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C. SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

1. The framework for subregional technical cooperation is supported by Resolution CD45.R6 (1), adopted by the Directing Council in 2004. With the adoption of this resolution, subregional technical cooperation was included in the budget policy in order to promote the strengthening of Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) collaboration in integration processes in three subregions: Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.
 2. The purpose of this report is to inform the Member States of relevant developments since the last report presented in 2018 with respect to public health-related agreements and resolutions within the framework of subregional integration processes of interest to the Governing Bodies of PAHO.
 3. This report also covers the progress made in activities carried out as part of cooperation agreements between PAHO and subregional integration entities.
 4. Through the signing of specific agreements and memorandums of understanding, PAHO currently provides technical cooperation to the subregional integration organizations mentioned below. This report includes tables showing the new developments and progress made in the implementation of priority resolutions emanating from these integration bodies, their relation to PAHO activities, and the measures that the Organization has supported.
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a) Central America

- Central American Integration System (SICA): Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA); Regional Intersectoral Forum for the Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic; Central American Economic Integration System (SIECA)
- Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP)
- Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (PIDM)
- Mesoamerican Public Health System (SMSP)

b) Caribbean

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD); Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)

c) South America

- Andean Community: Andean Health Agency-Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU)
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR): Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR and Working Subgroup 11 on Health (SGT 11)
- Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)
- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

Integration Entities in Central America

Central American Integration System

5. The Pan American Health Organization provides technical cooperation to various entities (bodies, secretariats, and specialized institutions) of the Central American Integration System.¹

Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic

6. The Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic is part of the political body of SICA; its purpose is to identify and prioritize regional health issues. COMISCA constitutes the main regional forum for analysis, deliberation, and presentation of proposals by the ministers of health. On 4 December 2017, a cooperation agreement was signed by the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA (SE-COMISCA) and PAHO/WHO, establishing the framework for cooperation and

¹ More information on SICA is available at: <http://www.sica.int/>.

coordination to strengthen the joint activities of the two organizations, including the joint preparation of the Health Cooperation Strategy for Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2025. This agreement complements the cooperation agreement between PAHO/WHO and the General Secretariat of SICA, signed in 1995.

7. The last two regular meetings of COMISCA were held on 6-7 December 2018 in Placencia, Belize and on 11-12 June 2019 in Antigua, Guatemala.

COMISCA XLIX Regular Meeting of COMISCA Placencia (Belize), 6-7 December 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
COMISCA Resolution 10-2018: Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI). The resolution instructs SE-COMISCA to hold meetings with authorities from Central American and Dominican Republic ministries of health to define the work process for reaching bilateral and cross-border agreements.	PAHO is participating in the new Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI). This binding resolution adopted by COMISCA is aligned with the Plan of Action for Malaria Elimination 2016-2020 approved through resolution CD55.R7 of the PAHO Directing Council.
COMISCA Resolution 14-2018: Political Position on the Elimination of Tuberculosis, Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases and on 40 Years of Primary Health Care. The resolution reiterates the commitment of COMISCA Member States to fulfill the provisions of the Astana Political Declaration on the elimination of tuberculosis (TB), on fighting chronic noncommunicable diseases, and on primary health care.	PAHO is providing support for technical and laboratory development through regional coordination between SE-COMISCA, ORAS, PAHO, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. PAHO, together with INCAP, supports implementation of the annual work plan established by COMISCA's Technical Commission on Chronic Diseases and Cancer (CTCC) to respond to the epidemic of noncommunicable diseases by developing subregional strategies and plans. One of the products developed jointly by PAHO/INCAP/CTCC is the Strategy to Reduce Salt and Sodium Consumption in Central America and the Dominican Republic, which was approved with amendments by COMISCA.

