



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



# **139th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September 2006*

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**FINAL REPORT**

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## FINAL REPORT

### Opening of the Session

1. The 139th Session of the Executive Committee was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C., on 29 September 2006. The session was attended by representatives of the following eight Members of the Executive Committee elected by the Directing Council: Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Chile, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The ninth Member, Cuba, was unable to attend. Present in an observer capacity were representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.
2. Dr. Carlos Vizzotti (Argentina, outgoing President of the Executive Committee) opened the session and welcomed the participants, extending a special welcome to the new Members elected by the recently concluded 47th Directing Council: Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay.

### Procedural Matters

#### *Officers*

3. Pursuant to Rule 15 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected the following Member States to serve as officers for its 139th and 140th sessions (Decision CE139 [D1]):

<i>President:</i>	Venezuela	(Dr. Carlos Alvarado)
<i>Vice President:</i>	Antigua and Barbuda	(Hon. H. John Maginley)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	United States of America	(Ms. Chuya H. Lane)

4. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), served as Secretary ex officio, and Dr. Joxel García, Deputy Director of PASB, served as Technical Secretary.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda (Document CE139/1)*

5. Pursuant to Rule 9 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Director (Decision CE139[D2]).

## **Committee Matters**

### ***Election of Four Members to the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration***

6. The Committee elected Canada, Chile, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago to serve on the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (Decision CE139[D3]).

## **Governing Body Matters**

### ***Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO: Relationship of Intergovernmental Bodies with the PAHO Governing Bodies (CE139/3)***

7. The Director recalled that the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO, believing that it would be useful to clarify the relationships between certain regional intergovernmental meetings and the Governing Bodies of PAHO, had asked the Secretariat to prepare a document on the subject. Document CE139/3 dealt chiefly with two intersectoral forums whose resolutions and recommendations had been considered in the past by the PAHO Governing Bodies: the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA) and the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, although the procedures for adoption of the decisions of such forums might also apply to other intergovernmental meetings planned for the future on topics such as the Millennium Development Goals and social determinants of health.

8. The Executive Committee was invited to consider whether the Governing Bodies of PAHO could fully or partially adopt the declarations, decisions, recommendations, conclusions, and resolutions of such regional intersectoral forums, subject to their own review and assessment.

9. The Delegate of Canada (Chair of the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO) clarified that the Working Group had been concerned with avoiding any confusion stemming from the adoption of resolutions or decisions by PAHO Member States in other bodies. The Working Group had considered that such measures should be formally submitted to the Governing Bodies for consideration, which would ensure that any confusion or contradiction could be cleared up during the discussion. Member States could then, if they so desired, adopt them as official decisions or resolutions of the PAHO Governing Bodies.

10. The Executive Committee agreed that it was appropriate for the PAHO Governing Bodies, subject to their own review and assessment, to adopt decisions and resolutions made on health-related issues in other forums.

***Mechanisms for Conducting the Forum of Candidates for the Post of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Document CE139/4)***

11. The President drew the Committee's attention to Document CE139/4 and opened the floor for discussion.

12. The Delegate of Canada (Chair of the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO) noted that this topic had been discussed at length by the Working Group and that Document CE139/4 accurately reflected the tenor of those discussions. He further noted that the Working Group had agreed that the Executive Committee should be entrusted with responsibility for working out certain specific details regarding the Candidates' Forum, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the document before the Committee.

13. Other Members of the Committee concurred with the view that Document CE139/4 accurately reflected the recommendations of the Working Group concerning the Candidates' Forum.

14. The Director suggested that, in keeping with another recommendation by the Working Group, the Secretariat should draw up a proposal concerning details of the format and logistics for the forum, to be discussed during the March 2007 session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration, with particular attention to the arrangements for long-distance participation in order to ensure that countries were not hindered from taking part owing to financial constraints. The proposal could then go forward for discussion and approval by the Executive Committee at its 140th Session in June 2007.

15. The Executive Committee agreed with the Director's suggestion and endorsed the proposal presented in Document CE139/4.

