

30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

74th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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Provisional Agenda Item 8.13-A

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A. SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 22-28 May 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives and delegates of 194 Member States were in attendance. The President of the Assembly was Djibouti, represented by Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh.

2. Five countries served as Vice Presidents of the Assembly in representation of their respective regions, with the United States of America representing the Region of the Americas. Trinidad and Tobago served as Vice-Chair of Committee A. The Region was also represented at the General Committee by Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, the United States of America, and Uruguay, as well as in the Committee of Credentials by Bolivia and Nicaragua.

3. In his opening remarks (1), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, asked delegates to reflect on where the world stood after two years of the most severe health crisis in a century and over 6 million COVID-19 deaths worldwide. Recognizing that restrictions had been lifted in many countries, Dr. Tedros cautioned that the pandemic was most certainly not over, stating, “This virus has surprised us at every turn—a storm that has torn through communities again and again, and we still can’t predict its path, or its intensity. We lower our guard at our peril.”

4. Dr. Tedros reminded delegates that almost one billion people in lower-income countries remain unvaccinated and that only 57 countries have vaccinated 70% of their population—almost all of them high income. He called on all countries that had not yet reached 70% vaccination coverage to commit to achieving it as soon as possible, and on those countries who had reached the target to support those who had not.

5. The Director-General also addressed to the “formidable convergence of disease, drought, famine and war, fueled by climate change, inequity and geopolitical rivalry” currently facing the world. Recalling the attacks on health workers that had taken place during 2022, Dr. Tedros emphasized that attacks on health workers and health facilities are not only a breach of international humanitarian law but an assault on the right to health.

Speaking to the theme of the Assembly, *Health for peace, peace for health*, Dr. Tedros underscored the attainment of peace as a prerequisite for health. In closing, the Director-General urged Member States to put aside their differences, collaborate where possible, compromise where needed, and seek peace.

6. The elections for the new Director-General post were carried out on the third day of the Assembly, 24 May 2022, during which time Member States re-elected Dr. Tedros to serve a second five-year term as Director-General. Dr. Tedros was proposed as a candidate by several Member States, and was the only candidate proposed. His new mandate officially commences on 16 August 2022.¹

7. During the Assembly, there was active participation and involvement from Member States of the Region of the Americas. Speaking at the plenary of the Assembly, Member States of the Americas highlighted actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and called for future prevention and preparedness activities to take into account the need for equitable access to vaccines and medicines. In terms of recognition for countries of the Americas, the National Malaria Component of the Ministry for Citizen's Power for Health of Nicaragua was awarded the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize for its essential work carried out in the fight against malaria.

8. The agenda of the Assembly included general items related to technical and health issues, as well as administrative, budgetary, and institutional items.² As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B, and in plenary sessions.

9. A list of selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region, the related resolutions of the Pan American Health Organization, and some of the implications that the Health Assembly resolutions have for the Region can be found in the Annex.

Other Matters: Executive Board

10. The 151st session of the Executive Board was held on 30 May 2022. The Chair of the Executive Board was Dr. Kerstin Vesna Petrič, of Slovenia. Colombia was elected as Vice-chair. Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Peru, and the United States of America currently occupy the other five seats of the Board that represent the Region of the Americas. Furthermore, with the end of term of Argentina and Grenada, Peru and the United States of America will occupy the two seats of the Americas in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

11. The agenda of the 151st session of the Executive Board included items related to the Standing Committee on Health Emergency (Pandemic) Prevention, Preparedness and

¹ In accordance with World Health Assembly rules and procedure, a Director-General can be re-appointed once only.

² The agenda of the 75th World Health Assembly, as well as other related documents discussed at the Assembly, are available from: https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha75.html

Response, matters of management and governance, and staffing matters, among others.³ Member States adopted a decision approving the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency (Pandemic) Prevention, Preparedness and Response, which shall be composed of 14 members, two from each region, selected from among Executive Board members, as well as the Chair and a Vice-Chair of the Board. Delegates also adopted a decision related to the establishment of an agile Member State task group on strengthening WHO budgetary, programmatic, and financing governance. The Director-General was requested to convene the first meeting of the task group no later than the first week of July 2022.

