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136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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REPORT ON THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE'

- 1. The 14th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 14) was held at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Mexico City, from 21 to 22 April 2005. It was convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), pursuant to Resolution CD17.R19, adopted by the 17th Directing Council of PAHO in 1967, and Resolution CD43.R5 adopted by the 43rd Directing Council of PAHO in 2001. An opening session, four plenary sessions, and a closing session were held.
- 2. At the opening session, Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbéz, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, offered words of welcome on behalf of the host country to the RIMSA 14 delegates and participants. The President of RIMSA13, Dr. Jaime Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, then took the floor. He emphasized the importance of RIMSA for the coordination of activities in food safety, emerging diseases, regulatory harmonization, and food security. He was followed by Dr. Charles W.D. Braithwaite, Director-General of the Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), who noted the importance of the 2004 Declaration of Nuevo León, which emphasizes food security and rural development. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director PASB, extended her welcome on behalf of the Organization. She pointed out that the theme of RIMSA 14 is to promote synergy between the health and agriculture sectors, with a view to optimizing human and financial resources to accelerate the development process. In his opening address, His Excellency Vicente Fox, President of Mexico, emphasized the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations and declared RIMSA 14 officially open.
- 3. The officers of the meeting were elected unanimously: Presidents: Dr. Julio Frenk, Secretary of Health, Mexico, and Dr. Javier Usabiaga, Secretary of Agriculture, Mexico; Vice Presidents: Dr. Maria Julia Muñoz, Minister of Public Health, Uruguay, and Mrs. Betsaida Viáfara Rey, Director of the Agricultural and Livestock Health Service

of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land, Venezuela; and Rapporteur: Mr. Philippe Mathieu, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development, Haiti. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director PASB, acted as Secretary *ex officio*, and Dr. Albino J. Belotto, Chief, Veterinary Public Health Unit, PASB, as Technical Secretary.

- 4. The Agenda and Program of Meetings were approved without modification.
- 5. A total of 328 persons attended RIMSA14. Delegates from 36 Member States participated, among them 16 ministers of health, 13 ministers of agriculture, 6 vice ministers of health, and 3 vice ministers of agriculture. In addition, 39 health sector and 53 agriculture sector representatives attended as official delegates. Also in attendance were 39 delegates from the different national embassies in Mexico. Participating as observers were representatives from other technical cooperation and finance agencies and the private sector, including livestock producers and consumers, the food industry, nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, WHO Collaborating Centers, and universities. Observers from the Governments of Italy, Puerto Rico, Spain, and Tunisia also attended. In all, 165 delegates participated as observers.
- 6. Before the start of the first session, the President of RIMSA13, Dr. Jaime Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, introduced Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), who greeted the participants.
- 7. In his opening remarks to the first session, Mexico's Secretary of Health, Dr. Julio Frenk, gave a presentation entitled "Twenty-five Years after the Alma-Ata Declaration— Collaborative Experiences and Prospects for Collaboration on Agriculture and Health in the Americas." This was followed by a special presentation by Dr. Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO/WPRO). Dr. Omi's presentation was on "Convergence of Resources and Expertise on Human and Animal Health as Part of the Global Response to New and Emerging Zoonoses." Dr. Omi described the experience of Asian countries with outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza. Dr. Albino J. Belotto, Chief of PASB's Veterinary Public Health Unit then presented a video entitled "Agriculture and Health: Synergy for Local Development." Dr. Eduardo Correa, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), described his center's 2006-2007 Plan of Action. The report and resolutions of the 10th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA10) (Document RIMSA14/5) were presented by Dr. José Ángel del Valle Molina, Director General of Animal Health of Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA), and President of COHEFA10. Dr. Genaro García, Regional Food Safety Adviser of PAHO's Veterinary Public Health Unit, then described PAHO/WHO's proposed Plan of Action for Technical

Cooperation in Food Safety 2006-2007. Dr. Graciela Rosso, Secretary of Health of Argentina's Ministry of Health and Environment, presented the report on the 4th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA4). This concluded the first session.

- 8. The second session was devoted to a panel on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, including strategies for primary health care and local development. The panel was moderated by Dr. Satyadeow Sawh, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana. Prospects for the MDGs related to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean was addressed by Dr. Alicia Bárcena of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). She noted the need to consider the socioeconomic context in which efforts to attain the MDGs are undertaken, the influence of globalization, the high migration rates, and the unstable economic growth that characterizes most of the countries of the Region. In discussing community participation in food production and food safety (Document RIMSA14/9), Dr. Norman Jirón Romero, Director-General of Accreditation and Regulation of Nicaragua's Ministry of Health, noted the disadvantages of the classical model of work in health. The topic of appropriate technology related to small producers and food security (Document RIMSA14/10) was presented by Mr. Victor Gabriel Barrios, Minister of Rural and Agricultural Affairs of Bolivia. He pointed to principal indicators showing the current poverty situation, especially in rural areas. Intersectoral collaboration to promote crop and livestock production and human development was discussed by Dr. Francisco Muzio Lladó, Director General of Livestock Services of Uruguay's Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries. He emphasized the importance of technical cooperation to strengthen local development. Dr. Richard Harrison, Permanent Secretary of Jamaica's Ministry of Agriculture, discussed support for small island nations to boost their capacity in food safety and international trade. He made reference to the geopolitical situation in the Caribbean, emphasizing the status of efforts to attain the MDGs. Dr. Josette Bijou, Minister of Health and Population of Haiti, then presented a video and document outlining current efforts to eliminate human rabies in Latin America.
- 9. The third session was devoted to a panel on international cooperation to address emerging problems in agriculture, livestock, and health. The session was moderated by Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply of Brazil. Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General, OIE, examined the current situation with regard to new and emerging animal diseases and the International Zoosanitary Code as a basis for political and commercial decisionmaking. This was followed by a presentation on transborder animal diseases and food safety and food security initiatives by Dr. Moisés Vargas Terán of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Jaime Alfonso Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, then discussed public and private sector functions in agriculture, livestock, and

health, as well as the mobilization of international cooperation for the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty in rural areas. The topic of cooperation among countries in the food trade and its consequences for health and development was addressed by Mr. Oscar Manuel Gutiérrez R., Executive Director of the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (RIOPPAH). PAHO Director Dr. Mirta Roses Periago made a presentation on providing care for neglected diseases in disadvantaged populations, with emphasis on zoonoses. The topic of regional cooperation on health and agriculture in Central America and the catalytic role of specialized regional agencies was addressed by Mr. Bernardo López, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala.

