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FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: REPORT ON THE PREPARATIONS

Introduction

1. The purpose of this document is to report to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on the history of the Summits of Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere, known as the Summits of the Americas, and more so, to highlight the preparatory process leading up to the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in April 2009. This document summarizes the institutional aspects of the process, of which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), plays the role of an advisory body and organ that provides technical assistance to the Inter-American and United Nations systems in the field of public health. Additionally, it describes the preparatory activities undertaken in 2007 and the first semester of 2008 in chronological order, and highlights the main results of these activities. This description provides the Governing Bodies of PAHO with an overview of the preparatory process and indicates the current status of the process. Finally, it outlines the preparatory activities carried out between July and August 2008, together with those scheduled for the rest of the second half of 2008, and reports on the role that PASB will play during this final stage of preparations.

Summits of the Americas Process: Summary

2. The Summits of the Americas bring together the Heads of State and Government of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policies, search for solutions, and develop a shared vision for the future of the Region in the economic, social, and political spheres. The process is guided by shared political principles and established institutional mechanisms. The political principles of the process dictate that it include the 34 nations of the Americas with democratically elected governments that operate with free-market economies, engage in multilateral international negotiations based on egalitarian

principles, and reach decisions by consensus. The institutional mechanisms are the entities responsible for managing the process, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring.

3. One of the basic objectives of the Summit process launched in Miami in 1994 was to reorganize Inter-American relations, with the adaptation of discussions and procedures of the new political, economic, and social conditions worldwide and in the Region. The existence of new participants and a general understanding of political and economic principles based on the doctrines of democracy and the market economy made significant political cooperation and economic integration possible in the Hemisphere.

4. The Heads of State and Government of the Americas decided to meet periodically to define the key precepts of the new hemispheric agenda. The decision to institutionalize the meetings resulted in the concept of a “Summit process” in which experience is gained, a common language is forged, and mandates for joint action are programmed, to make the new theory and practice in hemispheric relations operational. This era of hemispheric relations is characterized by the revitalization of multilateralism, which, in this case, serves as a catalyst for modernizing the numerous institutions of the Inter-American system, including the Organization of American States (OAS) as the main political forum.

5. The First Summit, held in Miami (1994), was followed by the Second Summit, in Santiago, Chile (1998), the Third Summit, in Quebec (2001), the Special Summit, in Monterrey (2004), and the Fourth Summit, in Mar del Plata (2005). The Fifth Summit, will be held in Trinidad and Tobago (2009).

Summit Support and Monitoring Mechanisms

Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)

6. The SIRG was created in March 1993 to coordinate and review implementation of the mandates of the Miami Plan of Action. It was subsequently institutionalized as the mechanism for follow-up on the Summit process. The SIRG is comprised of the national coordinators, who are senior staff of the ministries of foreign affairs (see Annex A). The SIRG meets at an average of three times per year, and convenes one foreign affairs ministerial meeting. The first SIRG meeting in 2007 was held in March in Washington, D.C. At this session, apart from evaluating compliance with the mandates of the Fourth Summit of Mar del Plata, the preparatory work plan for the Fifth Summit of the Americas was outlined by the Special Envoy of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)

7. During the Third Summit, held in Quebec (2001) institutions associated with the Summit process (the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan American Health Organization, and the World Bank), presented their first joint hemispheric report describing activities undertaken pursuant to the mandates of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile in April 1998 under the coordination of the OAS. As a consequence of the Third Summit of the Americas, the role of these institutions became even more relevant, since the Quebec City Plan of Action underscored the need for ongoing coordination within the Inter-American system and welcomed the involvement of the international organizations during all stages of the Summit process.

8. Pursuant to this mandate, in June 2001 the aforementioned institutions signed a Letter of Understanding to establish the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), whose purpose is to achieve greater coordination in support of the implementation and follow-up of the mandates. The Group subsequently invited the following agencies to participate in its activities: the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Development Corporation (ADC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). In 2004, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) requested participation in the activities of JSWG, along with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) in 2005. Coordinating efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas poses a real challenge for the members of the JSWG, who have made a commitment to ensure that the Summit mandates reflect their agendas, technical cooperation, and funding activities to a greater extent.

