



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO PAHO

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*Original in Spanish: A and C. Original in English: B.

A. SIXTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held 19-24 May 2014 in Geneva (Switzerland) and attended by representatives and delegates of 171 Member States. Dr. Roberto Morales Ojeda (Cuba) acted as President of the Assembly. Five countries served as vice-presidents: Bahrain, Congo, Fiji, Lithuania, and Sri Lanka, in representation of their respective regions.

2. In his opening address, the Minister of Public Health of Cuba, Dr. Roberto Morales Ojeda, in his capacity as President of the World Health Assembly, thanked the Assembly for having honored Cuba with the Presidency. He emphasized his government's important public health achievements, including having achieved an infant mortality rate of 4.2 per thousand live births in 2013, as well as Cuba's international contribution to health, with the presence of 135,000 collaborators in over 120 countries since 1960, and currently over 50,000 in 65 countries.

3. Dr. Morales Ojeda emphasized that "we all aspire to achieving truly sustainable development, and it has been widely recognized that a healthy population is both a means to achieve this and an end in itself." He referred to meeting the health-related Millennium Development Goals and pointed out the need to address the problems resulting from multiple crises and major inequalities. In this regard, he recalled the main theme of the 2014 Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): "Fighting poverty, hunger, and inequality."

4. The Minister insisted that in order to create more just societies, it is indispensable to achieve better distribution of wealth and income, quality health and education for all, eradication of illiteracy, and true food security, among other issues of vital importance for human life.

5. Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, called attention to the international spread of wild poliovirus, which since the beginning of this year has constituted a public health emergency of international concern. She reported that at the end of 2013, 60% of poliomyelitis cases resulted from international spread, with strong evidence that adult travelers were playing a role. She attributed this trend to armed conflicts that do not respect international humanitarian law; civil unrest; migrant populations; weak border controls; poor routine immunization coverage; bans on vaccination by militant groups; and the targeted killing of polio workers.

6. Dr. Chan emphasized that "the factors responsible for this setback are largely beyond the control of the health sector. They are only some of several dangers for health in a world shaped by some universal and ominous trends."

7. On the subject of climate change, which was the main topic addressed by the Ministers of Health, the Director-General reported that in March of this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its most disturbing report to date,

with a strong focus on the consequences for health. Also in March, WHO revised its estimates of the health effects of air pollution upwards. In 2012, exposure to air pollution killed around seven million people worldwide, making it the world's largest single environmental health risk.

8. Among other subjects, Dr. Chan's speech included information on the severe emerging viruses that are circulating; the serious problem of undernutrition, but also obesity and noncommunicable diseases; and the alarming data from the 2014 World Cancer Report, which indicates that the number of new cancer cases has reached an all-time high and is projected to continue to rise.

9. Dr. Chan lamented the enormous inequalities that persist between developed and medium- and low-income countries, and also within these countries. She commented that international trade has many consequences for health, both positive and negative, and strongly criticized tobacco companies that sue governments for compensation for lost profits following the introduction, for valid health reasons, of innovative cigarette packaging. "In my view, something is fundamentally wrong in this world when a corporation can challenge governmental policies introduced to protect the public from a product that kills," she said.

10. Throughout her speech, the Director-General emphasized WHO's function and role in developing international public health policies and facilitating agreements and negotiations that benefit all the countries in the world.

11. The Committee on Credentials was made up of 12 Member States, including Chile and the Dominican Republic, whose delegates represented the Region of the Americas.

12. The agenda of the Assembly included 36 general items, most of them related to technical and health issues; 14 progress reports on technical subjects; and 19 administrative, budgetary, and institutional items. This was a record number of subjects addressed in an Assembly. As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B and in the plenary sessions. The Assembly adopted 25 resolutions and made 15 decisions.

13. The full versions of these resolutions and decisions, along with other documents related to the World Health Assembly, can be consulted on the WHO website: <http://apps.who.int/gb/index.html>.

14. Table 1 contains a list of the resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region, the related PAHO resolutions, the implications that the WHA resolutions have for the Region, and the progress that has been made on these subjects.

Other Matters: Executive Board

15. The 135th session of the Executive Board was held on 26-27 May. The Presidency of the Executive Board rested with Maldives. The United States of America was selected to be an Executive Board member, complementing Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Panama, and Suriname as the six members from the Region.

16. The agenda of the 135th session of the Executive Board included 12 items, among them strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anesthesia as a component of universal health coverage; health and environment—addressing the impact of air pollution; a report on the advances in the implementation of WHO evaluation policy; proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules; and a statement by the WHO staff associations.

17. The Board made four decisions and adopted two resolutions at this session.

18. Finally, the Board took note of the reports submitted and approved the date and location of the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, among other matters. It was agreed that the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly will be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, starting on 18 May 2015 and ending no later than 26 May 2015. The Board also decided that its 136th session will begin on Monday 26 January 2015, at WHO headquarters in Geneva, ending no later than 3 February; that the Programme, Budget, and Administration Committee of the Executive Board will hold its 21st meeting 21-23 January 2015, at WHO headquarters; and that its 22nd meeting will be held 13-15 May 2015, at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

19. The full versions of these reports, as well as other related documents, can be consulted on the WHO website: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb135.html.

Action by the Directing Council

20. The Directing Council is invited to take note of these resolutions, consider their implications for the Region of the Americas, and offer the recommendations it deems relevant.

Table 1. Resolutions Approved by the 67th World Health Assembly of Interest to the Region of the Americas

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
WHA67.1 Global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015	A67/11 Draft global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015	CD46.R12 Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015	PAHO has designed innovative initiatives to strengthen tuberculosis control and facilitate reaching the global targets. These initiatives include TB control in big cities; accelerated reduction in incidence aimed at ending the TB epidemic; the global framework for the elimination of TB; and TB control in migrant populations. All these initiatives incorporate several components of pillars I and II of the global strategy, thus strengthening the work already in progress in the Region.
WHA67.2 Improved decision-making by the governing bodies	A67/5 Improved decision-making by the governing bodies	CE150.R2 Method of Work of the Governing Bodies: Delegation of Functions to the Executive Committee	The Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) will carefully study the operative paragraphs of the adopted resolution, which include: <i>a</i>) introduction of webcasting of WHO governing body meetings; <i>b</i>) rental of an electronic voting system for the appointment of the Director-General; <i>c</i>) the amendment regarding the submission of draft resolutions during WHO governing body sessions; and <i>d</i>) the decision that progress reports will henceforth be considered only by the Health Assembly. Subsequent to the study, recommendations may be made to the PAHO Member States as to whether it would be timely and possible to implement some of these actions in the Region.
WHA67.3 Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013	A67/43 Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013	Official Document 347 Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor for 2013	PASB reviewed and analyzed the WHO Financial Report of the External Auditor for 2013. The Director of PAHO was provided with a summary including significant changes, relevant information and financial highlights. Like WHO, PAHO also received an unqualified audit opinion on its 2013 financial statements.
WHA67.5 Status of collection of assessed contributions,	A67/44 Status of collection of assessed contributions,	CE154/21 Report on the Collection of Assessed Contributions	In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Assembly, two Member States of the Region—Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—may have their voting

¹ A more exhaustive analysis of the implications of the WHO Resolutions for the Region will be presented during the 53rd Directing Council of PAHO.