- 10. The fourth session included a panel entitled "Summit Mandates—Advances in Human Security through Innovative Approaches Centered on Local Development." The panel was moderated by Dr. Peter Fernandez, Associate Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS/USDA). Dr. Gabriel Montes Llamas of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) addressed the topic of financing initiatives to support the mandates of the Summit of the Americas in rural and social development. IICA Director General Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite gave a presentation on health in agriculture and livestock and rural development. The subject of livestock policy, science, and technology applied to food production chain was addressed by Dr. João Carlos de Souza Meirelles, Secretary of State for Science and Technology of São Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Susana Malcorra, Deputy Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) talked about empowering and expanding the role of women in food security and local development. The moderator of the panel referred the delegates to document RIMSA14/23, prepared by the Minister of Health of Peru, on the functions of local organizations and indigenous communities as agents to mobilize basic community services. The subject of rural poverty, health, and lifestyles was addressed by Dr. Trevor A. Hassell, President of the Inter-American Heart Foundation.
- 11. During the discussion and approval of the proposed resolutions of RIMSA 14, a recommendation was considered regarding the International Health Regulations (IHR) project to be presented at the World Health Assembly (May 2005).
- 12. During the closing session, Dr. Javier Usabiaga Arroyo, Secretary of Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA), took note of the resolutions of the meeting that were linked to strengthening strategies for food safety and its impact on consumer health, environmental protection, and the response to a globalized market. The Secretary of Health of Mexico, Dr. Julio Frenk, thanked PAHO in the person of its Director, Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, for having honored Mexico by making it the venue for RIMSA. He assumed the commitment to monitor implementation of the resolutions adopted. In conclusion, Dr. Periago thanked

the Government of Mexico for the attention and facilities it had provided for RIMSA14. She concluded her remarks by pointing to the advances in cooperation and the new commitments and approaches to addressing them in the area of veterinary public health.

- 13. RIMSA14 adopted eight resolutions and one recommendation.
- 14. The members of the Executive Committee are invited to analyze the attached report and formulate pertinent comments and suggestions.

Annex

14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE

Mexico City, D.F., Mexico, 21-22 April 2005

CE136/13 (Eng.) Annex

RIMSA14/FR (Eng.) 22 April 2005 ORIGINAL: SPANISH

FINAL REPORT

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Annex

1. The 14th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 14) was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico in Mexico City from 21 to 22 April 2005. It was convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), in compliance with Resolution CD17.R19, adopted by the 17th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 1967, and Resolution CD43.R5 ratified by the 43rd Directing Council in 2001.

Officers

2. The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

President: Mexico Dr. Julio Frenk, Secretary of Health and Dr. Javier

Usabiaga, Secretary of Agriculture

Vice Presidents: Uruguay Dr. Maria Julia Muñoz, Minister of Public Health

Venezuela Ms. Betsaida Viáfara Rey, Director - Autonomous

Agricultural and Livestock Health Service, Ministry

of Agriculture and Land.

Rapporteur: Haiti Mr. Philippe Mathieu, Minister of Agriculture and

Natural Resources and Rural Development.

3. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of PASB, served as Secretary ex oficio of RIMSA 14, and Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief, Veterinary Public Health Unit, PASB, as Technical Secretary.

Participants

Member States

4. The following Member States were represented at the Meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Associated States

5. Representatives of Puerto Rico attended the Meeting.

Observer States

6. Representatives of the Government of Spain attended the Meeting.

Official Observers

7. The Governments of Italy and Tunisia, and the European Union, attended as observers.

Other Observers

- 8. Participants from Sweden and the Republic of China (Taiwan) attended the Meeting as observers.
- 9. The United Nations and specialized agencies represented were: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 10. The intergovernmental organizations represented were: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), International Office of Epizootics (OIE), Organization of American States (OAS), and Regional International Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA).

Agenda and Program of Sessions

11. The Agenda and Program of Sessions (Documents RIMSA14/1, Rev. 4 and RIMSA14/WP/1, Rev. 3) were adopted without modification.

Sessions

12. An inaugural session and four plenary sessions were held.

Opening of the Session

- 13. On behalf of the Host Country, Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbéz, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, welcomed the delegates and participants to RIMSA14. He underscored the political importance of this forum for the Americas as the only one of its kind in the region to address animal health, agriculture, and human health, and said that his country was proud to host it.
- 14. The President of RIMSA13, Dr. Jaime Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, took the floor and underscored the importance of the RIMSA for the coordination of activities in the areas of food safety, emergent diseases, harmonization of regulations, and food security.
- 15. Dr. Charles W.D. Braithwaite, Director General of IICA pointed out the importance of the 2004 Declaration of Nuevo León, which places special emphasis on food security and rural development. He highlighted the five core points of the Declaration, all of which have a bearing on the RIMSA: competitiveness, interconnectivity, the environment, rural participation, and agribusiness.
- 16. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, welcomed delegations and participants on behalf of PAHO. She said that the topic to be addressed at RIMSA14 was promotion of synergy between the health and agriculture sectors so as to optimize the use of human and financial resources in expediting the development process. She underscored the attendance at the Meeting of 33 ministers and vice ministers, accompanied by delegates from 36 Member States, who had gathered together to identify strategies and strengthen mechanisms focusing on the links between health and agriculture and rural development. She concluded by mentioning the significance of the fact that the Meeting was taking place in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas (Three Cultures Square), where ancient and modern Mexico converge, and said she hoped that this setting would inspire new ideas and initiatives on the subject of health and agriculture that would redound to the benefit of the peoples of the Americas.
- 17. His Excellency, Vicente Fox, President of Mexico, delivered the inaugural address to the assembly. He began by emphasizing the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which had established that: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services." He stressed that health is one of the fundamental rights of human beings and that Health for All is therefore not just a target but also an obligation toward our fellow men and women; an obligation that can only be met through the broadest possible coordination. He highlighted the fact that the RIMSA has been the regional forum for cooperation and coordination in the area of health and agriculture, and other sectors. He said he was

convinced that development is the new name for peace; that international peace, health of the population, food, and security have a major impact on human development in our countries. He then declared the Meeting officially open.

First Session

- 18. During the first session, the Secretary of Health of Mexico, Dr. Julio Frenk, delivered his opening address on "25 years of the Declaration of Alma-Ata: Agriculture and Health Collaboration in Primary Health Care in the Americas: Experiences and New Perspectives." He discussed the legacy of Alma-Ata, health as a social right, and institutional reform in Mexico. He referred to Primary Health Care (PHC) as a concrete, structured strategy, subject to critical evaluation. He pointed out that in 1983 Mexico had amended the Constitution to include "the right to health protection," but that, since then, the world had changed substantially, as evidenced by the consolidation of democracy, which must encompass social and effectively implemented rights. He cited two instances in Mexico: "food protection and the fight against nicotine poisoning." He ended by saying that Alma-Ata had left a valuable legacy and that health continued to be a meeting point, uniting all nations on Earth.
- 19. The program of sessions was altered to enable Dr. Shigeru Omi, the World Health Organization's Regional Director for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO), to deliver his special presentation on "Combining Human and Animal Health Expertise and Resources in the Global Response to New and Emerging Zoonoses (Avian Influenza and SARS)" (Document RIMSA14/24). Dr. Omi described the experience of Asian countries faced with outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza. He ended his presentation with a recommendation that the countries in the Americas make plans to deal with an influenza pandemic, including joint action by health and agriculture authorities.
- 20. Next to speak was Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, who showed a video on "Agriculture and Health: Synergy for Local Development" illustrating the nature of the challenges facing the participants in RIMSA14, and then addressed the subject of Veterinary Public Health: Progress Report on Compliance of the Secretariat with the Mandates of the Governing Bodies of PAHO, 2004-2005 (Document RIMSA14/3). He highlighted the Unit's intensified efforts to achieve effective integration of the public and private health and agriculture sectors and focused on the strengthening of national and regional policies in the areas of food safety, zoonosis, and foot-and-mouth disease in order to improve the living conditions of the population.
- 21. The Delegate of Argentina asked that one of the epidemiological maps presented be amended with respect to Argentina and Paraguay, which are shown as infected with

foot-and-mouth disease, when in fact both countries are classified as free from the disease with vaccination.