COMISCA XLIX Regular Meeting of COMISCA Placencia (Belize), 6-7 December 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
COMISCA Resolution 18-2018: Health Agenda for Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2030. The resolution adopts the Health Agenda for Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2030 as a strategic policy instrument guiding regional health-related actions.	The Health Cooperation Strategy for Central America and the Dominican Republic was developed under the framework of the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 and the Health Agenda for Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2030. It sets strategic priorities and defines spheres of action for PAHO in the subregion. It was approved in COMISCA meeting of June 2019.
COMISCA Resolution 19-2018: Approval of the Regulations of the Regional Intersectoral Forum for the Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic. The Regional Intersectoral Forum analyzes and crafts technical proposals to serve as input for analysis and for policy and strategic decision-making in the SICA Councils of Ministers, and particularly in COMISCA.	The transition from the Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD) to the Regional Intersectoral Forum received technical and financial support from PAHO.
COMISCA Resolution 22-2018: Health of Migrants. The resolution instructs SE-COMISCA to develop strategies to improve the health of migrants and to explore with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) lines of work related to migrant health. It also requests that a work strategy be presented at the third Regional Intersectoral Forum, tentatively scheduled for 2019.	The health of migrants has been included as a key topic in the Subregional Cooperation Strategy for Central America and the Dominican Republic. PAHO, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and SE-COMISCA, is working to develop a strategy on migrant health at the request of COMISCA.

COMISCA XLIX Regular Meeting of COMISCA Placencia (Belize), 6-7 December 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
COMISCA Resolution 27-2018: Chronic Kidney Disease and the Regulation of Organ Transplant and Donation. The ministers resolved to prioritize the issue of chronic kidney disease in the SICA region and instructed SE-COMISCA to inventory the laws and regulations in effect that relate to organ transplant and donation; to conduct meta-analysis of available studies in the subregion; and to coordinate intersectoral actions with other SICA entities, including the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC).	In March 2019, an intersectoral meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, with entities and researchers from around the world to review the latest scientific findings on chronic kidney disease and coordinate a road map to address the disease. At the request of the countries represented there, a proposal was made to hold a meeting in November 2019 with ministerial councils on health, agriculture, environment, and labor, to develop an interministerial road map to address chronic kidney disease.
COMISCA Resolution 28-2018: Delivery of the Central American Adverse Drug Events Pharmacovigilance Data (FACEDRA) Platform. The resolution highlights the support provided by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS), with the implementation of pharmacovigilance in the subregion within the framework of the memorandum of understanding with SE-COMISCA. The FACEDRA regional pharmacovigilance platform was transferred to SE-COMISCA, as the pharmacovigilance system for drug regulators of the SICA Member States.	PAHO has been working with countries for more than five years with the support of WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring, known as the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, which receives global information. This work has strengthened the pharmacovigilance system allowing for data collection and analysis prior to reporting to Uppsala Monitoring Centre. The Central American countries, except for Belize and Nicaragua, are members of the program. PAHO will propose a technical discussion with COMISCA to define which of the systems brings more benefits to the countries in the Region and avoid the existing duplication.

COMISCA L Regular Meeting of COMISCA Antigua (Guatemala), 11-12 June 2019	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
Resolution 01-2019 on subregional health regulations. Central American technical regulations on front-of-pack nutritional warnings (RTCA-EFAN). SE-COMISCA is instructed to make arrangements with SIECA to promote the approval of the regulations, taking into account the impact on health in the Central American population, based on the principles and purposes established in articles 3 and 4 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol.	PAHO and INCAP are working with the PAHO/WHO Member States to produce evidence on the effectiveness of implementing this labeling.
Resolution 07-2019 on approval of the proposed realignment of the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project: Mesoamerican Public Health System (SMSP). The proposed realignment of the project and, in particular, of the Mesoamerican Public Health System is approved. A proposal is made to discuss it in the IV Meeting of SMSP National Coordinators to be held in June 2019.	The resolution states that the Mesoamerican ministerial council should function as an extended COMISCA, with the participation of the Secretary of Health of Mexico and the Minister of Health of Colombia.
Resolution 08-2019 on the progress made on the Strategic Plan for Health Promotion in Central America and the Dominican Republic. SE-COMISCA is instructed to send a new version of the Strategic Plan for Health Promotion in Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2025.	SE-COMISCA has taken all the strategic lines in the Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030 (Document CD57/10 [2019]) and has integrated them into its Strategic Plan for Health Promotion in Central America and the Dominican Republic 2019-2025.
Resolution 10-2019 on approval of the research protocol for the Regional Study on Equity and Fertility in Adolescents (EREFA) in Central America and the Dominican Republic, 2019. This resolution instructs SE-COMISCA and the Technical Commission on Health Research (CTIS) to prepare the study, with technical support from PAHO/WHO, during El Salvador's pro tempore presidency.	PAHO, the Latin American Center for Perinatology, Women's, and Reproductive Health (CLAP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported the development of the COMISCA strategic plan for adolescents and the design of the protocol for the study of equity and fertility in adolescents, which will start in the second semester of 2019. This will be used to lay the foundations of the subregional initiative on equity and adolescence.

