

SUGGESTIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, STRATEGIC SUPPLIES FOR THE NEXT PAHO CENTURY XXI MEETING

(Includes recommendations received until February 2005)

- Stimulate and promote the development of multilateral efforts to prepare specific components in national health policies in the areas of science, technology, research, strategic supplies and information for health. In health policies, these components should include a high capability of interacting with national, sub-regional, and regional health needs, as well as creating impact in the short, medium, and long terms, reducing inequalities and increasing equity standards in health systems in the short, medium and long terms. Based on a clear ethical and social commitment with the improvement of the population's health, considering intra-regional diversities, these initiatives should have an inter-sectoral approach and should be supported by structural guidelines in public policies. In addition, these initiatives should also have the power to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of national health systems, resulting in progress and optimal use of scientific knowledge in the health sector and its institutions, especially in fields not covered sufficiently by the more developed science producing centers, in terms of production, assimilation, and utilization of scientific and technological knowledge and training of human resources in this area.
- Promote the involvement of national health authorities in countries of the Region in the respective national science and technology policies. The absence of these authorities or their mere marginal involvement hinders harmony with national health policies, and in most countries, this constitutes a major obstacle to take advantage of existing knowledge at the service of proper health practices.
- Stimulate the assimilation of public policies directed at sustainable national, sub-regional, and regional development, and scientific

knowledge adapted to the economic, political, social, and cultural needs of countries.

- Promote the reduction of national health system's dependence on the purchase of supplies, health products, and technology through the promotion of multilateral policies for the use of regional biodiversity, directed at the interests and needs of the countries' health systems, among other major priorities for research and development activities by philanthropic entities and strengthening of complex local health producing facilities.
- Stimulate, support, and foster the adoption of computer technology standards, with open technology and free software as a priority and compatible and integrated information systems, as well as optimizing available resources, both, for better utilization of bibliographical and educational systems, for health system planning and assessment, as for the use of the Human Resources Observatory network and other experiences.
- Increase the capacity of inducement and selectivity of the scientific and technological development systems, defining a national agenda of priorities for health research. The elaboration of this agenda should be carried out through a technical and political approach with democratic participation. These priorities should encompass the population's health requirements without any overlapping of the same. Research should be considered along the entire chain of knowledge related to health, from basic to operational research, inciting the use of diversified methodology and its development according to local realities.
- Generate financing mechanisms in the countries to promote financing schemes on national scientific and technological research realities to arrive at a state-of-the-art assessment of scientific production in health in countries of the Region. Support for research relating financing to health and its linkage to social and economic development, as well as other

aspects within the context of health financing, can contribute to the elaboration and implementation of public health policies.

- Establish mechanisms of incentives for scientific research in health with outcomes that would contribute to public health, such as scholarships xx or national PAHO/WHO awards for relevant research in each country.
- Create incentives in countries to train human resources in scientific research in the area of applied sciences in health. These programs should cover all members of health teams, regardless of their professional or technical perspective, who contribute to applied research in health.
- Stimulate the establishment of local funds that lead to operational research development required in health in the Region of the Americas.
- Develop and disseminate information and knowledge sources, in a cooperative manner, for countries and sub-regional groups, leading to increased equity of access to these sources. Management of knowledge in health is one of the main PAHO/WHO activities that can be carried out through quality and reliable information supply on the situation of health, health surveillance, financing opportunities for health research, harmonization and legal standards, best practices, among other subjects.
- Propose guidelines to promote scientific knowledge in technological development and in innovation of the drug industry, biological immune medication, equipment, and other health supplies (industrial complex of health). These guidelines should be directly related to the Doha Declaration that defines the prevalence of public health over ownership rights of industrial property. The most appropriate definition of priorities, institutional agreements, and promotional mechanisms for each objective should be assessed in every situation. Agreements between the public and private sectors should favor scientific and technological excellence to produce innovation.
- Stimulate the adaptation of national legislation to improve the use of flexibility inherent in international agreements on patents to arrive at

bilateral agreements for the purchase of drugs and supplies and to increase and qualify the productive capacity of countries in the Region, based on the principle of health as an essential human right and on principles such as equity and solidarity. Experiences in sub-regional Blocks, such as in Mercosul, the Andean countries, and the Caribbean also should be fostered, strengthened, and disseminated by PAHO.

- Promote national policies and multilateral relationships to purchase, develop, and internalize xx technology for the production of supplies that will create high financial impact on health systems of countries in the Region. These policies should strengthen regional Exchange initiatives that increase governments' management skills in terms of research, access, production, distribution, dispensing, and rational use of drugs and health supplies.
- Foster development and regional harmonization of clinical protocols and therapy guidelines as a way of incorporating and utilizing appropriate technology in health services. Along the same lines, the development of cooperative systems needs to be stimulated to carry out studies on the assessment of health technology in countries of the Region.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WORK IN HEALTH FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF PAHO CENTURY XXI

(Includes recommendations received until February 2005)

1. In relation to an agenda on labor management and education in health:

- Propose that work and education management can be viewed as a definitive political action of sectoral reform, with priority on participative strategies for their development, insisting in the first instance on the need of regulating and securing labor relations in health, to consolidate the career progressively and secondly, introduce permanent education in health as an essential strategy to restructure training, care, management, social policy formulation practices, and social control in the health sector.
- P institutions of renowned excellence for each program area, preferably in the various countries of the Region that could form cooperation networks with a high innovative potential, to render higher skilled personnel more available in each specific cooperation situation. The Centers identified should form Consortiums in each program area, with a Committee or Technical Council that could meet at least once a year to support greater national participation in the orientation of subjects covered by the Directive Council of the Organization in cooperation policy formulation. For cooperation to take place, PAHO should prioritize the use of experts of these Consortiums as short-term consultants, maintaining a minimal number of technical personnel, on a permanent basis, at the central level and in Country Representative Offices, in charge of coordinating technical cooperation programs.
- Whenever possible, PAHO should prioritize the use of cooperation strategies focused on the country to allow for higher precision in the determination of needs, identification of opportunities for intervention and utilization of the potential of Consortiums. To support these initiatives it is necessary to deepen the decentralization process, program and financial

organization of PAHO Representations, by strengthening and reorienting their operations.

- Establish a Permanent Labor and Health Education Management Forum, associated to the Observatory Network of Human Resources in Health to promote the development of a common agenda on the subject and that forms a collaborative network to follow-up processes and that feeds on the developments of all its members. PAHO would be in charge of establishing this forum as an ideal manner to maintain a dialogue that supersedes conjuncture.

2. In relation to personnel at the PAHO office:

- Considering, on the one hand the large expansion and diversification of technical fields that should cover international cooperation and, on the other, the huge progress in some countries in preparing their own personnel, the recommendation is to avoid opening new specialized positions at PAHO, limiting these to program coordination, and using skilled national personnel as short and mid-term consultants to cover requirements of other countries.
- To accomplish this, the establishment of partnerships with institutions of renowned excellence is recommended, that are in a position to furnish expert consultants to promote the development of other sister institutions in other countries. In addition, these partnerships or consortiums could establish committees by specialization areas (combining two or more national institutions of renowned excellence) that could advise the program area, to which they are related, at PAHO and also keep their own countries informed, facilitating improved participation of the same in the PAHO Directive Council.
- Updating/training mechanisms should be implemented for personnel at PAHO Representations so that they may understand and act more efficiently in countries and sub-regional Blocks, according to the

characteristics/requirements/priorities of each. Institutional capacity must also be increased in the areas of communications and information management.