- 22. Dr. Eduardo Correa, Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), described the Plan of Action for PANAFTOSA, 2006-2007 (Document RIMSA14/4). He summarized the current status of the foot-and-mouth disease and zoonoses programs, pointing to their successes, as well as to some shortcomings in national programs, mainly with respect to epidemiological surveillance.
- 23. The Plan of Action for PANAFTOSA, 2006-2007 was adopted unanimously.
- 24. The report and resolutions adopted at the 10th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA 10) (Document RIMSA14/5) were presented by Dr. José Ángel del Valle Molina, Director General of Animal Health of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico (SAGARPA), Chair of COHEFA10. The Chair of COHEFA10 highlighted outstanding events, especially adoption of the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and its immediate implementation. A prerequisite for that is prompt materialization of the Memorandum of Understanding between PAHO and the International Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA).
- 25. Discussion then moved to items 6 and 7 on the Agenda, the Plan of Action for PANAFTOSA, 2006-2007 (Document RIMSA14/4) and the report and resolutions adopted at the 10th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Footand-Mouth Disease (COHEFA 10) (Document RIMSA14/5).
- 26. The delegates recognized the work of PAHO/WHO in relation to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and the need to continue striving to protect disease-free areas and to achieve the goal of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.
- 27. The delegates of Uruguay and Brazil highlighted experience acquired in their countries with efforts to provide coverage for small-scale producers and local areas, using a healthy and productive municipalities strategy, fostering development.
- 28. Several delegates raised the possibility of strengthening cooperation for the control, prevention, and, in some cases, the elimination of other zoonoses of importance for the region or some subregions, such as leishmaniasis, rabies in wildlife, and trichinosis, and more robust efforts to eliminate hydatidosis.

- 29. The delegate of Chile emphasized the importance of establishing precise indicators in order to be able to evaluate the work and efforts undertaken to develop productive and healthy municipalities.
- 30. The delegate of Cuba reiterated what the Chilean delegate had said and described how important the development of productive and healthy municipalities had been for local development in his country. He said it was important to introduce surveillance systems to control and prevent endemic diseases, but also to minimize the risks of importing exotic agents, such as the virus associated with the avian influenza epidemic afflicting several Asian countries.
- 31. Next to speak was Dr. Genaro García, Regional Advisor on Food Safety at the Veterinary Public Health Unit of the PASB. He described the proposed PAHO/WHO plan of action for technical cooperation in food safety, 2006-2007 (Document RIMSA14/6). He began his presentation by explaining the current context of food safety in the region, focusing in particular on the way food-transmitted diseases have a direct impact on health and an indirect impact on tourism and international trade. In presenting the technical cooperation plan, he explained that it is in line with the WHO's global strategy and with the Regional Food Safety Program. The idea of the plan is to reduce direct harm to health and the economic and social impact of diarrheic diseases caused by microbiological and chemical pollutants. The plan of action comprises three projects: evaluation, management, and communication of risks, with five expected outcomes.
- 32. Dr. Graciela Rosso, of the Secretariat for Sanitary Programs of the Ministry of Health and Environment of Argentina, then took the floor. She pointed out that the provision of appropriate funding in coordination with specific international, national, and, above all, local plans of action was essential for advancing the goals of the regional food safety program. She stressed that in this respect the policies pursued by multilateral organizations had to be clear and transparent, particularly given that the Member States of PAHO and the WHO have defined food safety as a priority global policy.
- 33. Dr Graciela Rosso, of the Secretariat for Sanitary Programs of the Ministry of Health and Environment of Argentina, also presented the Report on the 4th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA 4) (Document RIMSA14/7) with the conclusions and recommendations adopted by COPAIA4. She emphasized that food security and safety are fundamental for the quality of life of the population and said that both contributed to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially by alleviating poverty and hunger. Just as an intersectoral approach in food safety control programs contributes to improved health, tourism, and trade in food products.
- 34. Before opening the first working session, the President of RIMSA13, Dr. Jaime Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, invited Dr. Bernand Vallat, Director

General of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), to say a few words of welcome to participants.

Second Session

- 35. The second session consisted of a panel on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger: Primary Health Care Strategies and Local Development. The moderator for this panel was Dr. Satyadeow Sawh, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana.
- 36. The topic "Overview of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger with Reference to Latin America and the Caribbean" was presented by Dr. Alicia Bárcena, Assistant Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), who pointed to the need to take into account the socio-economic context in which the MDGs are supposed to attained, and the pressures exerted by globalization, high migration rates, and unstable economic growth in many countries in the region. The single greatest issue facing Latin America, if it wants to achieve the MDGs, is regional inequity in income distribution. She ended by saying that thought should be given to the possibility of setting more realistic goals for the region, which, in some cases, might even be more ambitious than those set at this time. She added that agreements were needed on debt service reduction, along with stable social policies.
- 37. The presentation of the topic "Overview of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger with Reference to Latin America and the Caribbean" triggered extensive debate.
- 38. The delegate of Venezuela stated that, despite internal political problems in the years 2002 and 2003, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had restored sustained and sustainable economic growth. He said that primary care at the local level in the most vulnerable segments of the population, throughout the country, had been a priority and had received support from the Government of Cuba. He also pointed out that through the Constitution promulgated in 1999 and in accordance with the law, Venezuela had embarked on a program to make better use of its agricultural resources and to raise productivity, which had led to improved food security and safety.
- 39. The delegate of Cuba emphasized two points: first, that State support is essential, as is the participation of the community in the solution of priority problems; second, that the goals of eliminating poverty and hunger in his country are analyzed on the basis of atrisk groups, so that they are in a position to say that hunger-related goals have been met. As regards poverty indicators, he said that the free services the Cuban population receives

as a social benefit are usually not counted in income estimates. He said that health services in Cuba are completely free of charge.