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution		<p>privileges suspended if, by the time of the opening of 68th WHA, they remain in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the WHO Constitution. Furthermore, the voting rights of two other Member States of the Region—Grenada (WHA67) and Antigua and Barbuda (WHA66)—have already been suspended. This suspension will remain in effect until the arrears in the payment of their assessed contributions have been reduced to below the level that justifies invoking Article 7 of the WHO Constitution.</p> <p>At the time of this report, no Member State is subject to application of Article 6B of the PAHO Constitution.</p>
WHA67.6 Hepatitis	A67/13 Hepatitis Improving the health of patients with viral hepatitis	CD50.R5 Strengthening Immunization Programs	In March 2014 in Brasilia, a regional consultation was jointly organized with Brazil and the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (the longest-standing advisory board on VH, established in Europe 22 years ago). This regional consultation saw the participation of several LAC Member States, regional professional networks, and civil society. It is important to note that in July 2013, PAHO created an HIV, STI, TB, and VH unit. Since May 2014, the unit has had a professional on secondment from Brazil.
WHA67.7 Disability	A67/16 Disability Draft WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: Better health for all people with disability	CE154/14 Plan of Action on Disabilities and Rehabilitation CD52/7, Rev. 1 Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases CD51/7, Rev. 1 Plan of Action on Road Safety CD51.R14 Plan of Action to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol	The PAHO Executive Committee reviewed the draft <i>Plan of Action on Disabilities and Rehabilitation</i> that the PASB has prepared for the Region of the Americas and that has been aligned with the global plan approved by the World Health Assembly. This Plan will be presented to the 53rd Directing Council for approval.

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
		CD50.R8 Health and Human Rights CD50/12 Health and Human Rights CD49/19 Plan of Action on the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment CD47.R1 Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Context of the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and Other Related Rights	
WHA67.8 Autism	A67/17 Comprehensive and coordinated efforts for the management of autism spectrum disorders	CE154/15 Plan of Action on Mental Health	Child and adolescent mental health is an area that also requires attention in our Region. It is one of the priorities highlighted in the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Mental Health to be considered by the 53rd Directing Council.
WHA67.9 Psoriasis	A67/18 Psoriasis		PAHO does not currently have the capacity to address this issue, unless a partner institution is available for technical cooperation.
WHA67.10 Newborn health action plan	A67/21 A67/21 Corr.1 Newborn health: draft action plan Every newborn: an action plan to end preventable deaths	CD52/INF/4(A) Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health within the Continuum of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Care (2008-2015): Mid-term Evaluation CD48.R4, Rev. 1 Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health within the Continuum of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Care	<p>In September 2013, a mid-term evaluation was presented to and approved by the 52nd Directing Council: <i>Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health within the Continuum of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Care</i>. The evaluation shows that the Region of the Americas experienced a 55.6% reduction in estimated neonatal mortality from 1990 to 2010 (from 18 to 8 per 1000 live births). However, there is wide intercountry variability, with rates ranging from 2.8 to 27.3 per 1000 live births.</p> <p>PAHO has shared the Plan of Action with WHO, as well as the results of the mid-term evaluation. PAHO is also part of the</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
		CD47.R19 Neonatal Health in the Context of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health for the Attainment of the Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration	Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Group responsible for designing the global action plan. Prior to the Assembly, consultations on the draft global action plan were held with the countries of the Region.
WHA67.11 Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention	A67/24 Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention	CSP28.R15 Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards	Given the significance of mining activities, the health strategy should be considered in national action plans to reduce or eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small scale gold mining. The strategy should also be linked with universal health coverage and national legislation should be strengthened.
WHA67.12 Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity	A67/25 Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity	CE154/17 Plan of Action on Health in All Policies CD50.R13 National Institutions Associated with PAHO in Technical Cooperation	The Region of the Americas played a significant role in the development of the Global Health in All Policies (HiAP) Framework published by WHO in January 2014. In February 2013, 30 PAHO/WHO countries met in Brazil for a Regional Consultation on HiAP. The purpose of this meeting was to reach a regional consensus on the function of HiAP in terms of the post-2015 development agenda and to present data on this approach during the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki (Finland) in June 2013. PAHO submitted a collection of 25 case studies from 15 countries of the Region of the Americas, entitled <i>Summary of Experiences in the Americas</i> . These case studies highlighted best practices in relation to HiAP. Based on the recommendations of the regional consultation, PAHO will submit a regional proposal for a <i>Plan of Action on Health in All Policies</i> for consideration by the Directing Council.

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
<p>WHA67.13 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)</p>	<p>A67/35 A67/35 Add.1 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)</p>	<p>CE154/INF/6 Progress Reports on Technical Matters: (D) Implementation of the International Health Regulations</p> <p>CD52/10 Implementation of the International Health Regulations</p> <p>CD52/FR Final Report <i>CD52(D5)</i> Implementation of the International Health Regulations</p>	<p>The PASB will submit a progress report to the Directing Council in order to provide an update on the implementation status of the International Health Regulations in the Region of the Americas. The report will highlight certain issues that merit joint action by the Member States of the Region for future implementation of the Regulations.</p>
<p>WHA67.14 Health in the post-2015 development agenda</p>	<p>A67/20 Monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>WHA67.14 Health in the post-2015 development agenda</p> <p>A66/47 Health in the post-2015 development agenda</p>	<p>CE154/INF/3 Status of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda</p> <p>CD52/12 Panel Discussion: Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda PAHO electronic site including a set of tools to help Member States: http://new.paho.org/mdg_post2015/</p>	<p>During the Directing Council, a panel discussion on the post-2015 development agenda will be held, with reference to the documented submitted to the UN Secretary General by the Open Working Group. Consideration will be given to the main lines of work, their implications for the health sector, forms of implementation, and measurement of progress.</p>
<p>WHA67.15 Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children</p>	<p>A67/22 Addressing the global challenge of violence in particular against women and girls</p>	<p>CD48.R11 Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: a Call for Action in the Region</p> <p>CD44.R13 Impact of Violence on the Health of the Populations in the Americas</p> <p>CD50.R16 Health, Human Security and Well-being</p>	<p>PAHO has a long history of working to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence, including violence against women. There are several documents and mandates that guide the Organization's work in this area, including the <i>Ministerial Declaration on Violence and Injury Prevention in the Americas</i> (March 2008).</p> <p>The PAHO Strategic Plan includes two output indicators on violence prevention, including one specifically on violence against women.</p> <p>At least five of the countries that</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
			sponsored the WHO resolution belong to this Region (Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the United States).
WHA67.18 Traditional medicine	A67/26 Traditional medicine	CD47.R18 Health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas	While traditional medicine is recognized as an issue relevant to the Region, it has also been identified as a challenge to be addressed, especially within the framework of the universal health coverage strategy.
WHA67.19 Strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course	A67/31 Strengthening of palliative care as a component of integrated treatment throughout the life course	CD49.R15 Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, Including Active and Healthy Aging	<p>There has been a steady expansion of palliative care in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past decade. PAHO made palliative care a component of its noncommunicable diseases program in 1998.</p> <p>The Directing Council will study the proposed <i>Strategy for Universal Health Coverage</i>, which clearly identifies palliative care as an integral part of the legally guaranteed set of universal services.</p>
WHA67.20 Regulatory system strengthening for medical products	A67/32 Regulatory system strengthening	CD50.R9 Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals	Several PAHO Member States are co-sponsoring this resolution. The Bureau considers it a high priority, since there is a worldwide need to strengthen the capacity of the national regulatory authorities, recognizing the existing capacities; promoting interaction and technical cooperation among countries as well as the dissemination of information on the results and regulatory processes; and enhancing regulatory collaboration and networking at all levels: subregional, regional, and global.
WHA67.21 Access to biotherapeutic products including similar biotherapeutic products and ensuring their quality, safety and efficacy	A67/32 Regulatory system strengthening	CD45.R7 Access to Medicines	<p>Strengthening the national regulatory authorities to ensure high-quality, safe, and effective biotherapeutic/biotechnological products.</p> <p>Several countries of the Americas promoted the adoption of this Resolution, which urges the Member States to issue appropriate regulations for biological and biosimilar products through the implementation of WHO international recommendations and adapted to national contexts.</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
			<p>In the Region of the Americas, WHO recommendations to evaluate biosimilar products were adopted by the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH) in 2011. Since then, countries have focused on ensuring implementation of these recommendations; however, they have repeatedly requested cooperation to: a) draft appropriate regulations for drugs of biological origin, and b) conduct human resources training to successfully implement the regulations.</p>
<p>WHA67.22 Access to essential medicines</p>	<p>A67/30 Access to essential medicines</p> <p>WHA 60.16 Progress in the rational use of medicines</p> <p>WHA67.25 Antimicrobial resistance</p> <p>WHA67.20 Regulatory system strengthening for medical products</p>	<p>CD45.R7 Access to Medicines</p> <p>CD50.R9 Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals</p>	<p>PAHO has been collaborating with the countries in building capacity not only for strengthening health systems and services but specifically for the evidence-based selection of medicines, health technologies assessment, the development and use of standard treatment guidelines, the rational use of medicines and other technologies with a view to efficient access, the implementation of drug procurement and supply strategies (Strategic Fund), and access to and exchange of key information and experiences on this subject. All this is within the framework of several resolutions on access to medicines, innovation and intellectual property rights, health technology assessment, strengthening regulatory authorities, containment of antimicrobial resistance, and the rational use of medicines.</p>
<p>WHA67.23 Health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage</p>	<p>A67/33 Health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage</p>	<p>CE154/12 Strategy for Universal Health Coverage</p> <p>CE152/12, Rev. 1 Social Protection in Health</p> <p>CSP28.R9 Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems</p>	<p>The recognition of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) as an essential tool to support decision-making has been growing exponentially. The Region of the Americas was the first in the world to have a resolution on HTA adopted, at the Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2012.</p> <p>It is important for PAHO to support Member States in the implementation of the Resolution and to increase the use of HTA to improve decision-making processes, contributing to universal health coverage. In this context, the Network for Health Technologies Assessment in the</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ¹ Progress in the Region
			Americas (RedETSA) is of great importance. RedETSA is made up of 14 countries and 26 institutions, with PAHO acting as its Secretariat.
WHA67.24 Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage	A67/34 Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage	CD52.R13 Human Resources for Health: Increasing Access to Qualified Health Workers in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems CD52/6 Human Resources for Health	The Region of the Americas has been a pioneer in the discussion and resulting strengthening of human resources for health. The resolution adopted by the Assembly will strengthen the political will of the countries of the Region to advance in the preparation of national strategies and plans, as well as strategies focused on universal access to trained health workers, particularly in underserved and vulnerable communities.
WHA67.25 Antimicrobial resistance	A67/39 Antimicrobial drug resistance A67/39 Add.1 Draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance	Document CD51/15, Rev. 1 and Document CD51, 15, Rev. 1, Add. I Roundtable on Antimicrobial Resistance	PAHO's work program in the area of antimicrobial resistance has been guided by specific mandates. Since 2004, this program has had the technical support and guidance of a Technical Advisory Group that explicitly stated the need to establish surveillance systems to monitor antimicrobial resistance and to take action to contain the problem. The Member States should consider the relevance of adopting a regional resolution on this issue.

