



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



142nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 23-27 June 2008

Provisional Agenda Item 7.2

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21 May 2008
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

15th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE (RIMSA): PRELIMINARY REPORT

1. Pursuant to Resolution CD17.R19 of the Directing Council, the Director of PASB convened the 15th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 15). At the invitation of the Government of Brazil, the meeting will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 11 to 12 June 2008, and, for the first time, will be organized jointly by PAHO/WHO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
2. Held since 1968, RIMSA brings together the Ministers of both Health and Agriculture of the Member States of PAHO/WHO. It is the highest political forum for the discussion of needs and strategies in veterinary public health.
3. RIMSA 15 will be taking place at a unique point in time: the countries of the Region have drafted a Health Agenda for the Americas linked to the Millennium Development Goals, while emphasizing the priority of improving agriculture and rural life, confirmed in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of 2007 and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas promoting the second stage of the AGRO Plan 2003-2015.
4. Furthermore, the confluence of global and regional challenges to public health and the improvement of agriculture and rural life has created an unprecedented scenario that poses obstacles to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. This will be analyzed in the following panel discussions of RIMSA 15:

- a) *Growth of the agricultural sector*: its role and potential for guaranteeing economic growth and the food supply; its impact in terms of the environment and climate change, and the agreements and policies implemented or recommended to mitigate the consequences for people's health and living conditions and for agriculture.
- b) *Lifelong nutrition and food safety*: priority action to ease the burden on vulnerable groups; agriculture, nutrition, and health; local policies and interventions that promote food production, income generation, and access to food; initiative to eliminate trans fats and prevent nutritional deficiency disorders.
- c) *Health trends associated with rural development*: health promotion, primary care, human rights, social protection, gender equity and indigenous health; agricultural sector and ecotourism; health challenges in vulnerable rural groups and potential strategies to address the multiple causality of poverty and the social and environmental determinants of health in these groups; the growing incidence of certain communicable diseases and international coordination, including border activities, that should be strengthened.

5. The objective of RIMSA 15 is to examine the determinants of health and development in the shared domain of the ministries of health and of agriculture. The central theme of the meeting will be: "Agriculture and Health: Alliance for Equity and Rural Development in the Americas."

6. RIMSA 15 will consider the follow-up reports on the actions of RIMSA 14, the report on mandates from the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life, and the results of the technical forums for regional coordination of surveillance, eradication, and control of the principal zoonoses, the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and food safety. In particular, it will examine the conclusions of the XII Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Control Programs of Latin America, held in Brasilia from 11 to 12 October 2007; the 11th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease, and the 5th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety, which will be held at the same location as RIMSA 15, on 9 and 10 June, respectively.

7. As on previous occasions, it is anticipated that the President of the host country, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, will be present, and that the chairman of the last RIMSA, the Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, will give the opening address.

8. Once the meeting is inaugurated, the agenda items will be discussed openly in the Agro-Health Forum, which will take up the entire first day of the meeting and the morning of the second day. In the afternoon of the second day, the Conclave of Ministers will consider the conclusions of the Agro-Health Forum, formulate recommendations to the Governing Bodies of PAHO/WHO and IICA, and prepare the closing declaration of the meeting.

Action by the Executive Committee

- Approve the Declaration of RIMSA 15.
- Urge the Member States to forge or strengthen partnerships and policies to address health determinants identified by RIMSA 15 in the area shared by the health and agriculture sectors.
- Request the Director to submit the Declaration of RIMSA 15 to the Secretary-General of the OAS for consideration in the agenda of the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

Annex

15th. INTER-AMERICAN MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE

Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 11-12 June 2008

“Agriculture and Health: Alliance for Equity and Rural Development in the Americas”

RIMSA15/1, Rev. 2 (Sp.)
19 March 2008
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

JUNE 11

1. **Opening Session**
2. **Inaugural lecture:**
Development of agrofood chains: socioeconomic and environmental challenges and windows of opportunity for equitable development and health
3. Election of authorities
4. Report of the COHEFA 11 and COPAIA 5 meetings
5. Report of the IICA on the mandates of the Ministerial Meetings on “Agriculture and Rural Life”
6. Report of the Director of PAHO/WHO

A) AGROHEALTH FORUM

7. **Panel 1: Facing New Challenges: *Climate Change, Agroenergy, Food Security, and Economic Growth***
 - 7.1. Climate change: *Impact on the environment, agriculture and health.*
 - 7.2. Biofuels, Food, and the Environment: *Seeking harmony*
 - 7.3. Five years of economic growth in the Americas: *Contribution of the agricultural and livestock sector to the Millennium Development Goals.*
8. **Panel 2: Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health: *how to meet the new challenges***
 - 8.1. Agriculture, nutrition and health
 - 8.2. Food safety: *Current situation and new paradigms*
 - 8.3. The Americas free of Trans Fats

JUNE 12

9. Panel 3: Rural Development and Health: *Targeting efforts for social inclusion*

- 9.1. Health in rural areas. Faces, Voices, and Places: *Windows of opportunities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*
- 9.2. Equitable health care: *Neglected diseases in neglected populations*
- 9.3. Agrotourism, Ecotourism, and Health: *Opportunities for rural development and sanitary challenges*
- 9.4. Re-emerging diseases: *How to minimize risks*

B) CAUCUS OF MINISTERS

- 10.** Panel conclusions and recommendations to PAHO/WHO and IICA Directing Bodies
- 11.** Declaration and closure of the Meeting