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat

9. The OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat serves as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of the Summit process, assists countries with follow-up of the mandates and the preparations for future Summits, coordinates OAS support for the implementation of the Summit mandates, and chairs the JSWG in which international and Inter-American organizations participate.

10. In order to formalize the commitments made in Quebec, the Secretary General of the OAS signed Executive Order No. 02-03 on 31 May 2002, which strengthened the responsibilities of the Office of Summit Follow-up and changed its name to “Secretariat for the Summit Process.” The order also stipulated the Secretariat’s responsibility for coordinating activities on civil society participation during the Summit process and chairing the JSWG. This Executive Order was later amended to specify, among other

things, the functions of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat in relation to the governmental, social, academic, and institutional actors involved in the Summit process.

Preparatory process for the Fifth Summit of the Americas

11. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago established a National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit and appointed a National Coordinator to spearhead preparations for the Fifth Summit, with technical support from the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the JSWG. The National Secretariat answers directly to the Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The National Secretariat is staffed with senior technical and administrative personnel, who coordinate activities and maintain communication and joint efforts with the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat, the SIRG, and the JSWG.

12. The main activities implemented from the presentation of the Work Plan by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in March 2007 up to August 2008 are detailed below, along with the results obtained to date in the preparatory process. The main activities completed and those scheduled for the second half of the year are also outlined, along with the criteria and guidance received by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for drafting the Port of Spain Declaration of Commitment. The declaration will specify the technical role of the JSWG, in which the PASB participates, with the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat as coordinator.

Principal Preparatory Activities to Date (2007-2008)

XLV Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). Washington, D.C., 29 March 2007

13. As mentioned earlier, the basic purpose of this meeting was to convey the results obtained from the implementation of the mandates of the Fourth Summit, in Mar del Plata, and to outline the preliminary Work Plan for the Fifth Summit, which was presented by the Special Envoy and National Coordinator of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. During this session, both the governments and institutions of the JSWG reported on compliance with Mar del Plata mandates. They also noted the Hemispheric challenges in a context characterized by economic recovery and growth but with lags and a cumulative social debt, underscoring that, despite the progress made, current poverty levels in the Region are similar to those of the 1980s.

XLVI Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). Panama, 5 June 2007

14. The meeting was held within the framework of the 37th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly. It was the first ministerial meeting and the second SIRG meeting since the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago assumed the Presidency of the Summit process. It was chaired by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and implementation of the Fourth Summit in Mar del Plata, analyze the Hemispheric situation and the major future challenges, and present the preliminary work plan proposed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to the ministers of foreign affairs, along with the general guidelines for defining the theme of the Fifth Summit. Annex B contains the report on PASB support for compliance with the mandates of the Fourth Summit of Mar del Plata.

15. On behalf of the 12 institutions of the JSWG, OAS Secretary-General presented the book entitled "*Toward the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges*" to the ministerial meeting of the SIRG. This publication described each institution's perspective of regional problems and challenges, along with its proposals for future guidelines and criteria, and constituted technical input from the JSWG and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to facilitate analysis and discussion of the agenda items for the Fifth Summit. PASB was responsible for the chapter on "A Subject for the Political Agenda: Toward More Inclusive, Equitable, and Healthy Societies," which outlines the profile of the burden of disease in the countries of the Hemisphere according to income level, wide gaps and inequalities in health status of social groups, the chronic problem of insufficient public health expenditure and the lack of redistributive mechanisms for that expenditure as one of the main causes for the exclusion and lack of access to health services in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within this framework, the PASB proposes three main criteria for future use based on the Health Agenda for the Americas. They are: 1) universal access to health care, with greater solidarity among health care funding systems; 2) strengthening essential public health functions and primary care systems, and 3) strengthening surveillance of global health problems and early warning systems by implementing the International Health Regulations.