**Table 2. Resolutions and decisions approved by the
135th session of the Executive Board**

Resolutions	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region Progress in the Region
EB135.R1 Confirmation of amendments to the Staff Rules	EB135/7 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules	CE154.28 Amendments to the PASB Staff Rules and Regulations CE154.R10 Amendments to the PASB Staff Rules and Regulations	PAHO made similar staff rule changes for the AMRO Region effective 1 July 2014.

Decisions EB135/DIV/2	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region Progress in the Region
EB135(1) Working Group on Strategic Budget Space Allocation	A67/9 Strategic resource allocation	CE152.SS.R1 Allocation of Funds by WHO to the Region of the Americas CE152/SS/2 Allocation of Funds by WHO to the Region of the Americas	Intended outcomes could include increased transparency and predictability in the allocation of budget (and prospective resources). Presently, allocation criteria seem to be ad-hoc or based on recent budget and expenditure history (in contrast to need or performance, for example). The AMRO receives the smallest share of the WHO budget (around 5%) and it unclear if this share and the relative shares of all regions are appropriate. Factors such as GDP, population, and burden of disease could be part of any new allocation methodology. AMRO is represented by Mexico on the allocation working group; the PASB can help Mexico and the working group present the regional perspective.
EB135(2) Membership of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee	EB135/6 EB135/6 Add.1 Committees of the Executive Board: filling of vacancies		Panama filled the vacancy left by Mexico when its mandate ended.

B. FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Background

1. This document presents the resolutions adopted during the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in the city of Asuncion, Paraguay, from 3 to 5 June 2014. The agenda, detailed documents, and resolutions can be consulted at <http://www.oas.org/en/44ga/>.
2. The ministers of foreign affairs of the Member States of the American hemisphere and other official delegates attended the meeting, as did representatives of the governments accredited as Permanent Observers and representatives of Inter-American System agencies, among them the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the bodies that compose the Summit Implementation Review Group. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay was elected President of this regular session of the General Assembly.
3. The theme of this General Assembly was “Development with Social Inclusion,” the topic addressed by heads of delegation in their presentations. The Secretary-General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, opened the meeting highlighting the force and vitality of the OAS in the prosperous, democratic and stable Americas and called on the nations to continue fighting inequality and seeking consensus.
4. In addition to the resolutions and declarations of this session, the General Assembly unanimously approved the Declaration of Asuncion, which is presented as an Annex to this document. The declaration calls on governments to “strengthen the capacity of the countries to withstand external shocks so that the progress made in the region in terms of eliminating hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty, is sustainable.” It recognizes that “social inclusion, equality and social justice are critical to democracy.” This declaration is linked to resolution CD52.R11 (2013) on Social Protection in Health, approved by the 52nd Directing Council.
5. During the first day of the General Assembly, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa F. Etienne and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, signed a joint declaration with the objective of strengthening cooperation between both institutions in the area of social inclusion, pledging to join forces of both Hemispheric organizations in an effort to move toward universal health coverage in the Americas, by expanding equitable access to comprehensive, quality, people and community centered health services.

6. The majority of the recommendations and resolutions had been discussed and agreed upon earlier by the Permanent Council. The items on which a consensus had not been reached or new items proposed by the Member States were discussed in the General Committee of the Assembly or in special working groups that met in parallel with the plenary meeting.

7. The resolutions of interest to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization and related to its work as the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System have been selected (table attached).

8. The Forty-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States will be held in Haiti, from 7 to 9 June 2015.

Action by the Directing Council

9. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report.