COMISCA L Regular Meeting of COMISCA Antigua (Guatemala), 11-12 June 2019	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
Resolution 11-2019 on the sustainability of the program for external evaluation of performance (PEED) in the tuberculosis laboratories of the SICA region, within the framework of the strategy to end tuberculosis by 2035 (End TB Strategy). Urges countries to ensure the allocation of financial resources in their national budgets to guarantee the quality of tuberculosis diagnosis in the Region.	COMISCA's network of laboratories and the heads of TB programs recognize the need to maintain the PEED, supported by Mexico's Institute for Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (InDRE). PAHO will continue to support ES-COMISCA in order to maintain InDRE as the supranational laboratory for the national tuberculosis reference laboratories in SICA's member states.
Resolution 13-2019 on the progress made in regional work to strengthen the drug regulatory authorities of SICA member states and the Central American Network of Drug Regulatory Authorities (RedCAM). This resolution requests RedCAM to define as a working method the provisions of COMISCA Resolution 03-2018, creating an operational structure within COMISCA for the process of discussing and presenting technical proposals on technical health regulations.	COMISCA is developing a proposed mechanism to work jointly with SIECA to prepare technical health regulations with the participation of the competent authorities in the health sector so that this is done effectively, efficiently, and systematically. The drug regulatory authorities should review this resolution thoroughly, since the majority of them are independent of the ministries of health.
Resolution 14-2019 on the approval of strategic guidelines for comprehensive health services for migrants, people in transit, returnees, and separated families in the SICA region. These strategic guidelines are approved as an instrument to coordinate regional, national, and local actions on health and migration in collaboration with the IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	The resolution establishes that SE-COMISCA, in coordination with the IOM, should study the viability of developing an interactive health and migration map for Central America and the Dominican Republic. The creation of a COMISCA technical group on migration would duplicate the migration and health network that PAHO currently leads.

Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama

8. The Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama, a center specializing in food and nutrition, is an institution of SICA. The INCAP Directing Council is the highest governance body of the Institute. It consists of the ministers of health of the eight Member States and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. From the inception of the Institute until 2010, PAHO served as the administrator of INCAP and, at the same time, as a participating member of the Directing Council and Advisory Council. Since 2010, the relationship between PAHO and INCAP has been governed by a memorandum of understanding for collaboration; the current MOU ends in December 2019. Every two

years, a biennial work plan responding to the PAHO Strategic Plan is prepared and implemented with technical advice from PAHO.

Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project

9. The Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project² is a mechanism developed by 10 Mesoamerican countries to strengthen regional integration and to promote economic and social development in the participating countries. The objective is to improve conditions and human prosperity among the population. It was officially launched by the presidents and heads of state and government at the Tenth Summit of the Tuxtla Dialogue and Agreement Mechanism, held in Tabasco, Mexico, on 27-28 June 2008.

