

GOVERNANCE OF PAHO
(Comments by Mexico)

III. Governance of PAHO. It is suggested that the text include a paragraph stating that the responsibility for expressing the will of the Member States lies not only with the States themselves, but with PAHO, which should procure suitable means and channels to express that will.

Furthermore, concerning financial contributions, it would be worthwhile to question whether it is necessary to establish a mandatory payment mechanism and to determine the repercussions in the indebted States.

Governance over the past 20 years and in the future. Mexico is aware that the actors in the international arena are no longer limited to the States and public international organizations. It should therefore be stressed that PAHO should create suitable mechanisms to guarantee the appropriate participation of actors other than the governments, as has been the case with certain NGOs. Aside from this recognition of other actors, it would be a good idea to include policies for strengthening the national authorities. It is the countries who own the Organization.

Relevance of PAHO in the 21st century. It is mentioned that PAHO should be a reflection of its members. Thus, it would perhaps be worthwhile to frame the challenges that PAHO is facing within the understanding that the vast majority of the countries in the Region of the Americas are going through an extensive democratization process; thus, it is urgent that issues such as legitimacy, participation, transparency, and accountability be a constant in the Organization's priorities and that there be a place for them in all its activities. The creation of mechanisms that guarantee transparency through the reports of PAHO's Governing Bodies could perhaps be included.

The role of PAHO should not be confined to acting as a liaison with countries and actors that are able to provide technical assistance and cooperation but should also include the preparation of situation analysis and the identification of needs to support the member countries (in health, economics, etc.).

Mexico agrees on the need for organizational reform that includes aspects of governance, budgeting, the allocation and distribution of resources, negotiation processes, and accountability.

Challenges of the structure and Governing Bodies of PAHO. The role of the Director of PAHO in the reorganization, formulation of the Strategic Plan, and setting of financial guidelines in communication with the Member States is a matter that should be discussed.

Comments on the structure and the Governing Bodies of PAHO. It is considered very important to amend the Constitution of PAHO to facilitate the participation of new actors; however, their participation should not be on an equal footing with that of the Member States, and an appropriate transparent mechanism would have to be set up for the granting of privileges by the Member States.

Mexico considers it very important to establish methodologies for evaluating policies and programs.

As a specific observation, it is suggested that the English version of the document explain the distinction between the terms "stakeholder" and "stockholder" and that the document be reviewed to determine where each term should most properly be used.