12. Regarding dates for future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly, the Board agreed on the following timetable:

- a) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its thirty-seventh meeting from 25-27 January 2023 at WHO headquarters.
- b) The 152nd session of the Executive Board to begin on 30 January 2023, at WHO headquarters, and to close no later than 7 February 2023.
- c) The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly to be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, starting on 21 May 2023 and closing no later than 30 May 2023.
- d) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its thirty-eighth meeting from 17-19 May 2023 at WHO headquarters.

Action by the Pan American Sanitary Conference

13. The Conference is invited to take note of this report and provide any comments it deems pertinent.

Annex

References

1. World Health Organization. Director-General's address at the High-Level Welcome at the 75th World Health Assembly—22 May 2022 [Internet]. 75th World Health Assembly; 22 May 2022; Geneva, Switzerland. Geneva (Switzerland): WHO; 2022. Available from: <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-address-at-the-75th-world-health-assembly---22-may-2022>.

³ The full versions of these reports, as well as other related documents discussed at the 151st session of the WHO Executive Board, are available from: https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb151.html.

Annex

Table 1. Selected Resolutions Adopted by the 75th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA75.5 Revision of the Programme budget 2022-2023</p>	<p>Programme budget 2022-2023: revision Documents A75/6, A75/7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Programme of Work results framework Document A75/8 and resolution EB150.R4 	<p>OD363 and CD59.R8 (2021) Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2022-2023</p>	<p>The revised Programme budget 2022-2023 reflects the rapidly changing health situation of the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is fully aligned with the Strengthening of WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies (Resolution WHA74.7). It considers resource requirements to strengthen leadership, accountability, compliance and risk management with special focus on WHO’s capacity for prevention and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.</p> <p>The total budget increase of US\$ 604.4 million¹ represents a 14% increase over the approved Programme budget 2022-2023, and a 32% increase compared with the Programme budget 2020-2021. In terms of increases by strategic priorities: <i>a</i>) 67% of the proposed increase is concentrated in strategic priority 2 (One billion more people better protected from health emergencies); <i>b</i>) 15% for priority 1 (One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage); and <i>c</i>) 13% for pillar 4 (More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries). Strategic priority 3 (One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being) has the least significant increase of the four strategic priorities, with 5%.</p>

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all monetary figures in this document are expressed in United States dollars.

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA75.6 Extending the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 to 2025</p>	<p>Programme budget 2022-2023: revision Documents A75/6, A75/7 • General Programme of Work results framework Document A75/8 and resolution EB150.R4</p>	<p>OD363 and CD59.R8 (2021) Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2022-2023 OD359 and CD57.R2 (2019) Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025</p>	<p>Resolution WHA75.6 approves the extension of the period of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) from 2023 to 2025. The extension aims to help WHO support Member States’ efforts to address disruptions to health services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recover from the pandemic, and achieve the triple billion and Sustainable Development Goal targets.</p> <p>The extension of the GPW 13 will harmonize the planning cycle with other United Nations agencies and the PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The extension will also further facilitate the programmatic and budgetary alignment between PAHO and WHO, which will be key for implementation, monitoring, assessment, and reporting during 2024-2025. The broader strategy of the GPW 13 is proposed to remain in effect. This is important for continuity and will facilitate its use for planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, as well as for strategic communications, resource mobilization and dialogue with Member States and partners.</p>
<p>WHA75.8 Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination</p>	<p>Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies Documents A75/17, A75/18, A75/19, A75/20 and A75/21</p>	<p>CD49/10 and CD49.R10 (2009) Policy on Research for Health</p>	<p>Recognizing the important role of clinical trials in generating high-quality evidence on the safety and efficacy of medicines, vaccines and other health interventions, Resolution WHA75.8 aims to enhance the capabilities of clinical trials globally, as a central aspect of strengthening countries’ health systems. The Director General is requested to <i>a)</i> organize stakeholder consultations on the respective roles of the WHO Secretariat, Member States and non-State actors, and to identify best practices to strengthen the global clinical trial ecosystem; <i>b)</i> develop new guidance as needed on best practices for clinical trials; <i>c)</i> provide Member States with guidance on best practices for developing the legislation, infrastructure and capabilities required for clinical trials; <i>d)</i> engage with, as appropriate, relevant non-State actors to strengthen clinical trial capabilities; and <i>e)</i> present a report on progress towards the resolution to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023.</p>

