



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## 138th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Washington, D.C., USA, 19-23 June 2006*

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*Provisional Agenda Item 7.6*

CE138/INF/4 (Eng.)  
13 June 2006  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### **RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE 59th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY OF INTEREST TO THE PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The 59th World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 27 May 2006. After debating an agenda that included 22 items, the Assembly adopted 27 resolutions.

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

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

1. The World Health Assembly opened with the news of the unexpected death of Dr. LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of WHO, on the morning of 22 May. The delegates observed two minutes of silence. Dr. LEE's funeral was held in Geneva on Wednesday, 24 May, with more than 1,000 people in attendance, among them the delegates to the Assembly and Organization staff.

2. The 59th World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 27 May 2006. Delegations from 32 Member States of the Americas attended. Representatives of international and nongovernmental organizations were also present. The Assembly named the following officers: Prof. P. I. Garrido, Minister of Health of Mozambique, President of the Assembly; Dr. M.S. Barría, Minister of Health of Chile, Vice-President of the Assembly; Dr. P. Mazzetti (Peru), Chairman of Committee A, and Dr. D. Carey (Bahamas), Rapporteur of Committee B. The guest speaker at the World Health Assembly was His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who addressed the audience to promote comprehensive health care. In addition, Kenyan activist and poet Mr. Johnson Mwakazi, who had been invited by the Director-General, talked about the stigma endured by people living with HIV/AIDS.

3. The agenda of the 59th World Health Assembly contained 22 items, the majority of them on health policy and the rest on administrative, budgetary, and institutional matters. As in previous Assemblies, these matters were dealt with in a series of committee and plenary sessions, and in some cases, with the help of specific working groups (i.e., destruction of the reserves of smallpox virus, intellectual property rights). The Assembly adopted 27 resolutions. The full version of these resolutions, as well as other documents from the World Health Assembly, can be viewed online at [http://www.who.int/gb/s/s\\_wha59.html](http://www.who.int/gb/s/s_wha59.html).

4. The majority of these resolutions are particularly relevant to both the Member States of the Region of the Americas and the Regional Office. Seventeen of them deal with technical and health policy matters and the rest, with management and budgetary matters.

5. The tables that follow contain a summary of the respective resolutions.

#### **Other Matters: the Executive Board**

6. In a special session held on Tuesday, 23 May, the WHO Executive Board decided, pursuant to Article 113 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, that Dr. Anders Nordström would act as Interim Director-General until the World Health Assembly named a new Director-General.

7. The World Health Assembly elected new Member States to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board. El Salvador and the United States of America were elected from the Region of the Americas to round out the countries from the Region of the

Americas, which included Bolivia (2004-2007), Brazil (2004-2007), Jamaica (2004-2007), and Mexico (2005-2008).

8. Dr. Fernando Antezana, of Bolivia, was elected President of the WHO Executive Board, as of its 118th. Session. The United States was designated a member of the Program, Budget, and Administration Committee, and Brazil, a member of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations.

9. The 118th. Executive Board reviewed the various options for speeding up the process for electing the next Director-General and decided on the following timetable:

- a) the Interim Director-General communicates to the Member States that they can nominate candidates for the post of Director-General: 1 June 2006;
- b) deadline for the receipt of nominations by WHO: 5 September 2006;
- c) deadline for WHO to forward nominations, curricula, and complementary information to the Member States: 5 October 2006;
- d) meeting of the Executive Board on this item: from 6 to 8 November 2006 at World Health Organization Headquarters;
- e) special meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva on 9 November 2006 to deal with a single item, "Director-General."

10. In addition, the Executive Board asked the Interim Director-General to study the possibility of granting staff members who are candidates paid leave based on the salary of the post they currently occupy, from 5 September 2006 until the World Health Assembly names a new Director-General.