Mesoamerican Public Health System

10. The purpose of the Mesoamerican Public Health System is to respond to the main shared challenges in public health and to strengthen the national health systems through selected interventions and operational support of the Mesoamerican Public Health Institute (IMSP), established on 3 July 2009. Colombia assumed the presidency *pro tempore* on 1 January 2019 and its work plan emphasizes the implementation social and economic programs giving priority to the development of a methodology to prioritize investments.

Caribbean Integration Entities

Caribbean Community

11. The Caribbean Community³ is a group of 20 countries: 15 Member States and five Associate Members. It came into being in July 1973 with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which defines its structure of organs, bodies, and institutions. The organs are the Conference of Heads of Government and the Ministerial Councils, which have responsibility for key policy areas and are the decision-making bodies of CARICOM. The Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019 operationalizes CARICOM's four pillars: economic integration, foreign policy coordination, human and social development, and security.

12. The CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government meets twice a year. CARICOM also convenes an annual Council for Human and Social Development, which is responsible for the promotion of health, education, and living and working conditions in the Caribbean Community. The chair rotates among the member countries every year. COHSOD meetings are traditionally held at PAHO Headquarters prior to the Pan American Sanitary Conference or the Directing Council.

² More information on the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project is available at: <http://www.proyectomesoamerica.org/>.

³ More information on the CARICOM is available at: www.caricom.org.

13. PAHO's relationship with CARICOM is defined by a memorandum of understanding signed in 1983. The PAHO Subregional Program Coordination Office is the Organization's main interlocutor with CARICOM. Through technical cooperation provided by this office, PAHO supports the development and implementation of Caribbean Cooperation in Health, the functional cooperation strategy adopted by CARICOM ministers of health. The PAHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for 2016-2019 is fully aligned with the CARICOM Caribbean Cooperation in Health strategy for 2016-2025. The Subregional Program is currently undergoing a programmatic evaluation which will inform a new subregional cooperation strategy that will be aligned with the new PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

14. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is an institution of the Caribbean Community (pursuant to Article 21 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas), established in 2011. The Twenty-Eighth Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in July 2007 approved the integration of the five Caribbean regional health institutions into a single agency, CARPHA. Two of the regional health institutions, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), were administered by PAHO. PAHO's 50th Directing Council adopted Resolution CD50.R14, which requested PAHO to work with the CARICOM Secretariat to transfer the relevant functions and resources of CAREC and CFNI to CARPHA.

15. Since CARPHA became operational in 2012, a framework agreement between CARPHA and PAHO defines its relationship. Under this agreement, CARPHA and PAHO jointly prepare biennial work plans whereby PAHO provides financial support toward strategic objectives based on the two parties' respective roles, responsibilities, and objectives.

16. The 40th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government, held on 3-5 July in Saint Lucia, did not include any resolution directly related to health.

CARICOM 30th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community St. Kitts and Nevis, 26-27 February 2019	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
No health-related decisions were made during the 30th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government. The CARICOM Single Market and Economy was discussed as an agenda item. The Protocol on Contingent Rights covers the rights of persons moving to another country under the free movement of skills regime, as well as the spouses and dependents of those who move to other countries.	The Protocol on Contingent Rights has implications for health. PAHO will collaborate with CARICOM to analyze decisions especially with regards to human resources for health and universal access to health and universal health coverage.

