



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## 136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-24 June 2005*

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*Provisional Agenda Item 7.1*

CE134/25, Rev. 1 (Eng.)

7 June 2005

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### **RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE 58TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY OF INTEREST TO THE PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The 58th World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 25 May 2005. Delegations from 28 Member States from the Region of the Americas were present. After debating an agenda that included 22 items, the Health Assembly adopted 34 resolutions.

This document summarizes the resolutions of special interest to the countries of the Americas and the Regional Office.

The Executive Committee is requested to take note of these resolutions and to consider their implications for the Region of the Americas.

## **Introduction**

1. The 58th World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 25 May 2005. Delegations from 28 Member States of the Americas attended. Also present were representatives of international and nongovernmental organizations. Mrs. Elena Salgado, Minister of Health and Consumer Protection of Spain, was elected President of the Assembly, while Dr. Miguel Fernández Galeano, Vice Minister of Health of Uruguay, was elected Vice President; and Dr. Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health of Barbados, Chairman of Committee B. The speakers invited to address the World Health Assembly were Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Maldives; Mr. Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, along with Mrs. Ann M. Veneman, Director of UNICEF.

2. The agenda of the 58th World Health Assembly included 22 items, the majority of them referring to health policy and the remaining 7 to administrative, budgetary, and institutional matters. As in previous Assemblies, these matters were dealt with in a series of committee and plenary sessions. The Assembly adopted 34 resolutions—15 more than were adopted in 2004. The full version of these resolutions, as well as other documents related to the Assembly can be found on the WHO website: [http://www.who.int/gb/s/s\\_wha58.html](http://www.who.int/gb/s/s_wha58.html).

3. Twenty-seven of these resolutions have special relevance both for Member States of the Americas and the Regional Office. Twenty-two of the resolutions deal with technical and health policy matters and the remaining five with management and budgetary matters.

4. The tables that follow contain a summary of the respective resolutions. They also give the title of resolutions on the same matters adopted by the PAHO Governing Bodies during the period 2000-2004. Several of the issues addressed in the 58th World Health Assembly will also be discussed from a regional perspective at the 136th Executive Committee of PAHO.

## **Other Matters**

### ***Executive Board Membership***

5. The World Health Assembly elected 10 Member States to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board. From the Region of the Americas, Mexico was elected to round out the group of countries from the Region of the Americas, which included Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, and Jamaica. Mr. Mauricio Bailón, Director-General of International Relations of the Secretariat of Health, was the person named by Mexico to

sit on the WHO Executive Board as of the 116th Session. Mr. Bailón was named Rapporteur of that session.

**Action by the Executive Committee**

6. The Executive Committee is requested to take note of these resolutions and to consider their implications for the Region of the Americas.

Annexes

- A. Technical and Health Policy Issues
- B. Administrative and Budget Issues
- C. Agenda of the World Health Assembly  
(Available at the following website: [http://www.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha58.html](http://www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha58.html) )
- D. Resolutions of the World Health Assembly  
(Available at the following website: [http://www.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha58.html](http://www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha58.html) )

## TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ISSUES

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<b>WHA58.1</b>	<p><b>Health action in relation to crises and disasters</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R11, Document A58/6</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the international community to continue strong and long-term support for the areas affected by the earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004.</p> <p>The resolution furthermore requests WHO to intensify support for the establishment of early warning systems, improved access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation, and physical and mental health care, and to strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation. It urges the Member States to formulate disaster preparedness plans, ensure equitable access to essential health services for the entire population, and pay attention to gender violence, a matter of growing concern during periods of crisis.</p>	Disaster Preparedness and Response CD45.R8
<b>WHA58.2</b>	<p><b>Malaria</b> Documents A58/9 and A58/10</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution urging the scaling up of malaria control activities.</p> <p>WHO is requested to strengthen cooperation with Member States to meet the objectives agreed internationally as part of the Goals of the Millenium Declaration. This includes the possible procurement by WHO at wholesale prices of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and of malaria drugs, and their free or highly subsidized distribution to vulnerable groups.</p>	Roll Back Malaria CD42.R15