#### **Action by the Executive Committee**

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

#### **Annexes**

- i. Technical and Health Policy Items
- ii. Administrative and Budget Items
- iii. Agenda of the 59th. World Health Assembly
- iv. Resolutions of the World Health Assembly [available at: [http://www.who.int/gb/s/s\\_wha59.html](http://www.who.int/gb/s/s_wha59.html) (Click on link)]
- v. Agenda of the 118th. WHO Executive Board
- vi. Resolutions of the Executive Board [available at: [http://www.who.int/gb/s/s\\_eb118.html](http://www.who.int/gb/s/s_eb118.html) (Click on link )]

## Annex A: TECHNICAL AND HEALTH POLICY ITEMS

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
<b>WHA59.1</b>	<b>Eradication of Poliomyelitis</b> Document EB117/4, Resolution EB117/2006/REC1, Document A59/6	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution requesting fulfillment of the commitment to achieve polio eradication.</p> <p>Through this resolution it urged the Member States to act on their commitment to interrupt polio transmission through vaccination; to maintain high levels of immunization through vaccination, and to strengthen surveillance systems for the disease.</p> <p>It also requested WHO to ensure the availability of technical expertise to the States in their planning and response to outbreaks and to continue to work toward a poliomyelitis-free world in the short and longer term.</p>	<p>- Vaccines and Immunization: CD43.R1</p> <p>- Poliomyelitis Outbreak: Document SPP35/FR (Other Matters).</p>
<b>WHA59.2</b>	<b>Application of the International Health Regulations (2005).</b> Document EB117/2006/JEM/1, Resolution EB117.R7 and Annex 4, A59/4 Document A59/5	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution on the application of the International Health Regulations (2005) for strengthening pandemic flu preparedness and response.</p> <p>Recognizing that several of the provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005) would be useful for ensuring a coordinated response from the international community for the current outbreak or a future pandemic and observing that the IHR would not enter into force until 15 June 2007, this resolution urged the Member States to comply on a voluntary basis with the provisions of the International Health Regulations on preparedness for avian flu and the pandemic.</p> <p>It furthermore urged the States to establish a National IHR Focal Point to work with WHO in surveillance, preparedness, and response to pandemic flu.</p> <p>It requested that, until the IHR enters into force, WHO use the pandemic task force to advise the Organization on avian flu surveillance measures and response; collaborate with the States in the voluntary application of the Regulations, providing technical cooperation and logistical support; help strengthen the capacity of the Member States to respond to the avian flu; and continue to work to guarantee equitable access to drugs in the event of a global pandemic.</p>	<p>- International Health Regulations: CD43/11 CD43.R13</p> <p>- International Health Regulations: Perspectives from the Region of the Americas. CD45/12</p> <p>- International Health Regulations: Perspectives from the Region of the Americas. SPP38/8</p>

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
<b>WHA59.4</b>	<b>Eleventh General Program of Work, 2006-2015</b> Documents A59/25, A59/25 Add.1 and A59/25 Add.2.	<p>Through this resolution the Assembly adopted the Eleventh General Program of Work, 2006-2015.</p> <p>It urged the Member States to identify their role and the specific actions to be taken to carry out the global health agenda and encourage multidisciplinary partnerships.</p> <p>It invited the organizations of the United Nations system, NGOs, the private sector, and international development organizations to harmonize their work in line with this Program.</p> <p>It requested that WHO use the Eleventh Program as the foundation for strategic planning and the evaluation of WHO's work during this period, and that it update the General Program to reflect the changing state of global health.</p>	<p>- Eleventh General Program of Work of WHO, 2006-2015 Documents CD46/7, CD45/13, and SPP38/9</p>
<b>WHA59.11</b>	<b>Nutrition and HIV/AIDS</b> Document EB117/2006/JEM/1, Resolution EB117.R2 and Annex 4 Document A59/7	<p>Underscoring the importance of cooperation among the organs of the United Nations system and bearing in mind that adequate nutrition is one of the principal needs of people affected by the AIDS pandemic, this resolution urged the Member States to ensure that nutrition is an essential part of their response to HIV/AIDS, to make a political commitment to put the issue on their health agendas, and to support current interventions to improve nutrition through full implementation of the global strategy for infant and young child feeding.</p> <p>In addition, it requested WHO to help States incorporate these issues in their national policies and programs, and to give priority to issuing recommendations on the nutrition and care of people with HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>- Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition and Development: SPP40/12</p>

