



Pan American Health Organization

*Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*

<http://www.paho.org>

***Regional Consultation
on the 11th General Program of Work
of the World Health Organization***

***14-16 February 2005
Summary of Meeting Discussions***

Overview

- **Objective: Provide regional input into the formulation of the 11th GPW**
 - **Ten year plan of work to coincide with the MDGs (2015)**
 - **Define strategic directions for the work of the WHO, Member States and Secretariat**
 - **Regional Consultation to take place in all regions between Feb-March 2005**
 - **Outline of GPW has been presented to Regional Committees (2004) and Executive Board in January 2005**
 - **Scenarios and four initial background papers presented to participants to help shape the discussions**



Opening Plenary

Critical Issues for WHO for 2006-2015

- 1. Global Health: *Improve Quality of Life, Reduce Inequities in Health, Attain the MDGs, Contribute to Human Security, Advance Health as a Human Right***
- 2. Global Health Governance: *Build Consensus on the Global Collective Intentionally in Health, Develop a Strong Global Public Health Movement & Leadership, Increase Harmonization and Alignment in International Cooperation in Health***
- 3. Define Roles and Responsibilities for WHO: *Setting Norms and Standards, Involvement in Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Efforts, Build Capacity at Country Level, Promote the Right investments in Health.***



Session 1: Positioning Health in the Political, Economic, Social and Development Agenda

- **Different approaches around the concept of health are described in the background paper: gender and equity, relationships with development (incl. economics), global public good, collective and individual security, human rights and social justice**
- **Need for a distinction between values, health problems and their determinants, and strategies for the future.**
- **Interdependency of health with other sectors.**
- **Necessity to reach consensus on the following issues: evolution of concepts of health and public health, main health priorities, health linkages beyond the health sector, and response from the health sector to these challenges.**



Session 2: Health Situation, Challenges and Opportunities

- **The main challenges and opportunities, at global and national levels, are identified in the background paper.**
- **Power of data for understanding population's health and highlighting health inequities, to better guide the setting of health policies.**
- **Strengthen of national health information systems and assessment of the impact of health interventions.**
- **Setting priorities at global level, that could be useful at other levels: regional, sub-regional or national.**
- **Need for WHO to play a leading role in strengthening partnerships in international health issues to address more effectively its distinctive challenges and opportunities.**
- **Enhance the consultative process within countries and with other stakeholders, including civil society.**



Session 3: Global Health Agenda and Global Governance in Health

- **The background paper describes strategic issues to be considered for defining high level goals and is proposing a preliminary set of goals.**
- **The MDGs, approved by 189 countries, are setting a new global development agenda with focus on health.**
- **WHO is no more the only decision body at global level. Its leadership role must be strengthened.**
- **WHO needs to define its specific role to ensure harmonization and alignment in setting the health agenda, defining priorities, channeling resources, facilitating implementation and articulating the initiatives of multiple partners.**
- **Health is a key factor for peace and human security.**



Session 4: Roles and Responsibilities of WHO in the Next 10 Years

- **The background paper defines new ways of working for WHO, its core functions and identifies strategic choices.**
- **Need to redefine the core functions of WHO given the new global health environment.**
- **Roles of HQ, regional and country offices need to be addressed, in relation with new mechanisms of cooperation.**
- **WHO should provide technical expertise or use national capacities for technical cooperation?**
- **Using disaster response and preparedness as an example, the need for capacity building and investing in preparedness and prevention has been highlighted.**



Session 5: Global Public Goods and Their Implications for the Work of WHO in the Next 10 Years

- **Some concepts in relationship to health were discussed, as well as some examples of meritorious and public goods.**
- **Identify the GPG that are of importance for countries.**
- **Provide and distribute information and knowledge.**
- **Provide support to member states in developing capacity to negotiate in international agreements, treaties, and commitments.**
- **Support the design and execution of studies for economic evaluation and health impact.**
- **Define the concept of GPG in health and its implications for the work of WHO and Member States.**



Session 6: WHO Harmonization, Alignment and Coordination

- **Recent harmonization initiatives were presented as well as issues that could have an impact on the health sector.**
- **The health sector, and WHO, must have a proactive role.**
- **The health sector should take the lead at national level.**
- **Building capacities for national ownership, and alignment and harmonization processes that would benefit to the health sector and health of the population (MDGs).**
- **Facilitate better coordination among international cooperation.**
- **Ensure proper flow of information to Member States.**
- **Articulating health agendas between different levels.**



Conclusion

- **This consultation is the first step in obtaining input from the Regions on the substance of the GPW.**
- **Summaries of the discussions will be provided to the participants for review, before transmitted to WHO.**
- **Background papers will continue to be revised based on the input form the regional consultations.**
- **Member states are encouraged to obtain further input at country level.**
- **An information on the process will be made during the WHA.**
- **First draft to be presented at next Directing Council (2005).**