CARICOM 35th Meeting of the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Washington, D.C., 21-22 September 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
The COHSOD considered the presentation of a general report on Caribbean Cooperation in Health IV 2016-2025, which articulates CARICOM's health priorities for its Member States. The COHSOD endorsed the composition and objectives of the Steering Committee and the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy.	PAHO Caribbean Subregional Program Coordination continues to offer support to Caribbean Cooperation in Health IV, including technical assistance for its coordination and implementation.
The COHSOD requested that a written letter be sent to the World Health Organization regarding the continued advisories being issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the CARICOM Member States.	The WHO Zika virus country classification scheme (which categorized most of the Caribbean territories as having active Zika virus transmission) is no longer in force, having been replaced by periodic epidemiologic updates to guide public health programs and traveler health.
The COHSOD endorsed the Roadmap on Information Systems for Health (IS4H) in 2017, and in 2018 the Council recognized progress in advancing its implementation.	PAHO continues to support the CARICOM Technical Working Group on Information Systems for Health, which reached agreement on the approach to implementation and monitoring of the roadmap on this subject in the Caribbean based on current initiatives.
Health workforce migration: Regional Rights-Based Framework for Migrants and Mobile Populations—Protocol: The COHSOD considered the preliminary findings of the PAHO study on the mobility and migration of the health workforce and agreed to a Ministerial-Level Working Group to guide the preparation of the final report.	PAHO commissioned the study on health workforce migration. The study resulted in important findings that were presented to the ministers of health. It was agreed that a working group would be formed to develop recommendations.

CARICOM 35th Meeting of the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Washington, D.C., 21-22 September 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
<p>Resolution CD50.R12 (2010), the Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis, indicates that the basic conditions for eliminating the two diseases are within reach of the countries.</p> <p>The COHSOD supported strategic action to address persisting challenges, particularly in laboratory and surveillance, which potentially can hinder further advances in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission and the maintenance of the gains made in the Caribbean.</p>	<p>PAHO continues to provide technical support to countries to develop national plans to address gaps and challenges and to develop and review national Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission reports, while supporting countries to advance to the validation phase. Currently, seven of the 11 countries validated globally for elimination of mother-to-child transmission—and seven of the eight that have achieved dual elimination of HIV and syphilis transmission—are in the Caribbean. The elimination process is underway in the subregion. To date, seven countries have achieved it with the support of the Subregional Program.</p>
<p>Implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005 (Resolution WHA65.23 [2012]): The COHSOD urged States to intensify their efforts to strengthen human resources capacity for preparedness and response to public health events by using the Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP) and the PAHO online epidemiology training program.</p>	<p>PAHO continues technical support to States Parties to strengthen their core capacities in relation to the International Health Regulations, particularly in areas such as chemical and radionuclear events in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).</p> <p>Thus far, Joint External Evaluations have been conducted in Haiti, Belize, and Grenada.</p> <p>The three epidemiology courses offered by PAHO Skills Online were also recognized as useful in building capacity in epidemiology.</p>

CARICOM 35th Meeting of the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Washington, D.C., 21-22 September 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
<p>Health financing and universal access to health and universal health coverage. The COHSOD reviewed and accepted the key priorities discussed by high-level officials from the ministries of health, ministries of finance, and national health insurance institutions at the Sub-Regional Dialogue organized by PAHO in August 2018 in Barbados. The Council endorsed the proposed actions and mechanisms for strengthening health financing toward universal health in the Caribbean.</p>	<p>PAHO convened a meeting of high-level officials from the ministries of health, ministries of finance, and health insurance institutions of 20 CARICOM Member States and Associate Members, along with regional partners. The main outcomes included shared knowledge of health financing concepts, techniques, and practices, and examination of country practices; assessment of country health financing arrangements; identification of main challenges in the Caribbean; and agreement on a subregional agenda on health financing and universal health.</p> <p>PAHO is supporting the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) working group to review current health financing arrangements and conduct case studies on health financing and health service delivery models for universal health coverage.</p>
<p>The COHSOD supported the process led by the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) to revise the 2010 CARICOM Regional Standard: Specification for Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CRS 5:2010), and to incorporate mandatory front-of-package labeling and the development of the nutritional labeling standard.</p> <p>The Council advocated for the presence of ministries of health in the work of national bureaus of standards. The COHSOD also encouraged support at the highest political level to advance domestic legislation and regulations on front-of-package labeling (FOPL).</p>	<p>CROSQ, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, the CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiations, CARPHA, the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Center (CDRC), and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), is facilitating the revision of the 2010 CARICOM Regional Standard: Specification for Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CRS 5:2010) and the development of a separate standard for nutritional labeling. In addition, there is South-South Cooperation being undertaken between Chile and CARICOM on this topic and supported by PAHO's Country Cooperation For Health Development (CCHD) financial mechanism.</p>