- 40. The delegate of Argentina said that poverty indicators were adversely affected by the economic crisis in 2002. However, he said the Argentine economy had grown, as the economic analysis presented by ECLAC would show, and that this documented experience could serve as a reference for other countries that could undergo similar crises.
- 41. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda referred to the high prices of oil and petroleum derivatives and how they affect small island states in particular. He suggested that there was a need for alternative technologies and practices for energy generation, such as solar energy and wind-driven sources.
- 42. The delegate of Brazil said it was important to include this topic on the agenda for RIMSA 14. He mentioned various Brazilian government programs of actions designed to move nearer to achieving the MDGs, especially as regards the elimination of hunger and poverty. He pointed to the difficulty of achieving the poverty and extreme poverty elimination goals, compared to the health goals. With respect to eradication of poverty, he said that some indicators should reflect the informal economy, not just the official GDP. As for health and hunger, he specified that in his country there are nation-wide strategies such as the "zero hunger program," which is a combination of policies for channeling national income toward efforts to address the hunger and malnutrition problem in its various manifestations, including obesity issues, for instance. However, he underscored the fact that, in addition to State policies, there had also to be strategies facilitating sustainable local development to consolidate community empowerment and thereby guarantee their autonomous and sustainable development.
- 43. Responding to some of the concerns raised, the representative of ECLAC stated that the economic performance of Argentina and Venezuela did indeed differ from that of the other countries in the region, owing to the crises their delegates had described. Nevertheless, she acknowledged that their situation and indicators should be analyzed in conjunction with short-term economic and political developments. She also underscored the economic growth of both countries in the 2004 to April 2005 period. She highlighted the fact that Cuba meets the nutrition and hunger goals and is about to surpass them, particularly the 3,000 calories per capita per day indicator. With respect to poverty in Cuba, ECLAC is completing a study carried out in coordination with the Cuban Secretariat of the Economy, with a view to comparing its findings with those of a study conducted three years ago. She underscored the comment made by the Brazilian delegate on the importance of recognizing that while economic growth is a pre-requisite for development, it is not in itself sufficient and therefore has to go hand in hand with a redistributive social policy coordinating economic and social factors. She underlined

several successful ECLAC projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico with regard to food and nutrition, involving a direct transfer of resources to communities and having a genuinely positive impact on hunger and poverty indicators. Finally, she acknowledged that ECLAC uses household surveys and that there are indeed differences in the indicators used by the various institutions. For that reason, she said it would be advisable to organize a Meeting of those institutions, including multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other United Nations agencies, in order to establish standardized evaluation indicators.

- 44. The subject of "Community Participation in the Food Production Chain and Food Safety" (Document RIMSA14/9), was introduced by Dr. Norman Jirón Romero, Director General of Accreditation and Regulation of the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua. He discussed the disadvantages of the classical model of work in the health sector, in which activities were carried out under programs within the structures of the sector's institutions and consisted of vertical, more or less self-sufficient operations, without any key roles for other players or the beneficiary populations. He compared that with the new model being applied in Nicaragua, in which activities encompass the whole of the health sector and are interconnected with all the stakeholders and sectors involved, in integrated (horizontal) operations, in which the beneficiary populations play a leading role.
- 45. The issue of "Appropriate Technology Small Producers and Food Security" (Document RIMSA14/10), was presented by Mr. Víctor Gabriel Barrios, Minister of Matters regarding Farmworkers, Agriculture and Livestock, who focused on the main indicators of poverty, especially that found in rural areas. To address it, the Government is promoting efforts to forge the National Strategy for Agricultural, Livestock, and Rural Development (ENDAR). It comprises a diagnostic assessment of the sector and prioritizes seven policy lines, the most noteworthy being: the development of productive communities and markets, food security, and the construction and improvement of infrastructure.
- 46. The topic "Intersectoral Collaboration for the Promotion of Agriculture and Livestock Production and Human Development" (Document RIMSA14/11), was presented by Dr. Francisco Muzio Lladó, Director General of Livestock Services in Uruguay's Ministry of Livestock Production, Agriculture, and Fisheries, the economy, output indicators, gross domestic product, and the human development index, providing both historical and current statistics. He stressed that technical cooperation to strengthen local development had to take the following into account: funding; dissemination of information; training; the development of plans and regulations; promotion; and direct technical advice.
- 47. The subject of "Special Support to Small Island States in Capacity Building for Food Safety and International Trade" (Document RIMSA14/12) was presented by Dr.

Richard Harrison, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Jamaica. He discussed the geopolitical situation in the Caribbean, focusing in particular on progress toward attaining the MDGs. The impact of globalization on the region – a net importer of foods – poses two major challenges: the need to raise output and to make the adjustments needed to comply with new regulations that would enable the region to address its trade deficit. He concluded that globalization, free trade, and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPMs) must be regarded as an inherent part of international trade today and as challenges to be taken up, by consolidating and developing the region's resources. Nevertheless, the adjustments induced by globalization had triggered a major effort with respect to food safety and there was a certain amount of optimism regarding progress toward the attainment of the MDGs.

- 48. Dr. Josette Bijou, Minister of Health and Population of Haiti, aired a video on the elimination of human rabies in Latin America and presented the document on the subject, describing the current status. (Documents RIMSA14/13 and RIMSA14/INF/1). She urged the Member States to reaffirm the international commitment to lend priority support to countries with cases of human and canine rabies, and to their elimination.
- 49. Several delegates underscored efforts to control human rabies transmitted by dogs, which had resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of cases of both human and canine rabies. They also paid tribute to PAHO's work in providing technical support to countries and highlighted the initiative of reviewing the regional program and preparing a plan of action for the prevention and control of rabies in the Americas in 2005-2009: a move that would undoubtedly facilitate greater coordination of actions at the national and regional level.
- 50. The delegate of the United States underscored the need to strengthen cooperation aimed at acquiring a better grasp of the epidemiology of rabies in wildlife, its reservoirs and distribution, and at evaluating control strategies, such as the use of oral vaccines.
- 51. The delegate of Bolivia described the dog-transmitted human rabies program in his country. He thanked neighboring countries for donating antirabies vaccines for use with dogs and humans. He said the program was based on four core strategies: communication and education of the population; vaccination of dogs; care for people exposed to the risk of rabies; and control of the canine street population.
- 52. The delegate of Brazil indicated the existence of endemic canine rabies especially in puppies in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country. Given this epidemiological finding, he said that decentralization measures were being taken to improve surveillance, diagnosis, and the care of people in high-risk areas. He also pointed to the existence of bat-transmitted rabies in domestic animals, with sporadic outbreaks of rabies in human populations in high-risk areas. He concluded by saying that

ministries of health and agriculture needed to coordinate activities with the productive sector to improve surveillance and control of bat-transmitted human rabies and to minimize its impacts on livestock.

53. The delegate of Uruguay said there was no rabies in her country. She emphasized the need to boost surveillance to prevent it from occurring and to study the presence of the virus in the chiropteran (bat) population.

Third Session

- 54. The third session consisted of a panel discussion on international cooperation on emerging issues in agriculture, livestock production, and health, moderated by Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil.
- 55. The topic entitled "Current Situation of New and Emerging Animal Diseases—the International Zoosanitary Code as Basis for Policy and Trade" (Document RIMSA14/14), was introduced by Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). He presented guidelines for policy and technical decision-making in the field of animal and public health. With respect to food security, he emphasized that the guidelines for risk reduction prior to harvesting and in the primary processing of produce encompass all farm-level measures so as to minimize risks in the end product.
- 56. Following Dr. Vallat's presentation, delegates of the United States and Canada took the floor to say that they both considered it ill-advised to re-open discussion of Article 12 of the International Sanitary Regulations, as it had been extensively debated by Member States of the WHO. The delegate of the United States emphasized that he made that suggestion without the background information of Dr. Vallat's presentation. He also pointed out that it was his country that had proposed mentioning the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) in Article 12 and that during the discussions an agreement had been reached to mention it. He added that in his opinion it was clear that the WHO cooperated with other relevant organizations on international public health matters. He ended by saying he thought it inappropriate for a body such as RIMSA to intervene in the discussion, but that his delegation was prepared to reopen the debate, if so required, at the next World Health Assembly in May 2005.
- 57. The delegations of Cuba and Ecuador said that they agreed with Dr. Vallat's suggestion of mentioning institutions such as the OIE and the FAO, and other agencies working in the field of human and animal health in the International Sanitary Regulations. All the delegates who took the floor mentioned the need to coordinate cooperation activities among the different international agencies in order to avoid duplication and enhance efficiency and impact.

