

Regional and Global Public Health Goods Paper Comments from Barbados

Section 9. Some definitions

- There is a need for a universally agreed upon definition of Global Public Goods (GPGs) and Regional Public Goods (RPGs), as several different definitions appear in literature from various sources. It would have been worthwhile to propose a well-defined conceptualization to clearly outline and define Global Public Goods and Regional Public Goods, with examples to support what constitute a GPG or RPG. This would bring about uniformity in understanding the concept and provide PAHO with a working definition.

Section 9.2 Global Public Goods

- This section stated, "The adequate provision and management of public goods has been promoted as crucial for responding to the changes in social and economic relations prompted by globalization." Based on this statement, the answers to the following questions would be valuable to the paper:
 1. **What are the staff and infrastructure requirements, legislative and regulatory mechanisms, policy framework and actions necessary for pursuing or providing global public goods at the country, regional and international levels respectively?**
 2. **Who decides what are the GPGs priorities and who should participate in the policy dialogues, decision-making and evaluation processes to ensure that they are agreed ground rules (such as transparency, accountability, equity, flexibility, ownership, effectiveness, etc) in the provision and management of GPGs?**
 3. **Who will be the coordinating agents (for mobilizing and allocating resources, etc), as well as the implementation and evaluation agencies or players?**
 4. **How are the Millennium Development Goals as well as regional and sub-regional initiatives (such as the Caribbean Cooperation in Health) related to the provision of GPGs in the region of the Americas?**

11. Financing Global Public Goods

- This section stated, "Many of the challenges that we currently face are more intersectoral than sectoral, while international assistance is geared more to countries than to problems. This has implications for cooperation aimed at the provision of global public goods that demand research and discussion, new instruments, innovative political responses and new financing sources and methods." Since one of the intentions of this paper is to give new direction to PAHO and provide solution to envisaged problems associated with the terms of reference, the answers to the following questions would be important to the paper:
 5. **What are the consequences of diverting official development assistance to fund global public goods?**
 6. **How to ensure that the collective action necessary for health is taken at the international level?**

- 7. Who will monitor or what systems are needed to monitor the level of contributions from the different funding sources (traditional and new)? Who will perform the financial and performance auditing and at what levels (country, regional or global) will these evaluation be performed?**
- 8. How will the funds be distributed to finance GPGs at both the country and international level? Who will decide?**

13.2. Knowledge as a global public good

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements namely: Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS), Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Trade in Services (GATS) have implications for the programme of work of PAHO/WHO in relation to GPGs (information, knowledge, technology, etc).
- 9. How will these WTO agreements impact on the availability and accessibility of GPGs in the Region of the Americas?**
