



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL MINISTERIAL FORUM ON RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

1. In May 2008 the Pan American Health Organization agreed with the Secretariat of the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health 2008, to take over the regional consultations and preparatory dialogues leading to the presentation of a regional contribution for the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, to be held in Bamako, Mali, from 17 to 19 November 2008.
2. These open consultations were carried out through different forums and virtual meetings to which various interested players were invited, notably from the sectors of health, science and technology, and higher education. By the end of August 2008 the following contributions had been received and were posted on the consultation's website (<http://new.paho.org/Bamako2008eng>):

Strengthening Leadership

- Support countries in the development of clinical trials registries in coordination with WHO, avoiding duplication where possible.
- Ensure that research results (published or not) be made available as a prerequisite for public health research to be deemed ethical and managed with responsibility.
- Ensure access to research results that are essential for health and development:
 - o Broaden and maintain regional access to scientific evidence that is essential to improve public health
 - o Expand and maintain successful models such as the Virtual Health Libraries
 - o Promote Open Access, especially for knowledge produced with public funds

- Establish incentives to boost implementation research, innovation, and research on other key issues that enable development, equity and health.
- Ensure that progress and agreements reached in the Region and countries are acknowledged and considered in the development of new agendas.
- Ensure that WHO and other international agencies lead by example in monitoring resources and outputs of their research.

Engaging Relevant Constituencies

- Develop metrics to monitor and strengthen the health workforce that carries out research for health.
- Incorporate health workers who conduct research in human resources for health plans, linking them to the human resources for health goals and to the initiatives championed by WHO, the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF), and the Human Resources Observatory.
- Develop and implement strategies that engage other sectors in addressing public health priorities that contribute to development, equity, and health.
- Encourage health authorities to exercise stewardship of the health research agenda, responding to national health research priorities.
- Establish national strategies to retain essential human resources for health research with the means and opportunities that allow them to thrive.
- Avoid duplication by harmonizing and allocating responsibilities in global research promotion initiatives such as the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Public Innovation and Intellectual Property, Patient Safety, Health Technology Assessment, Bioethics and Research Ethics forums, and other initiatives involving international organizations and leading research partners.
- Provide leadership for the development of research that responds to new challenges (such as climate change) in coordination with stakeholders and partners.

Increasing Accountability

- Ensure that current knowledge becomes an integral part of research proposals, and that these are balanced (e.g., addressing benefits and harms / advantages and disadvantages).
- Ensure that standardized and organized essential data illustrating health research production, financing and human resources be accessible for monitoring and

- evaluation purposes; develop a framework to monitor financial flows for research in the sectors of health, and science and technology.
- Evaluate the effects of health research investments considering its broad impact on the economy, trade balance, and the development of countries.
 - Ensure that leading organizations assess the effects of different governance and stewardship strategies on the development of research for health.
 - Develop basic indicators (standardized and implementable) to assess research development and coordination across sectors.
 - Set up oversight mechanisms that promote research as a public good; transparency and enjoying the public's trust; beneficial and respectful of human rights; while addressing the needs of society with equity.

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