

#### **D. SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS**

18. This document presents the main resolutions and agreements of interest to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization adopted by different intergovernmental regional and subregional entities linked with health; to wit:

**(a) Ibero-America**

- *Ibero-American Summits: Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Health*

**(b) Central America**

- *Central American Integration System (SICA): Council of Central American Ministers of Health (COMISCA)*
- *Council Women Ministers for Central American Women (COMMCA)*
- *Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD)*

**(c) Caribbean**

- *Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)*

**(d) South America**

- *Andean Community of Nations: Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU)*
- *Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR): Working Subgroup No. 11/Health (SGT 11)*
- *Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO): New ACTO Strategic Agenda 2012-2020: Regional Health Action*
- *Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): South American Health Council*

**Other:**

- *16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA16)*

19. Resolutions and agreements of interest to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization and related to its work as the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System have been selected.

20. The meetings held to address matters in regard to regional public health were attended by the ministers of health of the Region's Member States and Ibero-America, in the case of the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Health, and by other official delegates. In addition to delegates from the Member States, the meetings were attended in some cases by representatives of governments accredited as Permanent Observers; the Associated States; representatives of the various agencies and entities of the Inter-American System, including the Pan American Health Organization; as well as representatives from the United Nations System, cooperation agencies, and other entities.

21. It should be noted that to formalize its work with the subregional integration entities, the Pan American Health Organization Program Budget 2006-2007 introduced a section on subregional technical cooperation (Official Document 317 "Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Financial Period 2006-2007," approved by the Directing Council in Resolution CD45.R8).

22. This subregional level responds to health issues of common interest to each subregion. This joint effort, which has enabled the alignment of regional and country agendas, seeks to boost opportunities for multisectoral work and intensify the process of decentralization of Pan American Sanitary Bureau human resources. Technical cooperation by the Organization at the subregional level has emphasized compatibility of joint activities in the health area among the different subregional platforms. The Organization will continue promoting this convergence and strengthening the focus on diminishing asymmetries among Member States.

**Action by the Pan American Sanitary Conference**

23. The Pan American Sanitary Conference is invited to take note of this report.

## **Resolutions and Agreements on Health Matters Approved by Subregional Integration<sup>19</sup> Agencies and Related to PAHO Activities**

### **(a) *Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)***

Every year, several sectoral meetings are held prior to the Presidential Summit. In the case of health, that meeting is the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Health, which issues a declaration and submits a series of paragraphs for consideration by the Heads of State and Government for inclusion in the final presidential declaration that is adopted. The most recent of these meetings, the XIII Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Health, was held in June 2011 in Paraguay, the country that held the Presidency *pro tempore* that year. In October 2011, the XXI Summit of Heads of State and Government was also held in Paraguay.

In 2012, the XXII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government of Ibero-America will take place on 16-17 November in Cádiz, Spain. The theme of the Summit is “The Bicentennial of the Cádiz Constitution: Renewing relations.”

An Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Health has not been programmed for 2012.

### **(b) *Central American Integration System (SICA)***

The Council of Central American Ministers of Health and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) meets in regular sessions twice the year in the countries that hold the presidency *pro tempore*. The last meeting of COMISCA (XXXVI Regular Meeting of COMISCA, 19-20 June 2012) was held in the city of Tela (Honduras), the country that held the presidency *pro tempore* during the first half of 2012. The Ministers and Ministries of Health participate in this forum. PAHO/WHO attends the regular meetings of the Council by invitation of the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA as the lead agency in health matters in the Region and because of the technical assistance it provides in the thematic Technical Commissions (Technical Commission on Pharmaceuticals, Human Resources, Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases, and cancer; Technical Commission on Surveillance in Health and Information Systems and the Regional Coordinating Mechanism on HIV/AIDS). Furthermore, PAHO/WHO has a permanent representative on the Executive Committee for Implementation of the Agenda and Health Plan of Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEIP) and on the Advisory Committee of the Technical Commission on Surveillance in Health and Information Systems.

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<sup>19</sup> The meetings considered are those held within the framework of the subregional bodies linked with health from June 2011 to May 2012.

