



Technical Advisory
Committee on HIV/STI



**Pan American
Health
Organization**

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

**Presentation delivered during the
Third Technical Advisory Committee
on HIV/AIDS/STI**

Managua, Nicaragua

16-18 September 2007

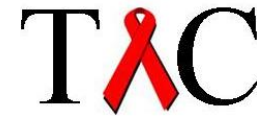
Review of TAC functions and mechanisms of operation

Managua, Nicaragua
September 16-18, 2007

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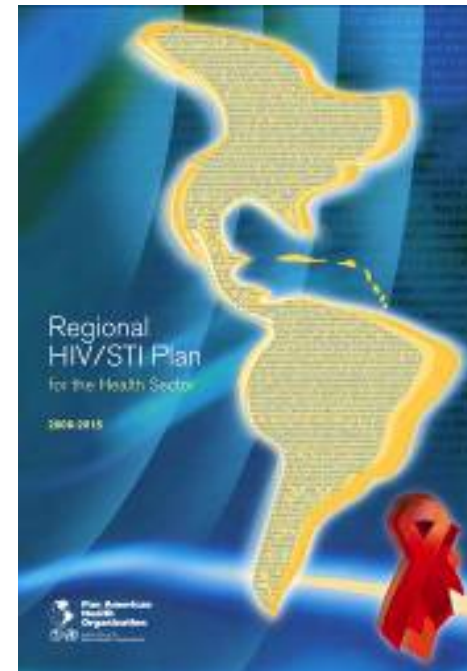


Mission of the



Technical Advisory
Committee on HIV/STI

To guide the strategic
and programatic
orientations of
PAHO's HIV/AIDS
program of work



Functions of the TAC

(as initially designed)

- Advise the PAHO Secretariat with respect to **program priorities**
- Advise the PAHO Secretariat regarding **optimal strategies and approaches** to attain the program's overall goals, as well as other HIV/AIDS needs and priorities in the Americas, and review **implementation** of these strategies
- **Promote understanding** and support for program goals **among Member Countries** - including governments, technical institutions, NGOs and civil society, BI-/ML/private organizations
- Participate in **missions at the country level** for program reviews and meetings
- **Advise on criteria, methodology and research** needed to meet the HIV/AIDS program's goals in the Americas.



Mechanisms for operation

- ◆ Membership
- ◆ TAC meetings with recommendations
- ◆ Participation of TAC members in other meetings or activities at local, sub-regional or regional level
- ◆ Technical debate(s): Community of Practice?

Membership (as originally defined)

- ◆ Experts in areas related to key themes under HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
- ◆ Appointed by PAHO Director
- ◆ PAHO/FCH/AI = Secretariat for the TAC
- ◆ At least 1 TAC member, member of the **STAC** (WHO's **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS**)
- ◆ At least 1 TAC member representative of the community of people with HIV

Profile of TAC membership

Characteristics	As of September 2007
Geographical	North America (2 USA, 1 Mexico), 1 Central America (Honduras), 4 Andean region (Peru, Venezuela), 3 South cone (2 Brazil, Argentina), 1 Caribbean (Jamaica)
Speciality/ Profile	Sociology, Anthropology, Economy, Medicine, Public Health, Research, Reproductive Health, Communication, Human Rights, Person with HIV
Thematic	Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, Care, Research, IEC, M & E, Advocacy
Gender	6 women, 5 men
Linguistic	Mother tongue: English (2), Spanish (7), Portuguese (2)



TAC meetings

- ◆ At least one every 1-2 years
- ◆ To discuss **achievements** and **challenges**
- ◆ To review protocols and results
- ◆ To guide in the identification of **research needs**
- ◆ To review progress of activities underway

Some conditions for effective TAC meetings...

- ◆ **Highly technical level**
- ◆ **Agenda of the meeting prepared several months in advance**
- ◆ **Regularity of meetings**
- ◆ **Report at the end of meetings shared with participants.**





TAC recommendations

- ◆ 33 recommendations in 2005
- ◆ 5 additional and one revised in 2006
- ◆ Ensuring effective follow-up of 2007 recommendations
 - Reduce their number? (delete those already implemented? Aggregate?)
 - Link them to the Critical Lines of Action (CLA) of the Regional Plan?



Participation of TAC members in other meetings or activities

... a few examples...

- Advice provided by TAC members during preparation of the Regional HIV/STI Plan for the Health Sector 2006-2015
- Participation of 1 TAC member in the Steering Group (Executive Team) for the development of the Regional Plan
- Participation of 1 TAC member in the development of IMAI materials and guidelines



Technical debate



- ◆ How to create conditions for a high-level technical debate? How to enhance TAC members interaction?
- ◆ How to create a Community of Practice based on agreed upon agendas?
- ◆ How to familiarize TAC members with tools available at PAHO (Sharepoint, Elluminate) - to facilitate communication with technical professionals at several levels?



A few questions...

- ◆ Terms of membership: 3 years/renewable
- ◆ Integration of new members
- ◆ Frequency of TAC meetings: at least annually
- ◆ Meeting with stakeholders - every 2-3 years
- ◆ Representation of TAC members in annual sub-regional planning/monitoring meetings
- ◆ Mode of communication and reporting between TAC members and TAC's Secretariat?