

## C. REPORT OF THE SIXTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

1. The Sixth Summit of the Americas was held in the city of Cartagena (Colombia) on 14-15 April 2012. All countries convened were represented by their Heads of State and Government or, in their absence, by their official representatives, with the exception of the Government of Ecuador. Detailed information on this momentous event is available online at <http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/vicumbredelasamericas/home.html>

2. Additionally participating were the Chiefs of Mission from the organizations and institutions that make up the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), one of which is PAHO.<sup>16</sup>

3. The slogan for the Sixth Summit was *Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity*. Within this framework, five thematic axes were established: namely, poverty, inequalities, and inequities; disaster risk reduction and management; access to and use of information and communication technologies; citizen security and transnational organized crime; and regional integration of physical infrastructure.

4. The President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, characterized the Sixth Summit as “the Summit of dialogue and sincerity,”<sup>17</sup> given the fact that there was indeed dialogue on topics of common interest as well as on those with marked differences in position. The participation of Cuba in upcoming Summits, the issue of the Falkland Islands, and policies to deal with the drug problem were all among those involving marked differences—which made adopting a political declaration difficult. Nevertheless, a presidential declaration was issued containing the main issues where consensual agreements were reached.

5. Details on the consensual agreements were made manifest in a set of commitments that were approved by the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) at the ministerial level (at the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs) and defined according to the thematic axes of the Summit.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) coordinates the support provided to the summit process by 12 Inter-American and international agencies, which offer the countries technical orientation in identifying and negotiating the topics addressed. The JSWG also plans and implements projects and initiatives that put summit commitments into practice. It also supports ministerial meetings and their links to the summit process. Furthermore, the group participates in summit policy dialogues, in order to exchange ideas regarding policy approaches to be followed during the summit process. The Secretariat of the OAS Summits of the Americas chairs the JSWG.

<sup>17</sup> Declaration made by President Juan Manuel Santos at the closing session of the Sixth Summit of the Americas. Available from:  
[http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2012/041412/statement\\_santos\\_closing\\_en.pdf](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2012/041412/statement_santos_closing_en.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Mandates arising from the Sixth Summit of the Americas. Available from:  
[http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2012/041412/mandates\\_sc\\_en.pdf](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2012/041412/mandates_sc_en.pdf).

6. Given the importance of the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Sixth Summit, all mandates having a direct impact on the work of the Organization are summarized in the Annex.

**Action by the Pan American Sanitary Conference**

7. The Conference is requested to take note of this report.

Annex

**Mandates Arising from the Sixth Summit of the Americas and  
their Linkage with the Work of the Pan American Health Organization**

<b>Mandates</b>	<b>PAHO's Work</b>
<b>Poverty, Inequalities, and Inequities</b>	
<p>1. Promote and encourage comprehensive, timely, and quality public policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Early childhood care, education, and development.</li>   <li>c. Raising awareness about the adverse effects of adolescent pregnancies on the integral development of the adolescent and their offspring, as well as fostering their health and well-being.</li> </ul>	<p>PAHO will continue to support countries' efforts in the area of maternal and newborn health care as a key element in early childhood development. It will promote and expand the "Safe Motherhood" initiative as well as programs for breastfeeding, immunization, and early childhood health promotion. Furthermore, it will facilitate the articulation of integrated actions with different sectors, in order to address public policies for early childhood that involve the participation of different actors and interest groups.</p> <p>PAHO will continue to promote sexual and reproductive health programs for adolescents, following a human rights-based approach aimed at preventing unwanted pregnancies and geared towards young people having both the means and the resources to practice sexual health and exercise healthy sexuality.</p>
<p>5. To reaffirm our commitment to advance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote the financing of projects and programs to disseminate best practices in the communities that are most behind.</p>	<p>PAHO will expand the "Faces, Voices and Places" initiative, which constitutes PAHO's response to achieving the MDGs by utilizing a territorial approach focused on local spaces that show conditions of being among those most left behind in terms of achieving the MDGs. PAHO will document local-level experiences and good practices. The topics of maternal health and safe drinking water will be priority areas.</p>
<p>10. To reaffirm our support for the objectives set out in the Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and its Plan of Action, by promoting equal opportunity for, and nondiscrimination of, persons with disabilities through their participation in our</p>	<p>Through its activities related to the health of people with disabilities, PAHO will continue to work in a coordinated manner with the agencies of the Inter-American system to safeguard fulfillment of the commitments established in the 2006-2016 Plan of Action.</p>