- 58. The delegate of Canada said she welcomed the fact that the OIE had opted to reduce from five to three the criteria for classifying countries with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE mad cow disease); as well as the proposal -- to be discussed at the next OIE Meeting in May 2005 -- to include skeletal muscle, blood, and bovine byproducts in the minimum risk product category not requiring additional certification.
- 59. Dr. Vallat replied to the comments and questions, acknowledging that the United States was indeed one of the few countries to propose including the OIE and other international public health-related organizations in the International Sanitary Regulations. As to BSE, he said that the proposal described by the delegate of Canada would certainly be considered at the next OIE Meeting in May 2005.
- 60. The topic "Initiatives for Food Security, Food Safety and Animal Trans-border Diseases" (Document RIMSA14/15) was presented by Dr. Moisés Vargas Terán of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He described the FAO's mandate with respect to nutrition and the world population. He stressed that hunger is a moral and economic aberration, since it produces not only sick people but also workers and students with low productivity.
- 61. Several delegations again emphasized the need to coordinate technical cooperation among international organizations. The delegate of Venezuela, on behalf of his country, specifically asked the FAO for technical cooperation assistance in implementing sound agricultural practices in the primary sector of the food chain, a request welcomed by the representative of the FAO.
- 62. The topic "Public and Private Sector Roles of Agriculture and Health in Eradicating Hunger and Extreme Poverty in Rural Areas—Mobilizing International Cooperation" (Document RIMSA14/16) was introduced by Dr. Jaime Alfonso Campos Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Chile. He underscored the persistence and increased severity of poverty, hunger, and extreme poverty, despite the surplus of food in the world. He said this was a well-known fact and that what remained to be done was to identify the procedures for transforming that reality. He suggested, as an example, that suspending subsidies for farmers one day a week could make a difference. He then described policy measures in Chile that have contributed to the growth of agricultural and livestock production, to containment of migration from the countryside to cities, and to a higher standard of living for the rural population.
- 63. The presentation by the Minister of Agriculture of Chile was warmly welcomed by several delegations, which expressed their appreciation for his account of Chile's experience.

- 64. The delegate of Guyana said that the Minister of Health [sic] of Chile had raised some considerations that were relevant for the panel as a whole and that he had said: "We know the hunger problem; we know what we have to do and how to arrive at concrete solutions." He had also emphasized the true fact that there is enough food to feed the world population and yet we know that every night 18 million people in the world go to bed without food and suffering from hunger.
- 65. Several delegates referred to the need to focus on the disadvantages of subsidies for agricultural products in developed countries, which constituted a handicap for developing countries with agricultural potential and encouraged migration to the cities, thereby generating unfavorable conditions for harmonious and sustained development and social peace.
- 66. The Minister of Agriculture of Chile thanked the delegates for their comments and emphasized that that was the path Chile had embarked upon. He pointed out that Chilean policy was the result of asking itself: How can the State help generate the conditions that enable the population and agriculture to contribute to the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty? In other words: "How can farming potential be tapped to ensure that the State contributes more efficiently and effectively to the development of the population? The Minister concluded by listing the three, in his opinion, necessary conditions for progress along these lines: a) linking health and food security and safety issues as a prerequisite for public health and trade in agricultural products; b) the emergence of market economies in a globalized and competitive world; and c) realization of the importance of these issues, which has led some countries to establish ministries of food, or food security agencies to address national, subregional, and global challenges.
- 67. The topic "Inter-Country Cooperation in the International Food Trade—Implications to Health and Development" (Document RIMSA14/17) was presented by Mr. Oscar Manuel Gutiérrez Rosales, Executive Director of the Regional International Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). He stressed that cooperation opens up fresh opportunities. He developed three themes: a) policy decisions and the need for country coordination and integration; b) the relationship between the agricultural and livestock industry and food safety; and c) progress so far and its implications for health and agricultural development. Finally, he recommended coordination of the efforts of all sectors and cooperation institutions to harmonize the standards needed to comply with the established Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).
- 68. Dr.. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the PASB presented the topic "Attention to Neglected Diseases with Emphasis on Zoonoses in Vulnerable Populations" (Document RIMSA14/18). She said that in the developing world a number of communicable diseases, many of which are zoonoses, tend to be outside the scope of the health sector, despite the heavy burden they impose on people living in poverty. These neglected

diseases pose a major challenge with regard to meeting the MDGs. She emphasized the need to form partnerships with other sectors capable of adopting effective measures, especially the farming, environmental, and educational sectors, to reduce and control neglected zoonoses effectively. These, too, are socio-economic indicators of poverty and of skewed income distribution affecting the most vulnerable segments of the population. Poverty is the main extrinsic factor explaining the existence of these diseases and PAHO regards them as a social, economic, and health issue.

- 69. Several delegates expressed their appreciation of the presentation delivered by Dr. Roses, Director of the PASB.
- 70. The delegate of Argentina stated that zoonosis was a field that countries have not paid enough attention to. The vertical strategies in health programs have eroded the holistic and integral concept of health. Thus, with zoonoses, as with many health issues, it is necessary to consider not just the diseases themselves, but also the environmental, social, and economic context as determinants of the state of health of the population. She suggested that the next RIMSA include topics that include environmental issues, considering the importance of environmental changes at the local, regional, and global level.
- 71. The topic "Central American Regional Cooperation in Health and Agriculture The Catalytic Role of Specialized Regional Agencies" (Document RIMSA14/25), was presented by Mr. Bernardo López, Vice Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala, who described the current status of the intersectoral agenda and cooperation among regional agencies, especially the Central American strategy for integrated management of water resources, food and nutrition security, modified living organisms and agricultural biotechnology, reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards, and safe management of hazardous chemical substances. He concluded by saying that the current legal framework of the Central American Integration System facilitated intersectoral treatment of issues, and that that had given rise to a concerted, active agenda for regional work among the health, agriculture, and environment sectors.
- 72. This session ended with comments by the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, the panel moderator, who asserted that globalization had had both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, he underscored the increased trade in goods and services, and hence higher output and more wealth in the world. He said the negative effects included greater social exclusion and ever-increasing concentration of global wealth. He emphasized that these were the two sides to the same coin. Exclusion and concentration are, he said, intrinsically negative, but exclusion is growing at such an alarming pace that it is becoming a threat to social peace and to democracies throughout the world. Thus one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the Twenty-first Century is to narrow the gap between the poor and the rich., as well as the divide between rich and poor within

each country. The liberalization of trade in agricultural and livestock products – not as a favor, not as a handout, but as a right and a necessity – should be considered as a fundamental strategy for achieving peace and the development of peoples. He concluded with the following message: "We all agree that a fundamental step to be taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is redistribution of income. However, everyone thinks that should apply to other people's income, not their own, and that is the other side of the coin I referred to earlier. I think we must take concrete steps to diminish the gap between rich and poor, and through such actions, defend democracy and world peace, and, hence, people's happiness, because without peace and without democracy, there is no happiness, however romantic that idea may appear to be."

