



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



133rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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FINAL REPORT

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FINAL REPORT

Opening of the Session

1. The 133rd Session of the Executive Committee was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C., on 26 September 2003. The session was attended by representatives of the following nine Members of the Executive Committee elected by the Directing Council: Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and United States of America. Also present in an observer capacity were representatives of Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.
2. Dr. Álvaro Vidal Rivadeneira (Peru, President of the Executive Committee at its 131st and 132nd Sessions) opened the session and welcomed the participants, extending a special welcome to the new Members of the Committee just elected by the 44th Directing Council: Argentina, Barbados, and Costa Rica.

Procedural Matters

Officers

3. Pursuant to Rule 15 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected the following Member States to serve as officers for its 133rd and 134th sessions:

<i>President:</i>	Dominica	(Hon. Herbert Sabaroche)
<i>Vice President:</i>	Honduras	(Mr. Elías Lizardo Zelaya)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Paraguay	(Dr. Julio César Velásquez)

4. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), served as Secretary ex officio, and Dr. Carissa Etienne, Assistant Director of PASB, served as Technical Secretary.

Adoption of the Agenda (Document CE133/1)

5. Pursuant to Rule 9 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Director (Decision CE133 (D1)).

Committee Matters

Election of Two Members to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

6. Argentina and United States of America were elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming on the expiration of the periods of office of El Salvador and Uruguay on the Executive Committee (Decision CE133(D2)).

Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

7. Barbados was elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations on the expiration of the period of office of Jamaica on the Executive Committee (Decision CE133(D3)).

Protocol for Reviewing Collaboration with Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO (Document CE133/2)

8. Ms. Mary Lou Valdez (United States of America) explained that Document CE133/2 had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to a request made by the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations in June 2003, at which time the Standing Committee had consisted of Jamaica, Peru, and United States of America. The Standing Committee had felt that it needed more precise criteria to guide the reviews of relations with NGOs, and had recommended that the Executive Committee request the Director to develop a protocol for evaluating NGO performance. The document laid out a series of basic criteria to assist the Standing Committee in reviewing the activities of NGOs and making a recommendation to the Executive Committee concerning whether PAHO should maintain official relations with those organizations.

9. Drawing the Committee's attention to paragraph 8 of Document CE133/2, she noted that the first sentence should read: "If the response to any of the three criteria 4(a), 4(b), and 4(c) is negative, then Article 5 of the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations will no longer be considered applicable." In the English version of the document, the word "acceptable" erroneously appeared in place of the word "applicable."

10. On behalf of the Standing Committee, she thanked the staff of the Secretariat, especially Dr. James Hill, for drawing up the document.

11. The Delegate of Honduras suggested that an additional criterion for deciding whether to maintain official relations with an NGO should be the submission by the NGO

of duly audited financial statements attesting to the fact that the organization had the financial means to carry out the four-year programs of collaboration and the two-year work plans that it established with PAHO.

12. The Executive Committee approved, with the foregoing amendment, the Protocol for reviewing Collaboration with Nongovernmental Organizations in Official relations with PAHO (Decision CE133 (D4)).

Governing Body Matters

Dates and Proposed Topics for the 38th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

13. The Director suggested that the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming (SPP) hold its 38th Session from 24 to 26 March 2004 and proposed that the Subcommittee consider the following topics, some of which arose from the deliberations and resolutions of the 44th Directing Council, while others related to matters raised by Member States during other recent Governing Body sessions and to WHO global initiatives that needed to be discussed at the regional level:

- Report of the Working Group on Regional Budget Policy
- Contribution of Health to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- Intensification of Cooperation with the Eastern Caribbean States
- Progress Report from the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century
- Observatory of Human Resources in Health
- Update on Management of Change in PAHO (work plan, goals, and indicators)
- Improving Access to Drugs
- Strengthening Health Systems for an Integrated Response to HIV/AIDS
- International Health Regulations: Perspectives from the Region of the Americas
- National, Subregional, and Regional Goals: An Instrument for Progress in Health Development
- Report on the Regional Consultation on the WHO General Program of Work
- Ten-year Evaluation of the Core Data Initiative

14. Delegates suggested several additional topics, including suicide prevention, which was a public health priority in the Region; road traffic injuries, which would be the theme of World Health Day in 2004; and technical support for decentralization and regionalization processes, which were under way in the majority of countries in the region. With regard to the item on the contribution of health to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, it was pointed out that countries need technical guidance for the development of indicators to measure progress towards the goals. Several delegates felt that the discussion should focus in particular on primary health care, given the level of interest in the topic exhibited during the recent Directing Council and the decision to carry out a year-long series of activities to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. It was also felt that the issues of social protection in health and extension of universal access to health services should be considered in relation to this item. In addition, it was suggested that discussion of the Millennium Development Goals might be combined with the discussion of national, subregional, and regional goals as an instrument for achieving health development.