***Dates and Proposed Topics for the First Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration***

16. The Director proposed that the First Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (SPBA) be held from 26 to 28 March 2007. She also proposed the following substantive items for discussion by the SPBA:

- International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)
- Master Capital Investment Plan for PAHO
- PASB Strategic Plan, 2008-2012
- Proposed Program Budget, 2008-2009
- Strengthening of relationships between PAHO and nongovernmental organizations
- NGOs in official relations with PAHO

17. In addition to the aforementioned proposal on the forum of candidates for the post of Director of PASB, the Director suggested that the Subcommittee might also wish to consider the following information items:

- Update on the process for the appointment of the External Auditor
- Progress report on the Health Agenda for the Americas
- Regional discussion of the proposed WHO Program Budget for 2008-2009
- Update on influenza pandemic preparedness

18. The Executive Committee agreed with the proposed list of substantive items, but suggested that the agenda should be left open for a month, during which Member States might wish to propose additional items for discussion. Regarding the information items, it was pointed out that the SPBA had been created to deal exclusively with programmatic, budgetary, and administrative issues, leaving the Executive Committee and then the Directing Council to consider substantive health issues. Accordingly, it was felt that pandemic influenza preparedness should not be included on the Subcommittee's agenda, unless there was some programmatic, planning, or budgetary aspect of the topic that needed to be considered.

19. A question was raised as to whether an additional report from the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO might be needed. Both the Chair of the Working Group and the Director, while recognizing that additional working groups might need to be created to address other governance issues in the future, expressed the view that the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO had completed its mandate.

20. The Executive Committee decided that the First Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration would be held from 26 to 28 March 2007 and agreed that the Secretariat would draw up the agenda after a period of 30 days, taking into account any input received from Members of the Committee on the items suggested

by the Director and any additional items that might be proposed by Member States during that period (Decision CE139[D4]).

***Dates and Proposed Topics for the 140th Session of the Executive Committee***

21. The Director proposed that the 140th Session of the Committee be held from 25 to 29 June 2007. The Secretariat had prepared the following list of possible agenda items for consideration by the Governing Bodies in 2007, not all of which necessarily had to be examined by both the Executive Committee and the Pan American Sanitary Conference:

- Progress report on addressing poverty and exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: Prevention, control, and elimination of the diseases of poverty and the PAHO/WHO Regional Strategic Plan Framework for Neglected Diseases, 2006-2015
- Progress report: Malaria in the Americas and World Malaria Day
- Implementation of the integrated dengue prevention and control strategy (Resolution CD44.R9)
- Update on the process of harmonizing the WHO Eleventh General Program of Work with the PASB Strategic Plan, 2008-2012
- Introduction of new models or projects for interdisciplinary work, such as Integrated Vector Management (IVM)
- Strengthening of vital and health statistics
- Productive communities and community participation as factors contributing to food security and local development
- Progress in the elimination of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in the Americas
- Regional strategic plan on health in the context of the maternal-neonatal-child health continuum, pursuant to recommendations of the 47th Directing Council
- Roll-out of the Regional HIV/STI Plan for the Health Sector
- Regional strategy on health financing and social protection
- Strengthening of capacities for the use of best scientific evidence in health decision-making
- Regional cooperation strategy to support national and subregional plans of action in human resources for health, 2007-2015



22. The Committee suggested that, as in the case of the SPBA agenda, a period of 30 days should be allowed for Members to reflect on the proposed list of agenda items and perhaps propose additional ones. It was suggested that the topics of diabetes and eye health might be added, particularly as the agenda proposed by the Director seemed to focus rather heavily on communicable diseases. Other proposed topics included a regional strategy for strengthening national organ donation and transplant programs and a more in-depth discussion of the issue of health from a rights perspective. A Member, noting that several of the items proposed by the Director were progress reports on previous mandates of the Governing Bodies, suggested that the Secretariat should devise a framework for ensuring follow-up on commitments acquired as a result of Governing Body resolutions.