Link to information on COMISCA:

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=64580&IDCat=3&IdEnt=143&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

<b>Central American Integration System XXXVI Regular Meeting of the Council of Central American Ministers of Health City of Tela (Honduras), 19-20 June 2012</b>	
<b>Items approved by COMISCA</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS (as technical advisory body to COMISCA on HIV)	Linked with the technical program on HIV.
Central American Certificate Course in Monitoring and Evaluation for Management of HIV/AIDS Policies and Programs	Linked with the technical program for the development of human resources for health. Regional Observatory of Human Resources in Health.
Nutrition and Food Security (NFS)—NFS Policy Proposal for Central America and the Dominican Republic submitted by INCAP	Linked with the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development.
Joint drug negotiations	Linked with the Strategic Fund and with the technical program on Drugs and Health Technology.
SALTRA Program: Occupational and Environmental Health	Linked with the technical program on workers' health. Linked with the Regional Plan of Action on Workers' Health (May 2001).
Health and climate change	Linked with the technical program on sustainable development and environmental health. Linked with the Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (CD51/6, Rev.1) and CD51.R15 (2011).
Health Research: Proposal for the formation of the Technical Commission on Health Research for Central America and the Dominican Republic	Linked with the research for health area. EVIPNet.
Monitoring and evaluation system of the Health Plan for Central America and the Dominican Republic	Linked with the country support team that coordinates subregional cooperation.

<b>Central American Integration System XXXVI Regular Meeting of the Council of Central American Ministers of Health City of Tela (Honduras), 19-20 June 2012</b>	
<b>Items approved by COMISCA</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Regional HIV laboratory Framework agreement between SICA and the Gorgas Commemorative Institute for Health Studies	Linked with the technical program on health and laboratory services and the technical program on HIV.  Linked with strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]).

(c) *Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD)*

Another forum in which the Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic participate along with the social security and water and sanitation institutions and where health sector issues are discussed is the Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD). PAHO serves as the Technical Secretariat for this forum. Meetings are held once a year, the last one in the Dominican Republic on 5-6 July 2012.

Link to information on RESSCAD: <http://new.paho.org/resscad/>

<b>RESSCAD XXVIII Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), 5-6 July 2012</b>	
<b>Agreements adopted by RESSCAD</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 2 Information, analysis, and decision-making, and development of the Regional Health Situation Room (SRSS)	Linked with regional Plan of Action for Strengthening Vital and Health Statistics (Resolution CD48.R6 [2008]).
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 3 Quality health services without exclusion  Sustainability of national antiretroviral therapy and vaccination programs	Linked with strategies promoted by the Organization on analysis of health systems and services, health economics and financing, and extension of social protection in health.  Linked with the technical program on HIV.  Linked with the Strategy for Health Personnel Competency Development in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems (Resolution CD50.R7 [2010]). Linked with the technical immunization

<b>RESSCAD XXVIII Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), 5-6 July 2012</b>	
<b>Agreements adopted by RESSCAD</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
	program. Strengthening Immunization Programs (Resolution CD50.R5 [2010]).
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 3 Advancing comprehensive addiction treatment in primary health care (PHC)	Linked with Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]) and with Health, Human Security, and Well-being (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).  Linked with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OAS and PAHO to cooperate in reducing the demand for illicit drugs in the countries of the Americas (May 2012).
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 4 Health and Tourism	Linked with the technical program on Health Promotion.  Linked with the document Health and Tourism CD49/15 (2009) and Resolution CD49.R20 (2009).
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 5 Water and Sanitation Situation in the Region	Linked with the technical program on Sustainable Development and Environmental Health.
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 6 On RESSCAD and FOCARD-APS joining the Regional Coalition on Water and Sanitation for the Elimination of Cholera in the Island of Hispaniola	Linked with the technical program on Sustainable Development and Environmental Health.
DOR XXVIII RESSCAD 7 Health sector preparedness and response for public health emergencies and disasters	Linkage with the Program on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief.

**(d) *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)***

Within the framework of CARICOM, the Ministers of Health meet in regular sessions in the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD). The last regular meeting was held in February of this year in Guyana. A special meeting of COHSOD was subsequently held in Saint Lucia on 27-28 April. PAHO participates in this forum as the technical advisory agency on health and offers its facilities for the meetings of the Caucus of Caribbean Community Ministers of Health, whose Secretariat it shares with CARICOM and partners from Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). The last meeting of the Caucus was held on 24-25 September 2011, in Washington, D.C.

