



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**50th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
**62nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

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**AWARD TO DR. CIRO A. DE QUADROS, MD, MPH**

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**REMARKS BY DR. SOCORRO GROSS-GALIANO  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU**

**Tuesday, 28 September 2010**

**50th DIRECTING COUNCIL OF PAHO  
Washington, D.C.**

Honorable President  
Honorable Ministers of Health  
Distinguished Delegates  
Distinguished members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Dr. Mirta Roses, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

“There are those who look at things the way they are and ask ‘Why?’ I dream of things that never were and ask, ‘Why not?’”

Why not have a sound Expanded Program on Immunization, capable of driving diseases like polio and measles from this Hemisphere? Why not have a Revolving Fund that affords the peoples of the America’s timely access to high-quality vaccines at the lowest possible prices? Why not make immunization a gift of love that is carried to the most remote locations in the Region?

It is a very special privilege for me to present an award to a man, a health worker, who had the audacity to make his dreams a reality, and to be able to witness today the legacy of his achievements. This award, bestowed in the name of the Pan American Health Organization, is a way of saying “thank you” to Dr. Ciro A. de Quadros for his enormous contributions and support for the Expanded Program on Immunization, and specifically, the creation of the Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement, which today is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Dr. de Quadros, a Brazilian by birth and an internationalist by conviction, studied medicine at the Catholic Medical School in Porto Alegre, graduating in 1966 and pursuing a master’s degree in public health at the University of Rio de Janeiro, which he completed in 1968. It was then that, hearing destiny’s call, he became involved in his country’s efforts to eradicate smallpox. Thus, in 1969, he began working in

smallpox surveillance, traveling to the Amazon and then to the State of Paraná, which, after backbreaking efforts, no longer had cases of that fatal disease. His country now free of smallpox, Dr. de Quadros went to Ethiopia, where, as Director of Field Operations, he spearheaded efforts that culminated in the eradication of smallpox in that country in 1975.

That same year he joined PAHO as the first head of the Regional Program on Immunization. His work would revolutionize the perception of immunization programs, leading the vast majority of the countries to consider immunization today a precious public good. During his years at the helm of the EPI, every country in the Region developed a national immunization program. These programs were strengthened so that their activities would enable them to successfully tackle the challenges confronting the peoples of the Americas. Dr. de Quadros himself led the fight to eliminate polio; the last autochthonous case appeared in 1991, opening the way to the elimination of measles and rubella in this new century.

Fundamental to this effort, without a doubt, was the conception and creation of the Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement, which has served the countries of the Region without interruption since 1979, adhering always to the principles of the lowest possible price and the same price for all. The Revolving Fund has been essential to developing equity in our societies and is an example of Pan Americanism that has afforded our countries timely access to quality vaccines, enabling our people to grow healthier and have hope for the future. In 2002, Dr. De Quadros, at that point Director of the Vaccines and Immunization Division, retired from PAHO.

Since 2003, faithful to his principles of promoting immunization in the Americas, Dr. de Quadros has been working at the Sabin Vaccine Institute, where he is currently Executive Vice-President. There, he continues his efforts to promote the introduction of new vaccines to combat old enemies with new tools and create a Hemisphere that, freed from disease, is poised to realize its dreams and its destiny.

This award symbolizes all the people of the Americas, men and women alike, who have single-mindedly sought to improve the health of our peoples. Dr. Ciro de Quadros, please accept this award from PAHO in recognition of your enormous contributions to the Immunization Program of the Americas.