Meetings of JSWG Institutions and XLI Meeting of the SIRG, Trinidad and Tobago, 28 January 2008 and 28-29 February 2008, respectively

16. By this time Trinidad and Tobago had a new government in place. The meetings were convened by the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, and their purpose, on the one hand, was to officially launch the Summit's theme, "Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability," and on the other, to conclude the consultations with

JSWG institutions and the governments' Summit Coordinators on the concept paper. The Secretariat presented the three main ideas of the concept paper and recorded the observations, suggestions, and statements made by the SIRG and JSWG representatives.¹

Presentation of the Final Concept Paper for the Fifth Summit to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. Washington, D.C., 9 April 2008

17. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago presented the Permanent Council with the final paper containing the contributions and input from the consultations with the governments and institutions of the JSWG.²

JSWG Meeting with the National Secretariat Coordinator of the Fifth Summit, Washington, D.C., 10 April 2008

18. This meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of the OAS in his capacity as JSWG Chair. Its objective was to discuss the steps to be followed with the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit and Special Envoy to the Americas and to determine the support required from the Summit of the Americas Secretariat and the JSWG institutions in the preparatory activities scheduled for the second half of 2008. The National Coordinator and Special Envoy to the Americas stressed that the consultation processes for the concept paper had already ended and that the drafting of the Port of Spain Declaration of Commitment would begin. He indicated that that declaration would, as its name indicates, contain a series of commitments that the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere would make, and that the commitments would be expressed in terms of quantifiable objectives and goals, which would be used to devise monitoring indicators. He stated that the Declaration would cover the following thematic areas:

- Human development and poverty reduction, including health, nutrition, education and criminal violence;
- Economic growth and competitiveness;
- Energy security and sustainable development, including climate change and natural disasters;
- Democracy, good governance, and human rights.

¹ Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability'; Concept Paper; Permanent Council of the OAS, Fifth Summit of the Americas, Port of Spain, 2009; CP/INF.5672/08. Can be viewed at: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/SIRG_0708/V_Summit_Draft_Decl_Commitment_POS_0708_En.pdf.

² Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; CP/INF.5674/08, 9 April 2008, Permanent Council of the OAS. Can be viewed at; http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_08/CP20014E04.DOC

19. The intention is to issue a declaration of commitment for each thematic area. Commitments should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and have target dates. The Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the JSWG institutions were requested to create a matrix of the commitments, goals, and monitoring indicators that have been adopted for the Region of the Americas and approved by the Member States that comprise the institutions of the Inter-American and United Nations systems. With these inputs, the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit would harmonize the commitments to be enshrined in the draft Declaration of the Port of Spain Summit.

Consultative Meeting with Civil Society, Miami, 1 - 2 May 2008

20. At the Fourth Summit held in Mar del Plata, Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of strengthening a broad, inclusive, and transparent dialogue among all sectors of society to promote and consolidate democracy and build societies characterized by inclusion and social justice. Leaders made a commitment to promote and encourage greater citizen, community, and civil society participation in the Summit process to ensure that the benefits of democracy are shared by civil society as a whole.

21. With this mandate, and with the support of the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the JSWG institutions, the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit, called on civil society organizations to engage in dialogue on the main theme proposed for the Summit. Nearly 100 regional organizations participated, and the involvement of different interest groups focused on specific issues such as poverty, education, human rights, health, the indigenous population, Afro-descendants, the environment, and social and economic development. The concept paper was presented. Based on the aforementioned thematic areas which were established to define the commitments, working groups were organized to select the proposals that civil society would make in each area. This work will be harmonized by the National Secretariat for consideration in the draft Declaration.

XLII Ministerial Meeting of the SIRG, Medellín, Colombia, 2 June 2008

22. Within the framework of the 38th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, the ministers of foreign affairs met to discuss the matters related to the Fifth Summit. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago informed that the dates of the Summit have been set for April 17-19 2009. She also informed that five meetings of the SIRG will be convened to deal with the Port of Spain Declaration of Commitment. The Minister informed that the draft declaration is expected to be ready by in July. All countries present expressed their support to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

***Second Regular Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG),
24 July 2008***

23. At this meeting, held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., the draft [Declaration](#), “Securing our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability,”³ was presented by the National Secretariat Coordinator for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and Special Envoy to the Americas from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This presentation marked the start of the negotiations on the Declaration of Commitment to be adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Hemisphere at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 17 to 19 April 2009.