Fourth Session

- 73. The fourth session included the panel discussion on "Summits Mandates—Advancing Human Security through Innovative Approaches Centered on Local Development." Dr. Peter Fernández, Associate Administrator of the Agricultural and Phytosanitary Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS/USDA), was the moderator. He highlighted the objectives of the Summits in Miami, Santiago, and Quebec City, which are all geared to sustainable development and social inclusion. He added that the next Summit would emphasize employment generation and local governance.
- 74. The topic "Financial Facilities to Support the Regional Summits Mandates on Agriculture and Health" (Document RIMSA14/19) was introduced by Dr. Gabriel Montes Llamas of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He said that the Bank had actively supported the resolutions of the Presidential Summits, despite the complexity of their agendas. He then reviewed the principal commitments in some detail, especially those relating to poverty eradication, education, inclusion, the inclusion of women and indigenous groups, the enhancement of rural life, environmental protection, and access to medical services, inter alia. He concluded that it would be necessary to integrate these projects as there are no isolated solutions for each. During his presentation, he referred to the allocation of funds for the IDB's portfolio of social development projects.
- 75. The topic "Agricultural Health and Sustainable Rural Development" (Document RIMSA14/20) was presented by Dr. Chelston W.D. Braithwaite, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, (IICA). He referred to the Quebec City Summit of 2001, which had underscored the importance of agricultural health and of food safety, as key factors for countries' competitiveness on international markets. He said that was why it was important to establish coordinated plans for improving health and food safety services.

- 76. The topic "Agricultural and Livestock Policy, Science and Technology Applied to the Food Chain" (Document RIMSA14/21) was presented by Dr. João Carlos de Souza Meirelles, Secretary of State of Science and Technology of São Paulo, Brazil. He discussed the history of agroindustry in Brazil, the incorporation of new technologies, and its high levels of competitiveness and excellence. He mentioned that given the increasing interdependence of production chains for instance of soy, sugar, and meats coordinated actions by the different sectors and stakeholders were needed to apply risk analysis methods and achieve efficient management in all the countries of the Americas. He recommended evaluating practices in each country in order to be able to draw up effective strategies for implementing food safety and quality management procedures, with the coordination and support of PAHO. Finally, he said political decisions were needed to facilitate and expedite the goal of achieving a healthy and competitive America.
- 77. The topic entitled "Empowering and Expanding the Role of Women in Food Security and Local Development" (Document RIMSA14/22) was introduced by Dr. Susana Malcorra, Assistant Director of the World Food Program (WFP). She stressed that women ensure that their families are fed and highlighted the fact that women and children are hardest hit by poverty and the lack of food security, and are priorities for the WFP. She recommended providing holistic technical support for the development of women as central to food security for their families and the community.
- 78. Due to inescapable last minute commitments, Dr. Pilar Mazzetti Soler, Minister of Health of Peru was unable to attend. The panel moderator referred delegates to Document RIMSA14/23, "Roles of Local Organizations and Indigenous Communities as Agents for the Mobilization of Basic Community Services," prepared by Dr. Mazzetti.
- 79. The topic "Rural Poverty Health and Lifestyle" (Document RIMSA14/26) was introduced by Dr. Trevor A. Hassell, President of the Inter-American Heart Foundation. He gave a summary account of the Foundation, which comprises 36 organizations in 19 countries. Its objective is to underscore the importance of cardiac diseases and progress achieved in preventing and treating them. He concluded by recommending that governments take health promotion steps that address every facet of the problem, strengthen coordination among national and regional organizations, and encourage the food industry to produce safe and nutritious foods, above all products containing less fat.
- 80. The delegate of Brazil pointed out the need to encourage private sector investment in rural development and suggested that the next RIMSA if possible in conjunction with the OIE and other international organizations include topics on experiences with strengthening economic and health risk analysis in order to be able to establish public and private investment priorities.

- 81. Several delegations took the floor to congratulate the organizers of RIMSA14 on having included the subject of the empowerment of women with regard to the mandates arising out of the different Summits of the Americas.
- 82. The delegate of the Dominican Republic said that his country was fostering the establishment of small livestock units as a way to provide women with an alternative source of food and income.
- 83. The delegate of Chile pointed to the importance of including the item on women as a key resource in development. He said that in his country many worked as day laborers in the fields, exposed to occupational hazards such as the pesticides used in agriculture, which apart from other acute damage can also a series of chronic ailments, including congenital disorders. He recommended that this topic be revived and added that his country had some experience in accompanying rural sector investments with social services for the rural population.
- 84. The delegate of Venezuela shared some thoughts about the presentation delivered by the IDB representative. He said that, following the Second World War, Latin American counties had homogeneously implemented a development model based on the green revolution. Among other omissions, this model does not take the agricultural, ecological, and cultural diversity of peoples into account. This model translated into promotion of monocultures, which had a devastating effect on the environment. The model was not accompanied by other basic and essential actions with respect to: a) land ownership; b) training and appropriate technology; c) timely and sufficient financial and technical resources; d) the absence of a State policy to ensure that these rural populations, small producers, and indigenous populations had access to markets. As a result, this model has failed. The delegate also referred to the free trade proposal and the impossibility of the most vulnerable developing countries competing with the rich countries, where, as this RIMS reiterated, agricultural subsidies and other protectionist measures preclude access to those markets.
- 85. The representative of the IDB took the floor to point out that in fact several different rural development models have been applied in Latin America, including: research and extension, the agrarian reform of the 1960s, and an integrated development model. Some of these models made useful contributions, others not. He mentioned that one of the factors associated with their failure had been government subsidies. Such subsidies usually ended up benefiting the big producers and agricultural enterprises. He put forward the hypothesis that outcomes might have been different, had those resources been applied to research, extension, training, and, in general, goods and basic services to meet the needs of small producers.

- 86. The moderator, Dr. Peter Fernández, concluded by thanking the panelists and delegations for their remarks.
- 87. During the debate and adoption of the draft resolutions of RIMSA14, consideration was given to the recommendation regarding the draft International Sanitary Regulations (ISR) to be presented to the next World Health Assembly in Geneva, in May. It was recommended that explicit reference be made to collaboration and cooperation among WHO, FAO, OIE, and other agencies working in the field of human and animal health. This recommendation was not supported by the delegation of the United States.

