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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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**RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE
FIFTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
OF INTEREST TO THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 25 May 2005. Delegations from 28 Member States from the Region of the Americas were present. After debating an agenda that included 22 items, the Health Assembly adopted 34 resolutions.

This document summarizes the resolutions of special interest to the countries of the Americas and the Regional Office.

The Directing Council is requested to take note of these resolutions and to consider their implications for the Region of the Americas.

Introduction

1. The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 25 May 2005. Delegations from 28 Member States of the Americas attended. Also present were representatives of international and nongovernmental organizations. Mrs. Elena Salgado, Minister of Health and Consumer Protection of Spain, was elected President of the Assembly, while Dr. Miguel Fernández Galeano, Vice Minister of Health of Uruguay, was elected Vice President; and Dr. Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health of Barbados, Chairman of Committee B. The speakers invited to address the World Health Assembly were Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Maldives; Mr. Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, along with Mrs. Ann M. Veneman, Director of UNICEF.

2. The agenda of the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly included 22 items, the majority of them referring to health policy and the remaining 7 to administrative, budgetary, and institutional matters. As in previous Assemblies, these matters were dealt with in a series of committee and plenary sessions. The Assembly adopted 34 resolutions—15 more than were adopted in 2004. The full version of these resolutions, as well as other documents related to the Assembly can be found on the WHO website: http://www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha58.html.

3. Twenty-seven of these resolutions have special relevance both for Member States of the Americas and the Regional Office. Twenty-two of the resolutions deal with technical and health policy matters and the remaining five with management and budgetary matters.

4. The tables that follow contain a summary of the respective resolutions. They also give the title of resolutions on the same matters adopted by the PAHO Governing Bodies during the period 2000-2004. Several of the issues addressed in the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly will also be discussed from a regional perspective at the Directing Council of PAHO.

Other Matters

Executive Board Membership

5. The World Health Assembly elected 10 Member States to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board. From the Region of the Americas, Mexico was elected to round out the group of countries from the Region of the Americas, which included Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, and Jamaica. Mr. Mauricio Bailón, Director-General of International Relations of the Secretariat of Health, was the person named by Mexico to

sit on the WHO Executive Board as of the 116th Session. Mr. Bailón was named Rapporteur of that session.

Action by the Directing Council

6. The Directing Council is requested to take note of these resolutions and to consider their implications for the Region of the Americas.

Annexes

- A. Technical and Health Policy Issues
- B. Administrative and Budget Issues
- C. Agenda of the World Health Assembly
(Available at the following website: http://www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha58.html)
- D. Resolutions of the World Health Assembly
(Available at the following website: http://www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha58.html)

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p style="text-align: center;">WHA58.1</p>	<p>Health action in relation to crises and disasters Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R11, Document A58/6</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the international community to continue strong and long-term support for the areas affected by the earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004.</p> <p>The resolution furthermore requests WHO to intensify support for the establishment of early warning systems, improved access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation, and physical and mental health care, and to strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation. It urges the Member States to formulate disaster preparedness plans, ensure equitable access to essential health services for the entire population, and pay attention to gender violence, a matter of growing concern during periods of crisis.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>For the past 30 years, PAHO has been assisting Member States to formulate contingency plans for natural disasters and improve interagency coordination to benefit the health sector. Regional expertise in the areas of epidemiology, water and sanitation, health services, information management, and mental health is mobilized yearly to countries affected by disasters. In addition to the preparedness and response activities, PAHO, in collaboration with IDNDR, has strongly promoted the concepts of mitigation for natural hazards, building codes enforcement, and construction of safe hospitals as significant measures to reduce the vulnerability of countries.</p> <p>PAHO has also collaborated with other WHO Regions on multiple occasions, whenever it has been requested, in particular thorough the implementation/application of SUMA.</p>	<p>Disaster Preparedness and Response CD45.R8</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.2	Malaria Documents A58/9 and A58/10	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution urging the scaling up of malaria control activities.</p> <p>WHO is requested to strengthen cooperation with Member States to meet the objectives agreed internationally as part of the Goals of the Millenium Declaration. This includes the possible procurement by WHO at wholesale prices of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and of malaria drugs, and their free or highly subsidized distribution to vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The malaria report for the 136th Session of the Executive Committee strongly complements Resolution WHA58.2 specifically on issues and concerns pertaining to the establishment of relevant national policies and operational plans; addressing human resource issues and integration of the malaria program at all levels of the health system; enhancement of financial support and development assistance to malaria activities; ensuring financial sustainability and an increase in domestic resource allocation; use of timely and cost-effective approaches in all areas of intervention through proper program monitoring and evaluation; expansion and strengthening of networks among and between countries, institutions, and sectors; and improvement of surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation systems. ▪ Similarly, PAHO's current malaria activities and strategy focus on supporting health ministries; promoting synergies with related health programs; promoting community and civil society participation; engaging the private sector; identifying best practices and partnerships and mobilizing resources to extend interventions; preparing tools and support measures; expanding capacity at the country level; and promoting intercountry collaboration. 	Roll Back Malaria CD42.R15