South American Integration Entities

Andean Community: Andean Health Agency-Hipólito Unanue Agreement

17. In the Andean Integration System, the Andean Health Agency-Hipólito Unanue Agreement⁴ acts as executive secretariat for the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA).⁵ PAHO participates in these meetings as the technical advisory agency on health. An umbrella memorandum of understanding was signed between PAHO and ORAS-CONHU on 16 March 2017 and then extended in 2019. PAHO's Subregional Program for South America is the Organization's main interlocutor with ORAS-CONHU and, through its technical cooperation, supports the development and implementation of the Andean agency's recently approved strategic plan for health integration. The PAHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America for 2019-2022 is in complete accordance with the ORAS-CONHU strategic plan for health integration for 2018-2022. REMSAA held its 37th Ordinary Meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on 6 November 2018, where its presidency *pro tempore* was transferred to Peru; and its 32nd Extraordinary Meeting in Lima, Peru, on 15 April 2019, where the new Executive Secretary of ORAS was elected for the period 2019-2022. The next REMSAA meeting is scheduled for November 2019 in Santiago, Chile.

ORAS-CONHU XXXVII Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Quito (Ecuador), 6 November 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
The ministers approved the report of the Andean Border Health Plan (PASAFRO) 2016-2018 through REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/529 and its extension to 2022.	This resolution is in alignment with the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Document CD53/5, Rev.2) and with the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the PAHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America, which explicitly includes the issue of border health.
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/523 on the situation of adolescent pregnant women in the Andean countries was approved, and the current Andean Plan for Prevention and Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy was extended until 2022.	This resolution is in alignment with PAHO Resolution CD56.R8 (2018), Plan of Action for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health 2018-2030, which defines a series of actions aimed at ending preventable deaths among women, children, and adolescents; ensuring their physical and mental health and well-being throughout their life course; and expanding enabling environments, so that no one is left behind.

⁴ More information on ORAS/CONHU is available at: <http://www.orasconhu.org>.

⁵ More information on REMSAA resolutions is available at: <http://www.orasconhu.org/reuniones-ordinarias>.

ORAS-CONHU XXXVII Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Quito (Ecuador), 6 November 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/524 on the health situation of Afro-descendants in the Andean countries was approved, and the Andean Plan for the Health of Afro-descendants was extended until 2022.	This resolution is in alignment with the Policy on Ethnicity and Health (Document CSP29/7, Rev. 1 [2017]), which includes the Afro-descendant population and the actions necessary to improve their health.
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/525 on the Andean Plan for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and their Risk Factors 2018-2022 was approved, along with a resolution on healthy food for children and adolescents to reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases.	This resolution is in alignment with the Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases for 2012-2025 (Document CSP28/9, Rev. 1 [2012]), and with the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Document CD52/7, Rev. 1 [2013]).
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/527 on Climate Change and the Andean Plan for Risk Management of Emergencies and Disasters 2018-2022 was approved.	PAHO is supporting countries in the subregion in the development of adaptation plans in accordance with its Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (Document CD51/6) approved in 2011. This resolution will make it possible to further strengthen this work.
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/530 on the Andean Policy on Human Resources for Health and the corresponding plan of action for 2018-2022 was approved, consistent with the global and regional strategies on this issue.	The Andean Policy on Human Resources for Health is in the framework of the Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Document CSP29/10 [2017]). Concerning the ORAS plan of action for 2018-2022, there will be coordinated work with this integration body in the framework of implementation of the Plan of Action on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage 2018-2023 (Document CD56/10, Rev. 1 [2018]).
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/531 on the creation of the Andean Committee on Mental Health was approved.	PAHO contributed substantially to the creation of this subregional committee, given its alignment with the Plan of Action on Mental Health (Document CD53/8 [2014]), the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019, and PAHO's Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America.