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countries' social, political, economic, and cultural development processes, in order to ensure their well-being and the full enjoyment and exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.	
11. To advance in strengthening the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons through promotion of public policies, programs, and services—thus safeguarding their dignity, their physical, mental and social well-being, and their quality of life, bearing in mind efforts underway at the inter-American level to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of the rights of older persons and consideration of the issue at the international level.	Through its Aging and Health program, PAHO will continue to promote country efforts to achieve healthy aging. PAHO will work in a coordinated manner in the Inter-American arena to back the definition of a legally binding instrument to protect the rights of older persons.
15. To take action on the conditions that negatively impact the health of our people, taking into account the 2011 World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health.	PAHO will continue to collaborate with governments at both the national and local levels, articulating the responses of intersectoral public policies that take action on factors negatively affecting the health of older persons, pursuant to the guidelines agreed upon at the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health.
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction and Management</b>	
4. To strengthen regional and subregional instruments, as well as existing initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance—as well as coordination and cooperation mechanisms—to generate synergies, underscoring the importance of coordination.	PAHO will continue to collaborate in efforts carried out by the Inter-American system in the areas of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance in health, as well as in coordination, information, and response. In times of disasters, the “Safe Hospitals” initiative will continue to be one of PAHO's priority strategies in its work on risk reduction.
<b>Access to and Use of Information and Communication Technologies</b>	
3. To promote the more intensive application of ICTs [information and communication technologies] in health, with a view to improving the efficiency of our countries' health information systems,	PAHO will continue to collaborate in implementing the eHealth Strategy and Plan of Action (2012-2017) approved by PAHO's Governing Bodies. This strategy is aimed at improving access to and quality of health

Mandates	PAHO's Work
<p>including accurate record-keeping, and of subregional and regional alert systems for public health events of international concern; the expansion of continuing education programs for health workers and the population; and access to information on health services in those centers and communities that need it the most.</p>	<p>services, as well as their sustainable development. PAHO will collaborate with health authorities to strengthen and expand the use of information and communication technologies in epidemiological surveillance systems and in public health events of international concern, pursuant to the guidelines established in the International Health Regulations (IHR). PAHO will continue to expand the training options offered to health workers via the Virtual Campus for Public Health (VCPH).</p>
<b>Citizen Safety and Transnational Organized Crime</b>	
<p>3. To implement policies containing measures to prevent, investigate, punish, penalize, and eradicate sexual and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>PAHO will continue its support to the countries in efforts to improve, through their health services, the diagnosis of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of women, boys, and girls—as well as to respond with timely care and treatment. PAHO will coordinate its efforts to address timely prevention and care for victims of gender-based violence and sexual abuse.</p>
<p>4. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of comprehensive public policies on citizen security through actions such as the generation and use of relevant and timely information, and the strengthening of the capacity and coordination of institutions that participate in the management of citizen security.</p>	<p>PAHO will collaborate with judicial and law enforcement agencies in intersectoral efforts to improve and harmonize <i>victimization</i> and homicide registries, as well as local-level surveillance systems for violent events.</p>
<p>Regarding drugs, the Heads of State and Government mandated the OAS to conduct studies and research that will produce the necessary evidence to inform the decision-making process. (Recommendation arising from the Private Meeting on Drugs).</p>	<p>In terms of studies and research in the area of drugs, PAHO will both collaborate in and support studies on drug abuse, its effects on health, its treatment, and rehabilitation for those falling victim to it—as well as programs aimed at preventing the use of illegal drugs—following a public health approach.</p>