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.3</p>	<p>Revision of the International Health Regulations Document A58/4</p>	<p>The Assembly approved the International Health Regulations (2005).</p> <p>These Regulations (IHR) will require Member States to collaborate with each other and with international agencies so as to ensure their effective and correct application.</p> <p>The purpose of the IHR is to prevent the international spread of disease, protect against it, control it, and provide a proportionate public health response that is restricted to public health hazards while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.</p> <p>The Director-General of WHO will establish an Emergency Committee and a Review Committee.</p> <p>The IHR includes the following Annexes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex 1: A) Core Capacity Requirements for Surveillance and Response, B) Core Capacity Requirements for Designated Airports, Ports, and Ground Crossings - Annex 2: Decision Instrument for the Assessment and Notification of Events that May Constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern - Annex 3: Model Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate /Ship Sanitation Control Certificate - Annex 4: Technical Requirements Pertaining to Conveyances and Conveyance Operators - Annex 5: Specific Measures for Vector-borne Diseases - Annex 6: Vaccination, Prophylaxis, and Related Certificates - Annex 7: Requirements Concerning Vaccination or Prophylaxis for Specific Diseases - Annex 8: Model of Maritime Declaration of Health - Annex 9: Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration 	<p>International Health Regulations</p> <p>CD43.R13</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.3	<p>Revision of the International Health Regulations Document A58/4</p>	<p>Regional Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PAHO will provide technical cooperation to its Member States in the building, strengthening and maintenance of their public health capacities required under the International Health Regulations (IHR). ▪ PAHO will also build and strengthen its capacities to perform fully and effectively the functions as entrusted under the IHR, in particular, through strategic interventions that provide support to countries in detection and assessment of and response to public health emergencies. <p>These activities will reinforce existing national and subregional surveillance networks, training programs in applied epidemiology, public health laboratory capacity, and the Regional Plan of Action for Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, among other things.</p>	<p>International Health Regulations CD43.R13</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.5</p>	<p>Strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R16, Document A58/13</p>	<p>The Assembly stressed the importance of preparedness and response to an influenza epidemic, urging all Member States to develop and implement national plans that focus on limiting health impact and economic and social disruptions. It requested WHO to seek solutions to the problem of global shortages of flu vaccines. It also urged the Member States to develop and strengthen national surveillance and laboratory capacity to cope with human and zoonotic influenzas.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>For more than three years, PAHO has been collaborating with all Member States in the strengthening of virological and epidemiological surveillance of influenza, resulting in an increase in the number of countries performing viral isolation and sending influenza virus for characterization to the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers.</p> <p>The development of National Pandemic Preparedness Plans and the introduction of epidemic influenza vaccine for routine immunization has been a priority of PAHO's technical cooperation.</p> <p>PAHO will continue to provide technical cooperation and secure partnerships with WHO, CDC, and other stakeholders in order to strengthen regional and national capacities for preparation, detection, and response to the pandemic.</p>	<p>Influenza Pandemic: Preparation in the Hemisphere</p> <p>CD44.R8</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.13	Proposal to establish World Blood Donor Day Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R15, Document A58/38	<p>The Assembly agreed to celebrate World Blood Donor Day each year on 14 June.</p> <p>It urged the Member States to establish or to strengthen systems for the recruitment and retention of voluntary, unremunerated blood donors, ensuring that blood donation services are nationally coordinated, well organized, safe, and of good quality. It requests WHO to promote the World Blood Donor Day and collaborate to strengthen the capacity of Member States to detect the principal infectious diseases in donated blood to guarantee its safety.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>The resolution contains points that are very pertinent to our Region, all of them part of the regional work proposal. The specific points are: systems for the recruitment and retention of voluntary donors (our regional goal is for every country to have at least 50%), review of legislation, financing of the programs for blood, intersectoral. and interinstitutional collaboration, appropriate use of blood, national coordination of the services, quality processes, and monitoring. The annual celebration of the World Blood Donor Day will give the health authorities of the Member States an opportunity to recognize the importance of this issue, establish mechanisms to promote volunteer donations and, especially, to have an annual programmed activity that lends continuity to the national actions. The regional strategy for safe blood transfusion will support coordinated efforts among the units responsible for blood services, health promotion, disease prevention and control, HIV/AIDS, health policy, and public information.