



## ***Commemoration of World Tuberculosis Day 2015***

### **International Panel**

## **HOW DO WE RENEW THE COMMITMENT OF ALL TO ELIMINATE TB IN THE AMERICAS?**

**Lima, Peru, 25 March 2015, 10:00-12:00**

**Place: National Institute of Child Health, San Borja**

**Virtual Session in English: [www.livestream.com/paho](http://www.livestream.com/paho)**

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**Objective:** Share and/or discuss, from different standpoints, the vision and actions that could accelerate the reduction of the incidence of tuberculosis to achieve a TB-free America.

**Moderator:** Dr. Manuel Pena, a.i. PAHO/WHO Representative

#### **Panelists:**

1. Dr. Aníbal Velásquez, Minister of Health of Peru
2. Mr. Eros Biondini, Federal Representative of Brazil and Member of the Parliamentary Front against TB in Brazil
3. Ms. Karen Rivas, former MDR-TB patient and community leader
4. Mayor of Lima City
5. Josefina Townsend, journalist and TV presenter
6. Dr. Joan Benach, expert in social determinants of health.

#### **Guests:**

1. National and international journalists accredited in Peru
2. Accredited ambassadors in Peru, representing countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, and Korea
3. Representatives of regional agencies: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Andean Health Agency (ORAS), Central American Integration System (SICA), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)
4. Health Commission of the Congress of the Republic of Peru
5. Peruvian State Ministries participating on "TB Prevention and Control" law
6. Representatives of the Administering Institutions and Health Insurance Funds (SIS; EsSalud, Health of the Armed Forces, National Police of Peru and the National Penitentiary Institute, among others)

7. Representatives of the Provider Service Institutions of Health (National Hospitals, etc.)
8. Representatives of international organizations and international NGOs that work with TB (World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, KOICA, La Union, Partners in Health, etc.)
9. Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and health-related UN agencies: PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, WFP, ILO, PNUD
10. Representatives of civil society and organizations of people affected by TB (OAT)
11. Representatives of academia and tropical medicine institutes
12. Schools and Federations of health-related professionals
13. Representatives of the Institute of Health Services Management (IGSS) of the DIRESA Callao and DIRESA Lima.
14. Mayors of priority districts for TB control in Lima and Callao and coordinators of health strategies for tuberculosis of the respective districts.

**Methodology:** The panel session will consist of two rounds of questions and answers with the panelists, led by a moderator. Guests will have an opportunity to ask the panel members some questions. The discussion will be transmitted through PAHO/WHO channels and social networks.

**Rationale for World Tuberculosis Day and the Global TB Strategy:**

World Tuberculosis Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the tuberculosis situation around the world and the global response to this infectious disease.

The World Health Assembly approved an ambitious strategy to end the global tuberculosis epidemic in the next 20 years. The vision is of a world free of tuberculosis, with zero deaths, zero disease, and zero suffering. The strategy sets objectives and actions for governments and all partners, aimed at: i) patient-centered care; ii) establishing policies and systems for the prevention and care of the disease; and iii) the necessary research and innovations to end the TB epidemic and eliminate the disease.

The slogan of World Tuberculosis Day 2015 is “To end TB in the Americas: Find, Treat and Cure,” emphasizing that not everyone affected by TB is diagnosed, treated, or cured. It is also an appeal for affected people and communities, governments, civil society organizations, health providers, the news media, and international partners to jointly help end TB as a cause of death, impoverishment, and pain for families of the Americas. It is time to pick up the pace to end TB!

**Regional context:**

TB continues to be one of the leading health public problems in the Region of the Americas. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, in 2013 there were 280,200 new cases of tuberculosis (29 per 100,000 population) in the Americas and nearly 21,000 deaths. In the same year, countries reported 220,500 TB cases (23 cases per 100,000 population), meaning that over 65,000 people affected by the disease were not diagnosed and did not receive treatment. There are many reasons for this, some related to health care and others to

the low profile of the problem among the population. A particularly important problem is the lack of participation in TB control by all government and nongovernment sectors.

Tuberculosis continues to reflect profound socioeconomic health inequalities in the Region of the Americas. The distribution of the incidence of TB in countries according to their Human Development Index (HDI), shows that the most socially disadvantaged quartile of the population has four times more tuberculosis than the richest quartile. The incidence of TB is declining throughout the Region, but inequality in terms of the risk of getting sick has not changed substantially in the last ten years. This highlights the fact that causes such as social and health exclusion, affecting the populations most vulnerable to the disease, require action aimed at the social determinants of health and TB, going beyond the health sector itself. Only then we can end TB.

The populations most vulnerable to TB in the Region are the poor inhabitants of peripheral areas of cities, ethnic minorities, migrant populations, prisoners, and persons affected by HIV/AIDS, diabetes mellitus, addiction to alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs, and other chronic diseases. PAHO/WHO has developed various initiatives for a multifaceted response to vulnerable populations, and is implementing one that specifically targets TB control in vulnerable urban populations, taking a multisectoral approach involving comprehensive care and the inclusion of TB in local development plans.

## AGENDA

10:00 - 10:20 **OPENING**

*Dr. Manuel Peña, a.i. PAHO/WHO Representative in Peru*

*Dr. Anibal Velasquez, Minister of Health of Peru*

10:20 - 12:00 **HOW DO WE RENEW THE COMMITMENT OF ALL TO ELIMINATE TB IN THE AMERICAS?**

*Panel*

Moderator:

*Dr. Manuel Peña, a.i. PAHO/WHO in Peru*

*Discussion*

12:00 **Reception**