

## 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

### 66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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*Provisional Agenda Item 4.14*

CD53/16  
9 September 2014  
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#### **POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (ROUNDTABLE)**

##### **Introduction**

1. In June 2014, the 154th Session of the Executive Committee examined the Status of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda (Document CE154/INF/3), and requested that the post-2015 development agenda be included as a program policy item for roundtable discussion by the 53rd Directing Council.
2. The rationale for this request was that the post-2015 United Nations global framework will drive future funding mechanism. Therefore, it is important that the ministries of health of the Region analyze the proposed development agenda, identify its role and the means of implementation to continue efforts to strengthen national public health systems and to address inequities in health.
3. The 53rd Directing Council will also examine the regional Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (Document CD53/5, Rev. 1), the Plan of Action for Health in All Policies (Document CD53/10, Rev. 1), and other relevant documents on public health interventions that address social, cultural, economic, and environmental determinants of health.

##### **Background**

4. The debate on the new agenda following the United Nations millennium development goals (MDGs) deadline of 2015 has been conducted by the UN Secretariat and UN Member States. This debate has addressed the MDG process and the proposal of sustainable development goals (SDGs) presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) declaration “The Future We Want.” The United Nations has played a facilitating role in this global conversation by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking, and field experience. Led by the UN, the discussion was aimed to establish a single set of new goals, targets and indicators to be adopted after 2015 as the new “UN Global Sustainable Development Framework and Goals.” This
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debate has occurred in different settings, such as the Thematic Global Consultations, including one on health held in Botswana (2013);<sup>1</sup> consultations with Latin American and the Caribbean countries held in Bogotá (2013),<sup>2</sup> and among a selected group of “eminent persons.”<sup>3</sup> On all of these occasions documents were prepared and presented, and final reports and proposals were put forward to the UN Secretariat and Member States. An inter-governmental “Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals” led by Member States was established in January 2013 by a decision of the General Assembly. The OWG convened 13 times from March 2013 to July 2014. In July 2014, the OWG convened in New York to analyze the proposals so far, and to negotiate a common set of goals and targets. The OWG put forward a final proposal of targets and indicators to be considered by the UN General Assembly in September.<sup>4</sup> The OWG took into consideration different inputs from consultations and groups that had been held since their first meeting in March 2013, including the contribution from the series of seminars promoted by Mexico on economic and social inclusion, where health has been specifically analyzed.

5. The World Health Assembly adopted Resolution [WHA66.11](#) in May 2013 requesting the Director-General to actively promote debate on health in the agenda of sustainable development after 2015, and submit a report. WHO has participated in the process in New York through its UN Office, and by direct participation from personnel in several of the OWG sessions. A document summarizing the status and proposals was presented in the 134th Session of the Executive Board in January 2014 ([EB134/18](#)). Also the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2014 adopted Resolution [WHA.67.14](#) ensuring a central role for health in the post-2015 development agenda.

6. PAHO has been the regional arm of this UN and WHO process. The countries of the Region have been important advocates of the inclusion of health as one of the targets since the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Pursuant to Resolution WHA66.11, PAHO held a panel in 2013 to discuss health in the post-2015 development agenda. The panel highlighted the conclusions of the global thematic consultation held in Botswana, and outlined the key points of a report prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons. The panel emphasized the need for strong advocacy on the part of the Region’s health ministers to secure a prominent place for health in the post-2015 development agenda and emphasized various issues that Member States of the Americas wished to see addressed within an overall health-related goal to be included in the post-2015 agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> Health in the Post-2015 Agenda. Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Health. April 2013. <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/file/337378/download/366802>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogotá Colombia, March 2013. [Follow-up to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20. Preliminary document available from: [http://www.eclac.cl/rio20/noticias/paginas/6/48936/2013-123-Sustainable\\_development\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.eclac.cl/rio20/noticias/paginas/6/48936/2013-123-Sustainable_development_WEB.pdf) ]

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. More information available at: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

## Proposal

7. The OWG outcome document on sustainable development goals includes one health-related goal, which is Goal 3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*. The goal has the nine targets and four means of implementation, as shown in the table below.

