

**42nd SESSION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH RESEARCH  
(ACHR)**

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**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 13-15 April 2008**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Health Research of the Pan American  
Sanitary Bureau, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 13-15 April 2008**

At the request of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) convened the Committee's 42nd meeting as a follow-up to its 41st meeting, which was held at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from 29-30 November 2007.

The present document summarizes the discussions that took place during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ACHR. Attendees were members of the ACHR, including Dr. Roses; staff of the ACHR Secretariat at PAHO Headquarters and the Country Office in Brazil; representatives of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, and special guests from international organizations worldwide. Dr. Luis G. Sambo, Director of WHO's Regional Office for Africa, made a brief appearance. During the meeting, discussions focused largely on the current vision surrounding PAHO's research policy and the ACHR's role in its development, and specifically on a background document describing the potential form that PAHO's research policy could take. The background document was drafted to inform the preparation of a policy document to be presented to PAHO's Governing Bodies in 2009. In addition, there were several presentations, one on the subject of research policy in Brazil and the others on recent progress in PAHO's technical cooperation projects and activities in health research and their alignment with the

research policy of the World Health Organization (WHO). A number of recommendations emerged from the meeting.

**Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Health Research to  
the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau**

The recommendations made by the ACHR pertained to the background document describing the potential form that PAHO's research policy could take. These were:

- (a) to craft a title for the policy that conveys a message;
- (b) to add a clearer statement of the problem to which the research policy is a solution and more generally to revise the justification and background section based on the feedback provided;
- (c) to add a section about guiding principles for the research policy based on the input provided;
- (d) to change the title for the section about goals/objectives and develop both an overall goal statement and a list of objectives/strategies based on the feedback provided;
- (e) to draft a statement about PAHO's commitment to implementation based on the feedback provided; and
- (f) to modify the list of definitions to ensure that all key concepts are defined and that any definitions in the current draft that do not match with a concept in the research policy are dropped from the list.