Preparatory Activities Scheduled for the Second Half of 2008

24. At the meeting mentioned in the paragraph above, the National Secretariat Coordinator for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and Special Envoy to the Americas from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago announced that the Third Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2008 will be held from 18 to 19 September in Barbados to formally launch the negotiation process. Subsequent SIRG meetings have been scheduled 16-17 October, 13-14 November, and 11-12 December 2008, with the venues to be confirmed. The primary objective of these meetings will be to work on the draft Declaration.

25. In parallel to this process, several ministerial meetings were held to provide input for the draft Declaration on the broad thematic areas defined. These ministerial meetings were: the 15th Inter-American Ministerial Meeting, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 15) (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11 and 12 June); the First Meeting of Social Development of Ministers and High-Level Authorities (Chile, 9 and 10 July); the Interministerial Meeting of Ministers of Health and Education (Mexico, 2 August). At this writing, preparations were under way for the following meetings: the Eighth Conference of Ministers of Defense (Canada, 2 and 3 September); the 48th Directing Council of PAHO (Washington, D.C., 29 September to 3 October); and the Second Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers and High-Level Authorities (Mexico, 27 and 28 October).

26. A hemispheric consultative forum with the private sector is also planned.

³ Draft of the Declaration of Commitment of Port-of-Spain, “Securing our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability”. http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/SIRG_0708/V_Summit_Draft_Decl_Commitment_POS_0708_Sp.pdf.

Technical Input from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

27. The PASB's Executive Management and External Relations Area will continue to provide input into the JSWG and participate in the regular and ministerial SIRG meetings. It will also respond to requests for technical assistance and advice from the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas. In this regard, the PASB is providing the inputs requested by the JSWG institutions for drafting the Port of Spain Declaration of Commitment, which will be consistent with the policy decisions adopted by the Governing Bodies of PAHO through the Health Agenda for the Americas, the Strategic Plan 2008-2012, and the specific mandates relevant to theme of the Fifth Summit. Moreover, extend invitations to the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit to participate in the interministerial meetings scheduled for the second half of 2008, including the 48th Directing Council of PAHO.

Action by the Directing Council

28. The Directing Council is invited to note the information provided on the preparations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and to continue assisting the Secretariat with the support and follow-up activities for this important process.

Annexes

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DECLARATION	ACTION PLAN	PAHO/WHO	NEXT STEPS
<p>Mandate 11: <i>We note with concern the increased intensity of natural and man-made disasters and their devastating impact on human lives, infrastructure, and economies in the Hemisphere. We call for action at the national, regional, and international levels to strengthen disaster management programs, including through increased capacity for disaster preparedness, development of early warning systems, risk mitigation and post-disaster recovery, and reconstruction and technical and financial assistance as appropriate, particularly for disaster-prone countries, to reduce the impact of disasters. We also support efforts under way to explore private and public sector involvement in comprehensive approaches to catastrophic risk insurance.</i></p>	Not specified	<p>A 2006-2007 PAHO study showed that the ministries of health in almost every country in the Americas have adopted formal measures to continuously improve their preparedness and reduce risk. Based on the results obtained, technical cooperation priorities have been set.</p> <p>PAHO Member States agreed to set national policies on disaster-safe hospitals. The agreement was then ratified by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, raising the issue of hospital safety as a universal commitment. By the end of 2007, at least 25 Caribbean and Latin American nations had implemented specific measures to reduce the health sector's vulnerability to disasters.</p> <p>The PAHO/WHO Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group (DiMAG) developed the Hospital Safety Index to evaluate health facilities' levels of structural security, non-structural security, and organizational-functional security in the face of disasters. The results help prioritize the facilities needing corrective measures and also monitor progress. This methodology was applied with notable success in Mexico in 2007, where the Index has been used to assess more than 100 health facilities, and to a lesser extent, in Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Peru, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.</p>	<p>Technical cooperation will be continued in order to strengthen the countries' response capacity in terms of disaster mitigation and risk reduction as set forth in the cooperation plan for the biennium 2008-2009.</p> <p>The Hospital Safety Index will continue to be applied, and support will be provided for the preparation of reports to guide decision-making on this issue.</p>
<p>Mandate 13: <i>Recognizing that the reduction of inequality and the elimination of poverty cannot be achieved solely through welfare-oriented social policies, we commit to undertaking comprehensive government policies that institutionalize the fight against poverty. We commit to consolidating more democratic societies with opportunities for all, and will promote greater access for our people to education, health care, labor markets, and credit.</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 50: <i>To strengthen, within national health systems, primary health care actions as a step to prevent diseases and their consequences and reduce morbidity with the purpose of ensuring equal access to health services for all people in the hemisphere.</i></p>	<p>The political commitment to renewing Primary Health Care (PHC) was ratified in August 2007 at the international conference "Buenos Aires 30/15: From Alma-Ata to the Millennium Declaration," where more than 50 countries from around the world signed the Declaration of Buenos Aires calling for an equitable PHC-based health strategy.</p> <p>PHC renewal thus becomes the core strategy used by health systems to extend social protection in health and make universal coverage a reality for all people in the Region. In order to disseminate the PHC approach in the Region's health systems, in March 2007 a PAHO/WHO position paper on PHC renewal was published, which has become the frame of reference for reorienting the health sector and strengthening health systems throughout the Region.</p>	<p>From the perspective of the PHC-based health system approach, the evaluation, adaption, and reorganization of each country's health services network will advance.</p>