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.3	<p><b>Revision of the International Health Regulations</b> Document A58/4</p>	<p>The Assembly approved the International Health Regulations (2005).</p> <p>These Regulations (IHR) will require Member States to collaborate with each other and with international agencies so as to ensure their effective and correct application.</p> <p>The purpose of the IHR is to prevent the international spread of disease, protect against it, control it, and provide a proportionate public health response that is restricted to public health hazards while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.</p> <p>The Director-General of WHO will establish an Emergency Committee and a Review Committee.</p> <p>The IHR includes the following Annexes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annex 1: A) Core Capacity Requirements for Surveillance and Response, B) Core Capacity Requirements for Designated Airports, Ports, and Ground Crossings</li> <li>- Annex 2: Decision Instrument for the Assessment and Notification of Events that May Constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern</li> <li>- Annex 3: Model Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate /Ship Sanitation Control Certificate</li> <li>- Annex 4: Technical Requirements Pertaining to Conveyances and Conveyance Operators</li> <li>- Annex 5: Specific Measures for Vector-borne Diseases</li> <li>- Annex 6: Vaccination, Prophylaxis, and Related Certificates</li> <li>- Annex 7: Requirements Concerning Vaccination or Prophylaxis for Specific Diseases</li> <li>- Annex 8: Model of Maritime Declaration of Health</li> <li>- Annex 9: Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration</li> </ul>	<p>International Health Regulations</p> <p>CD43.R13</p>

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<b>WHA58.5</b>	<b>Strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R16, Document A58/13	The Assembly stressed the importance of preparedness and response to an influenza epidemic, urging all Member States to develop and implement national plans that focus on limiting health impact and economic and social disruptions. It requested WHO to seek solutions to the problem of global shortages of flu vaccines. It also urged the Member States to develop and strengthen national surveillance and laboratory capacity to cope with human and zoonotic influenzas.	Influenza Pandemic: Preparation in the Hemisphere  CD44.R8
<b>WHA58.13</b>	<b>Proposal to establish World Blood Donor Day</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Reso lution EB115.R15, Document A58/38	The Assembly agreed to celebrate World Blood Donor Day each year on 14 June . It urged the Member States to establish or to strengthen systems for the recruitment and retention of voluntary, unremunerated blood donors, ensuring that blood donation services are nationally coordinated, well organized, safe, and of good quality. It requests WHO to promote the World Blood Donor Day and collaborate to strengthen the capacity of Member States to detect the principal infectious diseases in donated blood to guarantee its safety.	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.14	<p><b>Sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control</b> Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R1, Document A58/7</p>	<p>The Assembly encourages the Member States to ensure the availability of resources for achieving the development goal relevant to tuberculosis agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration, strengthen integration among all interested partners by setting up Stop TB partnerships, ensure that all tuberculosis patients have access to the necessary standard of care, set up collaboration between tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programs, and fully integrate tuberculosis prevention and control into their development plans.</p> <p>The Assembly requests WHO to strengthen cooperation with Member States and enhance its support for the Stop TB partnership with a view to achieving the internationally agreed objectives.</p>	
WHA58.15	<p><b>Draft global immunization strategy</b> Document A58/12</p>	<p>The Assembly welcomed the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy.</p> <p>It urged the Member States to adopt the global strategy as the framework for strengthening national immunization programs between 2006 and 2015, with the goal of achieving greater coverage and equity in access to immunizations, improve access to existing and future vaccines, and extending the benefits of vaccination beyond infancy to other age groups.</p> <p>The Assembly requests WHO to mobilize resources to promote the availability of and access to new vaccines in the countries and to strengthen global relations to mobilize the resources that the countries need to implement the global immunization vision and strategy.</p>	<p>Sustaining Immunization Programs: Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome CD44.R1</p> <p>Vaccines and Immunization CSP26.R9 CD43.R1 CD42.R8</p>

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<b>WHA58.16</b>	<b>International Plan of Action on Aging: report on implementation</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R7, Document A58/19	The Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Member States to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs that promote healthy and active aging and to consider the situation of older persons as an integral part of their efforts to achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration.  It requested WHO to provide support to Member States in their efforts to fulfill the internationally agreed commitments.	Health and Aging  CSP26R20
<b>WHA58.17</b>	<b>International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries</b> Document A58/23	Concerned that the migration of health personnel continues to be a major challenge for the health systems of developing countries, the Assembly requested WHO to strengthen its program on human resources for health, allocating sufficient resources to it.	Observatory of Human Resources in Health CD45.R9
<b>WHA58.22</b>	<b>Cancer prevention and control</b> Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R2, Document A58/16	The Assembly urged the Member States to collaborate with the Organization in developing and reinforcing comprehensive cancer control programs. These programs should be aimed at reducing cancer incidence and mortality and improving the quality of life of cancer patients through strategies for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.  It requested WHO to provide technical support to Member States in setting priorities for national cancer programs, and to continue developing the strategy to improve these programs through the analysis and dissemination of relevant experiences.	



RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p><b>WHA58.23</b></p>	<p><b>Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation</b> Document EB114/2004/JEM/1, Resolution EB114.R3, Document A58/17</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to strengthen national programs, policies, and strategies for implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, it requested that they participate actively in promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, which includes working toward adoption of the United Nations international convention as a matter of priority.</p> <p>It requests that WHO intensify its collaboration to improve the quality of life and promote the rights and dignity of the disabled, to provide support to the Member States to strengthen national rehabilitation programs, and to produce a world report on this issue.</p>	
<p><b>WHA58.24</b></p>	<p><b>Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders</b> Resolution WHA52.24</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to strengthen their commitment to sustained elimination of iodine deficiency disorders as part of their regular health programs and anti-poverty efforts, including through the universal iodization of salt, and to adopt urgent measures to reach the remaining one-third of the world population, mostly the poorest and most disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>It requested WHO to strengthen cooperation with the Member States, at their request, and with other international organizations.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.25	<p><b>Collaboration within the United Nations system and with others intergovernmental organizations</b> Document A58/40</p>	<p>The Assembly took note of the report on collaboration within the United Nations system. It urged Member States to ensure that operational development activities are planned and implemented under their stewardship and in conformity with their priorities.</p> <p>It asked WHO to continue to implement country-level activities in accordance with Member States' priorities, and to coordinate its activities with those of the United Nations system and other pertinent agencies, and furthermore, that it adhere to the international priorities regarding harmonization and alignment.</p>	
WHA58.26	<p><b>Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R5, Document A58/18</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the Member States to develop, implement, and evaluate effective strategies and programs for reducing the negative health and social consequences of harmful alcohol use. It furthermore encouraged the mobilization and active engagement of all concerned social and economic groups.</p> <p>It requested WHO to consider intensifying international cooperation in reducing public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol and mobilizing the necessary global and regional support. It also requested that recommendations be drawn up for effective policies and interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm and develop technical tools that will support Member States in implementing and evaluating recommended strategies and programs.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.27	<p><b>Antimicrobial resistance: a threat to the global health security.</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.RC, Document A58/14</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to enhance rational use of antimicrobial agents, including through development and enforcement of national standard practice guidelines for common infections in the public and private sectors.</p> <p>It requested WHO to strengthen its leadership role in containing antimicrobial resistance, to collaborate with other relevant programs and partners in order to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents in the context of the rational use of medicines, and to provide support for the generation of up-to-date information at the regional and subregional level.</p>	
WHA58.28	<p><b>eHealth</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R20, Document A58/21</p>	<p>The Assembly urged the Member States to consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth in the various areas of the health sector.</p> <p>It requested WHO to provide support to the Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, in particular on telemedicine technology.</p>	
WHA58.29	<p><b>Enhancement of laboratory biosafety</b></p>	<p>The Member States were urged to review the safety of their laboratories and the existing protocols for the safe handling of microbiological agents and toxins, consistent with WHO's biosafety guidance.</p> <p>WHO was requested to provide technical support for Member States that request it.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.30	<b>Attainment of the health-related Millennium Development Goals</b> Document A58/5	<p>The Member States were requested to reaffirm the internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration, and to develop and implement different types of measures to accelerate progress toward the attainment of these goals.</p> <p>WHO was requested to ensure that priority actions to support the Member States are reflected in the Program Budget 2006-2007, in future budgets, and in the Eleventh General Program of Work.</p>	The Millennium Development Goals and Health Targets  CD45.R3
WHA58.31	<b>Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn, and child health interventions</b> Document A58/5	<p>The Member States were urged to commit resources and accelerate national action towards universal access and coverage with maternal, newborn, and child health interventions, through reproductive health care. In addition, that they adopt and implement, in line with international agreements, the legal and regulatory frameworks to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and children, including that of equitable access to health care.</p> <p>WHO was requested to intensify technical support for Member States to develop their institutional capacity to achieve international goals and targets through universal access to and coverage of reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health programs, and to mobilize the international community so that it commits the additional resources required.</p>	Regional Strategy for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction  CSP 26.R13 and R14  Family and Health  CD44.R12  Child Health  CD42.R12