Table 1: Resolutions adopted by the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly that are related to PAHO activities

Declaration of the OAS General Assembly	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>DECLARATION OF ASUNCION FOR THE FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: “DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION”</p>	<p>Linkage with “Social Protection in Health” (Resolution CD52.R11 [2013]).</p>
Resolutions of the Assembly	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>AG/RES. 2818 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE</p>	<p>“Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change” (Resolution CD51.R15 [2011]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH</p>	<p>“Health, Human Security and Well-being” (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2819 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>“Strategy and Plan of Action on Urban Health” (Resolution CD51.R4 [2011]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2830 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>NETWORK FOR CONSUMER SAFETY AND HEALTH AND INTER-AMERICAN RAPID PRODUCT-SAFETY WARNING SYSTEM</p>	<p>Linkage with the International Health Regulations (2005): “International Health Security: Implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005))” CSP27.R13 [2007]), food safety programs, and epidemic alert and response programs.</p> <p>“Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals” (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]).</p> <p>PAHO participates in the Inter-American Network for Consumer Safety and Health.</p>

Resolutions of the Assembly	Relation to PAHO activities
<p style="text-align: center;">AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN</p>	<p>Linkage with the Department of Family, Gender, and Life Course.</p> <p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>Linkage with the “Plan of Action for Implementing the Gender Equality Policy” (Resolution CD49.R12 [2009]).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SMUGGLING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN BOYS, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS OF BOTH SEXES</p>	<p>Linkage with the Department of Family, Gender, and Life Course.</p> <p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p> <p>“Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: A Call for Action in the Region” (Resolution CD48.R11 [2008]).</p> <p>“Health, Human Security, and Well-being” (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AG/RES. 2834 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGY ON YOUTH FOR THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>Linkage with the Department of Family, Gender, and Life Course.</p> <p>“Regional Strategy for Improving Adolescent and Youth Health” (Resolution CD48.R5 [2008]).</p> <p>“Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health” (Resolution CD49.R14 [2009]).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS</p>	<p>Linkage with the Department of External Relations, Partnerships, and Governing Bodies.</p> <p>Linkage with PAHO activities as part of the Joint Summit Working Group.</p> <p>Monitoring of health mandates and technical contribution to support the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Host Government of the VII Summit of the Americas 2015 (Panama).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFTING OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>Linkage with the Health Agenda for the Americas.</p> <p>Linkage with the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019.</p>

Resolutions of the Assembly	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT</p>	<p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2854 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND ITS TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT</p>	<p>Linkage with “Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Context of the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and Other Related Rights” (Resolution CD47.R1 [2006]).</p> <p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p> <p>Through its activities related to the health of people living with disabilities, PAHO will continue to work in coordination with the institutions of the Inter-American system to ensure compliance with the commitments established in the Plan of Action 2006-2016.</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS</p>	<p>Linkage with the Healthy Life Course Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Aging” (Resolution CSP26.R20 [2002]).</p> <p>“Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, Including Active and Healthy Aging” (Resolution CD49.R15 [2009]).</p> <p>Linkage with the Gender, Diversity, and Human Rights Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>“Strategy and Plan of Action on <i>eHealth</i>” (Resolution CD51.R5 [2011]).</p> <p>“Strategy and Plan of Action on Knowledge Management and Communications” (Resolution CSP28.R2 [2012]).</p>

Resolutions of the Assembly	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</p>	<p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas” (Resolution CD47.R18 [2006]).</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2868 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW APPROACHES AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES FOR ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM IN THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>“Strategy on Substance Use and Public Health” (Resolution CD50.R2 [2010]).</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p> <p>“Plan of Action on Psychoactive Substance Use and Public Health” (Resolution CD51.R7 [2011]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”</p>	<p>“Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: A Call for Action in the Region” (Resolution CD48.R11 [2008]).</p> <p>“Health, Human Security, and Well-being” (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).</p> <p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2863 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION</p>	<p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p> <p>“Addressing the Causes of Disparities in Health Service Access and Utilization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Persons” (Resolution CD52.R6 [2013]).</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14)</p> <p>AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT</p>	<p>Linkage with the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit.</p> <p>“Health and Human Rights” (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).</p>

Annex

AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14)

DECLARATION OF ASUNCIÓN FOR THE FORTY-FOURTH
REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
“DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in San Asunción, Paraguay, at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

REAFFIRMING the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Social Charter of the Americas, the Declaration on Security in the Americas, and other inter-American instruments on promotion, protection, and observance of human rights, in particular economic, social, and cultural rights;^{1/}

CONSIDERING that, even though American States have taken measures to achieve the integral development of their inhabitants, to buttress democracy and promote and protect human rights, there still remain challenges in terms of poverty and extreme poverty, food security and nutrition, discrimination, equity, equality and social inclusion, inclusive and quality education, universal health coverage, decent, dignified and productive work, and citizen security;

RECOGNIZING that eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular extreme poverty, requires the promotion of public social, economic and environmental policies that encourage, among others, productivity, employment and sustainable and broad-based and inclusive development in our nations;

CONCERNED that, in spite of the efforts made by the States, inequity and social exclusion continue, in different measures, to adversely affect our Hemisphere, and that tackling their causes and consequences is an imperative that should further unite the American states to improve conditions for economic and social development and promote fairer, equitable and inclusive societies, giving particular emphasis to the rights and participation of persons in vulnerable situations;

CONSIDERING that people’s quality of life and the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms can be improved by minimizing the incidence and severity of territorial gaps with concrete integral development actions in the areas of education, healthcare, and social inclusion, bearing in mind the well-being of future generations;

RECOGNIZING the important contributions that women make to sustainable development and economic growth, including their unpaid work in the home and providing care;

^{1/} The United States is committed to the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights, and reiterates that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. ...

and the need for women's empowerment to eliminate gender inequality and achieve the full enjoyment of their rights;

RECOGNIZING the contributions of migrants and their families, as well as their collective and individual potential as agents of development in countries of origin, transit and destination;

RECOGNIZING that universal access to quality and inclusive education, with special attention given to individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, strengthens the development of the individual, social inclusion, economic development and democratic institutions;

MINDFUL that health is essential for a full and productive life and that public health is an investment that impacts on the quality of life of our society, and taking into account the principles promoted by the Pan American Health Organization's Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;

RECOGNIZING that social inclusion, equality of opportunity, equity and social justice are critical to democracy; and that the promotion, protection and effective exercise of human rights, in particular economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as access to justice, and dialogue among all sectors of the population, are essential for the strengthening of democracy;^{2/}

REAFFIRMING that the basis and purpose of citizen security is the protection of human beings, and that the rule of law, the full respect for human rights, the fight against impunity, and integral development strengthen the conditions of citizen security;

EMPHASIZING the important role that public-private partnerships, with the participation of civil society and other social actors, can play in advancing comprehensive development;

RECOGNIZING that financial inclusion contributes to greater social inclusion, as well as the reduction of income inequality and poverty;

RECOGNIZING that information and communication technologies (ICTs), used in accordance with the universal principles of human rights, are effective instruments for the sustainable development of inclusive knowledge-based societies, the creation of opportunities, the promotion of cooperation among the peoples of the Americas and the exercise of human rights;

REAFFIRMING that family farming and small farmers are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food and nutrition security, and recognizing the important contribution that family farming can play in eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

AWARE that climate change has adverse impacts throughout the Americas, causing deterioration in quality of life and the environment for present and future generations, and that Member States face significant risks from the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly those vulnerable in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and require adaptation strategies to counteract such effects;

^{2/} Idem.

CONVINCED of the importance of promoting public policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction in order to reduce the loss of human lives and social, economic and environmental impacts that affect our societies;

CONSIDERING the importance of adopting effective measures that permit countries to overcome the transit challenges they face as landlocked developing countries and reaffirming the will to effectively implement the Almaty Program of Action approved by resolution A/RES/58/201 in the United Nations General Assembly, as well as existing agreements in their transit transport systems;

RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/67/206, highlighting the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS); welcoming its designation of 2014 as the international year of SIDS; and noting that countries with low-lying coastal areas face similar challenges to their sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING the challenges faced by Member States that are small, vulnerable, highly-indebted and middle-income;

BEARING IN MIND UN Resolution A/RES/68/222 approved by the General Assembly on December 20, 2013 “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”, we recognize also that the middle-income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

WELCOMING the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal on August 15, 2014 an interoceanic passageway that contributes to the economic and sustainable development of the Hemisphere, and whose project to expand the canal will enable greater openness and facilitation of maritime trade in the region;

UNDERSCORING that inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of member states, within the framework of democratic principles, and that a goal of the Organization of American States, through its Inter-American Council for Integral Development, is to promote cooperation among the member states with a view to achieving their integral development and, in particular, to contribute to the elimination of poverty;

MINDFUL of the need to strengthen the coordinated efforts of the OAS with member states and with the institutions of the inter-American system, especially where the goals associated with the promotion and strengthening of integral development are concerned;

DECLARE:

1. TO COMMIT their efforts to eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular extreme poverty, combating inequity, inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion, and increasing equitable access to health services, as well as to quality and inclusive education; priority objectives which should inform actions of the inter-American system.

