



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON ANIMAL HEALTH

Washington, D.C., 13–15 April 1999

RIMSA11/FR (Eng.)
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

FINAL REPORT

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FINAL REPORT

The XI Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA XI) was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from 13 to 15 April 1999, as convened by the Director of PAHO, in compliance with Resolution CD27.R8 adopted by the 27th Directing Council of PAHO.

Officers

The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

President:	Brazil	Dr. Francisco Sérgio Turra
Vice Presidents:	Bolivia	Mr. Oswaldo Antezana Vaca Diez
	Barbados	Hon. Anthony Wood
Rapporteur:	Colombia	Dr. Luz Alba Cruz de Urbina

Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO, served as Secretary *ex officio*, and Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, Coordinator of the Program on Veterinary Public Health of PAHO, acted as Technical Secretary of RIMSA XI.

Participants

Member States

The following Member States were represented in the Meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Observers

Representatives of the Governments of: Australia, Belgium, Egypt, Finland, Italy, Japan, Montserrat, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland, and from the following organizations and entities attended the Meeting as observers: American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, American Association of Swine

Practitioners, American Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Health Institute, Association of Analytical Chemists (AOAC International), Bridge News, C. W. McMillan Co., Cámara de Avicultores de Costa Rica, DuPont, Elanco, Federación Nacional de Ganaderos de Venezuela, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Food Marketing Services International, Inc., Food Safeguards Council, Georgetown University, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IACA), International Office of Epizootics (OIE), Life Science Institute (ILSI), Louisiana State University, Merial, Monsanto, National Association of Federal Veterinarians, National Renderers Association, New York City Department of Health, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swiss Veterinary Services, Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, UNIVEP MAGDR, University of Georgia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Meetings

RIMSA XI held an inaugural meeting, six plenary meetings, and a closing meeting.

Inaugural Meeting

The Provisional President of the Meeting, Dr. Ignacio Zorrilla de San Martín, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Uruguay, declared RIMSA XI officially open and invited the Hon. Richard Rominger, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, followed by Mr. James A. O'Hara III, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to make welcoming remarks on behalf of the host country. Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO, then addressed the meeting.

The inaugural meeting ended with the election of the President, the two Vice Presidents, and the Rapporteur.

First Meeting

The Agenda and the Program of Meetings were approved without modification.

The President, Dr. Francisco Sérgio Turra, chaired the meeting, with the collaboration of the Vice Presidents, Eng. Oswaldo Antezana Vaca Diez and Hon. Anthony Wood.

During this meeting the following items were discussed: Report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health on Compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Health Organization, 1995-1998, presented by Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, PAHO; and Report of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses, presented by Dr. Jaime Estupiñan, PAHO.

Second Meeting

The second meeting began with the panel on *International Cooperation in Food Protection: "From the Farm to the Table"*. The Director of PAHO, Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, presented *Integrated Food Protection Programs*. The Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Carlos Aquino, then presented *Food Safety in the International Livestock Trade*. Dr. Gustavo Gordillo de Anda, Assistant Director-General for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented the topic of *Food Security*. Finally, Ambassador Kari Axel Bergholm, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, presented the topic *International Arbitration in the Food Trade*.

Third Meeting

The Final Report on the VII Regular Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA VII) was presented at the third meeting by Mr. Rodolfo Masuda, Vice Minister of Agriculture of Peru and President of COHEFA VII. The Report of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center was then presented by Dr. José Germán Rodríguez Torres, PAHO. Finally there was a special presentation on the *Economic Cooperation of the World Bank for Projects on Food Security and Food Safety* by Dr. Michel Siméon, of the World Bank.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting was dedicated to the panel on the *Impact of Foodborne Diseases on Public Health and Trade*. The following topics were also considered: *Comprehensive Intercountry Food Surveillance. A Guarantee of Quality and Hygiene for Imports*, presented by Dr. Catherine E. Woteki, Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture; *Control of the Processes in the Chain of Production to Guarantee Quality and Safety of Food for Domestic Consumption*, presented by Dr. Raúl Bustos, Minister of Health of Uruguay; and *Active Surveillance of Foodborne Diseases and their Social and Economic Impact*, presented by Dr. Oscar Velázquez Monroy, National Coordinator of Epidemiologic Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Mexico.