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.14	<p>Sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R1, Document A58/7</p>	<p>The Assembly encourages the Member States to ensure the availability of resources for achieving the development goal relevant to tuberculosis agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration, strengthen integration among all interested partners by setting up Stop TB partnerships, ensure that all tuberculosis patients have access to the necessary standard of care, set up collaboration between tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programs, and fully integrate tuberculosis prevention and control into their development plans.</p> <p>The Assembly requests WHO to strengthen cooperation with Member States and enhance its support for the Stop TB partnership with a view to achieving the internationally agreed objectives.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In line with the Global Plan and Resolution WHA58.14, the Regional Plan 2005-2015 affirms the need to make tuberculosis control a priority in health policies and to consider the Regional Strategic Plan for TB Control 2005-2015 when formulating national plans, with the objective of preserving recent successes in implementing and expanding the DOTS Strategy and attaining the Millennium Development Goals. 	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.15	<p>Draft global immunization strategy Document A58/12</p>	<p>The Assembly welcomed the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy. It urged the Member States to adopt the global strategy as the framework for strengthening national immunization programs between 2006 and 2015, with the goal of achieving greater coverage and equity in access to immunizations, improve access to existing and future vaccines, and extending the benefits of vaccination beyond infancy to other age groups.</p> <p>The Assembly requests WHO to mobilize resources to promote the availability of and access to new vaccines in the countries and to strengthen global relations to mobilize the resources that the countries need to implement the global immunization vision and strategy.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support in negotiations with the Ministries of Finance to ensure the sustainability of the programs as new vaccines are introduced; for example: use of the Revolving Fund to negotiate low prices; and support for country efforts to draft laws regulating vaccines. ▪ Strengthening of national epidemiological surveillance and laboratory networks; for example, Vaccination Week and work in at-risk municipios with low coverage. ▪ Support for the elimination of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome. ▪ Support through activities to reduce immunization inequities in countries; for example, Vaccination Week and work in at-risk municipios with low coverage. ▪ Support for training and professional development in managing the program. ▪ Adoption of an integrated approach to immunization within the framework of family health and other interprogrammatic actions. 	<p>Sustaining Immunization Programs: Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome CD44.R1</p> <p>Vaccines and Immunization CSP26.R9 CD43.R1 CD42.R8</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p align="center">WHA58.16</p>	<p>International Plan of Action on Aging: report on implementation Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R7, Document A58/19</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Member States to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs that promote healthy and active aging and to consider the situation of older persons as an integral part of their efforts to achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>It requested WHO to provide support to Member States in their efforts to fulfill the internationally agreed commitments.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Since the World Assembly on Aging, PAHO has participated in the Interagency Task Force for implementation of the Plan, made up of representatives from the technical areas that deal with aging in the international technical cooperation agencies of the Region. The other participants in the Task Force are ECLAC/CELADE, the World Bank, the ILO, the Inter-American Development Bank, and UNFPA. In addition to providing technical cooperation to more than eight countries for implementation of various components of the Plan, PAHO has participated in the regional intergovernmental meeting to develop the regional strategy for implementing the International Plan; it has co-sponsored and participated in the subregional meeting of Central America and is currently involved in the preparations for the subregional meeting for South America. It is working with CELADE/ECLAC on the definition of indicators to monitor fulfillment of the agreements of the Regional Strategy.</p>	<p>Health and Aging CSP26R20</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.17	<p>International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries Document A58/23</p>	<p>Concerned that the migration of health personnel continues to be a major challenge for the health systems of developing countries, the Assembly requested WHO to strengthen its program on human resources for health, allocating sufficient resources to it.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>PAHO has promoted and facilitated dialogue between countries adversely affected by the emigration of health professionals (especially nurses) and countries that can provide cooperation in this area. Meetings have been held among the English-speaking Caribbean countries, Canada, and the United States, and a meeting involving Ecuador, Chile, and Peru is programmed for September 2005. A study in 12 Central and South American countries has made it possible to begin regional monitoring of this phenomenon. As a result of these dialogues, the Collaborating Centers' terms of reference with respect to nursing education have been redefined to get them involved in the upgrading of training centers in countries suffering from critical staffing shortages.</p>	Observatory of Human Resources in Health CD45.R9