<b>CARICOM</b> <b>Twenty-second Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)</b> <b>Georgetown (Guyana), 2-3 February 2012</b> <b>“Culture, Youth, and Sport”</b>	
<b>Main items addressed by COHSOD</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Chronic non-communicable diseases	<p>Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs (2012).</p> <p>Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Information Document CD51.INF/4 [2011]).</p> <p>Linked with the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).</p>
Sport and tourism	Linked with the technical program on health promotion.
Caribbean Community Crime Prevention and Social Development Action Plan	<p>Linked with Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]) and with Health, Human Security, and Well-being (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).</p> <p>Linked with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OAS and PAHO to cooperate in reducing the demand for illicit drugs in the countries of the Americas (May 2012).</p>
Youth	<p>Linked with the technical programs on health promotion and adolescent health.</p> <p>Linked with the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).</p> <p>Linked with the Strategy and Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health (Resolution CD49.R14 [2009]).</p>
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Linked with PAHO's subregional work program with the Caribbean, especially CAREC and CFNI.

<b>CARICOM</b> <b>Special Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)</b> <b>Saint Lucia, 27-28 April 2012</b>	
<b>Main items addressed</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Sustainability of national responses to HIV Integration of HIV services into primary health care	Linked with the technical program on HIV.  Linked with the Program for Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control.
PANCAP response to the results of the United Nations High-level Meeting on HIV and AIDS Elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis	Linked with the Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis. (Resolution CD50. R12 [2010]).
Regional laboratory networks and standards	Linked with the technical program on health and laboratory services.
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) (Human resources, financial matters, development, research, laboratory issues, social marketing, and resource mobilization plan)	Linked with PAHO's subregional work program with the Caribbean, especially CAREC and CFNI.

<b>CARICOM</b> <b>XX Meeting of the Caucus of Caribbean Community Ministers of Health</b> <b>Washington. D.C., PAHO Headquarters, 24-25 September 2011</b>	
<b>Items addressed</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
CARPHA	Linked with PAHO's subregional work program with the Caribbean, especially CAREC and CFNI.
Noncommunicable diseases	Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs (2012).  Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Document CD51.INF/4 [2011]).  Linked with the regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).
HIV/AIDS	Linked with the technical program on HIV.

<b>CARICOM</b> <b>XX Meeting of the Caucus of Caribbean Community Ministers of Health</b> <b>Washington. D.C., PAHO Headquarters, 24-25 September 2011</b>	
<b>Items addressed</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Development of Human Resources for Health (Registration of nurses, regional registration of physicians, CHART report)	Linked with the technical program for the development of human resources for health.  Regional Observatory of Human Resources in Health.
Pneumococcal and human papillomavirus vaccines in CARICOM	Linked with the technical program on immunization.  Linked with technical program on chronic diseases, including cancer.  Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (Information document CD51/INF/4 (2011)).  Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).  Linked with the information document Immunization: Challenges and Outlook (CD51/INF/5-A 2011).  Linked with the resolution Strengthening Immunization Programs (CD50.R5 [2010]).
Implementation of the IHR in the English-speaking and Dutch Caribbean	Linked with the technical program on Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control.  Information document on Implementation of the International Health Regulations (CD51/INF/5-D [2011]).
Violence prevention	Linked with health and human rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]) and with health, human security, and well-being (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).  Linked with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OAS and PAHO to cooperate in reducing the demand for illicit drugs in the countries of the Americas. (May 2012).

(e) *Andean Community of Nations (CAN)*

Within the framework of the Andean Community of Nations, the Ministers of Health of the Andean Area meet in regular sessions once a year and also hold special meetings. The Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS/CONHU) serves as Technical Secretariat for the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA). The last gathering of REMSAA was a special meeting (XXVI Special REMSAA, Lima, Peru, 6-7 December 2011). PAHO participates in these meetings as the technical advisory agency on health.