23. Members cautioned that care should be taken not to overload the agenda of the Governing Bodies in 2007, given that considerable time would inevitably be devoted to discussion of the budget and to the election of the next Director during the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference. The Secretariat was encouraged to ensure that the working documents drawn up on all items included information and data not just on Latin America and the Caribbean, but on all countries of the Region. It was pointed out that issues such as poverty and exclusion, for example, were also of concern to Canada and the United States, and that it was important that all documents present a truly regional perspective that reflected the situation in all of the Americas.

24. Several delegates, alluding to the recent discussions during the 47th Directing Council concerning the non-issuance of visas to representatives of a Member State, suggested that the Executive Committee should consider the matter of a host country agreement between PAHO and the United States of America, with a view to ensuring that no Member State would ever be denied the right to take part in future sessions of the Governing Bodies.

25. In the discussion that followed, it was clarified that only the Director, as the sole legal representative of PAHO, had the authority to negotiate such an agreement. It was also clarified that while PAHO did have agreements with most of the countries that hosted its centers and country offices—either as an independent agency within the inter-American system or in its capacity as the Regional Office of WHO—it did not have specific host country agreements with all of them. It did not have, nor had it ever had, a host country agreement with the Government of the United States. In some cases, the Organization's relations with the host country were governed by the 1952 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies. However, the United States had not ratified that Convention, so its provisions did not apply to the relationship between PAHO and the United States.

26. Dr. Heidi Jiménez, Legal Counsel for PAHO, explained that a headquarters agreement had never been concluded with the United States of America, largely because it had never been considered necessary. The Organization had enjoyed harmonious relations with the Government of the United States for more than 100 years. However, in her opinion as the Organization's legal advisor, it would be preferable for all concerned for the two parties to enter into such an agreement in order to provide a sound legal basis for resolving not only issues concerning visas for representatives of PAHO Member States, but also tax issues and other matters related to the functioning of PAHO Headquarters in the United States.

27. The Director concurred with the views expressed by the Legal Counsel and added that the World Health Organization strongly favored the negotiation of a host country agreement between PAHO, as its Regional Office for the Americas, and the Government of the United States.

28. The Delegate of the United States of America clarified that her Government had not, to her knowledge, been approached by PAHO about a headquarters agreement, but said that the United States was certainly willing to enter into discussions on the subject. She questioned, however, whether it was appropriate for other Member States to have any involvement in those discussions. Other delegates pointed out that Member States, through their participation in the Governing Bodies, were involved in other administrative and managerial matters and that they naturally had a keen interest in ensuring that their representatives would never be prevented from attending meetings of the Governing Bodies.

29. The consensus of Members of the Committee was that the Director should take steps immediately to negotiate a host country agreement between PAHO and the Government of the United States of America. The Director was asked to provide an update on the status of the negotiations to the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration in March 2007.

30. The Committee decided to hold its 140th Session from 25 to 29 June 2007 and agreed that the Secretariat would draw up the agenda after a period of 30 days, taking into account any input received from Members of the Committee on the items suggested by the Director and any additional items that might be proposed by Member States during that period (Decision CE139[D5]).

***Dates of the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas***

31. The Director proposed that the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, be held at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., from 1 to 5 October 2007.

32. The Committee agreed with the proposed dates. It was suggested that, in drawing up the program of meetings, the Secretariat should try to schedule the substantive technical items for early in the week so as to ensure that there would be ample time for discussion of those items and consideration of any proposed resolutions on them. At the same time, it was emphasized that the presentation of awards should not be left until the end of the week because the audience for the awards ceremonies might be very sparse. Several delegates also commented that the panel discussions held during the recently concluded 47th Directing Council, while interesting and informative, had taken up considerable time. It was suggested that it might be preferable to hold such discussions as side events, outside the regular working hours of the Governing Bodies in order to allow adequate time for their primary function: decision-making.

33. The Director said that the Secretariat would draw up a proposed program of meetings for discussion by the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration in March 2007. In so doing, it would endeavor to keep the agenda as short as possible and to ensure productive and efficient use of the Conference's time.

