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RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO PAHO

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* Original Spanish: A. Original English: B

A. 67th 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. He 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. She 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. She 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/e/e_wha67.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.¹

¹ A more exhaustive analysis of the implications of the WHO Resolutions for the Region will be presented

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 Executive Committee

20. The Executive Committee 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. Technical and Health Policy Matters

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region² 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 and eliminating TB at the national and subnational levels, and in migrant populations. All these initiatives incorporate most of the components of pillars I and II of the proposed 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: (a) introduction of webcasting of WHO governing body meetings; (b) rental of an electronic voting system for the appointment of the Director-General; (c) the amendment regarding the submission of draft resolutions during WHO governing body sessions; and (d) 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	The PASB will study the WHO Financial Report and will report to the 53rd Directing Council on the implications for the Region.
WHA67.5 Status of collection	A67/44 Status of collection	CE154/21 Report on the Collection	According to the resolution adopted by the Assembly, the following Member

² 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 ² Progress in the Region
of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	of Assessed Contributions	<p>States of the Region currently do not have the right to vote: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. 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.
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 CD50.R8 Health and Human Rights CD50/12 Health and Human Rights CD51.R14 Plan of Action to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol CD47.R1 Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the	The PAHO Executive Committee will review 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.

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
		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 PAHO Executive Committee.
WHA67.9 Psoriasis	A67/18 Psoriasis		The PASB will study the resolution and will report to the 53rd Directing Council on the implications for the Region.
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 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	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. 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 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.

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>CSP28.R15 Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>WHA67.12 Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity</p>	<p>A67/25 Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity</p>	<p>CE154/17 Plan of Action on Health in All Policies</p> <p>CD50.R13 National Institutions Associated with PAHO in Technical Cooperation</p>	<p>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 consultation served to introduce the HiAP Conceptual Framework to key stakeholders in preparation for the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion (Helsinki, June 2013). The goal of the Regional Consultation was to formulate a regional position on HiAP. The outcomes of this consultation were later incorporated into the WHO HiAP Framework for Country Action and into the final Conference Statement.</p> <p>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 Executive Committee.</p>
<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>The PASB will submit a progress report to the Executive Committee 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</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
		CD52/10 Implementation of the International Health Regulations CD52/FR Final Report <i>CD52(D5)</i> Implementation of the International Health Regulations	certain issues that merit joint action by the Member States of the Region for future implementation of the Regulations.
WHA67.14 Health in the post-2015 development agenda	A67/20 Monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals A67/19 Monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals	CE154/INF/3 Status of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda 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/mdgpost2015/ CD52/INF/4 Progress Reports on Technical Matters: C. Millennium Development Goals and Health Targets in the Region of the Americas	The PASB will present the Executive Committee with a progress report on the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals in the Region of the Americas. The main lines of debate on the post-2015 development agenda will be addressed on the basis of the global commitments established on the United Nations agenda.
WHA67.15 Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children	A67/22 Addressing the global challenge of violence in particular against women and girls	CD48.R11 Preventing Violence and Injuries and Promoting Safety: a Call for Action in the Region CD44.R13 Impact of Violence on the Health of the Populations in the Americas	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).

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
		CD50.R16 Health, Human Security and Well-being	<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 sponsored the WHO resolution belong to this Region (Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the United States).</p>
WHA67.18 Traditional medicine	A67/26 Traditional medicine	CD47.R18 Health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas	<p>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.</p>
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 Executive Committee will study the PASB's 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	<p>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.</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
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	Strengthening the national regulatory authorities for medicines and biologicals is more essential than ever in order to guarantee the quality, safety, and efficacy of the products described in this resolution.
WHA67.22 Access to essential medicines	A67/30 Access to essential medicines	CD45.R7 Access to Medicines	PAHO has been collaborating with the countries in building capacity not only for strengthening health systems and services but specifically for medicines selection and health technologies assessment, the development and use of standard treatment guidelines, the implementation of drug procurement and supply strategies (Strategic Fund) as well as the access to and exchange of key information and experiences on medicines and other health technologies. All this is within the framework of several resolutions on the Access to Medicines, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights, Health Technology Assessment, and Strengthening of Regulatory Authorities.
WHA67.23 Health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage	A67/33 Health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage	CE154/12 Strategy for Universal Health Coverage CE152/12, Rev. 1 Social Protection in Health CSP28.R9 Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems	<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.</p>

Resolution	Items and Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region ² Progress in the Region
<p>WHA67.24 Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage</p>	<p>A67/34 Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage</p>	<p>CD52.R13 Human Resources for Health: Increasing Access to Qualified Health Workers in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems</p> <p>CD52/6 Human Resources for Health</p>	<p>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 and to make universal access to trained health workers a reality for all citizens of the Hemisphere.</p>
<p>WHA67.25 Antimicrobial resistance</p>	<p>A67/39 Antimicrobial drug resistance A67/39 Add.1 Draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance</p>	<p>Document CD51/15, Rev. 1 and Document CD51, 15, Rev. 1, Add. I Roundtable on Antimicrobial Resistance</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Member States should consider the relevance of adopting a regional resolution on this issue.</p>

B. 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 Entities³ and Related to PAHO Activities

a) *Central American Integration System (SICA)*

*Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA)*⁴

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 accordingly, in Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013.

