



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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

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MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS

Introduction and Background

1. On 3 June 2007, the Ministers and Secretaries of Health of the Region of the Americas presented the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008–2017 (the Agenda) in Panama,¹ with the objective of guiding the collective action of national and international stakeholders who seek to improve the health of the peoples of this Region over the next decade.
2. The Agenda acknowledged shared principles and values of the countries in the Region, presented situation analysis and health trends in the Americas, defined the principal areas of action, and reiterated commitments made by countries in international fora in order to strengthen the response to effectively implement these actions.
3. The Agenda's eight areas of action are:
 - (a) strengthening national health authorities;
 - (b) tackling health determinants;
 - (c) increasing social protection and access to quality health services;
 - (d) diminishing health inequalities among countries and inequities within them;
 - (e) reducing the risk and burden of disease;
 - (f) strengthening the management and development of health workers;

¹ Health Agenda for the Americas: 2008–2017 presented by the Ministers of Health of the Americas in Panama City, June 2007. Available from: http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/Health_Agenda.pdf.

- (g) harnessing knowledge, science, and technology; and
- (h) strengthening health security.

4. The Agenda seeks to implement the above actions by guiding the preparation of future national health plans, as appropriate, and the strategic plans of all organizations interested in cooperating in health matters with countries of the Americas. The assessment of progress in the areas of action outlined in the Agenda is to be done by evaluating the achievement of goals set in these plans (Agenda, Statement of Intent, paragraph 6).

5. As a high-level political instrument for health promoted by PAHO's Member States, the Health Agenda for the Americas provides vision and guidance to the Organization. To that end, the Agenda was a key reference for the development of PAHO's Strategic Plan 2008–2012.²

6. As 2012 marks the midpoint of implementation of the Agenda, PASB is proposing that Member States undertake a mid-term evaluation of its progress.

7. This document provides a broad outline of the plan for the proposed mid-term evaluation and seeks leadership from the Member States in order to implement the corresponding activities, in anticipation of the presentation of the results of this mid-term evaluation to the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2012.

Proposed Mid-term Evaluation

8. The countries of the Americas will conduct a mid-term evaluation of the Health Agenda for the Americas, with the support of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which will act as the Secretariat for the process.

9. In keeping with the approach outlined in the Agenda itself (see paragraph 4 above), the mid-term evaluation would focus on the following:

- (a) determining the influence of the Agenda in guiding the preparation of national health plans and the strategic plans of all organizations cooperating for health with the countries of the Americas;
- (b) assessing progress in the Agenda's areas of action by evaluating the achievement of goals set in national health plans and the strategic plans of all organizations interested in cooperating for health with the countries of the Americas; and

² Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Strategic Plan 2008–2010, Amended, 49th Directing Council, 28 September–2 October 2009 (PAHO Official Doc. 328). Available from: <http://new.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2009/OD-328%20complete%20document.pdf>.

- (c) separately and simultaneously, an evaluation of the PASB's own response to the Health Agenda of the Americas is being conducted by the PAHO Office of Internal Oversight and Evaluation Services (IES).

10. The proposed methodology for the evaluation undertaken by the Member States includes:

- (a) a survey to be completed by each PAHO Member State (with support from the PAHO/WHO Representative Offices and Headquarters);
- (b) a survey for international and subregional organizations interested in cooperating for health with countries of the Americas;
- (c) interviews with key stakeholders;
- (d) a document review focusing on national health plans, subregional plans and the strategic plans of both governments and collaborating organizations; and
- (e) data collection and analysis of selected indicators by Area of Action (2007 baseline and situation by 2012).

11. The methodology for the evaluation undertaken by the PASB includes:

- (a) assessing the extent to which the Strategic Objectives of the PAHO Strategic Plan, in their design and implementation, complied with and contributed to the Health Agenda for the Americas;
- (b) examining how the principles and values included in the Health Agenda have shaped PAHO's technical cooperation and how they contributed to achievements in public health in the Region during the period under review;
- (c) gathering relevant lessons learned on the incorporation of the areas of action in the development of PAHO's Strategic Plan, Programs and Budgets, Biennial Work Plans, and Country Cooperation Strategies and illustrate with practical examples the challenges and the achievements of PASB programs in support of the Agenda; and
- (d) reviewing policies, regulations, resolutions, procedures and other instruments as applicable references, including recommendations from Executive Management and decisions and observations of the Governing Bodies.

Action by the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration

12. The Subcommittee is requested to review the proposed mid-term evaluation of the Health Agenda of the Americas, validate its approach, and establish a working group composed of PAHO Member States to undertake the evaluation, with the support of PASB serving as the Secretariat of the process. Therefore, the Subcommittee is also requested to determine the composition of this working group. The terms of reference for the working group are attached as Annex.

Annex

**PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON THE MID-TERM EVALUATION
OF THE HEALTH AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS**

Background

1. On 3 June 2007, the Ministers and Secretaries of Health of the Region of the Americas presented the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008–2017 (the Agenda) in Panama, with the objective of guiding the collective action of national and international stakeholders who seek to improve the health of the peoples of this Region over the next decade.
2. The early development of this Agenda was undertaken by a working group comprised of the following countries, together with the support of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Panama [President], and the United States of America.
3. As 2012 marks the midpoint of implementation of the Agenda, PASB is proposing that Member States undertake a mid-term evaluation of its progress. The anticipated work shall be completed by end of July 2012, culminating in the presentation of the Mid-term Evaluation of the Agenda to the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2012.

Purpose

4. To establish a working group that will lead and coordinate Member States' evaluation of the Agenda. The Working Group will be supported by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which will act as the Secretariat for the evaluation.

Working Group Terms of Reference

5. With support from the Secretariat, the Working Group will:
 - (a) Lead the Mid-term Evaluation of the Health Agenda. Specifically, to lead the process in order to determine:
 - the influence of the Agenda in guiding the preparation of national health plans and the strategic plans of all organizations cooperating for health with the countries of the Americas, and

- the progress in the Agenda's areas of action by evaluating the achievement of goals set in national health plans and the strategic plans of all organizations interested in cooperating for health with the countries of the Americas.
- (b) Coordinate, and facilitate the consultative process with Ministries/Secretaries of Health of the Americas;
- (c) Provide guidance and support to the Secretariat, as it undertakes the data collection, interviews, and analysis of information related to the midterm evaluation of the Agenda;
- (d) Analyze information provided by the Secretariat related to the mid-term evaluation of the Agenda;
- (e) Prepare a progress report for 150th Executive Committee, and a final report of the Mid-term Evaluation of the Health Agenda of the Americas, to be presented to the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Membership

6. Each Member State represented on the Sixth Session of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (SPBA) may nominate one delegate to participate in this Working Group. In addition, the SPBA will consider other Member States not represented in the SPBA for membership in the Working Group, with particular attention to those participating in the development of the Agenda.
7. The proposed total membership of this Working Group shall be up to 10 Member States.