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DECLARATION	ACTION PLAN	PAHO/WHO	NEXT STEPS
<p>Mandate 33: <i>We will strengthen cooperation and exchanges of information in the struggle against chronic diseases</i></p>	<p>Without specifying</p>	<p>PAHO-sponsored studies and evaluations at the regional and country levels have permitted more accurate calculations of the disease burden of noncommunicable diseases; this epidemic is currently responsible for the highest number of deaths in both the Region and in the world. Raising awareness about the magnitude of the problem has made it possible to advocate for changes in lifestyles, diet, and other risk factors associated with chronic diseases. PAHO supports the regional initiative of the CARMEN Network (a series of actions to reduce and manage noncommunicable diseases), a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange involving a network of countries that has helped strengthen national capacities to promote prevention and control activities.</p> <p>Advocacy and raising awareness among politically influential people has been one of PAHO's core strategies to promote the adoption of public policies in prevention and control. To this end, with support from PAHO, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held a summit of heads of state and government in Trinidad and Tobago on noncommunicable diseases in the Caribbean. The Declaration of Trinidad and Tobago became a model followed by other regions of the Hemisphere.</p>	<p>Support will continue for the CARMEN Network and its research activities, information dissemination, and the production of guides and tools to promote the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. The policies for the prevention, management, and control of diabetes and obesity, and the prevention and control of cervical cancer will be submitted for the consideration of the Governing Bodies.</p>
<p>Mandate 34: <i>as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, malaria, tuberculosis, avian flu, and other health risks</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 48: <i>To strengthen at the national level the strategy of supervised treatment of tuberculosis, with ALL of STI components, and extend the coverage of the population at risk; in the same manner, coordinate efforts to reduce malaria in endemic countries and strengthen the fight against classic and hemorrhagic dengue.</i></p>	<p>PAHO has collaborated with national governments and TB programs to implement and expand the strategy of strictly supervised treatment, short course, best known as DOTS. The strategy has led to improvements in control, especially in countries with limited economic resources and higher prevalence. As a result, in 2006 many countries were able to meet the international goals of detecting 70% of the existing cases of contagious tuberculosis and successfully treating 85% of new cases.</p> <p>PAHO has been moving toward the stratification of malaria risk areas to facilitate a more efficient and effective approach to malaria prevention and control among the countries. Through this effort, specific strategies, interventions, and technical collaboration with malaria country programs are pursued, oftentimes involving clusters of countries with similar challenges and common borders.</p> <p>PAHO provided technical support to the countries in formulating and implementing their national strategies. By December 2007, 14 countries in the Region had established a national Integrated Management Strategy for dengue prevention and control (IMS-dengue). Furthermore, two subregional IMS-dengue plans have been created, one for Central America and one for the MERCOSUR member states and associates, which includes a contingency plan for responding to dengue outbreaks and epidemics.</p>	<p>Support will continue to be provided for the implementation of regional plans for tuberculosis and malaria control, and for monitoring their fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.</p> <p>The epidemiological surveillance systems for dengue prevention and control will be strengthened and cooperative efforts made among the countries for the integrated management of dengue prevention and control.</p>