Link to information on REMSAA: <http://www.orasconhu.org/remsa/resoluciones-7>

<b>Andean Community of Nations Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU) XXVI Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Lima, Peru, 6-7 December 2011</b>	
<b>Resolutions adopted</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
REMSAA XXVI-1: Andean border health plan	Linked with technical program on subregional cooperation in health.
REMSAA XXVI-2: Prevention, control, and management of noncommunicable diseases	Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (Resolution CD47.R9 [2006]).  Report on the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (Information Document CD51/INF/4 [2011]).
REMSAA XXVI-3: Prevention of adolescent pregnancy	Linked with the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Adolescent and Youth Health 2010-2018.
REMSAA XXVI-4: Intercultural health	Linked with Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]) and with Health, Human Security, and Well-being (Resolution CD50.R16 [2010]).
REMSAA XXVI-5 People of African descent	Linked with the technical program on cultural diversity and health.  Linked with Health and Human Rights (Resolution CD50.R8 [2010]).
REMSAA XXVI-6: Prevention and control of hepatitis B, syphilis, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections	Linked with the Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis.

<b>Andean Community of Nations Andean Health Agency/Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU) XXVI Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) Lima, Peru, 6-7 December 2011</b>	
<b>Resolutions adopted</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
	(Resolution CD50.R12 [2010]).  Linked with the Program for Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control.
REMSAA XXVI–7: Andean pharmaceutical policy: ethical criteria for drug promotion, advertising, and surveillance	Linked with the Initiative for Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]).  Linked with the progress report on the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (Information Document CD51/INF/5–B [2011]).
REMSAA XXVI–8: Andean Network for Health Technology Assessment	Regional Platform on Access and Innovation for Health (2012).  Linked with the subregional work program for South America.

**(f) *Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)***

In this area, it should be noted that the SGT 11 meetings adopt resolutions that are then submitted for the consideration of the Common Market Group (GMC), discuss proposed resolutions that are sent for internal consultation, and analyze resolutions that constitute recommendations in each Commission of the SGT 11 (the Commission on Health Care, the Commission on Health Products, and the Commission on Health Surveillance, in addition to the resolutions on national coordination). In general, these are issues related to regulation and the harmonization of standards. PAHO participates in its capacity as the technical advisory agency on health. The latest of these meetings, the XXXVIII Regular Meeting of Working Subgroup No. 11, “Health,” was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17-20 April 2012. On that occasion, the following resolutions submitted for the consideration of the GMC were adopted:

- (1) Res. 02/08 Health technology assessment request form
- (2) Res. 02/11 MERCOSUR Technical Regulation on good manufacturing practices for home health care products
- (3) Res.1/12 MERCOSUR Technical Regulation on the list of permissible colorants for personal hygiene and cosmetic products and perfumes.
- (4) Res.03/12 MERCOSUR health professions

Furthermore, regular sessions of the meetings of MERCOSUR ministers of health are held at least twice a year (one under each presidency *pro tempore*). The XXXII Meeting of MERCOSUR Ministers of Health (RMS) was held on 7 June 2012 in the city of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

<b>MERCOSUR XXXII Meeting of MERCOSUR Ministers of Health Buenos Aires (Argentina), 7 June 2012</b>	
<b>Agreements approved</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
MERCOSUR/RMS/Acuerdo 1/12 Development of drug formularies for use at the first level of care	Linked with the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization and with Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]).
Declaration on reduction of health risks from contamination and environmental hazards	Linked with the technical program on Sustainable Development and Environmental Health and with activities of the program on Health Promotion.
Declaration with regard to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio+20	Linked with the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October, 2011) and the Regional Consultation on Social Determinants of Health (Costa Rica, August 2011).
MERCOSUR/RMS/P.Dec. 1/12 Health authority focal point network for the prevention and control of counterfeit drugs and medical products in MERCOSUR	Linked with the Pan American Network on Drug Regulatory Harmonization and with Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (Resolution CD50.R9 [2010]).  Linked with the subregional work program for South America.

**(g) Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)**

In November 2010, during the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member countries of ACTO (the highest body of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty-ACT), held in Lima, Peru, the new Strategic Agenda 2012-2020 was approved.

