



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN CENTERS

RATIONALE FOR INPPAZ DISCONTINUATION

1. In response to demands of Member States in an environment of increased travel, tourism, and trade in food and food products, technical cooperation in food safety continues to be a priority for the Organization, as reflected in the proposed biennial program budget for 2006-2007 (see page 54). The Secretariat will address region-wide expected results contained in the draft Program Budget for the financial period 2006-2007 by using the institutional and human resources available in the Organization at global, regional, subregional and country levels, through the network of national institutions and the WHO collaborating centers, and in partnership with other international organizations and the private sector.
2. There are now technical capabilities available in the Region to develop the implementation of policies, programs and projects in the area of food safety, without the need for the existence of a specialized Pan American Center with the characteristics of INPPAZ.
3. The Center has become increasingly unsustainable from a financial stand point. From its establishment in 1991 to the late 90's, the Center accumulated a substantial debt. At that time, the Organization and the Government of Argentina renegotiated their agreement regarding the actual maintenance and operational costs of INPPAZ to establish a realistic schedule of payment. Since 31 December 2001, the debt has again run from US\$ 613,284 to approximately \$1,5 million as of June 2005.
4. The disestablishment of INPPAZ will generate net savings in the amount of \$600,000 per biennium, approximately, related to elimination of the general, operating and

maintenance expenses. This will permit concentrating the available resources of the food safety area of work, in new modes of technical cooperation strengthening the human resource of excellence and the mobilization of experience and experts in the countries.

5. The Secretariat will restructure the technical cooperation program in food safety in the most cost-effective way, and will provide an update on the process to Member States at the 46th Directing Council.

6. The PAHO Secretariat will support the initiative of the Government of Argentina to develop a national center of excellence in food safety, with international participation and support, based on the current Instituto Nacional de Alimentos (INAL) (National Food Center) through lines of work jointly defined with the Government of Argentina, as well as through the Regional Plan on Food Safety 2006-2007.

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