
Cardiovascular Disease Prevention through Population-wide Dietary Salt/sodium Reduction

First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group for 2016-19

8-9 March 2016, PAHO, Washington, DC
Room 1017

Overview

Between 2009 and 2015, PAHO convened two consecutive groups of technical experts to guide its initiative on *Cardiovascular Prevention through Population-wide Dietary Salt/sodium Reduction*. Each comprised public health authorities, civil society, academics and researchers, supported by a PAHO secretariat. Over the course of the initiative, they focused on guidance documents, tools, workshops and other means of assisting Member States to: determine salt/sodium consumption levels; determine the main sources of salt/sodium in diets; increase public understanding of the risks of over-consuming salt/sodium; set targets for reduced levels of salt/sodium in key ready-to-eat and processed packaged foods to encourage reformulation; coordinate programs on iodine deficiency prevention and salt/sodium reduction; and conduct sound scientific research.

At the completion of Phase 2, 20 countries in the Region had national or subnational level interventions to reduce dietary salt/sodium, compared to three in 2009. PAHO will continue supporting the initiative, and accepting the outgoing TAG's recommendation, is convening a new advisory group for the period 2016-2019. While many countries are active, several have not yet taken action, and those that have initiatives have not yet reached their full capacity at population level. The new TAG would continue to support the expansion of both the regional initiative and those of Member States.

At this meeting, a newly appointed by PAHO director TAG members will meet for the first time. A discussion of the momentum and opportunities, based on the outgoing TAG's Final Report, and preliminary results of a regional survey will inform an operational plan.

Objectives for Day 1:

- 1 Introduction of the TAG members and acceptance of Terms of Reference
- 2 Brief on the achievements /challenges to date
- 3 Brief on preliminary findings from the regional survey on the status of national salt/sodium reduction initiatives
- 4 Discussions of momentum, opportunities and issues (international, regional, sub-regional)

Objective for Day 2:

- 1 Operational plan for the next phase

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday March 8, 2016

8:30-9:00	Registration Room 1017	
9:00-9:10	Welcome and opening	Anselm Hennis
9:10-9:30	Introduction of agenda and objectives	Branka Legetic

NEW TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

9:30-10:45	Introductions of members, Chair and sub-regional Co-chairs	
	Presentation of Terms of Reference, Discussion, Acceptance	Ruben Grajeda Branka Legetic
10:45-11:15	Break	

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

11:15-12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of achievements to date (from Final TAG Report for Phase 2 – 2012-2015)• PAHO Nutrition profile model• Social Marketing Campaign Design for the Caribbean• New research project: Scaling-up and evaluating salt/sodium reduction policies and programs in Latin American countries	Mary L'Abbé Chessa Lutter Robin Mowson Adriana Blanco Metzler
12:15-12:30	Questions & comments	

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**

GOING FORWARD

13:30-14:00	Preliminary survey results – key barriers and technical support most requested	Barbara Legowski
14:00-14:30	Questions & comments	
14:30-15:00	Break	
15:00-15:45	Panel on momentum and opportunities (from Final TAG Report for Phase 2 – 2012-2015)	Mary L'Abbé for the Region and elsewhere, Eduardo Nilson for Central & South America, Trevor Hassell for the Caribbean
15:45-16:30	Questions & comments	
16:30	Adjournment	

Day 2: Wednesday March 9, 2016

OPERATIONAL PLANNING

8:30-8:45	Review of Day 1, tasks for Day 2	Ruben Grajeda
8:45-10:00	Plenary - TAG role and contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- advocacy, communication and social marketing- regulatory models- economic analysis- biomarkers for sodium and iodine intake- monitoring targets, policies and programs for sodium in foods	Facilitator – Mary L’Abbé
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-12:30	Plenary continued <ul style="list-style-type: none">- integrating salt/sodium into broader agendas- research	Facilitator – Chessa Lutter
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Plenary – Priorities by area of work/operational plan	Facilitator – Ruben Grajeda
14:30-14:40	Closing remarks	Anselm Hennis
14:40	Adjournment	
