



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



**World Health  
Organization**  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
**Americas**

## **54th DIRECTING COUNCIL**

**67th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2015*

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**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE 54th DIRECTING COUNCIL OF PAHO  
DR. VIOLETA MENJÍVAR  
MINISTER OF HEALTH OF EL SALVADOR**

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**28 September 2015  
Washington, D.C.**

**54th Directing Council of PAHO  
67th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas**

GOOD MORNING! And my fond respects to the guests at the head table, Dr. Carissa Etienne, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; Dr. Isabella Danel, Deputy Director and Secretary of the Directing Council.

Honorable ministers, delegates of the Member States of the 54th Directing Council of PAHO and 67th Session of the Regional Committee of the Americas of the World Health Organization.

As a Salvadorian, I am honored to chair this Council.

I extend my greeting to Dr. María Isabel Rodríguez, an extraordinary Salvadorian and former Minister of Health, who is present in this session and who will be receiving a tribute during this Council.

As we all know, one of the strategic objectives of the countries of the Americas is to achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage. Each of our countries is drafting its own road map toward realizing this grand aspiration, each according to its realities and possibilities, and with the wholehearted and invaluable support of the Pan American Health Organization.

Only hours before this Council began, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in New York, including partnerships for development, with health playing a key role in the well-being of our people.

This is a historic time to reaffirm our conviction that it is necessary for our nations to come together in order to continue reducing the unjust inequities that prevail in this Region.

In closing, I urge the Member States to work in an environment of warmth and commitment as we seek consensus to bring this session to a successful conclusion.

Thank you very much.

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