34. The Committee decided that the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, would take place at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C. from 1 to 5 October 2007 (Decision CE137[D6]).

### **Program Policy Matters**

#### ***Draft Health Agenda for the Americas (Document CE139/5)***

35. Dr. Camilo Alleyne (Panama, President of the Health Agenda Working Group) introduced Document CE139/5, noting that it represented the 10th draft of the Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008-2017, prepared by the Working Group consisting of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Panama, and the United States of America. Since its first meeting in June 2006, the Working Group had held one face-to-face meeting, in Panama on 7 and 8 August 2006, and several teleconferences and virtual consultations. In the course of those consultations, the Group had drafted a statement of intent and identified the principles and values that should guide the Health Agenda, health trends that it should address, and areas of action, all of which were outlined in Document CE139/5.

36. The President proposed that, now that the Health Agenda Working Group had accomplished the task of drafting the Health Agenda, its mandate should be expanded to include the following functions: (1) oversee and support a Regionwide consultative process in order to give Governments, international organizations, and civil society

organizations working in the health field the opportunity to provide input on the Agenda; (2) consider and incorporate, where appropriate, the comments and suggestions received with a view to obtaining a final document that more accurately reflects the vision and aspirations of those working to improve the health of the peoples of the Americas; (3) prepare the final Health Agenda; and (4) organize a meeting of ministers for mid-2007 to adopt the definitive Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008-2017.

37. As for the timetable for the Group's work in the coming year, he proposed that the Working Group should incorporate the comments of the Executive Committee into a revised draft. Then, from October 2006 to April 2007, Governments and other interested parties throughout the Region would be given the opportunity to comment on the draft Agenda. Technical discussions might be organized for that purpose at the national and subregional levels. The PAHO Secretariat was asked to support the consultative activities. In December 2006, it would be decided when and where to hold a meeting of the ministers of health to approve the Health Agenda for the Americas. The Working Group would meet in late April 2007 to finalize the Health Agenda. The final preparations for the meeting of ministers would be made in May or June 2007, and the ministers would meet in July or August 2007 to adopt and officially launch the Health Agenda.

38. Members of the Executive Committee felt that they needed more time to examine the draft Agenda and consult with stakeholders in their respective countries. It was suggested that the Working Group should provide some guidance to assist countries in discussing the document and submitting their input. To that end, it was proposed that the Working Group should include an introduction to the document, outlining the process and the thinking that had gone into the formulation of the draft Agenda. It was emphasized that any comments submitted should be concise and specific, and that the current structure and format of the document should be maintained. Regarding the approval and launching of the Health Agenda, some Members questioned whether it would be feasible to organize a special meeting of ministers of health for that purpose, given the many demands on ministers' time. They suggested that it might be more practical simply to approve the Health Agenda during the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference.

39. The Director noted that prior 10-year health plans for the Region had always been approved in a separate meeting, not within the framework of the PAHO Governing Bodies. If the Agenda were approved during the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, it would give the impression that the Health Agenda was a PAHO initiative. It had to be made clear that the Health Agenda represented the vision of the health ministers of the Americas, a vision to which all cooperation partners, not just PAHO, should respond. She also pointed out that there was an issue of timing: because the Health Agenda would form

the basis for the PASB Strategic Plan for 2008-2012, which would be approved by the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Health Agenda had to be finalized first.

40. In her view, although the Working Group had been created within the framework of PAHO, it should now become an independent group, so that its final product, the Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008-2017, would not be linked exclusively to PAHO. The Organization would be happy to continue providing secretariat and support services if the Working Group so wished, but the Group should be free to choose another organization to play that role.

41. Members of the Committee agreed that the Health Agenda should be a document that could serve as a guide for all health work by all partners in the Region. Dr. Alleyne said that he considered it appropriate for PAHO to continue providing support services for the Working Group, although he shared the Director's view that the ministers of health of the Region should have full ownership of the Health Agenda. He felt that the first priority was to finalize the Health Agenda; the arrangements for approving and launching it could be worked out later on. He stressed that input on the Agenda was needed from all Member States.