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
WHA 59.12	<p><b>Implementation by WHO of the Recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors</b> Document EN117/2006/JEM/1, Resolution EB117.R8 and Annex 4 Document A59/8</p>	<p>The Assembly welcomed the recommendations of the Global Task Team on improving AIDS coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors.</p> <p>This resolution urged the Member States to heighten efforts and identify barriers to accelerate implementation of the “The Three Ones” according to country realities.</p> <p>The Assembly requested WHO to adopt the aforementioned recommendations, draw up appropriate plans of action in coordination with UNAIDS, report on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations, and help governments strengthen their health systems to intensify future interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CD42.R13</li> <li>- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CD43.R16</li> <li>- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CSP26.R12</li> <li>- Scaling up Treatment with a Comprehensive Response to HIV/AIDS: CD45.R10</li> <li>- Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI 2006-2015: CD46.R15</li> <li>- Scaling up Health Systems for an Integrated Response to HIV/AIDS: SPP38/7</li> </ul>
WHA59.15	<p><b>Collaboration within the United Nations System and with Other Intergovernmental Organizations, including United Nations Reform Process - Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management</b> Documents A59/37, A59/41 and A59/41 Add.1.</p>	<p>The Assembly welcomed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management adopted at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai on 6 February 2006.</p> <p>Mindful of WHO’s leadership in the management of these products that affect human health, it urged the Member States to participate in national, regional, and international efforts to implement the Strategic Approach and requested that in its application, they take the health aspects of chemical safety into account.</p> <p>It requested WHO to support the States in the health sector’s implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Products, emphasizing human health issues.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEMS (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
WHA59.16	<b>Codex Alimentarius Commission: Amendments to Statutes</b> Document A59/38	The Assembly approved the amendment to Article 1 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which establishes that: The Codex Alimentarius Commission shall be responsible for making proposals to, and shall be consulted by, the Directors-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on all matters pertaining to the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program, the purpose of which is: protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade; promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and nongovernmental organizations; determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards through and with the aid of appropriate organizations; finalizing standards elaborated under the provisions above and publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius either as regional or worldwide standards; and amending published standards in the light of new developments.	- Food protection: CD42.R3
WHA59.17	<b>Outcome of the First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control</b> Documents A59/40 and A59/40 Add. 1.	Noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties to establish a permanent secretariat for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, this resolution urged WHO to establish that secretariat within WHO (Geneva) and to continue to support the Tobacco-Free Initiative.  It also called on Member States that had not done so to ratify, accept, approve, confirm, or accede to the Convention.	- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: CD43.R12 - Framework Convention on Control: SPP35/8
WHA59.19	<b>Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Draft Global Strategy</b> Documents A59/11 and A59/11 Add.1.	The Assembly adopted a resolution welcoming the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections and recognized that age-appropriate interventions are those that best respond to people's health and development needs.  The Assembly urged the States to adopt and draw on this Strategy as appropriate to their national circumstances.  It requested WHO to draw up an action plan in support of the countries, in collaboration with other organizations in the United Nations system in order to implement the strategy at the global, regional, and national level.	- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CD42.R13 - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CD43.R16 - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas: CSP26.R12 - Scaling up Treatment with a Comprehensive Response to HIV/AIDS: CD45.R10 - Scaling up Health Systems for an Integrated Response to HIV/AIDS: SPP38/7

