



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-24 June 2005

RESOLUTION

CE136.R8

STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN CENTERS

Role of the Pan American Centers in PAHO Technical Cooperation

THE 136th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having reviewed the documents that collate and update the information on several technical, managerial, and administrative matters pertaining to the general operation of the Pan American Centers as one of the modalities of PAHO's technical cooperation;

Bearing in mind the current cooperation needs identified by the Member States, the available national institutional capacity, and the urgent need to make the best possible use of the resources allocated to the Organization;

Recognizing that Resolution CSP20.R31 of the 20th Pan American Sanitary Conference identified the Pan American Centers as a temporary technical cooperation modality to be utilized as long as no adequate institutions were available to address problems of mutual interest to the Member States;

Noting that in recent decades the countries of the Region have developed significant national institutional capacity to address numerous local health problems and that this institutional infrastructure has, in turn, become an important instrument of PAHO technical cooperation;

Recognizing the new regional program budget policy adopted by the 45th Directing Council in 2004 and the new Managerial Strategy for the Work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in the Period 2003-2007, adopted by the 44th Directing Council in 2003;

Taking into consideration that the following principles should guide decisions regarding the disestablishment of a Pan American Center, which should:

- (a) minimize any potential negative impact on public health in the Region;
- (b) maximize the ability of the PAHO Secretariat to deliver technical cooperation in the most efficient and cost-effective way;
- (c) ensure that no resources from the PAHO regular budget not originally intended for a center will be applied to substitute for a host government's financial commitment;
- (d) encourage the financial contributions of a host government to be secure and sustainable over time, and
- (e) analyze the funding streams and arrearages of a center, including the impact of such arrearages on a center's operation.

Responding to the Governing Bodies' repeated call for regular evaluation of the Pan American Centers as part of the planning process for technical cooperation programs; and

Having analyzed the proposals for redefinition of the role and institutional reorganization of the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS), the Latin American Center for Perinatology and Human Development (CLAP), and the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to:
 - (a) take note of the reorganization of the Area of Sustainable Development and Environmental Health (SDE), which decentralizes regional technical cooperation in the area of water supply and sewerage and waste management to CEPIS;
 - (b) take note of the reorganization of the Area of Family and Community Health (FCH), which decentralizes regional technical cooperation for the monitoring and reduction of reproductive, perinatal, and women's health risks to CLAP.
2. To request to the Director to:
 - (a) reorganize and streamline the technical cooperation capacity in food safety at country, subregional, and regional levels;

- (b) disestablish the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ), created by Resolution CD35.R21 of 1991;
- (c) submit to the 138th Session of the Executive Committee a review of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) and the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), and a proposal to align the subregional Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), and Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) with the subregional allocation criteria set in the new regional policy, in consultation with the respective subregional institutions;
- (d) submit to the 46th Directing Council for its information an update on the planning for the reorganization and streamlining of technical cooperation capacity in food safety over the coming biennium.

(Ninth meeting, 24 June 2005)