

---

## **Pan American Commission on Food Safety (COPAIA 6)**

*Santiago, Chile, July 24, 2012*

---

COPAIA 6 (Eng.)  
July 24, 2012  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### **6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PAN AMERICAN COMMISSION ON FOOD SAFETY (COPAIA 6)**

1. The 6th Meeting of the Pan American Commission on Food Safety, held in Santiago, Chile on July 24, 2012, was convened by the Director of PAHO / WHO, and hosted by the government of Chile;
2. COPAIA 6 was composed of senior officials from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, representatives of consumer organizations and producers of 15 countries from 5 regions: the Southern Cone, Andean, Central America, English-speaking Caribbean and North America . The appendix presents a list of the 15 members;
3. The Meeting presented the Technical Secretariat report on the implementation of the recommendations of COPAIA 5, the experience on "Sustainable Tourism and food safety" in Central America, and the proposed PAHO Regional Technical Cooperation Plan in Food Safety;
4. A panel of experts was invited to present under the theme "Quality Nutrition" three conferences, on the Chilean program "Choose to live healthy," on "The global burden of chronic diseases and their relation to agriculture" and on "Healthy food production." Noteworthy was the presence of the First Lady of Chile, Ms. Cecilia Morel, who gave the first lecture, which received particular interest. This was followed by a panel on Food Safety Challenges and Opportunities;
5. The discussions that followed the presentations identified considerations, agreements and recommendations, aimed at the countries and the Secretariat, listed below;
6. The Members of the 6th. Meeting of the Pan American Commission on Food Safety, acknowledging food security and safety are necessary for quality of life of the population and contribute to achieving the millennium development goals, and considering that:
  - Access to safe food and a nutritionally adequate diet is the right of each individual;
  - Food safety is an essential function of public health to protect consumers from risks associated with biological, chemical and physical food;
  - There are strong links between food security, food safety and health;
  - Food safety plays a crucial role in the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, especially in low income countries with food shortages;
  - The provision of safe food, and nutritional quality, presents major challenges on the food production continuum;
  - Changes in global patterns of food production, international trade, technology, public expectations of health protection, among other factors, have created an increasingly demanding environment for the food safety systems;

- Food-borne diseases remain a serious threat to the health of millions of people around the world, especially in developing countries with poor nutritional status;
- To natural occurrence, accidental release or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radionuclear material that affect health are still required capabilities defined in the International Health Regulation and INFOSAN;
- The need to develop and maintain sustainable preventive measures to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases through a systems approach that encompasses the entire food production chain;
- The need to promote dialogue and collaboration between the medical, veterinary and food science disciplines, within and among Member States;
- The importance of countries to be actively involved in the process of developing standards of the *Codex Alimentarius* and to apply them, where appropriate;
- A multi-sectoral coordination and leadership is required to promote public policies that guarantee the welfare and health of the population.

Unanimously agree:

- a) To approve the Technical Secretariat report for the period 2008-2012;
- b) To thank Member States for their efforts to reduce the impacts on health of foodborne disease, and their social and economic, impacts and to encourage them to maintain their political will and strengthen investment in food safety, and
- c) to thank PAHO-WHO technical cooperation provided and resources allocated in the area of food safety, and to urge their continued coordination with the public and private international aid agencies, multilateral and national philanthropic organizations, and recommend:

Encourage countries to:

1. Strengthen prevention systems, epidemiological surveillance, early warning and response, education, communication and dissemination of information to prevent foodborne diseases;
2. Strengthen national regulations on food safety, to unify food standards for domestic consumption and export, and to improve the capacity of law enforcement;
3. Extend the scope of the safety of food to vulnerable populations in the region to support policies related to the right to safe and healthy food, and education to build equity;
4. Encourage the production and accessibility of nutritious, healthy and safe food;
5. Position food safety as it relates to economic development and trade, measuring the economic benefit for the prevention of diseases transmitted through food;
6. Promote the development of state policies that involve all stakeholders to ensure continuity of food safety programs;
7. ensure the empowerment of consumers and producers to participate in the development of national policies on food safety;
8. formulate policies that take into consideration the relationship between food safety and non communicable diseases.

And request the Secretariat to:

9. continue the consultation with stakeholders in the proposal of the PAHO Regional Technical Cooperation in Food Safety and prevention of foodborne diseases in the Americas (2013-2017);
10. review the regulation of COPAIA, including consultation, external and internal to PAHO-WHO, to adapt to the changes in the region, deepening integration with subregional integration initiatives to align efforts and avoid duplication, increase the frequency of preparatory work in the subregion, taking advantage of the availability of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and flexible composition mechanisms call for the commission, to explore possibilities of collaboration with the private sector and the scope of terms of reference, among others;
11. facilitate the harmonization of regulatory frameworks at the subregional and / or Regional levels;
12. strengthen networks and partnerships extending them to involve other sectors related to food safety, including the Ministries of Social Security, Education, and Environment;
13. promote integrated information systems to improve data supporting science-based regulations;
14. develop a methodological tool to assess the impact of food safety programs;
15. promote the development of plans and integrated policies in Agri-Health;
16. promote the exchange of successful experiences in food safety in mass gathering at the country and subregion levels, such as the experience of sustainable tourism and health in Central America;
17. promote the implementation of good food safety practices in the food chain, using the code of practice of the Codex Alimentarius;
18. promote integrated systems of surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.

**Annex: List of Members**

- Dr. Mark Raizenne, *Director General-Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada*
- Dr. Cindy Roberts, *Food Safety Research Associate Center for Science in the Public Interest, USA*
- Dr. Ángel Eladio Caballero Torres, *Asesor del Ministro de Salud y Deportes-Ministerio de Salud y Deportes, Aruba*
- Mrs. Dolsie Allen, *Executive Director- Consumer Affairs Commission, Jamaica*
- Ing. Abraham Ducreux, *Jefe Departamento de Protección de Alimentos, Ministerio de Salud, Panamá*
- Dr. José Alpuche, *Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belize*
- Sra. Mónica Elizondo, *Directora de Asuntos Científicos y Reguladores-Cámara Costarricense de la Industria Alimentaria, Costa Rica*
- Lic. Ana Ella Gómez Flores, *Directora de Vigilancia de Mercado-Defensoría del Consumidor, El Salvador*
- Sr. Raúl Hidalgo, *Consejero de la Embajada del Perú en Chile*
- Dr. Rommel Betancourt, *Director de Inocuidad de Alimentos-Agencia Ecuatoriana de Aseguramiento de la Calidad del Agro, Ecuador*
- Sr. Andrés Fernando Moncada Zapata, *Presidente Ejecutivo-Federación Nacional de Avicultores/ Fondo Nacional Avícola, Colombia*
- Dr. Martín Carrasco, *Oficial de Salud-Acción Internacional por la Salud / Comité de Defensa de Derechos del Consumidor, Bolivia*
- Dr. Matías De Nicola, *Director del Instituto Nacional de Alimentos- Ministerio de Salud, Argentina*
- Sra. Nuri Gras Rebolledo, *Secretaria Ejecutiva-Agencia Chilena para la Inocuidad Alimentaria, Chile*
- Dr. Décio Coutinho, *Coordenador Executivo da Comissão de Sanidade da Confederação da Agricultura e Pecuária, Brasil*