The items on this new Strategic Agenda include, Regional Health Management, whose execution is the responsibility of the Health Coordination Office of ACTO's Permanent Secretariat. PAHO/WHO has been engaged in technical cooperation activities with this Coordination Office in relation to the health chapter of the new Strategic Agenda and the preparation of a health situation analysis of the Amazon region. The purpose of ACTO's Regional Health Management is to support activities to achieve the Millennium

Development Goals in the Amazon region and coordinate with UNASUR-Health to avoid the duplication of efforts.

This technical cooperation was formalized with the signing of a Framework Agreement between the two organizations during the 51st Directing Council of PAHO (2011).

The XI Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held in Manaus, Brazil, in November 2011. On that occasion, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted the Declaration of Manaus and the Declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO Member Countries for the Rio+20 Conference.

Link to information on ACTO: <http://www.otca.info/portal/>

**(h) Union of South American Nations – UNASUR**

The South American Health Council of UNASUR has a Coordinating Committee, a Technical Secretariat, and technical groups. The Technical Secretariat, which is comprised of the President *pro tempore* and representatives of two countries (the preceding and next presidents), convenes and supports the meetings of the Council. PAHO participates in the Coordinating Committee as an observer. The most recent regular meeting of the South American Health Council was held on 20 April in Asunción, Paraguay, the country holding the rotating presidency for 2012.

Link to information on UNASUR: [www.unasursg.org](http://www.unasursg.org)

<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b> <b>Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)</b> <b>VI Regular Meeting of the South American Health Council</b> <b>Asunción (Paraguay), 20 April 2012</b>	
<b>Resolutions adopted</b>	<b>Relation to PAHO activities</b>
Working Group on Human Resources Development and Management	Linked with the program of subregional work for South America for development of human resources for health.  Regional Observatory of Human Resources in Health.
South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS) Work Plan and Budget	Through ISAGS networks, activities are coordinated on noncommunicable disease prevention and control.  International relations (ORIS Network). Developing human resources for health.
Group for Universal Access to Medicines	Linked with the initiative for Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals (CD50.R09, 2010).

Creation of the Network for Disaster Management and Mitigation	Linked with the technical Program on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief.
<b>Other issues discussed in the Health Council</b>	
WHO reform	Linked with the reform process of the Organization and its discussion in the Governing Bodies (Regional Consultation on WHO Reform, CD51/INF/2, 2011).
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)- Rio+20	Linked with the technical program on environmental health and sustainable development.  Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (CD51.R15, 2011).
International Conference on Population and Development –Cairo 2014	Linked with Panel on Safe Motherhood and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (CD51/14 Rev. 1, 2011).

## Other

### *16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA16)*

This ministerial meeting convened by the Director of PAHO is held every three or four years. RIMSA15 was held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on 11-12 June 2008. The theme of that meeting was “Agriculture and Health: Alliance for Equity and Rural Development in the Americas.”

Link to the report and resolution submitted to the Directing Council: CD48/19, Rev.1 and CD48.R13:

[http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=770&Itemid=733&lang=en](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=770&Itemid=733&lang=en)

This year, RIMSA16 (Santiago, Chile, 26-27 July) was held under the theme *Agriculture-Health-Environment: joining forces for the well-being of the peoples of the Americas*. RIMSA is the only regional forum for setting and coordinating policies and strategies of common interest to the agriculture and health sectors. PAHO/WHO, through the Veterinary Public Health Unit/Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (PANAFTOSA), organized RIMSA16 with the support and under the auspices of the Government of Chile, through its Ministries of Health and of Agriculture.

These meetings were attended by the ministers of health and of agriculture of the PAHO Member Countries, along with partners from the international community who participated as observers or as special guests (cooperation agencies, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, private sector and industry, high-level officials of veterinary services and health entities, and scientific institutions).

Three major technical events were held on 24 and 25 July as preparation for RIMSA16: the 12th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA 12), the Sixth Meeting of the Pan-American Commission on Food Safety (COPAIA 6), and the Inter-Agency Forum: “Toward Integrated Epidemiological Surveillance.”

Link to further information on RIMSA16:

<http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/rimsa16/index.php?lang=en>

The report on RIMSA16 is being prepared and will be submitted to the PAHO Governing Bodies in 2013.

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