that affect the livestock economy, regional and subregional trade, and public health; and

In keeping with the decision of the Director of PAHO to evaluate periodically the Organization's technical cooperation programs and on that basis to deal with the changing problems and existing realities deriving from agricultural practices that endanger public health,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to redouble their efforts to strengthen national policies and priorities for dealing with regional veterinary public health programs.
2. To reiterate to the Member States the need to improve intersectoral action between national health programs and agricultural production and animal health programs to facilitate attention to the common priority problems that affect public health.
3. To request that the Director of PAHO take the necessary steps to strengthen veterinary public health activities in order to promote and support the actions recommended to the Member States.
4. To request the Director of PAHO to begin development of actions for putting into effect the recommendations made in the Report of the External Advisory Group to Director of PAHO on the Program of Veterinary Public Health.
5. To recommend that the Director of PAHO encourage and support interinstitutional action in INPPAZ and PANAFTOSA and gradually promote operational mechanisms that will make it possible to provide effective integrated technical cooperation.
6. To request the Director of PAHO to identify and consult the Member States on the establishment of a network of national institutions of recognized scientific and technological excellence to contribute as collaborating reference centers of INPPAZ and PANAFTOSA.

*(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
24 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R5: Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses, 1998-1999 and 2000-2001

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the activities programmed for the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ) (Document RIMSA108);

Recognizing the development achieved by the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses in the area of food protection that makes it possible to provide cooperation to the countries in the organization of integrated food protection programs and continuous support for zoonoses programs through reference activities and coordination of epidemiological surveillance of rabies, tuberculosis, and brucellosis;

Considering the recommendations of the III Meeting of the International Coordination Council, held in March 1997 (RIMSA109, Rev. 1);

Taking into account the recommendations of the External Advisory Group to the Director of PAHO on the Program on Veterinary Public Health (RIMSA105);

Emphasizing the social and economic impact of foodborne diseases according to the information provided by the Regional Epidemiological Surveillance System for Foodborne Disease (Information Documents RIMSA10INF24 and RIMSA10INF26);

Recognizing the need to accelerate the organization of integrated food protection programs that incorporate Codex Alimentarius standards and that ensure the safety of food produced by industry, the informal sector, and cottage industries, whether for domestic consumption or for export; and

Aware of the need for continuing to receive technical cooperation from the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses for the sanitary protection of food and for zoonoses prevention and control,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its gratitude to the Government of Argentina for its continued financial support for the activities of the Institute.
2. To adopt the recommendations of the III Meeting of the International Coordination Council of the Institute and to request the Director of PAHO to implement them.
3. To recommend that the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization approve the proposed program budget of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses for the biennium 1998-1999 in the amount of US\$ 7,765,700, \$4,300,000 of which represents the contribution of the Government of Argentina and \$3,465,700 the contribution of PAHO; and in the amount of \$8,083,500 for the 2000-2001 biennium, \$4,534,800 of which represents the contribution of the Government of Argentina and \$3,548,700 the contribution of PAHO.
4. To thank the Governments of Colombia and Paraguay for their contributions to the Institute, and to urge the other countries to join in this collaboration.
5. To request PAHO to promote the mobilization of resources to enable INPPAZ to step up its technical cooperation.

6. To thank the Director of PAHO for his support of the Institute's activities in this period, and to request that it complete its development so that it will be able to provide the technical cooperation that the countries require in the areas of food protection and zoonoses, in keeping with the recommendations of the External Advisory Group to the Director of PAHO on the Program on Veterinary Public Health.

*(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
25 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R6: The Codex Alimentarius and Food Protection

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having in mind the topics of the panel on the Codex Alimentarius and food safety (Documents RIMSA1010, 11, 12 and 13); and Recognizing the work done by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) worldwide and its relations with the World Trade Organization, and the development of the Regional Coordinating Committee of the CAC for Latin America and the Caribbean with the support of the Pan American Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States:

- (a) To strengthen national Codex Contact Points and to assure that they develop a national position regarding all aspects under consideration by the CAC. To this end, national Codex Contact Points need to facilitate the input of all relevant sectors—government, industry, and consumers related to food production, processing, distribution, and consumption;
- (b) To participate actively in the meetings called by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and especially in those of its Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (c) To progressively integrate Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations into national laws and regulations related to food protection.

2. To request the Director of PAHO:

- (a) To continue his efforts in support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) To cooperate with the national authorities having responsibilities in food protection in the application of Codex standards, guidelines, and recommendations.

