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73rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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A. SEVENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 24 May to 1 June 2021. Owing to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Assembly was held virtually. Representatives and delegates of 194 Member States were in attendance. The President of the Assembly was Bhutan, represented by Mrs. Dechen Wangmo. Five countries served as Vice Presidents: Benin, Estonia, Guatemala, Mongolia, and Qatar in representation of their respective regions.

2. Guatemala, served as Vice President of the Assembly, representing the Region of the Americas. Paraguay served as Chair of Committee A and Barbados as Rapporteur of Committee B. The Region was also represented at the General Committee by Canada, Chile, Cuba, and the United States of America, and in the Committee of Credentials by Haiti and Panama.

3. In his opening remarks (1), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, recognized health and care workers at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic for their dedication, service, and sacrifices, and expressed his hope that every Member State would take action to protect and invest in its health and care workforce.

4. Reflecting on the epidemiological situation, Dr. Tedros cautioned that despite a downturn in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths being reported, the world remains in a very dangerous situation. He addressed the inequitable distribution of vaccine, noting that over 75% of all vaccines have been administered in just 10 countries. The Director-General expressed his concern over the vast gap between the number of doses available to COVAX and those being administered in a small group of countries and warned that the ongoing vaccine crisis was only perpetuating the pandemic.

5. To this end, Dr. Tedros appealed to Member States to enhance their efforts to control transmission and support a massive push to vaccinate at least 10% of the population of every country by September, and at least 30% by the end of 2021. To achieve this goal, Dr. Tedros explained that it would be key to: a) provide support to and share doses through

COVAX; *b*) scale up manufacturing; and *c*) fully fund the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. He also underscored the need to waive intellectual property protections on vaccines to help end the pandemic and praised those Member States that had done so.

6. Dr. Tedros reminded Member States of the broad scope of WHO's work beyond the pandemic in line with the "triple billion" targets and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, summarizing achievements, as well as ongoing and future initiatives. Member States of the Americas received a variety of acknowledgments for their efforts from the Director-General. Dr. Tedros announced WHO's plans to publish interim guidance for validation of viral hepatitis elimination, with assessments to start in five countries, including Brazil. Dominica received recognition for its recent certification for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. Additionally, El Salvador was lauded as first country in Central America to be certified as malaria-free by WHO.

7. Noting that, "this will not be the last time the world faces the threat of a pandemic" the Director-General reinforced the Organization's commitment and willingness to listen to Member States and make the necessary changes to *a*) enhance WHO's work in emergency preparedness and response, and *b*) support Member States in preparing for and preventing emergencies. Dr. Tedros was pleased that many Member States had recognized the need for a significant increase in more predictable and sustainable financing for WHO to carry out its work. In closing, he reiterated his call for cooperation, solidarity, and equity and stated, "A safer world is not a zero-sum game; it is the opposite. If anyone is left behind, all are held back" (1).

8. During the Assembly, there was active participation and involvement from Member States of the Region of the Americas, though no joint statements from the countries of the Americas were presented. The discussion focused on the theme, "Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world." Speaking at the plenary of the Assembly, Member States of the Americas reaffirmed their commitment to ending the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as their support for a strengthened WHO.

9. The agenda of the Assembly included general items related to technical and health issues, as well as administrative, budgetary, and institutional items.¹ As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B, and in plenary sessions.

10. Approximately 12 intergovernmental/intersessional processes were mandated by the WHA which have major implications for Regional Offices and Regional Committees (e.g. the establishment of a working group on strengthening WHO preparedness and response to health emergencies; the request for a special session of the WHA to discuss a possible pandemic treaty or other instrument, and others). Concerns were expressed about the capacity of some Member States to effectively engage in such processes. A list of

¹ The agenda of the 74th World Health Assembly, as well as other related documents discussed at the Assembly, are available from: https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha74.html

selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region, the related resolutions of the Pan American Health Organization, and some of the implications that the WHA resolutions have for the Region can be found in the Annex.