Closing Session

- 88. In this closing session, Dr. Javier Usabiaga Arroyo, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development and Fisheries of Mexico (SAGARPA) drew attention to the resolutions of the Meeting that had to do with strengthening food safety strategies in terms of their impact on consumers' health, protection of the environment, and the response to the globalized market. He pointed to the efforts governments had made with regard to rules and regulations, as well as to constraints imposed by difficulties with institutional spheres of competence. He underscored the efforts and innovative experiments in Europe with food security agencies and similar initiatives in Canada and the United States, which involved merging bodies specializing in food safety. He specified the work being done in Mexico on legal, information, and consumer guidance issues in connection with food chains. He concluded his remarks by saying that the outcomes of RIMSA14 would help enhance the country's and the region's efforts to protect the health of consumers (Document RIMSA14/27).
- 89. The Secretary of Health of Mexico, Dr. Julio Frenk, thanked PAHO in the person of its Director, Dr. Mirta Roses, for having honored Mexico as the venue for RIMSA14 and he undertook to follow up on and expand implementation of the resolutions adopted. He ended his remarks by expressing his appreciation of the multilateral cooperation system that made meetings and commitments of this nature possible.
- 90. Dr. Mirta Roses thanked the Government of Mexico for the services and facilities it had provided for the Meeting. She underscored the excellent participation by those who had attended the Meeting, and the mature manner in which issues had been addressed, both of which had benefited from the excellent organization framework. She thanked then Presidential Staff, the staff of the three Secretariats of State, and the staff of the PAHO/WHO office in Mexico for their contributions to the success of the Meeting. She concluded her remarks by pointing to the progress made in cooperation in the field of veterinary public health, the new commitments, and ways of addressing them. She once again thanked the Government of Mexico and wished all participants a safe and enjoyable journey home.

RIMSA14.R1 Hemispheric Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Taking into consideration the Houston Declaration, agreed upon at the Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease held in Houston, Texas on 3 to 4 March 2004 (Document RIMSA14/INF/2);

Having examined the report of the 10th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA10) (Document RIMSA14/5), especially in relation to the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA), prepared by the Interamerican Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) in conjunction with the Animal Health Services and the private sectors of the countries of the Region; and

Bearing in mind the significant progress achieved in the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the countries of South America, and its prevention in the disease free countries of North and Central America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA), implemented with the technical cooperation of the Pan American Health Organization, through PANAFTOSA, as well as the identification of critical areas of disease persistence in the Region.

RESOLVES

- 1. To congratulate to the countries of the Region by the advances obtained in the eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease, as well as by the preservation of the free areas in the Hemispheric.
- 2. To endorse the conclusions and recommendations of COHEFA10, in particular the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of PHEFA.
- 3. To urge to persists to increase its efforts to obtain its elimination in the established terms in the countries where still the presence of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease,
- 4. To urge the Member States to renew their political resolve and meet their financial commitments, both public and private, to rich the goals of the Plan of Action mention above.
- 5. To congratulate to the Inter-American Group for the eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA), to the veterinary services, the private sector of the Region and

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to the international organizations for their work, and to urge them to continue their effort on the application and execution of the referred Plan.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA 14.R2 4th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA 4)

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Having studied the report of the 4th Meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA 4) (Document RIMSA14/7);

Bearing in mind the need to accelerate execution of the Strategic Plan for Food Protection endorsed by the Governing Bodies of PAHO;

Recognizing the importance of the joint activities of PAHO and WHO for collaboration in the area of food safety, for example the Healthy Markets Initiative, the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), and the endorsement of the manual on five keys to safer food;

Recognizing that food security and food safety are fundamental for assuring the quality of life of the population in accordance with the basic principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations; and that they both contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially aimed at reducing hunger and poverty, diminishing the impact of infant morbidity and mortality, and promoting sustainable development; and

Cognizant of the need to strengthen protection of the food supply at the local level,

RESOLVES:

- 1. To endorse the conclusions, recommendations, and agreements of COPAIA 4; in particular, to establish under the leadership of PAHO:
- (a) a self-evaluation system for food safety programs at the country level;
- (b) effective intervention projects throughout the food chain for the production of safe food, using evidence-based scientific analysis;

- (c) local food safety programs, through the Healthy and Productive Municipios initiatives, and
- (d) programs for monitoring food and for epidemiological surveillance of foodborne diseases, with effective laboratory involvement.
- 2. To urge the Member States to offer political and financial support for implementation of the COPAIA 4 recommendations.
- 3. To encourage the countries of the Region of the Americas to institute a Healthy Food Day, as Uruguay has done.
- 4. To propose at the next World Health Assembly that food safety be considered as the theme for World Health Day.
- 5. To call on the ministers of agriculture, livestock, and health to reaffirm their commitment to intersectoral action in matters related to food safety in order to reduce risks for human health, tourism and the food trade.
- 6. To request the Director to intensify technical cooperation in food safety, specifically at the local level, as part of the productive and healthy communities approaches.

(Fourth session, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R3 Elimination of Human Rabies

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Having studied the progress made in the programs for the elimination of rabies transmitted by dogs in Latin America (Documents RIMSA14/13 and RIMSA14/INF/1);

Having received the report and recommendations of the 10th Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Control Programs in Latin America (REDIPRA10) (Document RIMSA14/INF/1);

Bearing in mind resolution RIMSA3.R18, which established the Regional Program for the Elimination of Urban Rabies in Latin America in 1983; and

Mindful of the mandate of resolution RIMSA13.R3, in which the Director is requested to review and strengthen technical cooperation with the Member States to

consolidate the elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs, while at the same time promoting surveillance and control of rabies in wildlife,

RESOLVES:

- 1. To urge the Member States to:
- (a) reaffirm their political commitments to ensure that sufficient financial support is available to consolidate the final phase in the elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs in Latin America;
- (b) reaffirm the international commitment to give priority support to countries with cases of human and canine rabies to achieve its elimination;
- (c) identify resources to help reinforce activities in the areas of surveillance, epidemiological characterization, and control of rabies in wildlife;
- (d) organize local measures to prevent the reintroduction of rabies transmitted by dogs in localities and areas that are disease-free, and strengthen the role of municipal governments in controlling stray dogs; and
- (e) improve canine rabies control legislation with regard to reporting of the disease, the vaccination of dogs, and control of the canine population.
- 2. To endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the 10th Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Control Programs of Latin America (REDIPRA10), especially the request that the Director:
- (a) prepare the corresponding Plan of Action for 2005-2009;
- (b) invite representatives of the agriculture and livestock sector to future REDIPRA meetings to guarantee the intersectoral coordination essential for the identification, diagnosis, and rapid response to outbreaks of rabies in wildlife, and
- (c) improve educational activities directed to humane societies and the general public, with a view to maintaining the gains achieved and moving toward the eradication of human rabies transmitted by domestic animals--activities such as responsible pet ownership and care, vaccination, and other preventive activities.

(Fourth session, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R4 The Global Risk of New and Emerging Zoonoses

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Having reviewed the special presentation on the convergence of expertise and resources in human and animal health in the global response to new and emerging animal diseases, avian influenza, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Document RIMSA14/14);

Bearing in mind that emerging zoonoses probably persist because of the greater interaction between human beings and animals, the increased production of food derived from animals, changes in food production and food preparation methods, and the invasion of jungle animal habitats by human populations; and

Aware of the health risks caused by increased trade and the global transportation of animals and animal products,

RESOLVES:

- 1. To urge the Member States to:
- (a) review their policies and reinforce their strategies to respond to new and emerging zoonoses, promoting their speedy identification and confirmation, official notification, and containment;
- (b) use the International Zoosanitary Code and International Health Regulations as the basis for their policies on animal diseases and human health, respectively;
- (c) promote the coordinated mobilization and deployment of veterinary and human medical services for the adoption of prevention and control measures, especially at the local level, and the strengthening of national zoonosis control programs;
- (d) consider Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) and forgotten or uncontrolled zoonoses that constitute important health risks in the Member States, such as Chagas' disease in several countries, priorities in the Region; and
- (e) ensure that subregional cooperation strategies for addressing these problems are maintained, especially the Southern Cone Project for the Control and Surveillance of Hydatidosis.