42. He therefore proposed that the Working Group should revise the Health Agenda in the light, first, of comments received from Members of the Working Group and, then, from Members of the Executive Committee. The agenda would then be circulated among other Member States and among other organizations and partners for comment. The Working Group would examine and incorporate the comments and suggestions received and then re-circulate the final draft of the Agenda. In the interim, it could be decided how and when the Agenda would be approved and launched by the ministers of health of the Region.

43. The Committee agreed with Dr. Alleyne's proposal.

***Division of Labor among United Nations Agencies Regarding the Recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving HIV/AIDS Coordination in Response to Resolution WHA59.12 (Document CE139/6)***

44. Dr. Gina Tambini (Area Manager, Family and Community Health, PAHO) recalled that the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors had been formed in 2005 and had developed a division of labor to guide the work of United Nations agencies with respect to HIV/AIDS. In May 2006, the World Health Assembly had adopted Resolution WHA59.12, requesting the Director-General to provide technical cooperation in conformity with that division of labor, focusing on those areas in which WHO had an advantage compared to other bodies.

45. The division of labor, which appeared as an annex to Document CE139/6, assigned responsibility for four technical areas to WHO as the lead organization. WHO was also considered the main partner in all other technical areas, except one. However, responsibility for three technical areas that were key to the successful implementation of PAHO's Regional HIV/STI Plan for the Health Sector, 2006-2015, approved by the Directing Council in 2005 (Resolution CD46.R15), had been assigned to other United Nations agencies: procurement of antiretroviral drugs and other critical HIV/AIDS commodities (responsibility assigned to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)); prevention of HIV/AIDS (responsibility assigned to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)); and some aspects of health services, such as reproductive health (responsibility assigned to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)). PAHO had received mandates from its Governing Bodies and had established significant capacity in all three of those areas.

46. The Executive Committee was therefore requested to consider taking a decision mandating PAHO to adapt the division of labor, in coordination with its United Nations partners at the regional level, taking into account the established mandates and comparative advantages of each agency.

47. The Executive Committee declined to take any decision until Members had had sufficient time to study the document, understand the issues involved, and consider the implications of the requested action. It was pointed out that the Committee had not received the document until the morning of the meeting, and Members had therefore not had time to review and come prepared to discuss it. Some Members expressed opposition to the Secretariat's proposal and emphasized that all partners working on HIV/AIDS should adhere to the division of labor established by the Global Task Team. It was felt that PAHO, as part of WHO, should coordinate its activities with those of WHO and should not take the lead in areas not assigned to WHO.

48. The Director agreed that Governments should have more time to study the issue, which was a complex one, but pointed out that the division of labor laid out by the Global Task Team did not take adequate account of regional realities or of the mandates entrusted to regional agencies by the Governments of each region. Under the global division of labor, PAHO would no longer be able to assist members in procuring antiretroviral drugs through the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Health Supplies (Strategic Fund) because responsibility for procurement had been assigned to UNICEF. She had discussed the matter with her counterparts at the meeting of regional directors of United Nations agencies, including the Regional Director of UNICEF, and they had agreed that there was room to adapt the global division of labor at the regional level to make better use of the competencies and comparative advantages of the various agencies. She also noted that there was precedent for such regional arrangements. For example, some 30 years earlier UNICEF and PAHO had entered into an agreement whereby

UNICEF would be responsible for vaccine procurement in all regions of the world except the Americas. That function had been carried out by PAHO since 1977 through its Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement.

49. The President proposed that a period of 30 days should be allowed for review and consultation on the matter. The Executive Committee agreed with that proposal.

***Revision of the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations (Document CE139/7)***

50. Dr. Philippe Lamy (Area Manager, Governance, Policy, and Partnerships, PAHO) introduced Document CE139/7, noting that it had been prepared pursuant to the Executive Committee's decision to transfer responsibility for approving and reviewing relations between PAHO and NGOs from the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations to the new Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (Resolution CE138.R12). That decision had necessitated certain revisions in the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations and the Protocol for Reviewing Collaboration with Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO, which established the procedure for admitting NGOs into official relations with PAHO and reviewing their collaboration with the Organization. The main changes were summarized in Section 2 of Document CE139/7.