ORAS-CONHU XXXVII Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Quito (Ecuador), 6 November 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/526 on healthy diet was approved.	The PAHO subregional program for South America and the regional team participated actively in the preparation of this resolution, which is fully aligned with the Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents. (Document CD53/9, Rev. 2 [2014]).

ORAS-CONHU XXXII Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Lima (Peru), 15 April 2019	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
The ministers approved the ORAS-CONHU Annual Operating Plan and Budget for 2019.	The operating plan is aligned with the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019. PAHO is collaborating with ORAS-CONHU in the implementation of its annual operating plan through a letter of agreement and technical support provided to different Andean technical committees.
REMSAA Resolution XXXVII/528 on the health of migrants and the current Andean Health Plan for Migrants were approved.	This resolution is in alignment with Resolution CD55.R13 (2016), Health of Migrants, which defines a series of actions aimed at reducing health risks for migrants by strengthening programs and services that are adequate to their conditions and needs.
A resolution was unanimously approved designating Dr. Maria del Carmen Calle Dávila as Executive Secretary of the Andean Health Agency-Hipólito Unanue Agreement for the period 2019-2022, starting at the 38th Ordinary Meeting of REMSA in November 2019 in Chile. The work done by Dr. Nila Heredia during the period 2016-2019 was also recognized.	PAHO will continue working with ORAS-CONHU under the leadership of Dr. Calle, starting in November, strengthening joint technical work and accompanying the process of Andean integration, as was done during the term of Dr. Nila Heredia.

Southern Common Market: Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR and Working Subgroup 11 on Health

18. Working Subgroup 11 on Health (SGT 11) addressed health issues during the Meeting of Health Ministers of the Southern Common Market⁶ and Associated States. The Working Subgroup is a technical body made up of representatives of the States Parties of MERCOSUR. Its main objective is to formulate and harmonize common regulations in MERCOSUR within each area of jurisdiction. The meeting sought to harmonize strategic policies linked with public health and align them with regional priorities, as well as to develop plans and programs of action for their joint implementation. The Member States rotate the presidency *pro tempore* every six months; Argentina held the presidency *pro tempore* in the first half of 2019. Meetings are held in the country that holds the presidency *pro tempore*. PAHO participates as the technical advisory agency on health. An umbrella memorandum of understanding was signed between PAHO and MERCOSUR on 11 June 2015. This is being renewed in 2019 with the inclusion of new areas for PAHO technical cooperation.

19. PAHO's Subregional Program for South America is the Organization's main interlocutor with MERCOSUR and, through its technical cooperation, supports development and implementation of the thematic areas contained in the memorandum of understanding. PAHO's Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America for 2019-2022 is completely aligned with the thematic areas defined in the memorandum of understanding. The XLIII Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 23 November 2018. At this meeting, the presidency *pro tempore* was transferred to Argentina. The XLIV Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR was held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 14 June 2019. At this meeting, the presidency *pro tempore* was transferred to Brazil. The next Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR will be held in November 2019 in Brazil.

MERCOSUR XLIII Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR Montevideo (Uruguay), 23 November 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
Ministers of health from MERCOSUR and Associated States signed a declaration to place health at the front and center of national climate change adaptation plans.	This resolution reaffirms PAHO Resolution CD51.R15 (2011), Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change. It aims to ensure that health systems become climate-resilient and that health prevention and promotion are fully integrated with climate services.

⁶ More information on MERCOSUR is available at: <http://www.mercosur.int>.

