

**Evolving Nature of Partnerships and Alliances in International Development
in Health Pertinent to PAHO's Role Paper
Comments from Barbados**

The paper outlined the purpose of alliances and partnerships, but did not provide clear working definitions for any of the two concepts. It would be useful to provide these definitions in the paper.

Issues that were not addressed in the paper:

- 1. What is the impact of the new forms of partnerships and alliances in international cooperation in health (e.g. public-private partnerships, new philanthropies, etc) on the work and programmes of traditional partners and actors in this field (e.g. PAHO, WHO)?**
- 2. How will the Member Governments relate technically to these various actors who have different health agendas, different funding policies as well as distinct funding and health programme preferences? What are the staff and infrastructure requirements, regulatory mechanisms, policy framework and actions necessary for coordinating these strategic alliances and partnerships at the country, region and international levels?**

The World Health Organization developed a Civil Society Initiative for establishing better relations between WHO and Civil Society Organizations, aimed at understanding and clarifying their roles as well as the factors influencing them and health outcomes. A Handbook on working with Civil Society Organizations and an Information Management System Database for Civil Society Organization were also produced.

- 3. What are the implications of such an initiative for PAHO?**
- 4. How can this initiative be adapted to meet PAHO needs?**

Issues that need to be further explored and explained in the paper:

- 5. What will be PAHO's, the Member States and the various partners' new role and responsibilities in the changing nature of partnerships and alliances? How can these stakeholders capacity for establishing strategic alliances and partnerships be strengthened?**

The researchers of the paper give an excellent SWOT analysis of the relevant aspects of partnerships and alliances. However, the paper could be further enhanced if a suggested Plan of Action based on the SWOT Analysis was provided to determine the path PAHO and its Member States should take to upgrade and improve their capacity in establishing strategic alliances and partnerships.

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