*(Adopted at the sixth plenary session,
25 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R7: Organization and Development of Integrated Food Protection Programs

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having in mind the topics of the panel on “The Organization and Development of Integrated Food Protection Programs in the Region of the Americas”;

Considering the changes going forward in the world economy, the reforms being carried out in the countries of the Region, and their repercussions on food quality and safety;

Bearing in mind the agreements of the World Trade Organization on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT);

Considering the importance of quality and safety control in the food production chain;

Considering the present-day biological phenomena which include a higher incidence of food-borne diseases and the appearance of emerging pathogens; and

Aware of the restructuring going forward of food protection programs in several countries of the Region and the need to rationalize the resources of the institutions responsible for food protection,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States:

- a) To reaffirm their political will to strengthen intersectoral coordination and the updating of their standards to improve the efficiency of their food protection programs;
- b) To coordinate their food protection programs and harmonize the food sanitary standards so that the formal and informal industry and artisanal production will be fully covered;
- c) To identify the institutional resources for the sanitary protection of foods and promote their rational and efficient use in national food protection programs;
- d) To strengthen their epidemiological surveillance and investigation of outbreaks of food-borne diseases so that the information generated may serve as a guide to prevention and control measures;
- e) To progressively adopt and evaluate the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP) methodology of risk analysis;
- f) To promote the inclusion in food protection programs of all public- and private-sector participants in the food production chain.

2. To ask the Director of PAHO:

- a) To continue developing the Regional Program of Technical Cooperation in Food Protection and make available to the countries a Plan of Action whose components reflect the economic, political, and technical changes relating to food protection.

b) To intensify the mobilization of institutional resources in the countries and other organizations concerned with food protection and use them to expand the Organization's technical cooperation through the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ).

*(Adopted at the sixth plenary session,
25 April 1997)*

RIMSA10.R8: Prevalent and Emerging Zoonoses

THE X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health (RIMSA104);

Taking into account the special presentation "The Intersectoral Approach and Emerging Zoonoses" (Document RIMSA1023);

Noting the progress achieved in the eradication/elimination of human rabies, bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, and hydatidosis, among other zoonoses;

Recognizing that the Region of the Americas possesses favorable ecological conditions for the emergence of zoonoses and diseases common to man and animals, and that the official public health and animal health services have deficient epidemiological warning systems;

Considering the new conditioning factors, such as development, urbanization, opening to trade, the growing movement of people and goods, the expansion of the agricultural frontier, and large-scale infrastructure works;

Considering the serious consequences for the economy and public health wrought by the emergence and re-emergence of zoonoses such as cryptosporidiosis, bubonic plague, equine encephalitis, Hantavirus, yellow fever, rabies transmitted by bats, Lyme disease, E. coli 015:H7, salmonellosis, and Bolivian and Argentine hemorrhagic fever; and

Aware of the serious threat represented by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, to the Region of the Americas, which possesses more than one-third of the world's bovine population,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Member States to:

(a) Maintain their political decision to prevent and control rabies and other zoonoses, and, strengthening intersectoral coordination where necessary, to improve the prevention, control, and/or eradication of those diseases;

(b) Review the objectives of their national programs, assigning priority to the elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs and the control of rabies transmitted by bats and mongooses;

(c) Articulate their experiences and progress through the institutionalization of biennial meetings on actions aimed at preventing, controlling, and eradicating rabies and other prevalent zoonoses in the Region of the Americas.

2. Urge the Member States to:

- (a) Strengthen sanitary measures to prevent and eliminate hydatidosis in humans and livestock;
- (b) Eradicate bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in countries where the prevalence of these zoonoses is less than 1%, intensify sanitary control measures in countries where the prevalence is greater, and strengthen preventive measures in disease-free areas;
- (c) Strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems, including data for additional information that will make it possible to focus attention on emerging diseases;
- (d) Develop the diagnostic capability of the national laboratories in order to strengthen the surveillance systems and enforce appropriate sanitary measures;
- (e) Establish efficient mechanisms in the countries to facilitate the enforcement of sanitary control measures in ports, airports, and border areas to prevent the spread of emerging diseases.

3. To request the Director of PAHO to:

- (a) Continue to strengthen the Program on Veterinary Public Health and its centers, the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses and the Pan American Foot-and-mouth Disease Center, to allow them to continue to serve as regional reference centers and support the national programs in the struggle against prevalent and emerging zoonoses;
- (b) Inform the Member States about the social and economic importance of emerging zoonoses, their magnitude in the human and livestock populations, the vulnerability of these populations to the etiological agents, and the methods for combating these diseases;
- (c) Support and coordinate the articulation referred to in paragraph 1.(c), above;
- (d) Continue his efforts to increase cooperation through INPPAZ and PANAFTOSA in order to upgrade the information and surveillance systems and the diagnostic laboratory services of the national programs to combat zoonoses.

*(Adopted at the sixth plenary session,
25 April 1997)*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of RIMSA X and the Secretary ex officio, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on this twenty-fifth day of April nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

Carlos E. Gasparri
President of RIMSA X
Minister of Animal and Crop Production
and Fisheries
Uruguay

George A. O. Alleyne
Secretary ex officio
Director of the
Pan American Health Organization