Fifth Meeting

This meeting began by presenting four pending draft resolutions for consideration.

Dr. João Carlos de S. Meirelles, delegate from Brazil, congratulated Dr. George A. O. Alleyne on his reelection as Director of PAHO for 1999-2002 on behalf of the delegates to RIMSA XI. He spoke with high praise of Dr. Alleyne and the assembly gave unanimous applause.

The Report on the VII Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Control Programs (REDIPRA VII) was presented by Dr. Jorge Domínguez of Mexico, President of that Meeting. There was also a special presentation, *Use of Antibiotics in Livestock Production and Antimicrobial Resistance*, by Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom.

Sixth Meeting

At the sixth meeting, nine draft resolutions pending approval were presented to the delegates for their consideration.

During this meeting, there was also a special presentation on *Science and Technology at the Service of Public Health and Animal Health to Meet the Challenges of the New Millennium*, by Dr. Charas Suwanwela, President of the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

Closing Meeting

The Rapporteur presented the final report of RIMSA XI. In closing, the assembly was addressed by Dr. David Brandling-Bennett, Deputy Director of PAHO, and the Vice President of RIMSA XI, Mr. Oswaldo Antezana Vaca Diez, who declared the Meeting closed.

Resolutions

RIMSA XI adopted the following 13 resolutions:

RIMSA11.R1: Technical Cooperation in Veterinary Public Health

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health on Compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Health Organization, 1995-1998 (Document RIMSA11/3);

Recognizing the importance of PAHO technical cooperation activities in veterinary public health at the regional level and the progress achieved in the area of food protection, control of prevalent and emerging zoonoses, eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and sustained support for the conservation of nonhuman primates and their rational use in biomedical research to benefit public health;

Taking into account the special presentation: *Science and Technology at the Service of Public Health and Animal Health to Meet the Challenges of the New Millennium*; and

Considering the new *Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, 1999-2002* (PAHO Official Document No. 291), Chapter 4, Response of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, item 4.2, Strategic and Programmatic Orientations, paragraph 4.2.5, Disease Prevention and Control,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction to the Director for the efforts to maintain the level of excellence of the technical cooperation program in veterinary public health demanded by national circumstances.
2. To urge the countries to strengthen and intensify their activities in veterinary public health to achieve useful levels of geographical and demographic coverage.
3. To request the Director to promote and support broader coordination between the agriculture and health sectors, and with the productive sector, to address problems of common interest in the field of veterinary public health.
4. To urge the Director to collaborate with other international technical cooperation agencies, joining forces to carry out national activities in the field of veterinary public health.

(Adopted at the fifth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R2: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Program on Veterinary Public Health of the Pan American Health Organization

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Cognizant that in 1949 the Veterinary Public Health Program was created by Dr. Fred L. Soper, Director of PAHO, in order to respond to the problems of zoonoses that affected public health in the Americas, such as anthrax, equine encephalitis, foot-and-mouth disease, and rabies, among others;

Recognizing the importance of the sphere of action of veterinary public health and its significant progress in PAHO in order to contribute to social and economic development of the countries of the Americas;

Taking into account the achievements in the field of veterinary public health made by the Member States with PAHO technical cooperation, such as the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, the elimination of urban rabies, of hydatidosis in the south of the hemisphere, inter alia, and the development of programs of food hygiene and safety; and

Desirous to commemorate adequately the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Program on Veterinary Public Health of PAHO,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate PAHO and its Governing Bodies on their permanent support for the development of veterinary public health in the Americas through technical cooperation programs, particularly in the control of zoonoses and the sanitary protection of food.
2. To give special recognition to the contributions of veterinary public health toward the achievement and sustained development of the national programs of control and eradication of the zoonoses in the Americas, which have transcended hemispheric borders.