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p align="center">WHA58.22</p>	<p>Cancer prevention and control Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R2, Document A58/16</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to collaborate with the Organization in developing and reinforcing comprehensive cancer control programs. These programs should be aimed at reducing cancer incidence and mortality and improving the quality of life of cancer patients through strategies for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.</p> <p>It requested WHO to provide technical support to Member States in setting priorities for national cancer programs, and to continue developing the strategy to improve these programs through the analysis and dissemination of relevant experiences.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PAHO has been providing technical cooperation on cervical cancer prevention to Member States by conducting demonstration projects on alternative approaches for screening and treatment; strengthening the delivery and organization of existing screening programs; and evaluating strategies to improve the quality of care women. The current challenge is to sustain these achievements and to monitor the impact on incidence and mortality rates. ▪ PAHO has collaborated with IARCH/WHO in the development and dissemination of clinical guidelines for breast and cervical cancer screening. ▪ PAHO has been participating in WHO activities related to the development of National Cancer Control Program Guidelines, and a clinical guide on cervical cancer prevention and control. 	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p align="center">WHA58.23</p>	<p>Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R3, Document A58/17</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to strengthen national programs, policies, and strategies for implementation of the United Nations' Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. It also asked them to participate actively in promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities-- participation that should include efforts toward the adoption of the United Nations international convention.</p> <p>It requested WHO to intensify cooperation aimed at enhancing the quality of life and promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inter alia by strengthening national rehabilitation programs, and to produce a world report on this issue.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.23 <i>(cont.)</i></p>	<p>Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R3, Document A58/17</p>	<p>Regional Actions</p> <p>PAHO/WHO has been promoting health sector strategies that will permit consolidation of a health care model responsive to the needs of populations, so that really urgent needs are met. It has therefore promoted consolidation of the rehabilitation component of the health care model as essential to health promotion, prevention, and assistance to people in maintaining their health and well-being and that of their families and communities. To this end, PAHO is providing technical assistance and cooperation to the countries of the Region in the following areas: Formulation, development, and strengthening of policies and programs to provide care for people with disabilities; development of strategies for the characterization of disabilities in the population; consolidation of the rehabilitation component of the health care model; promotion of an intersectoral approach in interventions; implementation of the Community-based Rehabilitation Strategy (CBR) linked to PHC; raising awareness among the public at large about disability–rehabilitation and the human rights of people with disabilities; development of strategies for the early detection of disabilities and early intervention; facilitation of access to assistive technology; promotion of equal opportunity, including universal access; cooperation with agencies of the UN system and other development and government entities and NGOs in the defense and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities and the improvement of their quality of life. All of these efforts will continue to be very closely allied with PAHO/WHO health initiatives in the Region, as well as global initiatives.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.24	<p>Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders Resolution WHA52.24</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to strengthen their commitment to sustained elimination of iodine deficiency disorders as part of their regular health programs and anti-poverty efforts, including through the universal iodization of salt, and to adopt urgent measures to reach the remaining one-third of the world population, mostly the poorest and most disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>It requested WHO to strengthen cooperation with the Member States, at their request, and with other international organizations.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>The virtual elimination of iodine deficiency (IDD) is a key public health goal and key for achieving the MDGs. PAHO, along with UNICEF, ICCIDD, Kiwanis International, Micronutrient Initiative, Salt Institute, and the Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency, participated in the regional meeting on “Optimal Iodine Nutrition in the Americas,” held in Lima, Peru, 3-4 May 2004. Twenty-one countries of the Americas renewed their commitment to achieve the goal of virtual elimination of IDD by the year 2005, made at the U.N. General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2000. Countries committed to report every two years on the status of national programs, increase support for their national IDD control programs, promote cheaper iodized salt for consumers, improve regional cooperation and communication, and carry out regular monitoring of salt in households and at retailers. Inasmuch as PAHO has a mandate to oversee the progress of the health situation of the Americas and safeguard these global and regional commitments, PAHO is in support of national efforts to achieve the sustained elimination of IDD in the Region, particularly in improving regional cooperation and communication and monitoring iodine nutrition in people and salt.