2. TO STRENGTHEN the capacity of the countries to withstand external shocks so that the progress made in the region in terms of eliminating hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty, is sustainable.

3. TO RECOGNIZE the work currently underway on the post 2015 development agenda and to request that the General Secretariat incorporate, as appropriate, the results in its programs, projects, and activities.

4. TO ENCOURAGE inter-sectoral public policies on social protection and inclusion to strengthen respect for human rights and the adoption of comprehensive measures for the full and effective participation in society of all persons, in particular those in vulnerable situations; and to prevent, combat, and eradicate all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

5. TO ENCOURAGE the formulation and implementation of comprehensive and inclusive economic and social policies to deepen economic development with equity, foster investment and entrepreneurship, and generate decent, dignified, and productive work in all sectors, so as to reduce income and social inequalities.

6. TO STRENGTHEN efforts to ensure full equity and equality of access, opportunities, participation, and leadership of women in development, in accordance with international commitments adopted by states aimed at achieving full and equal participation for women in all spheres of society.

7. TO UNDERSCORE the need to develop and implement public policies, respectful of human rights, that favor the social inclusion of migrants, encourage exchanges of best practices amongst Member States, and create the necessary conditions for recognizing, optimizing, and maximizing the benefits of migration for the development of the countries of the Americas.

8. TO PROMOTE inclusive professional and technical training, as well as the development of mechanisms for skills certification in order to facilitate job market access and reinsertion; support personal and professional advancement, with an emphasis on innovation; and maximize productivity in the economy and institution building.

9. TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN policies for improving availability, access and quality of health services, and that their delivery is culturally acceptable, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles for the population, particularly for persons and groups in vulnerable situations, promoting universal health coverage, with emphasis on preventive care programs.

10. TO CONTINUE to promote and uphold democratic principles, human rights, access to justice for all and to foster social dialogue, as essential elements for social, economic, and cultural development, bearing in mind that democracy and integral development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

11. TO STRENGTHEN a multidimensional approach in their citizen security policies that contributes to integral development and social justice, that promotes community participation to contribute to reducing and preventing violence and crime in all its forms, taking into account that development and security are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

12. TO STIMULATE AND STRENGTHEN public-private partnerships, with the participation of other stakeholders, in order to eliminate poverty, in particular extreme

poverty, and advance comprehensive development of the Americas, taking into consideration the role of the State and corporate social responsibility.

13. TO STRENGTHEN public policies for the planning, creation, and modernization of physical infrastructure for transportation, energy, and connectivity, given the strategic role that they play in driving economies, generating employment, and promoting sustainable development.

14. TO REITERATE the need to adopt public policies for fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory access to basic public services, including safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as necessary measures to achieve integral development. Likewise, to promote and foster comprehensive public policies aimed at meeting housing needs among the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population.

15. TO ENCOURAGE the promotion of financial inclusion policies that enhance access to and the use of affordable and quality financial services and strengthen the financial capability of excluded or underserved households, micro- and small businesses, cooperatives and other units of production as well as the promotion of financial education programs.

16. TO REAFFIRM that the expansion of access, appropriation and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), under the principles of equity, universality and availability, in a framework of global cooperation and respect for human rights, contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and social inclusion that facilitates access to information, education and freedom of expression. In this context, to underscore the role of the bodies of the inter-American system in the promotion and adoption of innovative and reliable ICTs in the Americas, reducing the digital divide.

17. TO PROMOTE inter-sectoral policies and strategies to encourage sustainable development and achieve food and nutrition security, by strengthening family and smallholder farming, which should take into account production and supply of local products, including highly nutritional products.

18. TO CONTINUE AND TO STRENGTHEN our efforts towards the achievements of commitments made in the area of sustainable development and climate change to counter the adverse effects of climate change; build the capacity of the states, populations, and vulnerable ecosystems to adapt to climate change; and step up efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with the principles, objectives and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

19. TO STRENGTHEN public policies on comprehensive disaster risk management that promote the participation of all levels of government and society, and which contribute to the improvement of quality of life of individuals and to sustainable development.

20. TO GIVE necessary support to the condition of landlocked developing country in the implementation of effective mechanisms to allow for the overcoming of their vulnerabilities and problems stemming from this situation, allowing the freedom of transit through the territory of transit states by all means of transport in a manner consistent with applicable international laws, international conventions and bilateral agreements requesting the preparation of a report from the General Secretariat on the difficulties and advances in this respect.

21. TO ENCOURAGE all member states, the Inter-American system and all other stakeholders to take advantage of the International Year of Small Island Developing States, to promote actions at all levels, including through international, regional and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, aimed at the achievement of sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, including countries with low-lying coastal areas".

22. TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN effective cooperation and partnership building strategies amongst the States, as well as with relevant international institutions, with the objective of promoting sustainable development with social inclusion, consistent with national priorities and interests.

23. TO PROMOTE cooperation among member states with a view to achieving their integral development, and to contribute to the elimination of poverty, in particular extreme poverty. To this end, to entrust the OAS General Secretariat to support the coordination of cooperation efforts through existing mechanisms and instruments, and to generate synergies with institutions of the Inter-American System and take necessary steps to establish greater coordination, as appropriate, amongst the OAS, IDB, ECLAC and PAHO.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... The United States believes that civil and political rights are as important as economic, social and cultural rights to achieving development with social inclusion; all individuals rely on civil and political rights so that they can participate actively in the development of policies and programs to address poverty and discrimination and to provide for education, health care, food security and decent work. In particular, the exercise of civil and political rights plays the central role in strengthening democracy. Further, we understand the resolution's reaffirmation of prior documents to apply to those who affirmed them initially.

2. *Idem.*

C. SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Background

1. This document presents the principal agreements and resolutions of interest to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) adopted by different intergovernmental regional and subregional entities linked with public health and which are related to PAHO's work as the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System.

a) Central America

- Central American Integration System (SICA): Council of Central American Ministers of Health (COMISCA)
- Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD)

b) Caribbean

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)

c) South America

- Andean Community of Nations: Andean Health Agency /Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU)
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR): Sub Working Group on Health No. 11/ (SGT 11)
- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO): new ACTO Strategic Agenda 2012-2020: Regional Health Management
- Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): South American Health Council

Resolutions and Agreements on Health Matters Adopted by Subregional Integration Entities¹ and Related to PAHO Activities

a) *Central American Integration System (SICA)*

*Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA)*²

2. The Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) is the forum that brings together the Ministers and Ministries of Health. The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) participates in meetings of the Council by invitation of the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA, as the lead agency in health matters in the Region, and because of its technical cooperation with the thematic Technical Commissions (Technical Commission on Pharmaceuticals, Human Resources, Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases, and Cancer; Technical Commission on Surveillance in Health and Information Systems); and the Regional Coordinating Mechanism on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

3. COMISCA convenes regular sessions twice a year in the countries that hold the presidency *pro tempore*. The presidency is rotated among Member Countries every six months. The 39th regular meeting of COMISCA took place in Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013, and the 40th regular meeting was held in the Dominican Republic on 26-27 June 2014.