(Adopted at the fifth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R3: Renaming of the Meeting from Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health to Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind that the globalization of the economy, free trade, subregional integration initiatives, and changes in the State apparatus, *inter alia*, have led to the rapid development of domestic and external trade to keep pace with market forces, without standards and regulations to assure the quality and safety of food;

Considering the deliberations of RIMSA XI and previous meetings on international cooperation, the problem of foodborne diseases, and the development of national and regional programs for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and the principal zoonoses;

Noting the decision by some governments to modify their national health policies to include intersectoral action between health and agriculture in the areas of food protection, animal health, and human health;

Taking account of the diverse statements by country delegations that coordination between health and agriculture should be expanded to permit an integrated approach to common problems and thereby improve the health of the populations; and

Aware of the need to adapt the name of the present meeting to the problems indicated and to the social, political, and economic realities of the Member States of PAHO, especially in the field of food protection and zoonoses,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate this meeting in the future as the “Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (retaining the acronym “RIMSA”), which will continue to be governed, as it has until now, by the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization.
2. To request the Director:
 - (a) to ensure that the agenda of the Meeting gives priority to items related to food protection, zoonoses, and animal health;
 - (b) to convene RIMSA XII in 2001 with the new name.

(Adopted at the fifth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11 .R4:Hurricane Mitch

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Deeply regretting the catastrophe of Hurricane Mitch, which hit El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua causing tragic loss of human life and serious material damage;

Considering the momentous short- and medium-term consequences of the losses on the health situation and livestock output of these brother countries; and

Having heard the statements made by the Vice Minister of Agriculture and the Vice Minister of Health of Honduras, on behalf of the delegations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras, on the solidarity of the countries of the Americas, as well as their expressions of thanks to those countries and to PAHO,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Member States of PAHO for their solidarity with and assistance to the countries affected by Hurricane Mitch.
2. To give recognition to the Director of PAHO, the Program on Veterinary Public Health, and the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses for their rapid assistance to the affected countries and for the extrabudgetary funds allocated.
3. To request that the Director of PAHO, governments of the countries of the Americas, financial and technical cooperation organizations, bilateral agencies, and nongovernmental organizations give priority in their respective work programs to reconstruction projects in the social and productive sectors, particularly public health and livestock production in the affected countries.

(Adopted at the fifth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R5: Proposed Program of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the report of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ) (Document RIMSA11/4);

Recognizing that the technical cooperation activities and plan of action presented by INPPAZ respond to the current problems related to food safety and international trade in food;

Considering the recommendations contained in the Report of the II Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of INPPAZ, held in February 1999 (Document RIMSA11/INF/22);

Recognizing the compliance of INPPAZ with Resolution RIMSA10.R5 (1997) in regard to the priority of organizing integrated food protection and zoonosis programs;

Bearing in mind the progress made by the Regional Information System for Epidemiological Surveillance of Foodborne Diseases (SIRVE-FBD), and its consequent usefulness for decision-making with regard to health interventions (Document RIMSA11/INF/23); and

Aware of the need for PAHO technical cooperation through INPPAZ, and its usefulness for supporting the development of integrated food protection programs involving all links in the chain of production, for close intersectoral coordination between health and agriculture, and for the participation of food producers and consumers alike,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the Republic of Argentina for its continued support for the development and operation of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses and to request its continued cofinancing of the Institute.
2. To express to the Director of PAHO its satisfaction with the progress made by INPPAZ in providing technical cooperation in food protection to the countries of the Americas.

3. To recommend that the Director of PAHO approve the technical cooperation program of INPPAZ for the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, as proposed in the plan of action.
4. To request the Director of PAHO to examine the feasibility of carrying out the recommendations of the II Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of INPPAZ (February 1999).

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R6: International Cooperation in Food Protection

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind the discussion topics of the Panel: *International Cooperation in Food Protection: "From the Farm to the Table"* (Documents RIMSA11/11, 13, 15, and 17);

Considering the special presentation: *Economic Cooperation of the World Bank for Projects on Food Security and Food Safety* (Documents RIMSA11/9 and 12) and in particular, its recommendations in this regard;

Taking into account Resolution RIMSA3.R15 (1983) on the integrated activities of the international organizations in animal health in the Americas, and recognizing the work of the Inter-American Group for Cooperation in Animal Health (GICSA) on behalf of the national programs for the prevention and control of diseases in livestock; and

Aware of the growing challenges faced by the Member States of PAHO to reduce the disparity between food security and food safety, and the increased population and its expectations for quality and availability,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States of PAHO to review and strengthen their policies and strategies in food security and food safety to comply with the recommendations of Codex Alimentarius and the agreements of the World Trade Organization on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade.
2. To reiterate to the countries the need to make all necessary efforts to strengthen intersectoral action, calling on international technical and economic cooperation agencies

and nongovernmental organizations to facilitate access by the population to food security and food safety programs.

