



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2012

Introductory Note

The Proposed Strategic Plan 2008-2012 (OD328) is submitted to the Executive Committee as a further iteration of the draft submitted to the first Subcommittee on Program, Budget and Administration that met earlier this year.

With regard to this iteration, the Bureau notes the following:

- Comments made by Member States at the SPBA are reflected in this version.
- Work to improve and refine the document has continued, with significant changes throughout the document.
- The development process for this Strategic Plan continues to be highly participative, with inputs received from the regional, subregional and country levels.
- Prior to the Pan American Sanitary Conference, further refinement will be made to complete and improve the indicators in the Plan; similarly, the situation analysis will be updated and improved to reflect the latest available data and events.
- The initial phase of a programmatic prioritization exercise has been completed and is reflected in the Strategic Objective budget levels provided in this plan. However, further refinement of the criteria used for prioritization will be part of the next phase of the exercise, which may further impact budget allocations by Strategic Objective.
- Other refinements may be made to reflect the outcome of the biennial Workplan exercise being carried out in June, particularly with regard to the subregion-level indicators, as well as any related adjustments made to the 2008-2009 Program Budget.

With the incorporation of improvements as noted in the last three bullets, and any changes needed to reflect comments from Member States in the Executive Committee, this document will be finalized for submission to the Pan American Sanitary Conference in October of this year.

The Bureau welcomes input from Member States on how to further improve this document, which will guide the work of the Organization for the next five years.

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PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2012

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

This is the second Strategic Plan for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in the 21st Century. This year, 2007, the Organization is 105 years old. These two facts conveniently juxtapose the challenges faced by the Bureau as we build on the accomplishments of the past and work within the structures of the United Nations and the Inter-American System, while at the same time we implement the changes necessary to increase our value-added to Member States and ensure our position as the international leader in public health in the Region of the Americas.

For the first time in many years the countries of the Americas have developed a long-term Health Agenda for the Americas, a collective call to action and an instrument to “guide the collective action of national and international stakeholders who seek to improve the health of the peoples of this Region”. This Strategic Plan is the Bureau’s answer to that call.

The public health challenges faced in the Region are many – from ongoing concerns about existing communicable and non-communicable diseases, environmental hazards, natural and man-made disasters and other public health threats, to new and emerging threats from pathogens known and unknown. The continent is also experiencing an epidemiological transition, where traditional diseases have not completely disappeared, but coexist with emerging diseases as well as with life-style related ones, a new challenge for public health. Thus, while we have achieved many milestones in improving the health status of the people of the Americas, accomplishments of which we can be justly proud, much remains to be done. Among other priorities, we must continue to improve public health leadership, equitable access to health services and capacity in Member States. We must also remain vigilant to protect and maintain the gains of the past as we face the challenges of the future.

This document is necessarily complex, as it reflects the broad panorama of our work and lays out in detail how we plan to respond to each public health challenge that the Bureau can address. The document also reflects our efforts to make the Organization more effective and accountable in its operations by institutionalizing results based management methodologies in the planning, implementation and evaluation processes.

While this Plan will guide us for the next several years, the strategic dialogue should not stop here. It is increasingly evident that the issues of public health can only be addressed effectively through multi-sectoral approaches and with strategic partnerships. I therefore encourage and welcome an ongoing dialogue with PAHO’s many stakeholders – from Member State governments to international and national partners, and civil society – about how we can best serve the people of the Americas.

The PASB Strategic Plan 2008-2012 is a significant statement of our commitment to work for the improvement of the health of our people and to be accountable to our governing bodies and partners. I therefore take great pleasure in presenting it.

Director