51. Noting that it had been recommended by the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century, as well as by individual Member States in previous sessions of the Governing Bodies, that PAHO should expand its relations with NGOs, he proposed that the Secretariat, in consultation with countries and the principal stakeholders involved, should draw up a proposal on the subject for discussion at a future date.

52. The Executive Committee was asked to consider adopting the proposed resolution contained in Document CE139/7, approving the revised Principles.

53. The Executive Committee declined to adopt the resolution until Members had had time to review the revised Principles. Several Members noted that, like the document on the preceding item, Document CE139/7 had not been distributed until the morning of the meeting. It was emphasized that Member States should not be asked to take decisions or adopt resolutions unless they had been given the opportunity to read the documents and fully comprehend the issues involved. It was suggested that, as the item concerned the work of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration, its consideration should be deferred until the March 2007 session of that body.

54. The Director said that several of the working documents had been posted on the Organization's website two or three weeks earlier. However, she acknowledged that Document CE139/7 should have been made available much earlier, particularly as the Secretariat had known since the Committee's adoption of resolution CE138.R12 in June that the Principles needed to be revised. As for the possibility of deferring consideration of the item until the March 2007 session of the SPBA, she pointed out that the Subcommittee did not have decision-making authority and therefore would not be able to adopt the resolution approving the revised Principles. Moreover, the Principles needed to be approved prior to the opening of the Subcommittee's session so that the Subcommittee could utilize them in carrying out its functions with regard to NGOs in official relations with PAHO. She proposed that a period of 30 days be allowed to review the changes and that a special meeting of the Executive Committee should be convened via teleconference to consider the proposed resolution. She felt that 30 days would be sufficient to enable Member States to review the changes to the Principles, as most of them were minor and procedural in nature.

55. The Committee agreed with the Director's proposal but reiterated that Member States should not be asked to take important decisions without advance notice. The Delegate of Canada expressed the view that, generally speaking, it was ill-advised to place substantive items requiring decisions or resolutions on the Committee's agenda during the session immediately following the Directing Council, as Members were focused on the work of the Council and would not have time to prepare adequately for the consideration of such items by the Executive Committee. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago agreed with that view, pointing out that his country was sitting on the Executive Committee for the first time in 18 years, having been elected only a few days earlier by the Directing Council. Thus, not only had he not seen any of the documents in advance, unlike some other Members, he had not been privy to any of the discussions on the issues raised therein in previous sessions of the Committee. He was therefore not in a position to make any meaningful comment on the documents, let alone take any decisions.

56. It was decided that a period of 30 days be allowed for review, comments, and consultation, and that a special meeting of the Committee would be convened via teleconference to consider the proposed resolution contained in Document CE139/7 Revision of the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations. At the special meeting, the Committee will also consider the proposed decision contained in Document CE139/6 Division of Labor among UN Agencies Regarding the Recommendations of the Global Task Team for Improving HIV/AIDS Coordination in Response to Resolution WHA59.12.



## **Administrative Matters**

### ***PAHO Buildings and Facilities (Document CE139/8)***

57. Mr. Edward Harkness (Area Manager, General Services Operations, PAHO) introduced Document CE139/8, noting that it complied with the requirement that any major uses of the PAHO Building Fund be reported to the Executive Committee. He recalled that in 2002 the Committee had approved funding for repairs to the garage of the PAHO Headquarters building, and he was pleased to report that those repairs were now complete. As the document indicated, other improvements had also been undertaken to make the Headquarters building safer. During the 2006-2007 biennium, it was planned to replace the audio equipment in the conference rooms at PAHO Headquarters, as the current equipment was obsolete.

58. In response to a question from a Member, Mr. Harkness clarified that no additional funding was being sought from Member States for the replacement of the audio systems.

