



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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HEALTH IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: REPORT ON THE PANEL PREPARATIONS

Background

1. The consultation process on the post-2015 development agenda began in late 2011, coordinated by the United Nations. Since then, parallel consultation processes have been carried out at the global, regional, and national level, as detailed below.
2. The first type of consultation is the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons who have been selected by the United Nations Secretary-General, which took up its duties in August 2012. Five people from the Region of the Americas were selected: Ambassador María Ángela Holguín, Foreign Minister of Colombia; Dr. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of Environment of Brazil since 2010; Ambassador Patricia Espinosa, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Dr. Gisela Alonso, President of the Cuban Agency of Environment since 1999; and Mr. John Podesta, Chair of the Center for American Progress and a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center.
3. The second type is the national and subnational consultations, under the responsibility of the United Nations Development Program¹ (UNDP) and organized by UNDP resident coordinators in 50 countries. To date, 11 countries in the Region have been selected to carry out these consultations: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Peru, and Saint Lucia.

¹ UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; WFP: World Food Program; UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization; DESA: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; UNDP: United Nations Development Program; OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; ILO: International Labor Organization; UNEP: United Nations Environment Program; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; IOM: International Organization for Migration.

4. The third type is the thematic consultations, under the responsibility of United Nations agencies (*I*), with support from one or two countries. The thematic consultations are on: *inequalities* (UNICEF and UN-Women; Denmark and Ghana), *health* (WHO and UNICEF; Sweden and Botswana), *hunger, food, and nutrition security* (FAO and WFP; Spain), *energy* (UN-Energy, UNIDO, DESA, World Bank, and UNDP; Norway and Mexico), *governance* (UNDP and OHCHR; Germany), *education* (UNESCO and UNICEF; Canada), *conflict and fragility* (UNDP, UNICEF, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; Finland), *water* (UN-Water, UNICEF, and the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation; Netherlands and Switzerland), *growth and employment* (ILO and UNDP; Japan), *environmental sustainability* (UNDP and UNEP; France and Costa Rica), and *population dynamics* (DESA, UNFPA, UNEP, UN-Habitat, and IOM; Switzerland).

5. Several consultations on health have been held: one at the global level organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, and two at the regional level with ministry of health representatives, with mayors and local indigenous and Afro-descendent leaders, and with civil society organization representatives.

Consultations on Health Results

6. The discussions on health in the post-2015 development agenda were in agreement on the following points:

- (a) Health is at the center of sustainable development; it not only contributes to development, but is a key indicator of inclusive, equitable, people-centered, and human-rights based development. The Post-2015 Development Agenda needs a rigorous framework for sustainable development that is clear in how it differs from existing development models to define the role of health and intersectoral action that supports “health in all policies.”
- (b) It will be necessary to redouble efforts to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are met in all countries; however, they need to be redrawn and analyzed in terms of sub-national achievements and shortcomings to reduce inequities and provide relevant and synergistic responses to the most vulnerable groups and not only from a poverty-reduction perspective.
- (c) Other health priorities will be added to the Millennium Development Goals that reflect, globally and regionally, a heavy burden of disease, such as non-communicable diseases, and risk factors including mental health.
- (d) A core goal to include is universal health coverage, as a operational target, understood as access to health for all with quality that addresses people’s needs in a human rights framework and in response to social determinants. It must include access to all key interventions (promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation,

- among other.) as well as social protection in health for all. This goal requires strong, equitable national health systems that can deliver quality services.
- (e) The overall vision of the Post-2015 Development Agenda must be centered on “well-being” and “living well” for all and include as an overarching goal: Maximizing healthy lives at all stages of life.
7. For this reason, the Pan American Health Organization aims to carry out this panel with key social actors to hear their experiences and points of view.

Overall Objective of the Discussion

8. The overall objective of this panel discussion is to explain the post-2015 development agenda consultation processes to the Region’s ministers of health, following up on commitments made in the United Nations in the year 2000 by 189 Heads of State and of Government from around the world. WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) have established a clear commitment to the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015 (MDGs) and are reaffirming this commitment in the consultation process that will culminate with the goals that will be established for the post-2015 period.

