



## Spanish Cooperation and Health in the Americas

This is the age of networks, as I have stated on many occasions--networks that coordinate the efforts of many actors to tackle common challenges. This is clearly a very good situation for those of us working to promote public health in the Region. We are, at the core, a vast network that pools the efforts of many actors at the personal, community, group, national, and regional level and channels them toward the general good.

I therefore found Spain's invitation to participate in a round table on multilateral partnerships for global challenges at the I Meeting on Development Cooperation, held in Madrid on 25-26 October 2007, especially significant and symbolic.

First, because the very holding of the Meeting and the high status of its participants reflect a very clear, open, and generous vision of cooperation's role in confronting the challenges that all of us, as human beings, must face together. And second, because it manifests the will to boost the effectiveness of development cooperation by taking advantage of the experiences of the many sectors involved.

Spanish cooperation with PAHO to promote public health in the Americas, in addition to its bilateral cooperation with the countries, has been tremendously important. Launched in Central America in the 1980s with the program "Health, a Bridge for Peace," it has continued to grow and set an example.

The cooperation of Spain has been extremely valuable in areas such as the fight against HIV/AIDS, measles eradication, noncommunicable diseases, and epidemiological surveillance systems, owing to the magnitude of the financial resources and expert assistance provided and the flexibility and response capacity that it has enabled us to acquire.



Leire Pajin, Secretary of State of Cooperation; Mirta Roses, PAHO's Director; Ana Pastor, President of the Commission of Cooperation of the Assembly.



**Dra. Mirta Roses with Jose Martinez Olmos,  
General Secretary of Health and Dr. Bernat  
Sorai, Minister of Health**

As I said at the forum and have shared with you here on other occasions, health problems transcend borders and demand a global view and approach; they require alliances with partners who share common values and a common mission and call for leadership and capacity building to obtain results.

In Spanish cooperation, PAHO has found a partner who shares that philosophy. In the Organization's pursuit of its mission, it is very encouraging that forums such as this one help to forge even closer ties between us to promote public health in the Region.