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p align="center">WHA58.25</p>	<p>Collaboration within the United Nations system and with others intergovernmental organizations Document A58/40</p>	<p>The Assembly took note of the report on collaboration within the United Nations system. It urged Member States to ensure that operational development activities are planned and implemented under their stewardship and in conformity with their priorities.</p> <p>It asked WHO to continue to implement country-level activities in accordance with Member States' priorities, and to coordinate its activities with those of the United Nations system and other pertinent agencies, and furthermore, that it adhere to the international priorities regarding harmonization and alignment.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Recently, coordination between PAHO and the United Nations system has been further strengthened, and the harmonization and alignment processes, especially in the health sector, have been given new impetus. At the regional level, at least two coordination agencies have been established at the initiative of PAHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The regional group of UNAIDS cosponsors to improve coordination in the prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS; other regional agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, have also been invited to participate. ▪ The interagency committee to fight maternal mortality, to respond more effectively to one of major challenges noted in the Millennium Declaration. 	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.25 <i>(cont.)</i></p>	<p>Collaboration within the United Nations system and with others intergovernmental organizations Document A58/40</p>	<p>Regional Actions <i>(cont.)</i></p> <p>PAHO also participates in UNDG regional coordination mechanisms, including support for the CAC/UNDAF in the countries of the Region.</p> <p>In view of the accelerated pace of consultations on the harmonization of cooperation resulting from the Declaration of Rome (2003) and the Paris Declaration (2005), the participation of the health sector and its contribution to these processes is being promoted, among other things, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The convening of a regional meeting on harmonization and the sectoral approach in health, in Managua (December 2004); ▪ A presentation at the regional consultation on the Eleventh General Program of Work of WHO (WDC, January 2005). ▪ A presentation at the 39th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming (WDC, March 2005). ▪ PAHO cooperation to the health sector, and most importantly, to the Ministries of Health, to coordinate international cooperation and harmonization of the various cooperation modalities, which will be a priority for the coming years. 	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p style="text-align: center;">WHA58.26</p>	<p>Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R5, Document A58/18</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the Member States to develop, implement, and evaluate effective strategies and programs for reducing the negative health and social consequences of harmful alcohol use. It furthermore encouraged the mobilization and active engagement of all concerned social and economic groups.</p> <p>It requested WHO to consider intensifying international cooperation in reducing public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol and mobilizing the necessary global and regional support. It also requested that recommendations be drawn up for effective policies and interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm and develop technical tools that will support Member States in implementing and evaluating recommended strategies and programs.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Work being planned and ongoing in relation to the resolution include:</p> <p>(a) A multicountry study in the Region that examines how alcohol relates to gender, culture, and harm. This is the first study of its kind in the Americas and will fill large data gaps in terms of alcohol consumption, drinking patterns, and violence and injuries from alcohol.</p> <p>(b) An assessment of what kind of policies can be effective in developing countries. There are developed country examples, but a lack of developing country perspectives and realities.</p> <p>(c) Planning of the First Pan American Conference on Alcohol Policy in Brasília, Brazil, in December 2005, including technical recommendations and orientations on how or if it is possible to create and implement effective alcohol policies.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.27</p>	<p>Antimicrobial resistance: a threat to the global health security. Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.RC, Document A58/14</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to enhance rational use of antimicrobial agents, including through development and enforcement of national standard practice guidelines for common infections in the public and private sectors.</p> <p>It requested WHO to strengthen its leadership role in containing antimicrobial resistance, to collaborate with other relevant programs and partners in order to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents in the context of the rational use of medicines, and to provide support for the generation of up-to-date information at the regional and subregional level.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>The focus on antibiotic utilization, especially in the community, is under development at PAHO and will aim at strengthening technical country support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks for monitoring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and hospital-acquired infections with laboratory support. External quality assurance schemes in the laboratory network training on drug rational utilization through a “problem-based” pharmacotherapy approach. • Research on antibiotic utilization in the community. Determination of characteristics and diagnosis of misuse and analysis of the market composition. • External Quality Control Program to strengthen the national laboratories that monitor the quality of medicines. • Publication of existing policies in the countries. • Development of strategies for procurement and availability of medicines. 	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES *(cont.)*