3. To request the Director of PAHO to:
 - (a) continue providing the technical cooperation required by the countries for the processes noted in the previous numerals;
 - (b) through his delegates at the next meeting of the Inter-American Group for Cooperation in Animal Health, propose increasing technical cooperation in food protection to the countries of the Americas;
 - (c) prioritize technical cooperation programs related to food safety in the countries that, due to their limited export capacity, have not achieved an advanced level of development in that area.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R7: VII Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the report presented by the Secretariat during the VII Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Food-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA), which noted the progress made by the countries in eradicating foot-and-mouth disease, as evidenced by the maintenance of the disease-free areas of Central America, North America, the Caribbean, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, and the recognition of a disease-free area without vaccination in Colombia and disease-free areas and countries with vaccination in South America;

Recognizing the decisive participation of the productive sector in implementing the national programs, in harmony with the official sector, thus benefiting livestock development and supporting the socioeconomic development of the countries;

Believing that the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease must continue to pursue its goals, chiefly in the countries that are continuing their efforts to meet the goals established in their subregional projects; and

In view of the importance of creating a hemispheric reference center on animal health, as indicated in Resolution II of COHEFA VI,

RESOLVES:

To endorse the resolutions of COHEFA VII.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R8: Proposed Program of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the significant progress made in recent years in the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease through the decisive participation of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA);

Bearing in mind that PANAFTOSA is gradually taking over the responsibility for providing technical cooperation in zoonoses; and

Recognizing the valuable role that PANAFTOSA has played up to the present in the countries' efforts for the control, elimination, and prevention of zoonoses,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization that they analyze and approve the proposed program of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, allocating resources consistent with the needs of the technical cooperation program and with the available resources of the Organization.
2. To thank the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for its contribution as host country, and also for its additional contribution for the adaptation and construction of the new headquarters of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in Rio de Janeiro.
3. To request the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, in collaboration with the governments, to support efforts to obtain additional extrabudgetary funds to enable the Center to fulfill its new technical cooperation commitments.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R9: Foodborne Diseases

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind the topics of the Panel: *The Impact of Foodborne Diseases on Public Health and Trade* (Documents RIMSA11/8, 14, 18, 19);

Having seen the reports of the Program on Veterinary Public Health on compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of PAHO, 1995-1998 (document RIMSA11/3) and of the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (Document RIMSA11/4);

Considering the development of national epidemiological surveillance systems for FBD, official analytical laboratories, and the regional system, SIRVE-ETA; and

Aware of international technical cooperation efforts to strengthen integrated food protection programs in the countries, with a view to assuring the safety of food for domestic consumption and the international market,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to intensify their efforts to develop integrated national food protection programs, particularly for the prevention and control of FBD, to ensure the safety of food for domestic consumption and international trade.
2. To acknowledge both the political decision of the countries that have incorporated an FBD component in their epidemiological surveillance systems for communicable diseases and regularity in reporting to the Regional Information System administered by INPPAZ.
3. To request the Member States to strengthen the mechanisms for articulation between the health and agriculture sectors, and the private sector in their national food protection plans to improve epidemiological surveillance of FBD.
4. To request the Member States that have not done so to make the political commitment to facilitate implementation of the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL).
5. To request the Director of PAHO to:

- (a) continue the technical cooperation to strengthen integrated national food protection programs through the Program on Veterinary Public Health and its specialized center, INPPAZ;
- (b) provide the technical support required by the Member States for carrying out the activities indicated in the previous numerals, especially with respect to INFAL and the national and regional information systems on FBD;
- (c) seek the cooperation of bilateral, multilateral, and nongovernmental organizations to mobilize resources and extrabudgetary funds for regional activities to control foodborne diseases.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R10 :Zoonoses