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DECLARATION	ACTION PLAN	PAHO/WHO	NEXT STEPS
<p>Mandate 34: <i>We commit to fighting the stigma, misinformation, and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in the workplace and favor their full access to employment with dignity.</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 46: <i>To implement–with the support of Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)–the “Three Ones Initiative: one HIV/AIDS action framework, one national AIDS coordinating authority, and one country-level surveillance and evaluation system” developing primary prevention of HIV/AIDS and strengthening health services for young people and other vulnerable groups, with special attention to the problem of stigma and discrimination in the labor environment, taking into account the ILO Code of Conduct on HIV/AIDS in the workplace // . To promote efforts to provide integral prevention, treatment, and care to HIV/AIDS carriers with the aim of providing as close as possible universal access to treatment for all those who need it as soon as possible.</i></p>	<p>PAHO is part of the Interinstitutional Coordinating Committee for HIV/AIDS, which has permitted the harmonization and synergy of technical and financial cooperation to improve support for country efforts to combat the epidemic and to invite other partners and stakeholders to join the efforts. Within this framework, a joint work plan has been prepared for the 2007-2008 period, in which each agency establishes its commitments and responsibilities for the Region.</p> <p>In response to the clear feminization of the epidemic in the Region – seen in the higher proportion of HIV-infected girls, teenage girls, and adult women vis-à-vis their male counterparts – PAHO has intensified its technical cooperation to reach these groups in schools, communities, and the workplace. Studies in several countries have shown that women, teenage girls, and girls who are victims of abuse and violence are the most vulnerable to HIV infection; thus, activities are under way to include HIV testing and counseling in health-care services for victims.</p> <p>Priority was given to capacity building for utilization of a Human Rights approach to HIV. Four countries (Jamaica, Suriname, Belize, and Guatemala) received PAHO support to conduct national training workshops on human rights and HIV with the participation of civil society and MOH as well as other actors and institutions. As a result, the Belize government asked PAHO to review the emphasis on Rights in HIV comprehensive care draft legislation. Studies on Human Rights and HIV were completed in five Central American countries in collaboration with persons living with HIV, and one country (Mexico), with PAHO’s support, developed its first anti-homophobia campaign. The Andean Region, also with support from PAHO, conducted a situation analysis of stigma and discrimination, and as a result, developed a sub-regional plan for reducing stigma and discrimination in 2007-2010.</p> <p>The Mexican government is receiving technical and organizational support in preparation for the Interministerial Meeting of Health and Education Ministers to look at the trends of the epidemic in the hemisphere, the situation of youth, and determine how to improve the coordinated response of both sectors to the epidemic. Also there is support from the Coalition of First Ladies and Women Leaders on Women and HIV, which has mapped out an action policy to address the feminization of the epidemic.</p>	<p>Epidemiological surveillance efforts will continue, as will the promotion of universal access to services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and for the most vulnerable groups, as well as antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV. Work will continue on the themes of women and AIDS, stigma and discrimination.</p> <p>In order to halt the epidemic and improve the response in the Region, the advances toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals will be analyzed.</p>

