



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



47th DIRECTING COUNCIL

58th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 25-29 September 2006

Provisional Agenda Item 4.1

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DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS, 2008-2017

The 40th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming endorsed the development of a Health Agenda for the Americas for the period 2008 to 2017 (10 years). Subsequently, an Ad Hoc Consultative Group met prior to the 138th Session of the Executive Committee to deliberate on how best to develop the Health Agenda (see Document CE138/INF/5 Report of the Ad Hoc Consultative Group on the Health Agenda for the Americas). This Ad Hoc Group recommended the establishment of a Working Group to guide the development of the Health Agenda through mid-2007, when it is expected to be approved by the Ministers of Health throughout the Americas. The Executive Committee at its 138th Session subsequently endorsed the Health Agenda development process, including the establishment of a Working Group composed of seven Member States.

The 139th Session of the Executive Committee, which meets immediately after the 47th Directing Council, will receive an initial draft of the Health Agenda for its review.

The Directing Council is asked to review this document and approve the accompanying resolution, proposed by the Executive Committee at its 138th Session, which endorses the development process for the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 and the dedication of Secretariat resources in support of this process.

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A New Health Agenda for the Americas

1. The Health Agenda of the Americas belongs to the Member States of the Pan American Health Organization. It will:

- Be a concise expression of the shared vision of the countries of the Americas, considering expected trends and challenges in the decade, and focusing on concrete improvements in the health of the people of the Americas.
- Set out high-level goals for health development in the Americas for the period 2008-2017.
- Take into consideration agreed-upon international objectives and mandates.

2. The Agenda will present 10-year goals for the people of the Americas to achieve the highest possible level of health. It will address the following gaps:

- The lack of a regional perspective: the Americas Region does not have a common agenda to address specific regional health problems.
- The declared will of the countries of the Americas to work together in solidarity needs to be translated into a concrete Agenda for the Region.
- The many declarations and mandates of the Americas to improve public health have not been collated, analyzed, and synthesized into a concise agenda.
- A clearer expression of collective intentionality and guidance, highlighting governments' steering role and Member States' commitment, is needed for achieving common health outcomes.
- Health partners and institutions will benefit from a concise, high-level health agenda for use in advocacy, mobilizing resources, and influencing policy at the regional level.

3. In addition, the Agenda will be a primary driver of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau's work:

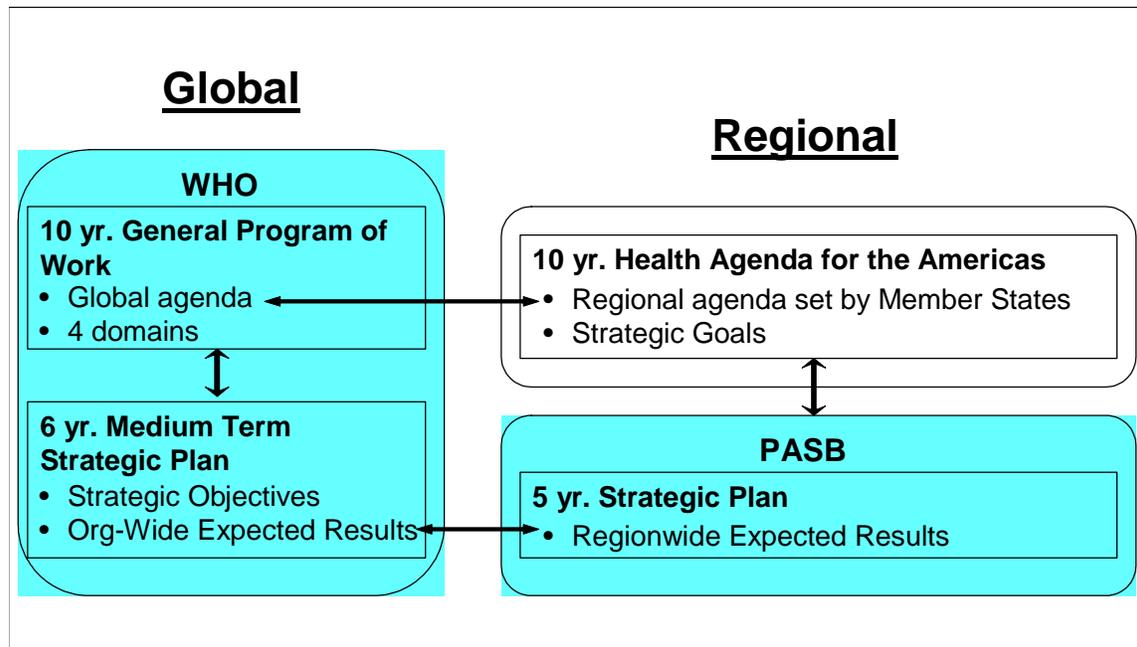
- The Report of the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (Document CD46/23) specifies the need for a long-term planning mechanism containing strategic goals that would constitute the highest level of results for the Region toward which the Bureau's work will contribute. This is an essential condition for the full implementation of results-based management in the PASB.