### Proposed Health-related Sustainable Development Goal

#### **Goal 3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.***

##### **Nine targets:**

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children.
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing.
- 3.5 Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.

##### **Four means of implementation:**

- 3a. Strengthen implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate.
- 3b. Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.
- 3c. Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development and training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states.
- 3d. Strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.

**Source:** United Nations General Assembly. Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals [Internet]. Sixty-eighth session, New York. United Nations; 2014 (Document A/68/970). Available from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/970](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/970).

8. Health has been considered as a central component of many of the other proposed 16 sustainable development goals and an important element to promote intersectoral collaboration and synergies. In summary, health is pivotal for sustainable development, and can be a good indicator of progress made.

9. This new international agreement will bring new and great commitments and challenges for the health sector. It will be important that PAHO's Member States keep informed about the SDGs post-2015 process and prepare for the next phase, looking for strategies and mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs.

### **Objectives of the Roundtable**

10. The general objective of the Roundtable is to inform Member States on the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the OWG to the UN General Assembly, and to discuss the implications for the health sector, with an emphasis on its implementation.

11. The specific objectives of the Roundtable are to:

- a) Present the health section of the OWG Document to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in September 2014.
- b) Review its implications for health systems and existing mechanisms that can facilitate its implementation.
- c) Convey the next steps that should be taken by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the ministries of health to prepare for the implementation.
- d) Identify key initiatives and partners that can facilitate the implementation process at regional, subregional, national, and subnational levels.

12. The Roundtable Structure (Annex) outlines how these objectives will be met.

### **Action by the Directing Council**

13. The Directing Council is invited to participate in the roundtable and take note of the rapporteurs' report and its recommendations, and moreover, disseminate its results in other forums.

Annex

**Annex  
Roundtable Structure**

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|---|--|--|
| <b>Implementation of the Health-related Sustainable Development Goal<br/>of the Post-2015 Development Agenda</b>  |  |  |
| Participants and guests: Official Member State delegates to the 53rd Directing Council  |  |  |
| <b>Introduction by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau</b> (5 minutes)   |  |  |
| Dr. Luiz A. C. Galvão, Chief, Special Program on Sustainable Development and Health Equity, PASB  |  |  |
| <b>Keynote</b> (20 minutes)   |  |  |
| Dr. Roberto Dondisch, Director General for Global Affairs, Secretariat of Foreign Issues, Mexico  |  |  |
| <i>Presentation of the document by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (to be presented at United Nations General Assembly in September 2014), with an emphasis on the social inclusion aspects of the new sustainable development agenda, and the role and challenges of Member States of the implementation process post-2015.</i>  |  |  |
| <b>Introduction to the dynamic of the discussion panels</b> (5 minutes)   |  |  |
| President of the Directing Council  |  |  |
| <b>Discussion Panels</b> (90 minutes)   |  |  |
| <p><b>Discussion table 1:</b><br/><i>The Caribbean</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> President of the Directing Council</p> <p><b>Presentation of the discussion item:</b> Hon. Clarice Modeste, Minister of Health, Grenada</p>   | <p><b>Discussion table 2:</b><br/><i>South America</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Vice President of the Directing Council</p> <p><b>Presentation of the discussion item:</b> (To be confirmed)</p> | <p><b>Discussion table 3:</b><br/><i>Central and North America</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Vice President of the Directing Council</p> <p><b>Presentation of the discussion item:</b> (To be confirmed)</p> |
| <b>Discussion Guide:</b>  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main implications of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals on health systems? Are the proposed SDGs in line with the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and national health development plans?</li> <li>• The Sustainable Development Goals are an aspirational framework and the implementation will be a decision to be taken at the country level. What will be the common minimum set of targets to be considered by the Region, and how can a set of indicators be established?</li> <li>• How can we implement this process?</li> <li>• What will be the next steps of the process at the regional level? Should PAHO consider a regional concept paper, strategy and plan of action? If so, when?</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <b>Rapporteur Reports</b>   |  |  |
| PASB will designate technical staff to be the rapporteurs and prepare a consolidated report. The report will be presented to the plenary as soon as it becomes available.   |  |  |

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