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DECLARATION	ACTION PLAN	PAHO/WHO	NEXT STEPS
<p>Mandate 34: <i>We propose to develop crosscutting strategies and cooperation mechanisms, principally within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to combat these diseases, including the strengthening and adequate financing of the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 54: <i>We recognize the positive results of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria (GFATM) and we reaffirm our support to their activities and goals. We recommend the continued important participation of civil society in the fulfillment of these goals, and we urge the Global Fund Board to evaluate the eligibility criteria with the intent of addressing middle income countries in the hemisphere.</i></p>	<p>At the November 2007 meeting of the Global Fund, the eligibility criteria were modified, making it possible for the Hemisphere's middle- and upper-middle income countries to apply and submit proposals to the Fund, thus fulfilling the mandate.</p> <p>At the Eighth Round of the Global Fund for Latin American and Caribbean countries, there was significant participation by organized civil society and especially people living with HIV.</p>	
<p>Mandate 34: as well as the development of national preparedness plans to fight potential pandemics, such as avian flu.</p>	<p>Paragraph 47: <i>To initiate immediately, with the support of PAHO, and finalize by June 2006, national plans on the preparation of influenza and avian flu pandemics in countries that do not have plans. In countries that already have plans; these should be implemented immediately according to the January 2005 decision of the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO).</i></p>	<p>In 2006-07, PAHO's technical cooperation in preparations for an influenza pandemic were geared to helping the Member States to prepare, evaluate, and execute National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plans (NIPPP); strengthen core surveillance skills at the community level and establish early warning systems for public health emergencies; create and train rapid response teams; and provide technical assistance for the introduction of seasonal influenza vaccines.</p> <p>Technical cooperation has also sought to strengthen the countries' early warning systems, boosting their capacity to detect potential public health threats by expanding surveillance goals and strengthening the existing viral surveillance network. To this end, the new Generic Protocol for Influenza Surveillance (GPIS) was prepared in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The protocol seeks to harmonize influenza surveillance throughout the Region to ensure that any isolated case of influenza caused by a new viral substrain will be reported immediately to the World Health Organization (WHO), as stipulated by IHR-2005. Introduction of GPIS is under way in every country in Latin America and the Caribbean. A core component in GPIS application, with CDC support, has been the improvement of laboratory capacity in the countries of the Region.</p>	

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DECLARATION	ACTION PLAN	PAHO/WHO	NEXT STEPS
<p>Mandate 34: We urge all countries to accelerate the process of ratification of the new international health regulations and seek to enhance the cooperation mechanisms that would facilitate access to pertinent measures of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the at-risk population.</p>	<p>Not specified</p>	<p>The International Health Regulations (IHR) went into force in June 2007. By the end of 2007, all the countries had designated PAHO as the IHR Regional Contact Point, and professionals were assigned and communication/information systems began functioning 24/7 to receive/send information on public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC). Training courses have been offered for country IHR focal points in the application, designation, and operation of National Coordinating Centers. The production of instruments has begun and in 2007 the evaluation of countries' basic surveillance and response capacity, as described in Annex 1 of IHR-2005, began.</p> <p>Under the initiatives on the issues of health at points of entry, there have been joint efforts with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and coordination with the Inter-American Committee on Ports. The issue of the necessary basic skills for airports, ports, and designated border crossings has been addressed through the preparation of contingency plans for airports.</p>	<p>Progress in implementing the IHR (2005) will be analyzed, along with the countries' basic surveillance and response capacity.</p>
	<p><i>Paragraph 66: To cooperate with solidarity with the Haitian people in their efforts to revitalize the democratic institutions, fight poverty, and foster equitable socio-economic development, including, the creation of decent work through, among others, greater support from the international financial institutions and cooperation agencies, and implement disarmament, demobilization, and reinsertion programs (DDR), with the support of MINUSTAH and the Special Mission of the OAS for the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti.</i></p>	<p>PAHO/WHO continues to participate in the activities of the OAS Group "Friends of Haiti," and the United Nations Regional Directors' Team of Latin America and the Caribbean (RDT-LAC).</p> <p>For cooperation in health, PAHO has developed a cooperation mechanism to harmonize the cooperation offered by the bilateral agencies collaborating with Haiti, such as CIDA-Canada, USAID, AECS-Spain, and AIDS-Sweden, among others. The main cooperation activities in 2007 include: support for the forum on restructuring the health sector reform process, with ample involvement of all relevant actors in the sector; preparation and implementation of a strategy and plan to attract, retain, and improve the technical skills of human resources for health; the establishment of a social protection plan, starting with the goal of reducing maternal mortality, offering a free basic care package; support for priority disease care: HIV/AIDS, as well as control of malaria, tuberculosis, and lymphatic filariasis, among others; strengthening the program of essential medicines (PROMESS in Spanish); support for completing the national vaccination campaign against multiple antigens; and strengthening the disaster reduction program.</p>	<p>PAHO will respond and adjust the Haitian assistance program, based on the plan agreed upon by the agencies of the system to address the food crisis.</p>

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