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Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA75.12 Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)</p>	<p>Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies Documents A75/17, A75/18, A75/19, A75/20 and A75/21</p>	<p>CD59/INF/5 (2021) Implementation of the International Health Regulations CD59/INF/4 (2021) Report on Strengthening PAHO and WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies</p>	<p>Resolution WHA75.12 approves the amendments to Article 59, and the consequent necessary updates to Articles 55, 61, 62, and 63 of the International Health Regulations (2005) to reduce the time of entry into force of any future amendments from 24 to 12 months.</p>
<p>WHA75.13 Global strategy on infection prevention and control</p>	<p>Infection prevention and control Document A75/10</p>	<p>CD59/INF/10 (2021) Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance: Final Report</p>	<p>The resolution, which approved the development of a draft global strategy on infection prevention and control for consideration by the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023, aims to position infection prevention and control (IPC) as central to infectious hazard and health emergency preparedness and response, and as key to addressing the silent burden of healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance AMR.</p>
<p>WHA75.14 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property</p>	<p>Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year • Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property Documents A75/10 and decision EB150(11)</p>	<p>CD59/8 and CD59.R3 (2021) Increasing Production Capacity for Essential Medicines and Health Technologies CD48/18 and CD48.R15 (2008) Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property: A Regional Perspective</p>	<p>Resolution WHA75.14 approved the extension of the time frame of the global plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property from 2022 until 2030. The implementation of the elements of the global plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property and its prioritized actions continue to be currently valid and relevant for the Americas. Following the mandate of Resolution CD59.R3 (2019), PAHO launched the “Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and other Health Technologies in the Americas” to incentivize the development, transfer, and manufacturing of essential and strategic health technologies, as well as to foster cooperation between the public and private sectors in the health, industry, and science and technology areas. In September 2021, two institutions in the Region were selected to receive tech-transfer from the WHO global hub for the development and production of mRNA-based vaccines. PAHO is also providing support to the Region's spokes with regulatory compliance and intellectual property matters.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
WHA75.17 Human resources for health	Human Resources for Health • Working for Health: draft 2022–2030 action plan Document A75/12	CSP29/10 and CSP29.R15 (2017) Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage	Resolution WHA75.17 adopts the Working for Health 2022–2030 Action Plan as a platform and implementation mechanism for accelerating investments in health and care worker education, skills, jobs, safeguarding and protection. The Action Plan was developed through a Member State-led process, sets out policy priorities to rapidly progress workforce capacity across three dimensions: planning and finance, education and employment, and protection and performance. The Action Plan is particularly responsive to countries most at risk of not achieving universal health coverage by 2030. These countries have a universal health coverage Service Coverage Index below 50 and a density of doctors, nurses and midwives that is below the global median of 48.6 per 10,000.
WHA75.20 The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections	The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections Documents A75/10 and resolution EB150.R3	CD59/INF/9 (2021) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021: Final Report CD58/INF/9 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis: Final Report	Resolution WHA75.20 adopts the new global health sector strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022-2030, which aim to reignite momentum in the responses to these diseases that had been eroded by disruptions to services during the COVID-19 pandemic and to strengthen responses to specific diseases while increasingly integrating them into broader health frameworks. The Director-General is requested to report on the progress made in the implementation of the global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), for the period 2022–2030 to the Health Assembly in 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2031.

