INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF
THE INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA

1. The 55th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), held in 2004, resolved to take steps to strengthen the Institute. Subsequently, during its 57th meeting in 2006, the Committee resolved to review the work of INCAP and define its strategic objectives and goals in the current context of the Region, bringing them into line with the needs and requirements of the Member States.

2. Article LI of the Basic Agreement of INCAP states that the Institute shall be evaluated at least every five years as the basis for proposing modifications to adapt it to the development status of the Member States. The Steering Committee of INCAP recognizes that the institutional strengthening process under way responds to and complies with Article LI of the Basic Agreement of INCAP and the resolutions of the Directing Council of PAHO on the periodic evaluation and review of the performance of the Pan American centers.

3. Article VII of the Basic Agreement of INCAP states that PAHO is responsible for administering the Institute for a five-year period, and that, at the request of the Steering Committee of INCAP, that responsibility shall be renewed for similar periods, as long as the Directing Council of PAHO approves.

4. In 1978, the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference resolved “to direct that any proposal for the establishment, disestablishment, or transfer of any Pan American Center be routinely submitted to the Executive Committee and Directing Council of PAHO and be accompanied by a complete study.”

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5. In light of these points, during its 48th Meeting in 2007, the Steering Committee of INCAP “adopted the new Institutional Strategic Framework and requested the Director of INCAP to implement it pursuant to the plan and timetable presented,” instructing him “to begin reviewing and adapting the Basic Agreement of the Institute to bring it into line with its new Strategic Framework, a process that includes modification of the articles on the relationship with PAHO/WHO as administrator, and to present the proposal at the next regular meeting of the Steering Committee of INCAP.”

6. Based on the aforementioned resolutions, INCAP intends to submit the respective study for the consideration of the 142nd session of the Executive Committee. The study includes a synopsis of INCAP’s strengthening process, the guidelines for its institutional development, its proposed technical cooperation strategy, the modifications that will permit full administrative self-management of INCAP under the Central American Integration System (SICA).