15. It was also suggested that the items on improving access to drugs and strengthening health systems to respond to HIV/AIDS might be combined, as the issue of access to medicines invariably came up in discussions of HIV/AIDS. However, several delegates felt that it would be preferable to keep the two items separate, as combining them might hinder consideration of the full range of issues involved in each case.

16. Regarding the update on management of change in PAHO, it was suggested that the Secretariat should present some information on the role of the Pan American Centers and on the composition of PAHO's workforce, both at Headquarters and in the country offices, including information on the current situation and on expectations for the future with respect to workforce composition. In relation to the report of the Working Group on Regional Budget Policy, one delegate expressed the hope that the discussion might include considerations relating to the presentation of budget information.

17. Strong support was expressed for the Secretariat's proposal to discuss the International Health Regulations at the regional level. It was pointed out that the Region of the Americas might also make a valuable contribution to WHO's efforts in the area of global surveillance.

18. The Delegate of Argentina announced that the Cuban delegation had asked him to submit a document prepared by Cuba on integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) for possible consideration by the Governing Bodies in the coming year. The Delegate of Puerto Rico said that his delegation would like to have the opportunity, during one of the upcoming Governing Body sessions, to share information on an

innovative, low-cost health promotion program (“Salud te recomienda”) recently launched by Puerto Rico’s Department of Health.

19. Finally, it was suggested that the SPP should perhaps examine the possibility of developing a procedural protocol aimed at streamlining sessions of the Directing Council and helping the Council to work more efficiently. In particular, it was proposed that delegations might be asked to focus their comments during meetings specifically on the issues or resolutions under consideration. They could be given the opportunity to present more extensive information on the health situation or on initiatives under way in their respective countries by other means, for example through exhibits or special information sessions or through submission of written reports.

20. The Director explained that the customary practice was for the Executive Committee to authorize the Secretariat to develop the agenda, taking into account the topics proposed by delegates and the mandates of the Governing Body on some items. If the Members were in agreement, the Secretariat would analyze the list of proposed items and put together a provisional agenda for the Subcommittee’s 38th Session. In so doing, it would look at whether some items might be combined, bearing in mind, among other considerations, the intended outcome of the Subcommittee’s deliberations. She pointed out that it was not necessary for all items to be considered three times—first by the Subcommittee, then by the Executive Committee, and finally by the Directing Council. As the Subcommittee was the body concerned with management and programming matters, it made sense for it to focus on the items relating to management issues. On some items—primary health care, for example—which, pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Member States, would obligatorily be considered by the Directing Council in September 2004, it might be sufficient for the Secretariat simply to present a brief progress report during the SPP session. Another possibility would be to hold technical information sessions outside the Subcommittee’s normal working hours. That approach, which had worked well during the recent Directing Council, would afford opportunities for discussion of some of the topics proposed by Member States while keeping the number of formal agenda items manageable.

21. The Committee decided that the 38th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming would be held from 24 to 26 March 2004 and agreed that the Secretariat would draw up the agenda for the Session, bearing in mind the foregoing considerations (Decision CE133(D5)).

Dates of the 134th Session of the Executive Committee

22. The Committee decided that its 134th Session would be held from 21 to 25 June 2004 (Decision CE133(D6)).

23. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic recalled that the 44th Directing Council had highlighted the desirability of occasionally holding Governing Body meetings outside PAHO Headquarters, as a means of heightening the visibility of the Organization and fostering greater understanding of its work among people in the member countries. He therefore proposed that Committee consider holding its 134th Session in the Dominican Republic.

24. The Director thanked the Delegate for his invitation and said that the Secretariat would confer with the Government of the Dominican Republic to assess the feasibility of holding the session in that country.

Dates of the 45th Directing Council, 56th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

25. The Committee decided that the 45th Directing Council, 56th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, would be held from 27 September to 1 October 2004 (Decision CE133(D7)).

Other Matters

26. The President drew the Committee's attention to Resolution CD44.R14, which called on the Executive Committee to establish an open-ended working group for the review of PAHO's situation in the 21st Century. The group's membership was to comprise, among others, selected Members of the Executive Committee. The resolution asked the working group to prepare its terms of reference and work plan with input from the Member States and present its report to the 134th Session of the Executive Committee. The Committee would then review the report of the working group and make recommendations to the 45th Directing Council.

27. The President proposed that the Committee appoint Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, and Peru to the working group.

28. In the discussion that followed, it was clarified that, although those four countries would be the official representatives of the Executive Committee on the working group, participation in the group's meetings would be open to all Member States. To encourage the broadest possible participation, the Committee asked the Secretariat to inform Member States of the dates of the group's meetings and to circulate any relevant documentation well in advance. To make the most efficient use of resources and facilitate participation, it was suggested that the group might wish to schedule its meetings at times

when Member States would be gathering for other meetings, in particular those of the Governing Bodies.