RESOLUTION	ISSUES (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
<b>WHA59.20</b>	<b>Sickle Cell Anaemia</b> Document EB117/2006/REC1, Resolution EB117.R3 and Annex 4 Document 59/9.	Concerned at the absence of official recognition of sickle-cell anemia as public health priority, this resolution urged Member States in which the disease is a public health problem to develop, implement and reinforce integrated national programs for the prevention and management of sickle-cell anemia; to guarantee access to appropriate care for people living with this disease, and to promote international cooperation and collaboration to combat sickle-cell anemia.  Furthermore, it requested WHO to provide technical support and advice through the framing of policies and strategies for the prevention of sickle-cell anemia; promote equitable access to health services, and draft guidelines for the prevention and treatment of the disease.	
<b>WHA59.21</b>	<b>Infant and Young Child Nutrition</b> A59/13 Document	Through this resolution, the Assembly reiterated its support for the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding and welcomed the Call for Action of the Innocenti Declaration of 2005 on Infant and Young Child Feeding as a step toward attainment of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality.  It urged the Member States to support the measures contained in the Call for Action, to renew their commitment to policies and programs related to Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and to revitalize the Baby-friendly Hospitals Initiative to protect and promote breast-feeding.  It requested international donors and financial institutions to support these activities of the Member States, and WHO to support countries in the application and monitoring of the Code and Assembly resolutions on this issue.	- Child health: CD42/14  - Child Health: SPP34/9 - Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition and Development: SPP40/12
<b>WHA59.22</b>	<b>Emergency Preparedness and Response</b> Documents A59/20 and A59/20 Add.1.	The Assembly adopted this resolution requesting the Member States to further strengthen national emergency mitigation, preparedness, and response programs, with emphasis on health system recovery.  It requested WHO to support the countries in the task of strengthening their disaster preparedness and response systems, ensure an effective WHO response in emergencies and crises, and participate in logistical and supply management mechanisms to guarantee the immediate mobilization of vital supplies in crisis situations.	- Report on Reducing the Impact of Disasters on Health Facilities: CD45/27  - Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and Disaster Preparedness in the Region of the Americas: CD46.R14



RESOLUTION	ISSUES (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
<b>WHA59.23</b>	<b>Rapid Scaling up of Health Workforce Production</b> Documents A59/18 and EB117/36	<p>In light of the challenge posed by the international migration of the health personnel and the need for national plans and policies on human resources for health, the Assembly adopted this resolution urging the Member States to affirm their commitment to train their resources; to explore mechanisms to mitigate the adverse impact created by a shortage of human resources, and to promote the creation of planning teams tasked with formulating a national strategy for the health workforce.</p> <p>It requested WHO to provide technical support to Member States in their efforts to revitalize training institutions for health personnel and help rapidly increase the availability of human resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and Strengthening of Human Resources Management in the Health Sector: CD43.R6</li> <li>- Observatory of Human Resources in Health: CD45.R9</li> <li>- Development and Strengthening of Human Resources Management in the Health Services: SPP35/4</li> <li>- Observatory of Human Resources in Health: SPP38/5</li> <li>Observatory of Human Resources in Health: CD45.R9</li> </ul>
<b>WHA59.24</b>	<b>Public Health, Innovation, Essential Health Research, and Intellectual Property Rights: Towards a Global Strategy and Plan of Action</b> Documents A59/16, A59/16 Add.1 and A59/16 Add.2. Document EB117/2006/REC1, Resolution EB117/R13 and Annex 4 and A59/17	<p>The Assembly noted that the Ministerial Declaration of Doha on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health states that the Agreement should be interpreted and applied so that it supports the right of WHO Members to protect public health.</p> <p>Through this resolution the Assembly welcomed the report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation, and Public Health and decided to establish an intergovernmental working group open to all interested Member States, in order to draw up a global strategy and plan of action that would lay the groundwork for research and development activities.</p> <p>It requested WHO to invite all interested parties to participate as observers, allocate resources for this task, and continue to publish research and development reports based on public health considerations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Program on Bioethics: CD42.R6</li> <li>- Access to Medicines: CD45.R7</li> <li>- Access to Medicines: SPP38/6</li> </ul>