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.28	<p>eHealth Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R20, Document A58/21</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth in the various areas of the health sector.</p> <p>It supported the formulation of eHealth policies and strategies by Member States and the Secretariat, including the establishment of centers of excellence and support to national electronic public health information systems. This is important in view of the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) for more equitable access to health knowledge and services.</p> <p>It requested WHO to provide support to the Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, in particular on telemedicine technology.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Since 1991, PAHO initiated, promoted, or collaborated in many initiatives and publications related to eHealth in the Region, thus supporting Member States in their investment in infrastructure and capacity development for public health. Countries in the Region have also commenced using telemedicine (in consultation, diagnostics, therapy, radiology, epidemiology, eLearning in health, health management networks, etc.) as a means of increasing access to services by their population. PAHO-sponsored Pan-American collaboration in specific aspects of eHealth further demonstrates the feasibility of expanding those technologies to the areas of service delivery, health promotion, and service management, as well as to PAHO's own knowledge management and sharing strategy.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.29</p>	<p>Enhancement of laboratory biosafety</p>	<p>The Member States were urged to review the safety of their laboratories and the existing protocols for the safe handling of microbiological agents and toxins, consistent with WHO’s biosafety guidance.</p> <p>WHO was requested to provide technical support for Member States that request it.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>The risk of outbreaks and epidemics, natural, accidental, or deliberate, caused by high-risk agents—from animal or human origin—has significantly increased in the Region of the Americas in the past years. As a result, more research is being performed and a larger number of laboratories have been handling a range of highly pathogenic microorganisms. This increased laboratory activity in turn contributes to a higher risk of infection for laboratory workers as well as the community. These risks can be minimized within the laboratory setting through increased awareness and training in biosafety and containment. However, in the countries many of the existing laboratories and facilities handling such infectious agents limit the practice of biosafety to the level of Standard Microbiological Practices and, more often than not, address specific issues of biocontainment of the respective facility. As such, the safe handling of infectious agents in a contained laboratory environment and the intercountry transportation of infectious materials have become a priority. By the same token, there is a need to enhance laboratory surveillance and diagnostic capacity, as well as personnel training in the diagnosis of high-risk agents. This can be addressed through the reinforcement of existing public health laboratory networks across the Region. Acknowledging that the containment of microbiological agents and toxins in laboratories is critical to preventing outbreak of emerging and reemerging diseases, PAHO strongly recommends the development of a shared approach for managing biorisks in the laboratory environment.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.30</p>	<p>Attainment of the health-related Millennium Development Goals Document A58/5</p>	<p>The Member States were requested to reaffirm the internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration, and to develop and implement different types of measures to accelerate progress toward the attainment of these goals.</p> <p>WHO was requested to ensure that priority actions to support the Member States are reflected in the Program Budget 2006-2007, in future budgets, and in the Eleventh General Program of Work.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>The Region of the Americas has been first in confirming its commitment to the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, through Resolution CD45.R3. Furthermore, PAHO's Strategic Plan 2003-2007 recognizes that five countries of the Region (Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua) require greater specific support.</p> <p>The new regional budget policy adopted in 2005, the Biennial Program Budget 2006-2007, will make it possible to strengthen PAHO cooperation to exceed the goals of Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>The Organization's support is manifested not only at the regional level but the country level as well, through coordination with the country teams of the United Nations system and the reorientation of the respective cooperation programs and support for the priorities that the countries themselves have set to attain the goals in health.</p> <p>PAHO is also coordinating efforts with other agencies of the United Nations or Inter-American systems, especially the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank.</p>	<p>The Millennium Development Goals and Health Targets CD45.R3</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.31	<p>Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn, and child health interventions Document A58/5</p>	<p>The Member States were urged to commit resources and accelerate national action towards universal access and coverage with maternal, newborn, and child health interventions, through reproductive health care. In addition, that they adopt and implement, in line with international agreements, the legal and regulatory frameworks to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and children, including that of equitable access to health care.</p> <p>WHO was requested to intensify technical support for Member States to develop their institutional capacity to achieve international goals and targets through universal access to and coverage of reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health programs, and to mobilize the international community so that it commits the additional resources required.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Various Global Health Partnerships (GHPs) have been created to address health issues that cannot be resolved by individual organizations operating independently. These partnerships are: Partnership for Safe Motherhood, Newborn Health, and Child Survival Partnership. PAHO is actively participating in these Partnerships and has established several regional mandates to support national efforts to achieve the goals of the U.N. Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>PAHO is giving technical support to the countries of the Region in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) projects, and to the Committee on SRH of MERCOSUR. PAHO is implementing a project on the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality, funded by USAID, which involves promoting the utilization of a perinatal information system as an institutional morbidity and mortality registry system and the incorporation of evidence-based and cost-effective interventions.</p>	<p>Regional Strategy for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction CSP 26.R13 and R14</p> <p>Family and Health CD44.R12</p> <p>Child Health CD42.R12</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.32	Infant and young-child nutrition Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R12, Document A58/15	<p>The Member States were urged to continue to protect, promote, and support exclusive breast-feeding for six months as a global health recommendation and to encourage continued breastfeeding up to two years of age at the very least.</p> <p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission was requested to continue to give full consideration to the resolutions of the World Health Assembly, when preparing standards, guidelines, and recommendations.</p> <p>WHO was requested to collaborate with FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, especially in developing pertinent guidelines and providing information to permit implementation of international public health policies in this area.</p>	<p>Integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI)</p> <p>CSP26.R10</p> <p>Child Health</p> <p>CD42.R12</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.32 <i>(cont.)</i></p>	<p>Infant and young-child nutrition Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R12, Document A58/15</p>	<p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Workshops for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding are being held throughout the Region. Country workshops have been held in Bolivia and Guyana and subregional workshops held in Guatemala (with participation from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) and Argentina (with participation from Paraguay and Uruguay). These workshops are being held with MOH focal points in nutrition and child health (IMCI) and the participation of other key stakeholders (UNICEF, WFP, NGOs, etc.) to strengthen interprogrammatic collaboration. In addition, PAHO participated in the signing of the Brazil Charter for Breast Milk Banks in which representatives from 11 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean pledged to create a new Latin American Network of Breast Milk Banks to promote the benefits of breast-feeding for child health, during the 2nd International Congress of Breast Milk Banks in Brasília in May. This Charter notes the importance of breast-feeding to the achievement of the goals of the U.N. Millennium Declaration because of the critical role breast milk banks can play in preventing neonatal and other infant deaths. The document was signed by delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and representatives of PAHO, UNICEF, the World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action, the International Baby Food Action Network and other organizations.</p>	

