REGIONAL STRATEGY ON AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHRONIC DISEASES, INCLUDING DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND HEALTH

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In 2002, the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference recognized the predominance of chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) as the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean and adopted a resolution (CSP26.R15) which called for increased and coordinated technical cooperation from PAHO.

In response to this resolution (CSP26.R15), a Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for the Integrated Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases (ACPD) were developed based also on the following WHO and PAHO resolutions: WHO Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases (WHA53.17, 2000), Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (WHA56.1, 2003), Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (WHA57.17, 2004), Cancer (WHA58.22, 2005), and Cardiovascular Disease, especially Hypertension (CD42.R9, 2000).

The Regional Strategy aims to reduce the burden of chronic noncommunicable diseases in the Americas and ensure that chronic disease prevention and control receive the appropriate priority and resources commensurate with the burden of disease.

The Regional Strategy includes six strategies: advocacy and policy development, community-based actions, strengthened health services, reinforced competencies in the health care work force, multisectoral partnerships and networks, and improved NCD knowledge management. There are also four lines of action, which are health promotion, surveillance, integrated management of chronic diseases and their risk factors, and public policy and advocacy.

The Unit of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) has been charged to lead and coordinate the development of the action plan with other units within the Secretariat. The Regional Strategy is intended to guide PAHO’s technical cooperation on NCDs and be used by technical units and the country offices of the Organization.

This document is presented for the consideration of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming with the following objectives: (1) to elicit their comments on the APCD; (2) to propose ways in which PAHO can support and strengthen a unified and integrated strategy; and (3) to advise the Secretariat on how to best undertake initiatives for mobilizing the necessary resources.