- 2. To request the Director to examine and strengthen technical cooperation with the Member States in the formulation of a plan of action and mobilization of the respective resources for an effective regional, national, and local effective response to emerging zoonoses that constitute a global threat.
- 3. To emphatically urge the international organizations responsible for animal and human health, such as the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure the coordination of their mandates and the pooling of resources to offer a uniform, coherent response to the threat of new and emerging zoonoses.

(Fourth session, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R5 Agriculture and Health Synergy: Food Security and Local Development

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Taking into account the topics and issues addressed by the panels on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty: (as agreed internationally and contained in the Millennium Declaration): Primary Health Care Strategies and Local Development (Documents RIMSA14/8, RIMSA14/9, RIMSA14/10, RIMSA14/11 and RIMSA14/12), and International Cooperation on Emerging Issues in Agriculture and Health (Documents RIMSA14/14, RIMSA14/15, RIMSA14/16, RIMSA14/17, and RIMSA14/18);

Recognizing agriculture and health synergy for local development in the fight against hunger and poverty (Document RIMSA14/24); and

Bearing in mind the mandates of Resolutions RIMSA8.R10, RIMSA9.R9 and RIMSA11.R11 regarding the special support to the small island states of the Caribbean.

RESOLVES:

- 1. To urge Member States to:
- (a) promote the mobilization of the public and private sector resources in providing services in the prevention and control of the neglected zoonoses, which affect the predominantly poor populations;

- (b) work together, especially with small island states, in developing models based on the successful experience of productive municipalities to promote food security and safety at the local level;
- 2. To request PAHO and other international or bilateral organizations and various funding agencies to provide special assistance towards:
- (a) developing comprehensive approaches for the prevention and control of the neglected zoonoses particularly in local endemic areas, within the framework of rural development projects, and
- (b) infrastructure development in the small island states of the Caribbean to comply with international standards for food safety and trade.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R6 Advancing Food Security and Local Development through Innovative Approaches

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Having analyzed the topics and issues addressed by the panel on Summit Mandates —Advancing Human Security through Innovative Approaches Centered on Human Development (Documents RIMSA14/19, RIMSA14/20, RIMSA14/21, RIMSA14/22, and RIMSA14/23);

Bearing in mind the mandates of the Governing Bodies of PAHO regarding "Women, Health and Development" (Resolution CSP26.R21) and "the Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative" (Resolution CD37.R5) (Documents RIMSA14/INF/4 and RIMSA14/INF/5);

Taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to promote gender equality and empower women, as agreed internationally and contained in the Millennium Declaration;

Conscious of the alliance for competitiveness of agriculture, science and technology in promoting greater productivity and access to food availability, and

Considering the importance of promoting the local development to assure a healthy way of life in the rural communities (Document RIMSA14/26).

RESOLVES:

- 1. To urge Member States to:
- (a.) develop the necessary local framework to promote and mobilize a higher mainstream participation of indigenous populations and women organizations to ensure access to safe food and basic community services;
- (b.) ensure the State's obligation to protect access to productive resources and affordable financing, to enable women and indigenous rural populations to achieve selfreliance to feed themselves, and maximize rural contribution to national development, and
- (c.) promote policy and mechanisms to narrow the technological divide, improve productivity, increase access, and promote trade along the food chain involving producers, processors, packers, distributors, and consumers.
- 1. To request PAHO to sustain its support and commitment in assisting Member States' compliance to Summits and PAHO mandates, using innovative approaches in the agriculture and health sectors, regarding women empowerment in local development, food security and indigenous people involvement.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R7 Resources for the Plan of Action on food safety

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE.

Considering, the document RIMSA14/6 "PAHO/WHO Proposed Plan of Action for Technical Cooperation in Food Safety, 2006-2007" and the report of 4th Meeting of the Pan American Commission of Food Safety (COPAIA4):

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned plan establishes expected results and indicators, with respect to the cooperation resources of the Member States and PAHO;

Aware that food safety is one of the 10 priority areas of cooperation approved by the last World Health Assembly, held in 2004, and

Concerned that budgetary and financing constraints have been detected that could hinder achievement of the proposed goals.

RESOLVES:

- 1. To urge the Member States to:
- (a) present the document RIMSA14/6 as a frame of reference to regional and international cooperation agencies, subregional common markets, and multilateral and other donor agencies for the implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- (b) include universities and research and academic training centers in the design and execution of projects, and
- (c) present submit to the World Health Assembly in May 2005 the concerns of the countries of the Region of the Americas about financing the activities included in the RIMSA14 mandates on food safety.
- 2. To request the Director to:
- (a) facilitate internal coordination of PAHO resources for cooperation in food safety;
- (b) promote, together with other regional and international cooperation agencies the mobilization of external resources through support for the preparation of specific priority projects, and
- submit these projects, in coordination with the countries, for the consideration of the regional and subregional economic forums as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), General Secretary of the Central American Integration System (SICA), the South Common Trade (Mercosur) and others.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14.R8 Expression of Appreciation to the Government of Mexico

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE,

Mindful of the offer of the Government of the United States of Mexico to serve as the venue of the 14th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA14);

Recognizing the high level of organization and logistical support provided by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), the Secretariat of Health (SSA), and the Secretariat

of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of the Government of Mexico;

Honored by the presence of the President of the United States of Mexico, His Excellency Mr. Vicente Fox;

Conscious of the successful results of the Meeting, which elevated and further cemented the convergence of the agriculture and health sectors towards advancing local development and food security for the people of the Americas, and

Moved by the hospitality and attention received by the delegates and participants,

RESOLVES:

2. To unanimously express sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to the authorities of the United States of Mexico, headed by His Excellency, the President of Mexico, and the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Health, and Agriculture.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

RIMSA14: RECOMMENDATION: Collaboration between Public Health and Animal Health Authorities

Considering that in the objectives of the RIMSA14 Meetings, the importance of the collaborative work of Ministers of Health and Agriculture was underlined, that:

- (a) of all human pathogens, 60% are zoonotic; 75% of emerging human diseases are animal borne; 80% of all pathogens that could be utilized by bioterrorism are also animal borne;
- (b) the World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing the new International Health Regulations (IHRs) that will be presented for adoption by the World Health Assembly in May of this year;
- (c) in text of the proposed IHR revision, it is very important to reflect upon the importance of collaborative work that Public Health and Veterinary Services carry out in preventing, controlling, and eradicating zoonoses; and
- (d) the IHR proposal should also take into account the importance of collaborative work carried out at global level by the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, through the *Codex Alimentarius*.

THE 14th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE RECOMMENDS:

That in the IHR revision to be considered at the World Health Assembly in May, that ministers of health make formal reference to collaboration and coordination with OIE, FAO, and other organizations and agencies working in this field.

(Fourth meeting, 22 April 2005)

Note: The United States dissociates itself from this recommendation.

Annex

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