- The PASB Strategic Plan, which will be elaborated later, will be the operational response of the Secretariat to the call of the countries in the Agenda. The Organization's expected results, as defined in the Strategic Plan, will contribute directly to the goals set by Member States in the Agenda.

The Health Agenda and WHO's General Program of Work

4. The WHO General Program of Work (GPW) sets out broad guidance for WHO's work during the period 2006-2015, but does not contain specific goals. The Agenda will take the global guidance provided by the GPW down to the regional level, and will establish specific regional public health goals. The Agenda thus complements and enlarges upon the GPW at the regional level, as determined by Member States.

5. The following diagram depicts the relationships among WHO's planning instruments, the Agenda, and the PASB Strategic Plan:



6. Thus the PASB Strategic Plan will respond to both the WHO Medium-term Strategic Plan (MTSP) and the Health Agenda for the Americas.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau's Role in Developing the Health Agenda

7. One of the Bureau's fundamental roles is to support Member States in defining the public health priorities in areas of mutual concern. This applies equally to the

development of the Agenda, where the Bureau's role is expressly limited to supporting and facilitating the deliberations of Member States.

A Working Group to Develop the Health Agenda

Objectives

- The key initial objective for the Working Group is to produce a draft of the Health Agenda for the Americas by the end of July 2006, and include the suggestions of the Advisory Group by August 2006, in order that a draft may be considered at the 139th Session of the Executive Committee in September 2006.
- After consideration of the draft Health Agenda by the Executive Committee, the Working Group's primary task will be to guide and facilitate a broad consultation process with governments and civil society throughout the Region to ensure the Health Agenda is truly a product developed and "owned" by all key players in the health arena.

Membership

8. The Working Group is composed of senior officials or planners from seven Member States:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Canada
- Chile
- Cuba
- Panama (President)
- United States of America

9. The Working Group will periodically consult with an Advisory Group composed of the Members of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming and the Executive Committee (including those in the Working Group), as well as five health stakeholders from international organizations working in the Region.

Working Group Terms of Reference

10. The Working Group's main tasks are to:

- Define the process for development of the Agenda.

- Review stated mandates and declarations at the global, regional, and subregional level with a view to synthesizing them into 10-year strategic goals.
- Draft the proposed content of the Health Agenda.
- Review and comment on the draft Health Agenda, including coordination of the review by Member States and other parties not on the Working Group, as appropriate.
- Identify opportunities and suggest strategies to ensure successful consultations with various clients and stakeholders (governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and civil society organizations).

Work Plan and Calendar

11. Working modality: The PASB Secretariat will endeavor to organize video- and/or teleconferences on a fortnightly basis beginning the week of 3-7 July 2006, in order to advance the work of the Working Group, and maximize participation and feedback. In order to advance as quickly as possible, electronic consultation (email and SharePoint) will be used in the interim between these meetings.

12. Calendar:

2006

July

- The Working Group developed and refined the first Health Agenda draft.
- The Working Group circulated the initial draft of the Health Agenda to the Advisory Group.

August

- 7-9 August – The Working Group met in Panama to develop the Agenda.
- The Advisory Group sends its comments on the initial draft to the Working Group.

September

- The Working Group submits the draft Agenda to the Executive Committee.
- 29 September – The Executive Committee considers the first draft of the Agenda.
- The Executive Committee forwards its revisions to the Health Agenda to the Health Agenda Working Group for review.

November 2006- April 2007

- The Health Agenda is reviewed and refined with stakeholders at national and regional levels.

Mid-2007

- The health ministers endorse the Health Agenda (venue and date to be determined).

Action by the Directing Council

13. The Directing Council is requested to review this document, provide comments to the Secretariat as appropriate, and consider the resolution proposed by the Executive Committee.

Annex



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138th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 19-23 June 2006

CD47/8 (Eng.)
Annex

RESOLUTION

CE138.R19

HEALTH AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS 2008-2017

THE 138th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the “Report of the Ad hoc Consultative Group on the Health Agenda for the Americas (18 June 2006, Washington, D.C.),” Document CE138/INF/5; and

Acknowledging the briefings provided by the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming (SPP) and the Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Consultative Group,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Directing Council the adoption of a resolution along the following lines:

THE 47th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed Document CD47/8 regarding the development of a Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;

Recognizing the value and the need for such an Agenda for Member States, as well as for other stakeholders working to improve public health in the Americas; and

Noting with satisfaction the progress to date on the elaboration of the Agenda,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Ad hoc Consultative Group and the Working Group on the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 on their accomplishments and progress, and recognize the exceptional commitment of time and resources of the Member States participating in these groups;
2. To endorse the recommendations contained in Document CD47/8 regarding the development of a Health Agenda for the Americas;
3. To encourage all Member States in the Region of the Americas to engage in the Health Agenda for the Americas as it is further developed through a broad and participative series of consultations during the remainder of 2006 and 2007;
4. To request the Director to support the joint work of the Member States as they define and endorse the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;
5. To request the Director to ensure that the agreements reached in the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 are reflected in the development of the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau 2008-2012.

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