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<p><b>WHA58.32</b></p>	<p><b>Infant and young-child nutrition</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R12, Document A58/15</p>	<p>The Member States were urged to continue to protect, promote, and support exclusive breast-feeding for six months as a global health recommendation and to encourage continued breastfeeding up to two years of age at the very least.</p> <p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission was requested to continue to give full consideration to the resolutions of the World Health Assembly, when preparing standards, guidelines, and recommendations.</p> <p>WHO was requested to collaborate with FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, especially in developing pertinent guidelines and providing information to permit implementation of international public health policies in this area.</p>	<p>Integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI)</p> <p>CSP26.R10</p> <p>Child Health</p> <p>CD42.R12</p>
<p><b>WHA58.33</b></p>	<p><b>Social health insurance</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R13 Document A58/20</p>	<p>The Member States were urged to ensure that health financing systems include a method for prepayment of financial contributions for health care, with a view to sharing risk among the population and avoiding catastrophic health-care expenditure or the impoverishment of individuals as a result of seeking care. They were also urged to plan the transition to universal coverage of their citizens so as to contribute to meeting the needs of the population for health care and to the fulfillment of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>WHO was requested to provide, at the request of the Member States, technical support for strengthening capacities and expertise necessary to the development of health financing systems, with a view to achieving the goal of universal coverage.</p>	<p>Extension of Social Protection in Health: a joint initiative of PAHO and the ILO</p> <p>CSP26.R19</p>

RESOLUTION	ITEMS (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
WHA58.34	<b>Ministerial Summit on Health Research</b> A58/22 Document	<p>The Assembly recognized the Mexico Statement on Health Research, issued at the respective Summit (2004).</p> <p>It urged the Member States to establish and implement, or strengthen, a national health-research policy, and to promote activities aimed at strengthening national systems for health research.</p> <p>It called on the global scientific community, international partners, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to support, together with WHO and the Member States, the networking of national research agencies as a means of identifying and conducting research that would address global health priorities.</p> <p>WHO was requested to engage in consultations on the creation of a program on health-systems research, especially in regard to the internationally agreed health-related development objectives, and to assist in the development of mechanisms to bridge the divide between ways in which knowledge is generated and ways in which it is used, especially the transformation of health-research findings into policy and practice.</p>	

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGET ISSUES

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<b>WHA58.4</b>	<p><b>Proposed program budget for 2006-2007</b> Document PB/2006-2007</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a regular budget totaling US\$ 995,315,000 for the financial period 2006-2007; this represents an increase of 4%. In addition, voluntary contributions in the amount of US\$ 2,398,126,000 have been estimated, raising the total program budget to US\$ 3,313,441,000.</p> <p>The share of the regular budget for the Region of the Americas is \$77,768,000 and represents an increase of \$5,038,000, or 6.9% over the previous biennium.</p>	<p>Draft Proposed Program Budget of WHO for the Financial Period 2006-2007 CD45.R5 Regional Program Budget Policy of PAHO CD45.R6</p>
<b>WHA58.7</b>	<p><b>Status of collection of assessed contributions and Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution</b> A58/31 Document</p>	<p>The Assembly decided to suspend Uruguay's voting privileges as of the 59th World Health Assembly, invoking Article 7 of the Constitution. Furthermore, the voting privileges of the following Member States of the Region of the Americas remained suspended: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and documents of reference)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58TH WHA	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2004)
<b>WHA58.12</b>	<b>Salary of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General</b>	The Assembly established the annual salary of the Regional Director, effective 1 January 2005.	
<b>WHA58.19</b>	<b>Assessments for 2006-2007</b> Document EB115/2005/JEM/1, Resolution EB115.R8, Document A58/30	The Assembly adopted the scale of assessments of Member States for the biennium 2006-2007, reflecting the latest available United Nations scale.	Strategy for Increasing the Rate of Quota Assessments  CD45.R4
<b>WHA58.20</b>	<b>Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules</b>	The Assembly approved the changes to the Financial Regulations, effective 1 January 2006	