



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



FIRST SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Provisional Agenda Item 11.2

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DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS

Background

1. Acting on the recommendation of the 138th Session of the Executive Committee, the 47th Directing Council reviewed and endorsed the development of a Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008-2017, and adopted Resolution CD47.R3. Subsequently, the 139th Executive Committee considered Document CE139/5 Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008-2017: Proposal for Regional Discussion. Since that time, work has proceeded in disseminating and reviewing the Health Agenda at the national, subregional and regional levels.
2. The Secretariat, in its supporting role, provides the following brief update on progress made since the 139th Session of the Executive Committee for the information of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (SPBA).

Outcome of the 47th Directing Council and 139th Executive Committee

3. In Resolution CD47.R3 the 47th Directing Council resolved:
 1. To congratulate the Ad hoc Consultative Group and the Working Group on the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 on their accomplishments and progress, and recognize the exceptional commitment of time and resources of the Member States participating in these groups.
 2. To endorse the recommendations contained in Document CD47/8 regarding the development of a Health Agenda for the Americas.
 3. To encourage all Member States in the Region of the Americas to engage in the Health Agenda for the Americas as it is further developed through a broad and participative series of consultations during the remainder of 2006 and 2007.

4. To request the Director to support the joint work of the Member States as they define and endorse the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017.

4. With the endorsement of the Directing Council, the Working Group on the Health Agenda for the Americas (composed of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Panama [President] and the United States of America) entered into the consultative phase of its work in developing the Health Agenda. The earlier drafting phase had consisted in developing a first draft of the Health Agenda, which was considered at the 139th Session of the Executive Committee.

Consulting with Stakeholders on the Draft Health Agenda

5. Based on the outcome of the 47th Directing Council and 139th Session of the Executive Committee, the Working Group's primary task became to guide and facilitate a broad consultation process with governments and civil society throughout the Region to ensure the Health Agenda is truly a product developed and "owned" by all key players in the health arena. The draft Health Agenda considered at the 139th session of the Executive Committee (Document CE139/5) became the main basis for this consultation. The terms of reference for the Working Group in this consultation phase of the process were agreed as follows:

- Direct and support a consultative process throughout the Americas to ensure that all governments, international organizations and elements of civil society with an interest in health issues have an opportunity to provide input to the Health Agenda.
- Consider and integrate as appropriate all comments and suggestions received regarding the Health Agenda, with the objective of obtaining a final document that reflects most accurately the vision and aspirations of those working to improve the health of our peoples.
- Prepare the final version of the Health Agenda for the Americas.
- Organize a meeting of ministers of health in mid-2007 to approve and launch the Health Agenda for the Americas.

6. By the end of 2006, Panama, as President of the Working Group, had sent official letters to all ministries of health in the Americas requesting their assistance in facilitating a participatory consultation with health stakeholders.

7. The draft document and request for input have also been sent to international agencies, subregional health mechanisms and other important actors working to improve health in the Americas.

8. A format for inputs was provided, to facilitate the consultative process.

9. As of the first session of the SPBA in March 2007, consultations will be ongoing, with ministries of health in the lead role in each country, and the PAHO/WHO Representatives supporting the process. The period for consultation is scheduled to end 25 April 2007, by which time all countries should have provided their inputs to the Minister of Health of Panama.

Next steps

10. The following chart provides key dates and actions required to complete the development of the Health Agenda.

Dates (2007)	Actions	Principle actors
Up to 25 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the draft Health Agenda in and among countries • Subregional consultation • Inputs should be submitted to the Minister of Health of Panama as they are obtained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries of health • International organizations • Civil society (NGOs, academic institutions, private sector, etc.) at country level • Subregional mechanisms • (PAHO supports)
25 April	Deadline for submission of all input / comments / suggestions received during the consultation period to the Minister of Health Panama	As above
3-4 May (tentative)	Face-to-face meeting of the Working Group (location TBD) to incorporate inputs and draft final Health Agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group • (PAHO supports)
7-15 May	Editing and formatting of the Health Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Health of Panama • PAHO supports
17 May	Final edited and formatted Health Agenda circulated to all Ministers of Health for their consideration prior to launching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Health of Panama
5-7 June	Health Agenda launched concomitantly with the OAS General Assembly Annual Meeting in Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers of Health of the Americas • Minister of Health of Panama facilitates

11. The Health Agenda will be disseminated throughout the Americas in relevant forums using cost-effective electronic and print media following the June launching and during the remainder of 2007.

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