



## CARMEN Policy Observatory on Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases



A joint initiative between The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the WHO Collaborating Centre on Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Policy (Canada)

The **CARMEN NCD Policy Observatory** is a platform for the network of American countries and institutions engaged in the systematic analysis and monitoring of noncommunicable disease (NCD) policies. CARMEN<sup>1</sup> is the initiative adopted by the Pan American Health Organization for the prevention of chronic noncommunicable diseases in the Americas.

### What are the key objectives of the CARMEN NCD Policy Observatory?

The overall purpose of the NCD Policy Observatory is to provide a knowledge-base and analytical support to policy-makers in the Americas and potentially to countries in other regions. The specific objectives are:

- to support the development of effective integrated NCD prevention policies through the systematic analysis of the processes involved in formulation, approval and implementation of such policies;
- to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration in the adoption of complementary policies that maximize NCD prevention;
- to place NCD prevention higher on the agenda of policy makers.

The Observatory will open up opportunities for training, research and monitoring and serve as a dissemination point for best practices in policy by focusing on legislation, regulation, public policies and international health policy.

### What is PAHO's Role?

PAHO coordinates the CARMEN Network and works with its Member States in addressing public health issues. PAHO contributes with its technical expertise, and links its wide range of collaborators in the field to the efforts of the NCD Policy Observatory.

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<sup>1</sup> Name taken from the acronym in Spanish, Conjunto de Acciones para la Reduccion Multifactorial de las Enfermedades No Transmisibles.

## **What is the role of the WHO Collaborating Centre on NCD Policy (Canada)?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Noncommunicable Disease Policy, which is part of the Public Health Agency of Canada supports NCD policy development and implementation activities in Canada and with other WHO Member Countries, in the Americas and Europe. In the past, this Collaborating Centre has focussed on the design and analysis of comparative studies of policy development processes related to chronic disease prevention among 30 countries in Europe. More recently the Collaborating Centre has worked towards the establishment of this Policy Observatory on Noncommunicable Disease in the Americas.

## **Who are the collaborators on the NCD Policy Observatory project?**

The NCD Policy Observatory Project will engage many national and international partners. On the national front these would include multiple ministerial sectors such as health, economic planning, agriculture, social welfare, education, sports and recreation. Other partners will be non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and professional associations working in the area of NCD policy development and implementation. International multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, as well as governments committed to supporting global efforts in integrating health and economic development will also collaborate.

## **What is the role of the International Advisory Committee?**

The role of the International Advisory Committee is to provide expert advice to the Pan American Health Organization on the strategic direction, development, and on global policy implications of the CARMEN NCD Policy Observatory. This committee comprises key experts in diverse fields of international public health, global health policies, research and international finance from various organizations. The committee will be expected to critically review the goals, methodology and framework of the policy observatory and make recommendations on the strategic direction, development process, evaluation, sustainability, on-going funding and the expansion of the observatory within a global context.