Table 2. Selected Decisions Adopted by the 75th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA75(8) Sustainable financing</p>	<p>Sustainable financing: report of the Working Group Document A75/9</p>	<p>OD363 and CD59.R8 (2021) Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2022-2023 CD59/INF/3 (2021) Draft report of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing established by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization</p>	<p>The decision approves series of recommendations from the Working Group on Sustainable Financing, which aim to make WHO’s funding more predictable and flexible, and less dependent on voluntary contributions. Among the recommendations is a proposal to establish a Member States task group on strengthening WHO budgetary, programmatic and financing governance to analyze challenges in governance for transparency, efficiency, accountability and compliance. Additionally, the Secretariat is requested to develop budget proposals for an increase in assessed contributions (membership dues) to 50% of WHO’s core budget by 2030.</p>
<p>WHA75(9) Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies</p>	<p>Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies Documents A75/17, A75/18, A75/19, A75/20 and A75/21</p>	<p>CD59/INF/2 (2021) Report on Strategic Issues between PAHO and WHO</p>	<p>The decision, with respect to targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), decided to continue the Working Group on strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, with a revised mandate and new name—the Working Group on amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR). The WGIHR is requested to work exclusively on consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA75(11) Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases</p>	<p>Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases Documents A75/10, A75/10 Add.1, A75/10 Add.2, A75/10 Add.3, A75/10 Add.4, A75/10 Add.5, A75/10 Add.6, A75/10 Add.8</p>	<p>CD58/INF/6 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Final Report CSP28/9, Rev.1 and CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>The decision WHA75(11) approves a record number of recommendations relating to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including: <i>a</i>) the implementation road map 2023-2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2030; <i>b</i>) recommendations to develop global targets for addressing diabetes; <i>c</i>) the global strategy on oral health; <i>d</i>) recommendations on how to strengthen the design and implementation of policies to treat people living with NCDs and to prevent and control their risk factors in humanitarian emergencies; <i>e</i>) the intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022–2031; <i>f</i>) the action plan (2022-2030) to effectively implement the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol as a public health priority; <i>g</i>) recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course, including a set of related targets in a bid to halt the rise of obesity in children under 5, adolescents and adults by 2025 and to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030; and <i>h</i>) the new workplan for the Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs.</p>
<p>WHA75(22) WHO global strategy for food safety</p>	<p>WHO’s implementation framework for Billion 3 Documents A75/10 and A75/25 • WHO global strategy for food safety Document A75/10, and decisions EB150(8) and EB150(9)</p>	<p>CD59/9 and CD59.R4 (2021) One Health: A Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Health Threats at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface</p>	<p>Decision WHA75(22) adopts the updated WHO global strategy for food safety for the period 2022-2030, with the aim of strengthening national food safety systems. The WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety and PAHO’s One Health Policy were developed simultaneously. Both documents are complementary and provide directions for Member States to improve their food control systems.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
WHA75(25) Standardization of medical devices nomenclature	Standardization of medical devices nomenclature Document A75/11 and decision EB150(10)		<p>Decision WHA75(25) requests the Director-General to integrate available information related to medical devices, including terms, codes and definitions, in the Medical Devices Information System; and to link this to other WHO platforms, such as the International Classification of Diseases to serve as a reference to stakeholders and Member States.</p> <p>In the Americas, according to the latest version of the WHO Global Atlas of Medical Devices, 19 countries in the Region have already adopted a nomenclature system and most have developed their own nomenclature which incorporates elements of the Universal Medical Devices Nomenclature System (UMDNS) and the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature (GMDN). Approximately one third of these countries use nomenclature systems based either on UMDNS or GMDN. For the majority of countries in the Region with no medical device nomenclature system in place, the adoption and implementation of a nomenclature system that complies with the WHO principles would be an important opportunity to strengthen the assessment, regulation and management of medical devices. Countries with nomenclature systems already established will benefit from the mapping results which will be hosted in the WHO platforms.</p>

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