Specific Objectives of the Discussion

9. This panel discussion will have the following specific objectives:
- (a) Present the results of the global thematic consultation on health and its regional level implications.
 - (b) Convey the perspective of the eminent persons from the Region and the results of the regional consultation process carried out by the government of Colombia and United Nations agencies in the Region.
 - (c) Convey the reflections and results from the consultation carried out by PAHO with mayors and civil society organizations, documented in a position paper sent to WHO as input for the Botswana meeting.
 - (d) Analyze the role of PAHO/WHO in support to Member States in national and thematic consultation processes and how the commitments expressed in these consultations are included in the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.
 - (e) Put the issue on the political agenda of the Member States of the Organization and reinforce the need for strengthening national and subnational consultations on health in the post-2015 development agenda.

Proposed Discussion Themes

10. The following presenters and themes are proposed:
 - (a) The office of the WHO Director-General: explain the results of the global thematic consultation on health held in Botswana, as well as the principal points in the document that will be submitted to the United Nations as a result of the consultations.
 - (b) The Foreign Ministry of Colombia: present the results of the Regional Consultation on Sustainable Development in following up on the post-2015 development agenda, held 7-9 March 2013, and its implications for the health and development agenda.
 - (c) It is proposed that the Director of the Integral Health Coordination Program (PROCOSI): present the results of the different consultations. PROCOSI is the Bolivian nongovernmental organization that was selected by WHO to carry out a national consultation and that participated in the regional consultation organized by PAHO in Antigua, Guatemala, on 12-24 February 2013.
 - (d) The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB): describe PAHO/WHO support to the countries of the Region in three parallel processes: *(i)* continue to strengthen technical cooperation aimed at countries at risk of not meeting some targets or indicators for attaining the MDGs; *(ii)* strengthen consultation processes in the Region on health in the post-2015 agenda, taking into account the results of the Botswana meeting, to ensure that not only universal health services coverage is strengthened, but that social determinants are also addressed; and *(iii)* promote the topic of health in regional intersectoral discussions on sustainable development, as stated at the regional meeting in Bogotá (Colombia). The Director will give guidelines for supporting Member States in light of the new challenges posed in the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.
 - (e) The President of the Directing Council will open the dialogue with the Ministers.

Participants and Guests

11. The following will attend the panel discussion:
 - Ministers of health and other representatives of the Member States.
 - Directors or representatives of United Nations agencies and development banks.
 - Members of the different diplomatic corps.
 - Ambassadors to the Organization of American States.
 - Groups of nongovernmental organizations and grassroots organizations.

12. The following official documents establish PAHO/WHO's commitment to support Member States in attaining the MDGs.

- (a) Since 2004, PAHO has expressed a strong commitment to the MDGs and health targets (document [CD45/8](#)), reflected in the resolution adopted by the 45th Directing Council (resolution [CD45.R3](#)), as well as in the progress report submitted in 2011 (document [CE148/INF/5](#)).
- (b) In the same line, the World Health Assembly has carried out periodic reviews of the MDGs (documents [A63/7](#) of 2010 and [A65/14](#) and [A65/15](#) of 2012) and expressed its commitment in resolution [WHA63.15](#) (2010).
- (c) The report "Monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals: Health in the post-2015 development agenda (Report by the Secretariat)" (document EB132/12) presented to the 132nd session of the WHO Executive Board (January 2012).
- (d) The report "Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015," 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly (document [A/66/126](#), 11 July 2011).
- (e) [WHO/World Bank Ministerial-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) (several documents).
- (f) [WHO fact sheet on the Millennium Development Goals](#).

13. For the purpose of supporting the ministries of health and the PAHO country offices during these parallel and diverse consultation processes, PAHO has prepared a set of tools that includes the regional responsibilities in this consultation and contains relevant documents to support results and reflect agreements. These tools are available at: <http://new.paho.org/mdgpost2015/>.

Action by the Executive Committee

14. The Executive Committee is invited to take note of this report and make recommendations that it considers relevant.