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Advances in the preparation of the SICA Regional Health Policy.</p> <p>The progress report on the preparation of the SICA Regional Health Policy was received and instructions were given to SE-COMISCA to continue on the critical path presented, in order for the policy to be approved at the special meeting of COMISCA in September 2014 and submitted for approval at the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of SICA in December 2014.</p>	<p>PAHO's 2014-2015 Subregional Technical Cooperation BWP for Central America includes programmatic components supporting SE-COMISCA's work plan, including technical cooperation for the drafting of a regional health policy.</p>

¹ The meetings considered are those held within the framework of subregional bodies related to health between May 2013 and April 2014.

² Link to information on COMISCA: <http://www.sica.int/comisca/>.

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Proposed amendment to the COMISCA Regulations</p> <p>Final version will be presented for approval at the special meeting of COMISCA to be held this September.</p>	
<p>SE-COMISCA financial management report</p> <p>The financial management report by COMISCA's Executive Secretary was approved in May 2014.</p> <p>The following aspects were studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the possibility of establishing differentiated country quotas, considering the financial capacities of each Member State; • the possibility of modifying the quota system; • the possibility of replacing it with a system with incremental increases. 	
<p>Implementation of the SE-COMISCA Strategic Plan</p> <p>The report on Organizational Development and the COMISCA Communications Strategy were received and IS-COMISCA was given instructions to continue these processes in its capacity as a secretariat that responds to the regional health initiatives.</p>	
<p>Signing of agreement with the Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU)</p> <p>Support was provided for cooperation leading to implementation of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation with ORAS/CONHU. The Executive Secretariat of this agency, represented by Dr. Caroline Chang Campos, was thanked for the interest shown in creating closer ties of cooperation and fraternity between the Andean region and Central American and the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>Related to the resolution on Cooperation for Health Development in the Americas (Resolution CD52.R15)</p>

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Current situation of chikungunya fever</p> <p>Commitment to strengthen actions at the first level of health care, aimed at stepping up epidemiological surveillance and measures for prevention and care in the Region and sharing experiences among member countries in order to be prepared for any health threat.</p> <p>PAHO/WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are asked to continue supporting the Region in active surveillance of the disease, implementation of preventive measures, and strengthening of staff capacities in the ministries of health.</p>	<p>Relates to the following documents:</p> <p>a) Guía informativa sobre el chikungunya [Chikungunya Virus: Q&A]. Available in Spanish: http://www.paho.org/dor/images/stories/archivos/chikungunya/preguntas_chikungunya_mayo2014.pdf?ua=1</p> <p>b) Guía de manejo clínico para la infección por el virus chikungunya (CHIKV) [Guidelines for Clinical Management of Chikungunya Virus (CHIKV)]: Available in Spanish: http://www1.paho.org/dor/images/stories/archivos/chikungunya/guia_chikv2.pdf?ua=1</p> <p>c) Plan de Preparación y Respuesta Frente a Brotes de Fiebre Chikungunya [Preparedness and Response Plan for Chikungunya Fever Outbreaks]. Available in Spanish: http://www.paho.org/dor/images/stories/archivos/chikungunya/plan-de-contingencia-chikungunya-version-27-01-2014.pdf?ua=1</p>
<p>CDC-COMISCA Cooperative Agreement</p> <p>CDC is thanked for the support provided to the Region through the Cooperative Agreement, which has resulted in significant achievements in epidemiological surveillance, HIV/AIDS, risk management, and strengthening of national reference laboratories.</p>	
<p>Current situation of organ donation and transplantation in the Region</p> <p>PAHO/WHO's support is requested so that—in coordination with SE-COMISCA, the Ibero-American Network for Donation and Transplantation and representatives of the countries—the normative and regulatory frameworks for organ donation and transplantation can be updated and harmonized with international standards in order to ensure equitable access for the population that needs organs and to protect the poorest and most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Offers an opportunity to promote the PAHO Policy Framework for Human Organ Donation and Transplantation (Resolution CD49.R18 [2009]).</p>

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
Commitment to strengthen the national structures for organ donation and transplantation; and request made for SE-COMISCA, in coordination with the Ibero-American Network for Donation and Transplantation and other partners, to promote the sharing of experiences and the implementation of training on this subject.	
<p>Results and good practices in the control Chagas disease in Central America</p> <p>The Government of Japan is thanked for the support provided through JICA to significantly counteract Chagas disease and help develop national capacity to continue working on this issue, especially in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, where good practices on this subject were systematized.</p>	<p>Aligned with the Strategy and Plan of Action for Chagas Disease Prevention, Control, and Care (Resolution CD50.R17)</p> <p>Related to the report and resolution on the Elimination of Neglected Diseases and Other Poverty-Related Infections (Resolution CD49.R19)</p>
<p>MCR report</p> <p>Consideration was given to supporting and facilitating the signing of agreements for start-up funds for the Initiative for the Elimination of Malaria in Mesoamerica and Hispaniola (EMMIE) for El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama, as well as implementation of the Strategy for financial sustainability in the comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS in the countries, based on their action plans and monitoring activities.</p>	<p>Related to the resolution on the Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria (Resolution CD51.R9)</p> <p>Coherent with the Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015, of the Pan American Health Organization (Resolution CD46.R15 [2005]).</p>
<p>Strategy for the prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents</p> <p>The strategy for the prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents in the member countries of SICA was approved and the countries were urged to formulate action plans for its implementation, with an intersectoral and life course approach, and to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources.</p>	<p>Offers an opportunity to advance regional strategies and plans on this subject.</p> <p>Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents (Document CE154/16, Rev 1)</p> <p>Related to the Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (2012-2025) (CSP28/9, Rev. 1 and CSP28.R13 [2012]).</p> <p>Aligned with the Pan American Forum for Action on Noncommunicable Diseases (2012).</p> <p>Under the framework of the Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and</p>

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
	<p>Control of Non-communicable Diseases (CD51/INF/4 [2011]).</p> <p>Related to the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).</p>
<p>Guidelines for enhanced primary health care</p> <p>It was decided to initiate an intensive process to strengthen the capacities of the countries of the region for the creation of multidisciplinary primary health care teams that provide high-quality, comprehensive, people-centered health care services, through the development of new strategies and mechanisms for collaborative work aimed at transforming how health professionals are educated.</p>	<p>Related and aligned with the Strategy for Health Personnel Competency Development in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems (Resolution CD50.R7)</p>
<p>Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy</p> <p>The Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy was approved and instructions were given to IS-COMISCA to initiate dialogue and seek consensus with other SICA entities for its implementation.</p> <p>The World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF, and the Pan American Health Organization were thanked for the support provided in the drafting of the core document, which was prepared and enriched with the contributions made by the countries through the Technical Commission on Gender and Health and the support of SE-COMISCA and ST-COMMCA.</p> <p>UNFPA, PAHO, World Bank, UNICEF, PARLACEN, and other COMISCA partners were requested to continue providing technical and financial support for the implementation of actions related to the Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.</p>	<p>Related to the Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health (Resolution CD49.R14)</p>

Central American Integration System 40th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-27 June 2014	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
SE-COMISCA was instructed to make the corresponding arrangements to raise the Regional Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy to the highest level.	
<p>Report on the Mesoamerican Health Initiative 2015</p> <p>SE-COMISCA was instructed, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Mesoamerican Health Initiative 2015, to facilitate a space for analysis and the sharing of experiences with regard to the information generated by the Mesoamerican Health Initiative.</p>	

4. During Panama's term as Pro Tempore Presidency of COMISCA, a meeting on Renewed Primary Health Care was convened in October. PAHO provided technical support in the development of the agenda and presented on Universal Health Coverage. Follow-up support was also provided in the development of guidelines on Primary Health Care for the countries.

