



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF CANADA**

THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO/WHO), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF CANADA (HC) hereafter referred to as the "Participants";

Recognizing the long tradition of working together based upon the principles of equity and Pan-Americanism, good governance and accountability, and a desire to strengthen our mutual cooperation in the fields of health policies and public health approaches in a spirit of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit;

Noting that there are other Canadian departments and agencies that have a policy, technical, programming and funding relationship with the PAHO, such as the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT);

Noting that there are also other Canadian institutions and non-governmental organizations with an interest in PAHO, such as the Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Canada's WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centres;

Reaffirming that HC is responsible for the payment of Canada's assessed quota contribution to PAHO, that it works closely with PAHO and other government departments and agencies in governance related issues, such as the determination of strategic policy priorities, the implementation of the program budget, the management of the PAHO-Canada Biennial Work Plan Budget (BWP), and that it also plays a key role in ensuring Canada's coherent engagement with PAHO;

Noting that past and present collaboration between them has been effective and is based on the priorities of the Government of Canada, the particular priorities of its departments and agencies, and the Region of the Americas;

Acknowledging that Membership in PAHO has served Canada well, and will continue to be invaluable as global and regional health issues grow in importance, and that PAHO provides significant health leadership through regional initiatives in the Americas as part of the UN and Inter-American Systems;

Acknowledging that PAHO's strategy for technical cooperation fall into three areas: completing the "unfinished agenda" in health; sustaining past achievements; and tackling new challenges;

Convinced that heightened strategic and focused cooperation will further strengthen good relations and mutual benefits between them.

HAVE REACHED the following:

1. Purpose and Objective of the Framework for Cooperation

The purpose of this Framework for Cooperation (the Framework) is to heighten a whole-of-Government approach to Canada's relations with PAHO, and to promote joint actions aimed at strengthening Canada's and PAHO's capacity to contribute to the global and regional response to health and development issues of common concern. The framework is an important step in an ongoing process of strategic collaboration, and focused actions are expected to be jointly developed on an annual basis.

2. Areas of Cooperation

Guided by the *Health Agenda for the Americas 2008 - 2017*, and the *Regional Strategic Plan 2008-2012*, as well as by the comparative mandates and strategic health priorities of the various Canadian departments, institutions and agencies, the Participants will consider and facilitate activities under jointly proposed subject areas such as governance, health system strengthening, emerging and re-emerging diseases, chronic non-communicable diseases, health of indigenous peoples, as well as cross-cutting themes such as gender and human rights, and research for evidence-based decision making.

3. Mechanisms of Cooperation

- (a) The Participants will jointly determine the mechanisms of cooperation.
- (b) The Participants will encourage and facilitate mutually acceptable contacts, exchanges and cooperation between Canadian government agencies, health institutions, specialists, scientists and health professionals.
- (c) HC will facilitate such contacts with:
 - (i) An effective participation in PAHO governing body meetings;
 - (ii) A strategic use of the Biennial Work Plan Budget (BWP) funds, and effective use of other human, technical and financial resources from Canadian departments and agencies, other institutions, and PAHO;
 - (iii) The exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices through participation in policy dialogues, regional networks, conferences, and ongoing use of the PAHO-Canada portal;
 - (iv) The sharing of expertise through the provision of technical advice, exchange of specialists, scientists, and other health professionals from relevant government departments and agencies, temporary assignments and secondments of staff, and internships;
 - (v) The cooperation with the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centres, other health associations, NGOs and health institutions, and the provinces and territories of Canada on a case-by case basis;
 - (vi) The preparation and publication of policy documents, strategies, and technical reports;
 - (vii) Any other form of cooperation including trilateral cooperation if appropriate and mutually acceptable to the Participants.

4. Expected Outcomes

The Participants expect the following outcomes:

- (a) More coherent Canada – PAHO bilateral relations and strengthened Canadian engagement in PAHO related policies and programs in the Americas, and in other regions;
- (b) The enhanced two-way flow of policy analysis, technical knowledge and learnings on health issues of common concern (models and best practices);
- (c) Strengthened linkages with PAHO's Regional Plan and Strategic Objectives through the provision of Canada-PAHO cooperation and expertise;
- (d) More systematic dialogue among multiple stakeholders leading to greater harmonization of health partners' activities and more effective work in cooperation on health in the region of the Americas.


5. Governance Mechanisms for Monitoring and Follow-up

- (a) The Participants understand that a Joint Committee composed of senior representatives from PAHO, the Health Portfolio, CIDA and DFAIT will meet annually to:
 - (i) Assess the ongoing cooperation;
 - (ii) Decide upon specific initiatives, outputs and expected results.
- (b) To accommodate the additional activities or modifications of existing activities that may be required, the Participants will build a flexible dialogue process.
- (c) The Participants may also meet periodically in person or via teleconference, at mutually convenient times.

SIGNED in duplicate at Geneva, this 20 day of May 2010
in the English and French languages, each version being equally valid.



FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF
CANADA



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