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p>WHA58.33</p>	<p>Social health insurance Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R13 Document A58/20</p>	<p>The Member States were urged to ensure that health financing systems include a method for prepayment of financial contributions for health care, with a view to sharing risk among the population and avoiding catastrophic health-care expenditure or the impoverishment of individuals as a result of seeking care. They were also urged to plan the transition to universal coverage of their citizens so as to contribute to meeting the needs of the population for health care and to the fulfillment of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>WHO was requested to provide, at the request of the Member States, technical support for strengthening capacities and expertise necessary to the development of health financing systems, with a view to achieving the goal of universal coverage.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>Sustainable health financing and universal coverage is a major issue because a significant portion of the population of the Latin American and Caribbean countries is currently excluded from the mechanisms for social protection against the risk and consequences of illness, and most countries have a high proportion of out-of-pocket expenditures for health care. Over the past years, PAHO has worked with the countries on health financing mechanisms and extension of social protection strategies including social health insurance, e.g. the joint initiative of PAHO and ILO on extension of social protection in health, the development of National Health Accounts, and the technical cooperation to several countries on topics related to national health insurance.</p>	<p>Extension of Social Protection in Health: a joint initiative of PAHO and the ILO CSP26.R19</p>

TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEMS (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.34	<p>Ministerial Summit on Health Research A58/22 Document</p>	<p>The Assembly recognized the Mexico Statement on Health Research, issued at the respective Summit (2004).</p> <p>It urged the Member States to establish and implement, or strengthen, a national health-research policy, and to promote activities aimed at strengthening national systems for health research.</p> <p>It called on the global scientific community, international partners, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to support, together with WHO and the Member States, the networking of national research agencies as a means of identifying and conducting research that would address global health priorities.</p> <p>WHO was requested to engage in consultations on the creation of a program on health-systems research, especially in regard to the internationally agreed health-related development objectives, and to assist in the development of mechanisms to bridge the divide between ways in which knowledge is generated and ways in which it is used, especially the transformation of health-research findings into policy and practice.</p> <p>Regional Actions</p> <p>PAHO has promoted collaborative efforts among countries for the analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of national health research systems through the indicators of the Health Science and Technology Network. This effort has facilitated the sharing of experiences in the formulation and evaluation of research policies and agendas aimed at responding to health development needs. Concerning the promotion of research, PAHO, through its technical units and Research Grants Program, has coordinated and financed research projects on important public health issues, in particular the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.</p>	