29. The Director pointed out that, while the intent of the resolution was that participation in the group should be open to all Member States, it might be difficult to formulate the terms of reference and work plan in a very large group. She therefore proposed that, before opening up the group to participation by other parties as indicated in the resolution, the nine Members of the Committee, with support from the Secretariat, confer with one another—electronically, telephonically, or in writing—and come to an agreement regarding the terms of reference and work plan.

30. The Committee agreed to the Director's proposal and appointed Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, and Peru to represent it on the working group (Decision CE133(D8)).

Closing of the Session

31. The Director thanked the Members for their participation and expressed her gratitude to Peru for its service as President of the Executive Committee in 2002–2003. She assured the Committee that the Secretariat would circulate the proposed agenda for the SPP as soon as possible and that it would also begin work promptly on the terms of reference and work plan for the working group on PAHO in the 21st century.

32. The President thanked the delegates for their vote of confidence in electing Dominica to the presidency of the Committee and declared the 133rd Session closed.

Decisions

33. In the course of the 133rd Session, the Executive Committee took the following decisions:

CE133(D1) Adoption of the Agenda

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Committee adopted the agenda submitted by the Director (Document CE133/1).

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D2) Election of Two Members to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

Argentina and United States of America were elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D3) Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

Barbados was elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D4) Protocol for Reviewing Collaboration with Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO

The Committee approved the protocol, as amended, for reviewing collaboration with nongovernmental organizations in official relations with PAHO (Document CE133/2).

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D5) Dates and Proposed Topics for the 38th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

The Committee decided that the 38th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming would be held from 24 to 26 March 2004, at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C. The Committee authorized the Secretariat to prepare the agenda for the session, bearing in mind the topics proposed by Members and requests from the PAHO or WHO Governing Bodies that certain items be included on the agendas of PAHO's Governing Bodies in 2004.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D6) Dates of the 134th Session of the Executive Committee

Pursuant to Article 17.A of the PAHO Constitution, the Committee set the dates for its first regular session in the year 2004, the 134th Session, to be held from 21 to 25 June 2004.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D7) Dates of the 45th Directing Council, 56th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

Pursuant to Article 12.A of the PAHO Constitution and Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, the Committee authorized the Director to convene the 45th Directing Council, 56th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, for the period 27 September to 1 October 2004.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

CE133(D8) Establishment of a Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century

Pursuant to Resolution CD44.R14, the Executive Committee established a working group to review the situation of PAHO in the 21st century. The Committee appointed Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, and Peru to represent it on the working group. The Committee also agreed that the nine Members of the Executive Committee, with support from the Secretariat, would draw up the terms of reference and work plan for the group.

(Single meeting, 26 September 2003)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Executive Committee and the Secretary ex officio, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, sign the present Final Report in the Spanish and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on this twenty-sixth day of September in the year two thousand three. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Member States of the Organization.

Herbert Sabaroche
Delegate of Dominica
President of the 133rd Session
of the Executive Committee

Mirta Roses Periago
Secretary ex officio of the 133rd Session
of the Executive Committee
Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session

2. Procedural Matters

- 2.1 Election of the President, Vice President, and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee
- 2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

3. Committee Matters

- 3.1 Election of Two Members to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming on the Expiration of the Periods of Office of El Salvador and Uruguay on the Executive Committee
- 3.2 Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations on the Expiration of the Period of Office of Jamaica on the Executive Committee
- 3.3 Protocol for Reviewing Collaboration with Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO

4. Governing Body Matters

- 4.1 Dates and Proposed Topics of the 38th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming
- 4.2 Dates of the 134th Session of the Executive Committee
- 4.3 Dates of the 45th Direction Council, 56th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

5. Other Matters

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

**Members of the Committee
Miembros del Comité**

Argentina

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Subsecretario de Regulaciones Sanitarias e
Investigación de Salud
Ministerio de Salud
Buenos Aires

Sebastián Molteni
Secretario
Representante Alterno de Argentina ante la
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Ministry of Health
St. Michael

Mr. Lionel Weekes
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Dr. Beverly Miller
Chief Medical Officer
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Members of the Committee (cont.)
Miembros del Comité (cont.)

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Ministerio de Salud
San José

Dominica

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Minister of Health and Social Security
Ministry of Health and Social Security
Roseau

Dominican Republic/República Dominicana

Dr. José Rodríguez Soldevila
Secretario de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social
Secretaría de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social
Santo Domingo

Honduras

Lic. Elías Lizardo Zelaya
Secretario de Salud
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de Salud
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Pan American Health Organization
Organización Panamericana de la Salud

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Directora y Secretaria ex officio del Comité

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Director
Directora

Advisers to the Director
Asesores del Director

Dr. Joxel García
Deputy Director/Director Adjunto

Dr. Carissa Etienne
Assistant Director/Subdirectora

Mr. Eric J. Boswell
Director of Administration
Director de Administración

Dr. Daniel López Acuña
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Director de Gestión de Programas