59. The Director noted that the Secretariat would be presenting a master capital investment plan in March, the aim of which was to enable the Secretariat to deal with repairs and improvements as the need arose, rather than waiting for an emergency to occur and then requesting emergency funds.

60. The Executive Committee took note of the report.

## **Closing of the Session**

61. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the 139th Session closed.

## **Decisions**

62. The following are the decisions taken by the Executive Committee in the course of the 139th Session:

***CE139(D1) Election of Officers***

Pursuant to Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Committee elected the following Members to serve as officers for its 139th and 140th Sessions:

President:	Venezuela
Vice President:	Antigua and Barbuda
Rapporteur:	United States of America

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

***CE139(D2) Adoption of the Agenda***

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Committee adopted the agenda submitted by the Director (Document CE139/1).

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

***CE139(D3) Election of Four Members to the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration***

The Executive Committee elected Canada, Chile, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago to serve on the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration.

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

***CE139(D4) Dates and Proposed Topics for the First Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration***

The Committee decided that the First Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration would be held from 26 to 28 March 2007. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would draw up the agenda, taking into account any input received from and any items proposed by Member States.

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

***CE139(D5) Dates and Proposed Topics for the 140th Session of the Executive Committee***

Pursuant to Article 17.A of the PAHO Constitution, the Committee set the dates for its first regular session in the year 2007, the 140th Session, to be held from 25 to 29 June 2007. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would draw up the agenda, taking into account any input received from and any items proposed by Member States.

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

***CE139(D6) Dates of the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas***

Pursuant to Article 7.A of the PAHO Constitution and Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Committee authorized the Director to convene the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, in Washington, D.C., from 1 to 5 October 2007.

*(Single meeting, 29 September 2006)*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Executive Committee and the Secretary ex officio, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on this twenty-ninth day of September in the year two thousand six. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Member States of the Organization.

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Carlos Alvarado  
Delegate of Venezuela  
President of the 139th Session  
of the Executive Committee

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Mirta Roses Periago  
Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau  
Secretary ex officio of the 139th Session  
of the Executive Committee

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Opening of the Session**

### **2. Procedural Matters**

2.1 Election of the President, Vice President, and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee

2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

### **3. Committee Matters**

3.1. Election of Four Members to the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration

### **4. Governing Body Matters**

4.1 Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO: Relationship of Intergovernmental Bodies with the PAHO Governing Bodies

4.2 Mechanisms for Conducting the Forum of Candidates for the Post of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

4.3 Dates and Proposed Topics of the 1st Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration

4.4 Dates and Proposed Topics of the 140th Session of the Executive Committee

4.5 Dates of the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 59th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

### **5. Program Policy Matters**

5.1. Draft Health Agenda for the Americas

**AGENDA** (*cont.*)

**5. Program Policy Matters** (*cont.*)

- 5.2 Division of Labor among UN Agencies Regarding the Recommendations of the Global Task Team for Improving HIV/AIDS Coordination in Response to Resolution WHA59.12
- 5.3 Revision of the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations

**6. Administrative Matters**

- 6.1 PAHO Buildings and Facilities

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE/MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA/ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA**

Chief Delegate – Jefe de Delegación

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Ministry of Health, Sports, and Youth Affairs  
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**CHILE**

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Ministry of Health  
Port-of-Spain

Ms. Sandra Jones  
Acting Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Health  
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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA**

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Secretaría de Salud  
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**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS**

**PUERTO RICO**

Dr. Raúl G. Castellanos Bran  
Asesor del Secretario de Salud  
Departamento de Salud  
San Juan

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANIZACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD**

**Director and Secretary ex officio of the Committee  
Directora y Secretaria ex officio del Comité**

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago  
Director  
Directora

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (cont.)**  
**ORGANIZACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD (cont.)**

**Advisers to the Director**  
**Asesores de la Directora**

Dr. Joxel García  
Deputy Director  
Director Adjunto

Dr. Carissa Etienne  
Assistant Director  
Subdirectora

Mr. Michael A. Boorstein  
Director of Administration  
Director de Administración

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