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGET ISSUES

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.4	<p>Proposed program budget for 2006-2007 Document PB/2006-2007</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a regular budget totaling US\$ 995,315,000 for the financial period 2006-2007; this represents an increase of 4%. In addition, voluntary contributions in the amount of US\$ 2,398,126,000 have been estimated, raising the total program budget to US\$ 3,313,441,000.</p> <p>The share of the regular budget for the Region of the Americas is \$77,768,000 and represents an increase of \$5,038,000, or 6.9% over the previous biennium.</p>	<p>Draft Proposed Program Budget of WHO for the Financial Period 2006-2007 CD45.R5</p> <p>Regional Program Budget Policy of PAHO CD45.R6</p>
WHA58.7	<p>Status of collection of assessed contributions and Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution A58/31 Document</p>	<p>The Assembly decided to suspend Uruguay's voting privileges as of the 59th World Health Assembly, invoking Article 7 of the Constitution. Furthermore, the voting privileges of the following Member States of the Region of the Americas remained suspended: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname.</p>	

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGET ISSUES (cont.)

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and documents of reference)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.12	Salary of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General	The Assembly established the annual salary of the Regional Director, effective 1 January 2005.	
WHA58.19	Assessments for 2006-2007 Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R8, Document A58/30	The Assembly adopted the scale of assessments of Member States for the biennium 2006-2007, reflecting the latest available United Nations scale.	Strategy for Increasing the Rate of Quota Assessments CD45.R4
WHA58.20	Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules	The Assembly approved the changes to the Financial Regulations, effective 1 January 2006	