



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORKING GROUP ON STREAMLINING THE  
GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS OF PAHO**

**REFORM AND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND  
PROGRAMMING (SPP), THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF WOMEN, HEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT, AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NGOS.**

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1. Argentina applauds the progress made during the First Meeting of the Working Group on Streamlining the Governance Mechanisms of PAHO, held 5-6 December 2005.
2. The outcomes sought with the conversion of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming (SPP) to the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (SPPA) have sound arguments in their favor, if we consider PAHO'S need for improvement in terms of results-based management, monitoring, and evaluation. Argentina considers the objective of establishing links between financial evaluation and execution of the program budget, external and internal auditors' reports, and the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit to be of critical importance, as is follow-through on the issues of governance, gender equity, and the admission and evaluation of NGOs in official relations with PAHO.
3. We consider it of the utmost importance to promote greater intervention by the countries in the monitoring and evaluation of financial and budgetary matters. However, we do not associate this increased activity with the increase in the number of participating countries<sup>1</sup>. In this regard, we fully endorse the objective of greater qualitative participation, with the consequent possibility of intensifying the monitoring of programming and budget evaluation to promote greater efficiency.
4. The participation of more countries would violate the spirit of the reforms that are being encouraged in the Organization and lead to an expansion of its structure, with a consequent increase in costs.
5. Concerning the frequency of SPPA meetings, given the adoption of new technical assistance, supervision, and budgetary management functions, Argentina proposes that the meetings continue to be held with the same frequency as those of the SPP.
6. Given the Organization's biennial planning and budget cycle, it is recommended that in alternate years the SPPA give priority to reviewing the program/budget

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<sup>1</sup> Increasing the number of countries that would participate in the proposed SPPA could imply an increase in its operating costs without necessarily improving the quality of its decisions or the Organization's performance.



proposal and other issues related to the evaluation, monitoring, and review of new proposals and policies.

7. Concerning the dissolution of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development, Argentina agrees that it should be dissolved, since we believe the gender and health equity perspective has already been adopted by the majority of the Region's health authorities. We suggest that it be replaced with a Director's Advisory Group, similar to the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR). The Group would be comprised of delegates from other agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and government with experience and interest in this issue.
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