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having reviewed the report of the VII Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Control Programs (Document RIMSA11/5);

Taking note of the special presentation: *The Use of Antibiotics in Livestock Production and Antimicrobial Resistance* (Document RIMSA11/10);

Having seen the report of the Program on Veterinary Public Health of PAHO on compliance with the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations of the Pan American Health Organization, 1995-1998 (Document RIMSA11/3);

Recognizing that changes in the epidemiological profiles of prevalent and emerging zoonoses require more dynamic national and regional information and epidemiological surveillance systems; and

Bearing in mind Resolution RIMSA10.R8 on Prevalent and Emerging Zoonoses, adopted by the X Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (1997),

RESOLVES:

1. To emphasize the need for the countries to provide the national programs for the elimination, eradication, or control of prevalent zoonoses—brucellosis, hydatidosis,

rabies, tuberculosis, equine encephalitis, leptospirosis, and taeniasis/cysticercosis—with the administrative, technical, and human resources necessary for meeting the targets set.

2. To urge the countries to bolster their information and epidemiological surveillance systems for the diseases indicated in numeral 1 and to furnish PAHO with periodic information on the action taken in the struggle against prevalent and emerging zoonoses, with a view to sharing national experiences on a broad scale.

3. To request the Director of PAHO, in consultation with the countries, to orient the regional technical cooperation resources of PAHO to meet the following regional goals:

- elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs and control of animal rabies;
- eradication of bovine tuberculosis;
- eradication of foot-and-mouth disease;
- elimination of Malta fever (caprine brucellosis);
- elimination of echinococcosis/hydatidosis.

4. To request that, within available resources, the Director of PAHO, in addition to providing the technical cooperation requested by the countries, design the methodological guidelines and implement the respective regional strategies and plans of action, in keeping with the goals indicated in numeral 3.

5. To request that, within available resources, the Director of PAHO support and intensify the role of the Program on Veterinary Public Health and its specialized centers, INPPAZ and PANAFTOSA, as catalysts in the sharing of experiences and the fostering of cooperation among countries and to promote coordination with other technical cooperation agencies and the international community involved in the struggle against prevalent and emerging zoonoses.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R11: Special Support to Small Island States

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Recognizing the need for each Member of the Pan American Health Organization to develop the capacity to provide food security and protect the health and safety of its people as well as participate in international trade; and

Considering the cost of developing the required infrastructure and of training the needed human resources, and further considering the farming system which is being operated in those islands by a large number of small farmers thus increasing the cost of monitoring and training at the farm level,

RESOLVES:

To request PAHO and the international community to provide special assistance to the small island states of the Caribbean to meet the necessary compliance with current international standards in the area of infrastructure development and human resource training.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R12: XVII Pan American Congress on Veterinary Sciences

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that it is in the interest of the Pan American Health Organization to support all events aimed at furthering the knowledge of veterinarians; and

Aware that the function of veterinarians is to safeguard animal health, as well as its correlation to human health,

RESOLVES:

To request that PAHO and the international community support the XVII Pan American Congress on Veterinary Sciences (PANVET 2000) to be held in Panama from 11 to 15 September 2000.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

RIMSA11.R13: Cooperation in Legislation and the Use of Antimicrobials in Animal Production

THE XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind the risk that the indiscriminate use of antimicrobials in animal production can pose to public health,

RESOLVES:

1. Urge the governments of the Member States of PAHO to develop surveillance and education programs on the proper use of antimicrobial agents in animal production.
2. Request that PAHO support the national programs on the registration, surveillance, control, and use of antimicrobials employed in veterinary medicine.

(Adopted at the sixth meeting, 15 April 1999)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of RIMSA XI and the Secretary *ex officio*, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, this fifteenth day of April nineteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Francisco Sérgio Turra
President of RIMSA XI
Delegate of Brazil

George A. O. Alleyne
Secretary *ex officio*
Director
Pan American Health Organization