Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization
2nd Steering Committee Meeting
March 23-34, 2001

Overview of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization

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Introduction

- Harmonization will reduce unnecessary and duplicative requirements
- Harmonization will expedite the availability of pharmaceutical products and reduce the costs of their development
Global Harmonization: WHO and ICDRA

- **WHO: 1946** “…to develop, establish, and promote international standards with respect to food, biologics, and pharmaceuticals and similar products.”
- **ICDRA** Convened every two years by WHO, and promotes harmonization, exchange of information, and development of collaborative approaches to problems of common concern.

European Harmonization

- **EU** Harmonizes laws and regulations of member countries to promote public health and free circulation of pharmaceuticals within European trade areas.
- **EMEA 1995** to oversee, coordinate, and facilitate European harmonization of pharmaceutical requirements.
Current Situation

• ICH
  – Established to improve through harmonization, the efficiency of the process for developing and registering new medicinal products in the European Union, Japan, and the United States
  – To ensure that quality, safe and effective pharmaceuticals are developed and registered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner
  – Over 40 guidelines developed in first 10 years
  – A subcommittee to on global cooperation was established
PAHO Activities Related to Drug Regulatory Harmonization in the Americas

• Region of the Americas
  – Promoting harmonization in the Americas will improve the health of the Region by facilitating the availability of safe, effective, and quality pharmaceuticals

• PAHO convened a series of three conferences

• Harmonization activities recognized as important
Pan American Conference on Drug Regulatory Harmonization

Washington, D.C., 17-20 November 1997

- Hemispheric forum be established
- PAHO as Secretariat
- Steering Committee
- Stakeholders
Consultation for the Establishment of the Steering Committee for the Pan American Conferences on Drug Regulatory Harmonization

Caracas, Venezuela, 14-15 January 1999

- Continuity
- Officially recognized
- Government endorsement
The Second Pan American Conference on Drug Regulatory Harmonization

Washington, D.C., 2-5 November 1999

- Harmonization--search for common ground
- Mission--to promote regulatory harmonization
- Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization
- Steering Committee formed
First Meeting of Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 3-4 April 2000

• Structure
  – Canada; Guatemala; Jamaica; Brazil; Venezuela
  – FIFARMA; ALIFAR

• Developed a two-year work plan based on conclusions & recommendations from the November 1999 conference
Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization

Work Plan 2000 - 2001

- Priorities Approved by the Steering Committee
  - First: Urgent Issues
    - GMP
    - BA/BE
    - GCP
    - Counterfeit
  - Second: Important Issues
    - Classification
    - Drug Regulatory Agency
  - Third: Recommended Issues
    - Pharmacopoeia
Pan American Health Organization
Governance

- **The Subcommittee on Planning & Programming**
  - March 29-31, 2000

- **The Executive Committee**
  - June 26-30, 2000

- **The Directing Council**
  - September 25-29, 2000
42nd Directing Council
Considerations

- Took into account that drug regulatory harmonization processes are fundamental for guaranteeing the safety, efficacy, and quality of drugs
- Recognized efforts in the Americas towards drug regulatory harmonization
- Aware that the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization will represent a concrete regional option for this process
42nd Directing Council
Resolved

- **To urge Member States to:** Support national implementation of the agreements and recommendations arising out of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization

- **To request the Director to:** Support the establishment of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization and strengthen the role of PAHO as its Secretariat