5. Additionally, as part of the plan of work of the Dominican Republic's Pro Tempore Presidency of COMISCA for the first semester of 2014, a subregional meeting aimed at sharing experiences on common health issues related to Dengue Fever, Road Safety and Integrated Health Networks, was carried out under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic, with PAHO's technical cooperation.

6. PAHO/WHO also participates in the Central American System within the framework of the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project, which is governed by the mandates arising from the Summit of Heads of State and of Government of the Tuxtla Dialogue and Consensus-building Mechanism. The project has an Executive Board (with permanent headquarters in El Salvador) and an Inter-institutional Technical Group (GTI), in which PAHO participates, together with other partners, to coordinate actions with the different initiatives in the Mesoamerican Project. PAHO/WHO does not receive or implement resources to finance the Master Plans, but does contribute a technical perspective to guide interventions in health, in order to ensure that they are coherent with regional and global methods and goals.

Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD)³

7. The Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic participate along with the social security and water and sanitation institutions in the Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD). PAHO serves as the Technical Secretariat for this forum. Meetings are held once a year; the last one was held in Antigua Guatemala, 5-6 July 2013. In 2014, the XXX RESSCAD will take place in El Salvador. El Salvador currently holds the Presidency Pro Tempore, and Honduras will assume the next Presidency Pro Tempore. The date for the transfer of presidency has not yet been confirmed.

b) *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)

8. The institutional council within CARICOM in which the Ministers of Health meet is the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD). The COHSOD is responsible for the promotion of health, education, and living and working conditions in the Caribbean Community. PAHO participates in this forum as the technical advisory agency on health. In addition, the Ministers of Health traditionally meet in Caucus at the PAHO headquarters just prior to the Pan American Sanitary Conference or the Directing Council. However in 2013 the meeting was convened as a COHSOD on 28-29 September 2013 in Washington D.C.

CARICOM XXIV Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Georgetown, Guyana, 2-3 May 2013	
Main items addressed by COHSOD	Relation to PAHO activities
Caribbean Public Health Agency, CARPHA updates.	PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean. The 2012 Interagency Framework Agreement between PAHO and CARPHA, with the Office of Caribbean Program Coordination and the Office of the Assistant Director as focal points in the Caribbean and PAHO Headquarters, respectively.
Caribbean Cooperation in Health	PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean. PAHO/WHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for the Caribbean, 2010-2015.

³ Link to information on RESSCAD: <http://new.paho.org/resscad/>

CARICOM XXIV Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Georgetown, Guyana, 2-3 May 2013	
Main items addressed by COHSOD	Relation to PAHO activities
United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda	(Document CD52/12 (2013) Health in the post-2015 Development Agenda.
Noncommunicable Diseases	<p>Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Document CSP28/9, Rev. 1 and Resolution CSP28.R13 [2012]); and the Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Information Document CD51/INF/4 [2011]).</p> <p>Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).</p> <p>Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs (2012).</p>
Communicable Diseases – HIV/AIDS	<p>Progress report on the PAHO Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015: Mid-term Evaluation (Information Document CSP28/INF/3(D) [2012]).</p> <p>The Strategy and Plan of Action for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis (Resolution CD50.R12 [2010]).</p> <p>Program for Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention and Control.</p>
Human Resources Matters	<p>Regional Goals for Human Resources for Health, 2007-2015 (Information Document CSP28/INF/3(G) [2012]).</p> <p>Technical program for the development of human resources for health.</p> <p>Regional Observatory of Human Resources for Health.</p>
Health Systems Strengthening	<p>Integrated Health Services Delivery Networks Framework, Concepts, Policy Options and a Road Map for Implementation in the Americas (PAHO 2010).</p> <p>Essential Public Health Functions (Resolution CD42.R14 [2000]).</p>

CARICOM XXIV Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Georgetown, Guyana, 2-3 May 2013	
Main items addressed by COHSOD	Relation to PAHO activities
A Regional Pharmaceutical Policy	<p>Access to Medicines(Resolution CD45.R7 [2004].</p> <p>Public Health, Health Research, Production and Access to Essential Medicines (Resolution CD47.R7 [2006].</p> <p>PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean.</p>
Laboratory Quality Management Systems	<p>Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (Resolution CD50/R.9 [2010].</p>
International Health Regulations (IHR)	<p>Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) WHA64.1 [2013].</p> <p>Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards (Document CSP28/17, Rev. 1 and Resolution CSP28.R15 [2012]).</p> <p>Information document on Implementation of the International Health Regulations (Information Document CD51/INF/5(D) [2011]).</p>

CARICOM XXV Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development Washington D.C., PAHO Headquarters, 28-29 September 2013	
Items addressed	Relation to PAHO activities
HIV Policy Related Matters	<p>Progress report on the PAHO Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015: Mid-term Evaluation (Information Document CSP28/INF/3(D) [2012]).</p> <p>The Strategy and Plan of Action for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis (Resolution CD50.R12 [2010]).</p> <p>Program for Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention and Control.</p>
Policy Matters with regard to the Caribbean Public Health Agency, CARPHA	<p>PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean.</p> <p>The 2012 Interagency Framework Agreement between PAHO and CARPHA.</p>

CARICOM XXV Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development Washington D.C., PAHO Headquarters, 28-29 September 2013	
Items addressed	Relation to PAHO activities
Noncommunicable diseases: Report on the implementation of the Declaration of Port of Spain and of the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly (2011)	<p>Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Document CSP28/9, Rev. 1 and Resolution CSP28.R13 [2012]); and the Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Information Document CD51/INF/4 [2011]).</p> <p>Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).</p> <p>Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs (2012).</p>
Financing Policy Options for Health Services	<p>PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean.</p> <p>Essential Public Health functions CD42/15 [2000].</p>
Human Resources Matters	<p>Regional Goals for Human Resources for Health, 2007-2015 (Information Document CSP28/INF/3(G) [2012]).</p> <p>Technical program for the development of human resources for health.</p> <p>Regional Observatory of Human Resources for Health.</p>
Round Table discussion on Childhood Obesity	<p>Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (CSP28/9, Rev. 1 and CSP28.R13 [2012]).</p> <p>Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (2006-2015)(Document CD47/17, Rev. 1 [2006].</p>
Meeting the Compliance Requirements of International Health Regulations	<p>Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards (Document CSP28/17, Rev. 1 and Resolution CSP28.R15 [2012]).</p> <p>Information document on Implementation of the International Health Regulations (Information Document CD51/INF/5(D) [2011]).</p>

c) *South America****Andean Community (CAN): Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU)***

9. Within the framework of the Andean Community, the Andean Agency of Health/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU) acts as technical secretariat for the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA).⁴ PAHO participates in these meetings as the technical advisory agency on health. The most recent REMSAA was held in Islas Galapagos (Ecuador), 26-27 March 2014. The XXXV REMSAA will be held in Bolivia. The date has not yet been confirmed.

Andean Community of Nations Andean Agency of Health/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU) XXXIV Regular Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Galápagos, Ecuador, 26-27 March 2014	
Resolutions adopted	Relation to PAHO activities
Recommendation REMSAA XXXIV: Andean Observatory for Health Systems.	Linked with the technical program for health systems and services and the development of human resources for health. Regional Observatory of Human Resources for Health.
REMSAA XXXIII/489: Basic Indicators of Andean Countries for Monitoring National Health Systems for Universal Access.	Linked with the regional health services information system of PAHO (Resolution CD50.R7 and Document CD50/11). Linked with the technical program on Health System and Services.
REMSAA XXXIII/490: Andean policy on intercultural health.	Linked with the regional program on intercultural health of PAHO. Linked with the PAHO/WHO advocacy on intercultural approach in health services to guarantee access for indigenous and afro-descendant populations.
REMSAA XXXIII/488: Access to medicine.	Linked with the Strategic Fund and with the technical program on medicines and health technologies. Regional Platform on Access and Innovation for Health Technologies (2012). Linked with Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems (Document CSP28/11 and Resolution CSP28.R9 [2012]).

