



53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

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

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2014

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**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL
OF PAHO, DR. LORENZO WILFREDO HIDALGO, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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**29 September 2014
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**53rd PAHO Directing Council
66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas**

Ministers and Secretaries of Health,
Delegates of the Member States,
Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization,
Director of the Pan American Health Organization,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Invited Agency Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

For my country, the Dominican Republic, for its government and its president, Hon. Danilo Medina Sánchez, and for me, in my capacity as Minister of Health, it is a great honor to have been chosen by the delegates of the Member States represented here to chair the 53rd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization and the 66th Session of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas.

This is a timely opportunity to congratulate Dr. Carissa Etienne on the extraordinary work she has done, as Director of PAHO, to help strengthen the health policies of the Organization's different Member States. I would also like to draw attention to the valuable work done by the Minister of Health of Ecuador, Dr. Carina Vance Mafla, as president of the previous Directing Council. I hope to follow in her footsteps.

I would like to request the Council members to follow the pre-established schedules so that we can make the best possible use of time, and I ask for your understanding when limits need to be established in the different discussions. Please remember that this is always in the interest of allowing the expression of your important ideas and your contributions to strengthening this great Organization.

We have a full agenda of topics that are important to the Member States and we will use these to advance the work of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and to improve the health of our people in the different countries represented here.

Thank you very much!
