

Observations of Argentina on the Report of the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century

This Ministry has analyzed the entire document in detail and would like to make the following observations:

In regard to **Challenges Related to the Changes produced by Globalization, the document could further elaborate along the following lines:**

Public health is at a crossroads, owing to the confluence of two megatrends: decentralization and globalization. One can speculate that the two may be generating contrary responses. Although the slogan “think globally, act locally” has gained popularity, some new challenges in health probably need a little of the reverse--that is, “think locally, act globally.” Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the majority of health sector reform processes in the Region have promoted some degree of decentralization in health services and even encouraged an understanding of the health situation as a local problem. Globalization is posing the challenge of how to pool international efforts to reduce risks and take advantage of opportunities in health. In this regard, one could state that losses of economies of scale may be necessary at the national level (and even more so at the local level) in order to confront certain health challenges--for example, combating certain epidemics. **Globalization thus implies significant changes, not only in national health systems but also in the agencies that cooperate with them.**

Concerning **Challenges Related to Natural Disasters and the Quality of the Physical Environment**, we feel that based on the Meeting of Ministers of Health and Environment of the Americas in Mar del Plata this past June, one could suggest that one of the main challenges is the **intersectoral approach**--that is, joint efforts between the Ministries of Health and of Environment to meet these challenges. PAHO has traditionally worked more with the Ministries of Health than with the Ministries of Environment, and it would be necessary to strengthen intersectoral efforts between the two.

In the box under **Regional and Global Public Health Goods and Their Relationship to the PAHO Mandate** (pg. 13 of the English version), it would be appropriate to add an introductory paragraph to better link it with the topics addressed. We therefore suggest:

The discussion of Public Health Goods and their globalization may be instrumental for orienting the cooperation of the Pan American Health Organization in fulfillment of its Mission to “lead strategic collaborative efforts among Member States... to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of, and lengthen, the lives of the peoples of the Americas.”

In point **VII Recommendations: Public Health Goods**, it would be appropriate to put: “**Whereas**, in the health sector...” and the second paragraph “And these public goods and....”

Under point 7 there is a recommendation that should be numbered 8 (***PAHO should strengthen the contribution of health to regional and subregional peace***), and the respective action, 8.1.

Point 8, which should now be point 9, was originally drafted as follows:

PAHO will help strengthen the capacity of the technical teams in the countries' Ministries of Health to negotiate and implement international agreements in health.

As now written, it seems to have lost the specificity that it originally contained.

Concerning the recommendations in **Science, Technology, Research, and Strategic Supplies**, there seems to be some duplication or similarity with Recommendation 2 of Public Health Goods. We wonder whether it would be a good idea to merge them so that they appear only once in the text or whether it would be better to stress this aspect again.

Concerning the recommendations under **Development of Associations and Partnerships and the Role of PAHO**, perhaps it is appropriate to mention the need for creating synergies to employ an integrated approach to Health and Environment when working with agencies such as UNEP.

Concerning the **Recommendations for PAHO's Work with the Member States**, we believe it appropriate for PAHO to increase the dissemination and use of effective instruments for cooperation among countries, such as TCC and the horizontal cooperation funds of certain countries, such as Argentina.

Concerning **PAHO's Role in Strengthening National Health Resources** and its recommendation N°6, we believe that PAHO should explore and promote a training program in international health at different levels, at the secondary, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

Moving on to recommendation N°7, it would be more inclusive to talk about universities and institutions of the Region, since that way research centers and other institutions that are not necessarily universities could be included.

Concerning recommendation N°8 to "work with Member States to address the issues of migration of health professionals," it would be appropriate to promote the sharing of lessons learned in areas related to the handling of migration.

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