⁴ Link to information on REMSAA: <http://www.orasconhu.org/remsa/resoluciones-8>.

Andean Community of Nations Andean Agency of Health/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU) XXXIV Regular Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Galápagos, Ecuador, 26-27 March 2014	
Resolutions adopted	Relation to PAHO activities
REMSAA XXXIII/491: Implementation of the Andean Disability Policy	Linked with the technical program on disability and rehabilitation.

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

10. In this area, it should be noted that meetings of Sub Working Group on Health No. 11 (SGT 11) adopt resolutions that are then submitted for the consideration of the Common Market Group (GMC). They also discuss proposed resolutions that are sent for internal consultation, and analyze resolutions that constitute recommendations in each Commission of SGT 11 (the Commission on Health Care, the Commission on Health Products, and the Commission on Health Surveillance, in addition to the resolutions on national coordination). In general, these are issues related to regulation and the harmonization of standards. PAHO participates in its capacity as the technical advisory agency on health. The latest of these meetings, the MERCOSUR Common Market Group (GMC) - XCI was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 7 June, 2013.

11. Furthermore, regular sessions of the meetings of MERCOSUR ministers of health are held at least twice a year (one under each pro tempore presidency, which rotates every six months). The XXXV Meeting of Ministers of Health of MERCOSUR was held in Caracas, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, and 22nd November, 2013. The date and venue of the next meeting have not yet been confirmed.

MERCOSUR	
MERCOSUR Common Market Group (GMC)-XCI Montevideo, Uruguay, 7 June 2013	
Agreements Approved	Relation to PAHO Resolutions/ Information Documents
Agreement 003/2013. Methodological Guide for economic evaluation studies of health technologies.	Resolution CD28.R9 (2012) Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems.
Agreement 004/2013. Minimum requirements to prepare contingency plans for international public health emergencies in entry points determined by the States according to the International Health Regulations (IHR).	Resolution CSP27.R13 (2007) International Health Security: Implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)). Resolution CD43.R13 (2001) International Health Regulations.

MERCOSUR	
MERCOSUR Common Market Group (GMC)-XCI Montevideo, Uruguay, 7 June 2013	
Agreements Approved	Relation to PAHO Resolutions/ Information Documents
	Information Document CSP28/INF/3-F (2012) Progress Report on the International Health Regulations.

XXXV Meeting of Ministers of Health of MERCOSUR Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 22 November 2013	
Agenda Items Addressed	Relation to PAHO Resolutions/ Information Documents
Evaluation of health technologies using a public health approach.	Resolution CSP28.R9 (2012) Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems.
Progress achieved in MERCOSUR Pharmaceuticals to obtain good quality medicines to become self-reliant in medicines manufacturing.	Resolution CD45.R7 (2004) Access to Medicines. Resolution CD50.R9 (2010) Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals.
Epidemiological situation of the Region's priority diseases namely, dengue, measles, influenza, Tuberculosis and malaria.	Resolution CSP27.R2 (2007) Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas. Resolution CD46.R12 (2005) Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015. Resolution CD51.R9 (2011) Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria Control (for 2012-2015). Resolution CD44.R8 (2003) Influenza Pandemic: Preparation in the Hemisphere.
Binational border health actions and sharing of experiences in prevention and control to be intensified, in view of the upcoming Football World Cup 2014 particularly in epidemiological surveillance of measles, TB and malaria.	Resolution CSP27.R2 (2007) Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas. Resolution CD46.R12 (2005) Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015.

XXXV Meeting of Ministers of Health of MERCOSUR Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 22 November 2013	
Agenda Items Addressed	Relation to PAHO Resolutions/ Information Documents
	Resolution CD51.R9 (2011) Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria Control (for 2012-2015).
MERCOSUR Health Systems Observatory health systems profiles. Uruguay and Brazil profiles presented.	Resolution CD49.R22 (2009) Integrated Health Services Delivery Networks Based on Primary Health Care.
Brazil's <i>Mais Medicos</i> program was presented and discussed.	<i>Termo de Cooperação - 80</i> Increasing access for Brazilian Population to Primary Care Health Care.
Estrategia Regional de Defectos Congénitos y Discapacidad en el MERCOSUR.	Linked with the resolutions on Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]) and on Health, Human Security, and Well-being (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)⁵

12. Within the framework of the new Strategic Agenda 2012-2020, PAHO/WHO is engaged in technical cooperation activities with the Health Coordination Office of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat. This technical cooperation was formalized with the signing of a Framework Agreement between the two organizations during the 51st Directing Council of PAHO (2011).

Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)⁶

13. The South American Health Council (CSS) of UNASUR has a Coordinating Committee, a Technical Secretariat, and several technical groups. The Technical Secretariat, which is comprised of the President *pro tempore* and representatives of two countries (the preceding and following *pro tempore* presidents) convenes and supports the meetings of the Council. PAHO participates in the Coordinating Committee as an observer. Suriname currently holds the *pro tempore* presidency; Uruguay will be the next *pro tempore* president, from August 2014.

⁵ Link to information on ACTO: <http://www.otca.info/portal/>.

⁶ Link to information on the South American Health Council: www.unasursg.org.

UNASUR	
Special Meeting of the South American Health Coordinating Committee on the occasion of the 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) Geneva, Switzerland, 19-28 May 2013	
Agenda Items Addressed	Relation to PAHO Resolutions/ Information Documents
<p>UNASUR members agreed to present a unified position on the following WHA agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic Budget 2014-2015 NCDs and Disabilities. • Health promotion during the life cycle. • Monitoring of the health related MDGs. • Inclusion of health in the Post 2015 MDGs. 	<p>Resolution CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.</p> <p>Resolution CD47.R9 (2006) Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet and Physical Activity.</p> <p>Information document CD52/INF/4-C (2013) MDGs and Health Targets in the Region of the Americas.</p> <p>Document CD52/12 (2013) Panel Discussion: Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Panel on Progress and Challenges.</p> <p>Resolution CD47.R1 (2006) Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Context of the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and Other Related Rights.</p> <p>Resolutions CD43.R11 (2001) and CD47.R20 (2006) Health Promotion in the Americas; and Health Promotion: Achievements and Aspirations Contained in the Ottawa and Bangkok Charters.</p>

UNASUR	
VIII Meeting of the South American Health Council Lima, Peru, 4-5 September 2013	
Items addressed by the CSS	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Plan for the risk and disaster management network.</p>	<p>Linked with the program on emergency preparedness and disaster relief.</p> <p>Linked with the Coordination of International Humanitarian Assistance in Health in Case of Disasters (Document CSP28/13 and Resolution CSP28.R19 [2012]).</p>

UNASUR VIII Meeting of the South American Health Council Lima, Peru, 4-5 September 2013	
Items addressed by the CSS	Relation to PAHO activities
South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS) Annual Operating Plan 2013.	Linked with the subregional technical cooperation program for South America.
Medicines: price database and study of production capacity in South America	Linked with the initiative for Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals, (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]). Linked with the progress report on the Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property. (Information Document CD51/INF/5(B) [2011]).
Support proposal on the relationship with third parties in the field of the financing	Linked with external relations and resource mobilization area.
Proposed Declaration: South American Day of voluntary, free, and altruistic donation of breast milk.	Linked with the technical program on maternal and child nutrition. Linked with the Pan American Alliance on Nutrition and Development for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
Comprehensive care for disabilities	Linked with the technical program on disability and rehabilitation.

Action by the Directing Council

14. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report.