Central American Integration System 39th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Approval of the indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Regional Health Plan for Central America. Commitment for using the results of the evaluation of current plan to prepare the health plan for Central America 2016-2020.</p> <p>Approval of the 2014-2017 work plan of the Executive Secretary of COMISCA, SE-COMISCA.</p> <p>Request, SE-COMISCA to begin with development of a SICA health Policy to be presented during the June 2014 COMISCA meeting.</p>	<p>The 2010-2015 Regional Health Plan for Central America has the Central America Health Agenda as its main framework and is fully aligned with PAHO's Strategic Plan 2008-2013.</p> <p>PAHO's 2014-2015 Subregional Technical Cooperation BWP for Central America includes programmatic components supporting SE-COMISCA's work plan.</p>

³ The meetings considered are those held within the framework of subregional bodies related to health between May 2013 and April 2014.

⁴ Link to information on COMISCA: <http://www.sica.int/comisca/>.

Central American Integration System 39th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Approval of an annual quota of \$45,000 per country, including \$22,000 approved during the 38th COMISCA meeting to cover cost of medicine negotiations.</p> <p>Approval of the use of financial reserves to cover the cost of SE-COMISCA core structure and functioning, adjusting the 2014 annual work plan.</p> <p>Commitment for covering the costs of Technical Commissions with funding from the countries to alleviate the costs of SE-COMISCA.</p> <p>Directions to SE-COMISCA for preparing, in coordination with PAHO, a model for the complementary work between COMISCA and the Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America (RESSCAD) and present the updated model during the next COMISCA meeting in June 2014.</p>	
<p>Continue supporting all activities that promote and support gender equity and equality in health, particularly those that emanate from the SICA Policy on Gender Equity and Equality.</p> <p>Welcome the 2014-2018 Central American Health Promotion Plan and the Plan for Gender Cross-cutting and directions for SE-COMISCA to implement both plans.</p>	<p>2009-2013 Plan of Action for Implementing the Gender Equality Policy. Resolution CD49.R12 (2009).</p>
<p>Approve and adopt the Central American guidelines for Primary Health Care as defined in COMISCA's High Level Forum and request SE-COMISCA to initiate the implementation of the guidelines.</p>	<p>Linked with the team in the Office of Country and Subregional Coordination (CSC) that oversees and monitors the subregional technical cooperation program in Central America.</p>
<p>Instruct SE-COMISCA to develop, jointly with the Non-Communicable Diseases Technical Commission, the Mental Health Subregional Plan to include Alzheimer's and other related dementias, suicide, and addictions. The plan must be presented in the 40th COMISCA meeting.</p> <p>Support the Declaration against Obesity and instruct SE-COMISCA to negotiate, using a multisectoral approach, its implementation with other SICA institutions, academia, the private</p>	<p>Related to the Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (2012-2025 (CSP28/9 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 Control of Non-communicable Diseases</p>

Central American Integration System 39th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
sector, and international agencies. Instruct SE-COMISCA to prepare, jointly with the Non-Communicable Diseases Technical Commission and with the technical support of INCAP, a strategy for child and adolescent obesity prevention in Central America.	(Information Document CD51/INF/4 [2011]). 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]).
Convene El Salvador and the Dominican Republic to take the necessary actions within WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its protocol for the elimination of illegal trade within the influence of the SICA integration system.	Supports and is fully aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO, 2003). Strengthening the capacity of Member States to implement the provisions and guidelines of the WHO FCTC. Resolution CD50. R6 (2010).
Accept the commitment for the implementation of the regional guidelines for the prevention and control of cholera. Adopt the recommendations presented by and instruct SE-COMISCA to establish a regional committee that includes other SICA institutions and with technical support of PAHO and CDC for the prevention and control of cholera.	PAHO was instrumental in developing the Initiative for Elimination of Cholera from the Island of Hispaniola and, as Secretariat of RESSCAD, promoted a recommendation to include the countries of Central America as members of the Initiative.
Instruct SE-COMISCA and related Technical Commission to prepare, with the support of specialized and international agencies, a regional analysis on the situation of organ donation and transplantation to be presented in the next COMISCA meeting.	Provides an opportunity to advance PAHO's Policy Framework for Human Organ. Donation and Transplantation (CD49.R18 [2009]).
Authorize the participation of the coordinator of the malaria or the vector program and follow-up on the commitments to the Initiative for Elimination of Malaria in Mesoamerica and Hispaniola.	PAHO supported countries in the preparation of the Initiative for Elimination of Malaria from Mesoamerica and Hispaniola. This initiative is aligned with the 2012-2015 Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria (Resolution CD51.R9 (2011)).
Reiterate the commitment to the objectives of the strategy for the sustainable and integral response to HIV and instruct the Regional Coordination Mechanism (MCR) to monitor, in coordination with SE-COMISCA, the implementation of short-, medium- and long- term actions for the public funding of HIV treatment.	Aligned to PAHO Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015. Resolution CD 46.R15 (2005).

