



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL
61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2009

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**ADDRESS OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH OF PARAGUAY,
DR. ESPERANZA MARTÍNEZ, PRESIDENT
OF THE 49th DIRECTING COUNCIL**

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On behalf of my country, the Republic of Paraguay, I would like to thank all the country delegations present for the great honor that you have bestowed on me in naming me to preside over the 49th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization.

I would like to underscore the political importance of my designation for Paraguay, which has not sat among the Officers of the Organization for 18 years.

This designation occurs at a time of major reform in the field of health, within the context of profound political and social changes in Paraguay.

I make a commitment to all of you to assume responsibility for conducting the discussions of the highest Governing Body of PAHO after the Pan American Sanitary Conference, which means the discussions on the Health Agenda for the Americas and the mandates for the Secretariat.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that while the items on the agenda of this 49th Directing Council are all very important and of great interest to our countries, in the year that marks the beginning of the influenza pandemic caused by the new A (H1N1) subtype, it will certainly be relevant to learn about the experiences of the different countries and the progress made in implementing the International Health Regulations 2005.

I wish you all the greatest success in achieving the objectives of this week of work for our Directing Council.

Thank you very much.