



Dissemination of information PAHO activities. October 2010

Dear [ECONMED](#) participants

Between September 26th and October 1st the 50^o Directing Council of Pan American Health Organization and 62nd Session of the Regional Committee of World Health Organization for the Americas are being held regional headquarters of organization. Several of the topics being addressed (working documents) might be of interest for [ECONMED](#) participants.

- We shall highlight three, that will be discussed during the Council, sharing next week the final results of deliberation: *Strategy and Plan of Action for Chagas Disease Prevention, Control and Care* ([CD50/16](#)) (attached), *Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals* ([CD50/20, Rev. 1](#)) and the regional contribution for the *Establishment of an advisory group of experts in research and development: financing and coordination*
- The document on *Strategy and Plan of Action for Chagas Disease Prevention, Control and Care* examined in the [146 Session of the Executive Board \(CE146/14, Rev. 1\)](#) and after observations and comments received by Member States and other interested parties is presented in order to be adopted as Resolution in the current session of the Directing Council.
- After an introduction on the characteristics of the Chagas' disease and its endemic nature in a number of countries from the region, the document enumerates the main goals, with several sub-objectives, that shall be reached by 2015 by Member States with technical cooperation of PAHO:

1. To interrupt domestic vector-born, transfusional, and other types of *t. cruzi* transmission in all sub regions of the Americas. this will require expanding the coverage of prevention and control measures, bearing in mind the characteristics of the health system and ecology of each sub region
2. To reduce morbidity and mortality by improving access to health services for infected people, both symptomatic and asymptomatic, as well as increasing coverage of diagnosis, quality medical attention, and timely treatment of cases.

- We find worthy to point out that as an specific objective of this second goal there is an explicit mention to need for supporting and strengthening *Research and technological innovation, with special emphasis on the development of new and better tools for the diagnosis and of drugs for the treatment of the disease* (Objective 2.3) including a reference of one of the most recent innovation examples produced in the region: the pediatric formulation of benznidazole by the [Laboratório Farmacêutico do State of Pernambuco](#) (LAFEPE), who already supplies the [PAHO' S Strategic Fund](#) with other formulations of the product (developed with the support of [DNDI](#)).
- The document establishes a structure of evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy based on sub regional cooperation and an estimate of the resources that it would be necessary to mobilize in order to carry out the activities planned in 21 countries.
- Also worthy mentioning the initiative of the Director of PAHO, stated in the last Executive Board to promote and set up an incentive mechanism for innovation that in its first call would be focused on changes diagnosis (probe of cure). Technical details are still under discussion with concerned parties and relevant stakeholders.