Central American Integration System 39th Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic Panama City, Panama, 5-6 December 2013	
Items approved by COMISCA	Relation to PAHO activities
<p>Request PAHO/WHO and other international agencies continue the support to SE-COMISCA and the MCR on Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV, strengthening the Initiatives HIV 2.0 and HIV 2015, and generating the information needed for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Sustainable and Integral Response to HIV.</p> <p>Renew COMISCA political support to REDCA+ for an effective regional response, from the perspective of persons with HIV, and request HIV national programs to support REDCA+ in the preparation of the next grant proposal to the Global Fund.</p> <p>Support the project "Strengthening Quality Control Systems".</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)⁵

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.
United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda	CD52/12 (2013) Health in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

⁵ 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
Noncommunicable Diseases	<p>Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (CSP28/9 and 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 (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 (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 CD42.R14 [2000].</p>
A Regional Pharmaceutical Policy	<p>Access to Medicines CD45.R7 [2004].</p> <p>Public Health, Health Research, Production and Access to Essential Medicines CD47.R7 [2006].</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
	PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean.
Laboratory Quality Management Systems	Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals CD50/R.9 [2010].
International Health Regulations (IHR)	Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) WHA64.1 [2013]. Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards (CSP28/17 and Resolution CSP28.R15 [2012]). Information document on Implementation of the International Health Regulations (CD51/INF/5(D) [2011]).

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	Progress report on the PAHO Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015: Mid-term Evaluation (CSP28/INF/3(D) [2012]). The Strategy and Plan of Action for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis (Resolution CD50.R12 [2010]). Program for Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention and Control.
Policy Matters with regard to the Caribbean Public Health Agency, CARPHA	PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean. The 2012 Interagency Framework Agreement between PAHO and CARPHA.
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)	Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (CSP28/9 and 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

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
	(Information Document CD51/INF/4 [2011]). 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]). Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs (2012).
Financing Policy Options for Health Services	PAHO's subregional program of work with the Caribbean. Essential Public Health functions CD42.R14 [2000].
Human Resources Matters	Regional Goals for Human Resources for Health, 2007-2015 (CSP28/INF/3(G) [2012]). Technical program for the development of human resources for health. Regional Observatory of Human Resources for Health.
Round Table discussion on Childhood Obesity	Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (CSP28/9 and CSP28.R13 [2012]). Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (2006-2015) CD47/17 [2006].
Meeting the Compliance Requirements of International Health Regulations	Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards (CSP28/17 and Resolution CSP28.R15 [2012]). Information document on Implementation of the International Health Regulations (CD51/INF/5(D) [2011]).

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).⁶ 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 (CD50.R7 and 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 (CSP28/11 and CSP28.R9 [2012]).
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

⁶ Link to information on REMSAA: <http://www.orasconhu.org/remsa/resoluciones-8>.

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, Republica 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.	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).	CSP27.R13 (2007) International Health Security: Implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)). CD43.R13 (2001) International Health Regulations. 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.	CSP28.R9 (2012) Health Technology Assessment and Incorporation into Health Systems.

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
Progress achieved in MERCOSUR Pharmaceuticals to obtain good quality medicines to become self-reliant in medicines manufacturing.	CD45.R7 (2004) Access to Medicines. 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.	CSP27.R2 (2007) Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas. CD46.R12 (2005) Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015. CD51.R9 (2011) Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria Control (for 2012-2015). 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.	CSP27.R2 (2007) Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas. CD46.R12 (2005) Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015.
	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.	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 (CD50.R8 [2010]) and on Health, Human Security, and Well-being (CD50.R16 [2010]).

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)⁷

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)⁸

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.

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>CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.</p> <p>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>CD52/INF/4-C (2013) MDGs and Health Targets in the Region of the Americas.</p> <p>CD52/12 (2013) Panel Discussion: Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Panel on Progress and Challenges.</p> <p>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>

⁷ Link to information on ACTO: <http://www.otca.info/portal/>.

⁸ 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
	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.

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

14. The Executive Committee is invited to take note of this report.