MERCOSUR XLIII Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR Montevideo (Uruguay), 23 November 2018	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
The ministers approved a declaration on mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, reaffirming the commitment to address this issue in MERCOSUR.	This agreement is aligned with the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021 (Document CD55/14 [2016]). PAHO provides technical cooperation in this area.
The meeting approved a resolution to promote the safety and availability of blood products in MERCOSUR countries.	This agreement is in alignment with resolution WHA63.12 (2010) of the World Health Assembly on the availability, safety, and quality of blood products, and PAHO Resolution CD53.R6 (2014), Plan of Action for Universal Access to Safe Blood. PAHO will support the Intergovernmental Commission of MERCOSUR to implement this agreement.
The ministers approved a declaration on joint price negotiations for medications used in transplant patients with hepatitis C. The work of MERCOSUR's Ad Hoc Committee for Negotiation of Prices of High-Cost Medicines was reaffirmed.	This declaration is consistent with Access and Rational Use of Strategic and High-cost Medicines and Other Health Technologies (Document CD55/10, Rev. 1 [2016]). It is expected that purchases will be made through PAHO's Strategic Fund, having a positive impact on the cost and availability of medicines for PAHO Member States. It is expected that this ad hoc committee will continue to receive PAHO technical cooperation.

MERCOSUR XLIV Meeting of Health Ministers of MERCOSUR San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentina), 14 June 2019	
Health-related agreements and resolutions	Subregional impact and progress
The Ministers of Health of MERCOSUR and its Associated States signed agreement 01/19 on Directives for the MERCOSUR Work Plan for Border Health, which includes PAHO technical support.	This resolution is in alignment with the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Document CD53/5, Rev.2; Resolution CD53.R14 [2014]) and with the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the PAHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America, which explicitly includes the issue of border health. PAHO has accompanied this process of formulating and reviewing the plan and has been requested to maintain technical cooperation during its implementation.
The ministers approved a declaration on the prioritization of health in all policies to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases.	This agreement is in alignment with Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases for the period 2012-2025 (Document CSP28/9, Rev. 1 [2012]) and with Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Document CD52/7, Rev. 1 [2013]).
The ministers approved a declaration on the prioritization of health in all policies to prevent and control reemerging vaccine-preventable diseases.	This agreement is in alignment with the Plan of Action on Health in all Policies (Document CD53/10, Rev. 1 [2014]); the Global Vaccine Action Plan (Resolution WHA65.17 [2012]); and the Plan of Action on Immunization (Document CD54/7, Rev. 2 [2015]). PAHO provides support through the Revolving Fund for Immunization in order to provide vaccines to the MERCOSUR countries.

Union of South American Nations

20. The Union of South American Nations⁷ has a South American Health Council made up of a Coordinating Committee, a Technical Secretariat, five technical groups, six networks, and the South American Institute of Governance in Health (ISAGS). The Technical Secretariat convenes and supports the Council's meetings. It consists of representatives from three Member States: the Member holding the current presidency *pro tempore* of UNASUR and the Members holding the immediately preceding and subsequent presidencies *pro tempore*. The presidency of the South American Health Council corresponds to the minister of health of the country that occupies the presidency *pro tempore* of UNASUR, which is held successively by each Member State, in

⁷ More information on UNASUR is available at: www.unasur.org.

alphabetical order, for one-year periods. No meetings of ministers of health were held during the reporting period.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

21. Within the framework of the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda for 2010-2018, PAHO/WHO carries out technical cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization through health coordination activities. The memorandum of understanding on cooperation was renewed in June 2017, defining cooperation in accordance with the Agenda's strategic lines for regional health management and knowledge management. PAHO's Subregional Cooperation Strategy for South America for 2019-2022 is fully coherent with the health-related components of the ACTO agenda. On 1 January 2019 Maria Alexandra Moreira of Bolivia took office as the new secretary, serving from 2019 to 2021.

Action by the Directing Council

22. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report and provide any the comments it deems pertinent.

References

1. Pan American Health Organization. Regional Program Budget Policy [Internet]. 45th Directing Council of PAHO, 56th session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas; 27 September to 1 October 2004; Washington, DC. Washington, DC: PAHO; 2004 (Resolution CD45.R6) [cited 2019 March 4 10]. Available from: <http://www1.paho.org/english/gov/cd/CD45.r6-e.pdf>.

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