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions and Documents (2000-2006)
WHA59.25	<p><b>Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment</b> Document EB117/2006/JEM/1, Resolution EB117.R4 and Annex 4 and Document A59/12</p>	<p>Many of the Member States support the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness, known as Vision 2020: The Right to Sight.</p> <p>This resolution adopted by the Assembly urged the Member States to set up national Vision 2020 plans; to include the prevention of blindness and visual impairment in development plans and goals, and to encourage national and regional partnerships for activities to prevent these conditions.</p> <p>It requested WHO to give priority to the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment; to provide technical support to Member States; to strengthen global and regional activities for the prevention of blindness; and to ensure that these conditions are addressed in the activities of the Eleventh General Program of Work.</p>	
WHA59.26	<p><b>International Trade and Health</b> Document EB117/2006/JEM/1, Resolution EB117.R5 and Annex 4 and Document A59/15</p>	<p>The Assembly adopted a resolution on trade and health that urged the Member States to promote dialogue and the adoption of policies that address international trade issues as they relate to health, and to set up mechanisms for coordinating with relevant parties to address these issues.</p> <p>It requested to WHO to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen their capacity to address these issues through relevant policies or legislation.</p>	<p>- Globalization and Health: SPP37/5</p>
WHA59.27	<p><b>Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery</b> WHA54.12</p>	<p>Recognizing the centrality of human resources for health in the operation of national health systems, the Assembly urged the Member States to strengthen nursing and midwifery; establish programs for human resources development, and actively involve health personnel in the development, framing, planning, and application of health policies.</p> <p>It requested WHO to support the participation of nurses and midwives in the integrated planning of human resources for health; help the States strengthen the contribution of these resources to the implementation of health policies and meet the Millennium Development Goals in health; and hire nurses and midwives in WHO programs to ensure their input to Organization policies.</p>	<p>- Development and Strengthening of Human Resources Management in the Health Sector: CD43.R6 - Observatory of Human Resources in Health: CD45.R9 - Development and Strengthening of Human Resources Management in the Health Sector: SPP35/4 - Observatory of Human Resources in Health: SPP38/5 - Observatory of Human Resources in Health: CD45.R9</p>

## ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ITEMS

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2006)
<b>WHA59.5</b>	<p><b>Status of Quota Contributions *, and Member States in Arrears in the Payment of the Contributions to an extent which would Justify Invoking Article 7 of the Constitution</b></p> <p>Documents A59/26 and A59/INF.DOC./2</p>	<p>The Assembly considered the continued suspension of the voting privileges of 14 countries (among them, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic) during the 59th. Assembly, invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.</p> <p>It further resolved that, if as of the opening of the 60th World Health Assembly, two countries (among them, Dominica) continued to be in arrears in their contributions, their voting privileges would be suspended as of that opening.</p>	
<b>WHA59.9</b>	<p><b>Special Arrangements for the Settlement of Arrears (Dominican Republic)</b></p> <p>A59/26 Document</p>	<p>The World Health Assembly decided to restore the voting privileges of the Dominican Republic at the 59th World Health Assembly and to accept that the Dominican Republic would pay its outstanding contributions totaling US\$1 019 572, in 15 annual installments in each of the years 2006 to 2020, in addition to the annual contributions due during the period.</p>	

RESOLUTION	ITEM (and reference documents)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN WHA59	PAHO Resolutions (2000-2006)
WHA59.13	<b>Financial Report on the Accounts of WHO for 2004-2005</b> Documents A59/28, A59/28 Add. 1 and A59/29	The World Health Assembly accepted the financial report of the Director-General and the audited financial statements for the period 1 January 2004–31 December 2005, as well as the report of the External Auditor.	
WHA59.14	<b>Salaries of Staff in Ungraded Posts and of the Director-General</b>	The World Health Assembly set the annual salary of the Regional Director at US\$160 574 before staff assessment, resulting in a net salary of US\$117 373 (dependency rate) or US\$106 285 (single rate).	
WHA59.18	<b>Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly. Article 14: Dispatch of Documents</b> A59/27 Document	The World Health Assembly decided to amend Rule 14 of its Rules of Procedure, in accordance with Rule 121 of those Rules, so that Rule 14 would henceforth read as follows:  RULE 14  Copies of all reports and other documents relating to the provisional agenda of any session shall be made available on the Internet and sent by the Director-General to Members and Associate Members and to participating intergovernmental organizations at the same time as the agenda or not less than six weeks before the commencement of a regular session of the Health Assembly; appropriate reports and documents shall also be sent to nongovernmental organizations admitted into relationship with the Organization in the same manner.	