Other Matters: Executive Board

11. The 149th Session of the Executive Board was held on 2 June 2021. The Chair of the Executive Board was Dr. Patrick Amoth, of Kenya. Argentina was elected as Vice-chair. Colombia, Grenada, Guyana, Paraguay, and Peru currently occupy the other five seats of the Board that represent the Region of the Americas. Furthermore, with the end of term of Chile and the United States of America, Argentina and Grenada will occupy the two seats of the Americas in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

12. The agenda of the 149th Session of the Executive Board consisted of 16 items, including the process for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization and future sessions of Governing Bodies meetings, among others.² Regarding dates for future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly, the Board agreed on the following timetable:

- a) The special session of the World Health Assembly to be held from 29 November to 1 December 2021 at WHO headquarters, Geneva, in person, or virtually if limitations to physical meetings preclude the holding of the special session in person.
- b) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its thirty-fifth meeting from 19-21 January 2022 at WHO headquarters.
- c) The 150th Session of the Executive Board to begin on 24 January 2022, at WHO headquarters in Geneva, and end no later than 29 January 2022.
- d) The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly to be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, starting on 22 May 2022 and ending no later than 28 May 2022.
- e) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its thirty-sixth meeting from 18-20 May 2022 at WHO headquarters.

Action by the Directing Council

13. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report and provide any comments it deems pertinent.

Annex

² The full versions of these reports, as well as other related documents discussed at the 149th Session of the WHO Executive Board, are available from: https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb149.html

References

1. World Health Organization. Opening address by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General [Internet]. 74th World Health Assembly; 24 May 2021; Geneva, Switzerland. Geneva (Switzerland): WHO; 2021. Available from: <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-world-health-assembly---24-may-2021>.

Annex

Table 1. Selected Resolutions Adopted by the 74th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74.3 Programme budget 2022–2023</p>	<p>Proposed programme budget 2022–2023 Documents A74/5 Rev.1, A74/5 Add.1, A74/9 and A74/46</p> <p>Sustainable financing: Report of the first and second meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing Document A74/6 and decision EB148(12)</p>	<p>OD358 and CD57.R5 (2019) Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2020–2021</p>	<p>The Programme budget 2022–2023 (PB22-23) of the World Health Organization (WHO) includes a 16% budget space increase in base programs compared to 2020-2021. For the Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO), this is reflected in a 17% increase with respect to 2020-2021 (from US\$ 215 million¹ to \$252.6 million) however, AMRO receives the smallest share of WHO’s budget (less than 6%).</p> <p>Incorporating existing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing WHO’s transformation initiatives (with a major emphasis on Digital Health) are the main justifications for the global proposed budget increase in 2022-2023. To finance the PB22-23, assessed contributions remain at the same level of 2020-2021. The programmatic structure for the WHO PB22-23 remains the same as for WHO’s PB20-21 however, the budget is presented by the 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) outcomes and not by Strategic Priorities/Billions. The GPW13 Results Framework will continue to be used to report on the WHO PB22-23, building on the previous biennium.</p> <p>A revised WHO PB is expected to be submitted to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2022, reflecting the forthcoming recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) and the Working Group on Sustainable Financing. The Working Group was established by Executive Board decision EB148(12), and should submit an interim report on its work to the regional committees.</p> <p>The development timeline for the PB22-23 of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will allow for the incorporation of relevant recommendations and decisions of the approved WHO PB before it is finalized and submitted for a approval to the Directing Council in late September 2021. The proposed extension to 2025 for the GPW13 targets would allow for more time for the materialization of impact and outcome-level changes and would also bring PAHO and WHO strategic planning frameworks closer in alignment, given the period of the PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025. This will facilitate implementation, monitoring, and reporting efforts.</p>

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all monetary figures in this document are expressed in United States dollars.

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74.4 Reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through strengthening prevention and control of diabetes</p>	<p>Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 and decisions EB148(6) and EB148(7)</p>	<p>CD58/INF/6 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Final Report</p> <p>CD52/7, Rev.1 and CD52.R9 (2013) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p> <p>CSP28/9, Rev.1 and CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 provide follow-up information on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs. Document A74/10 Rev.1 provides a synthesis of the major obstacles to achieving the global diabetes targets and proposed recommendations to improve diabetes prevention, treatment and monitoring, as well as information on the preparatory process leading to the fourth United Nations (UN) High-level meeting on NCDs in 2025.</p> <p>Resolution WHA74.4 urges Member States to apply whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and actions for the strengthening of diabetes management approaches, including policy, legislative and regulatory measures as well as monitoring and evaluation of diabetes responses through country-level surveillance and monitoring services that are integrated into existing national health information systems. The resolution also requests the Director-General to <i>a)</i> develop recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national NCD programmes, and recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course, including considering the potential development of targets in this regard, <i>b)</i> submit these recommendations to the WHA75 for its consideration in 2022, and <i>c)</i> submit annual reports on progress made in the implementation of WHA74.4 to the WHA through the EB from 2022 to 2031.</p>
<p>WHA74.5 Oral health</p>	<p>Oral health Documents A74/10 Rev.1 and resolution EB148.R1</p>	<p>CSP28/9, Rev.1 and CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>The resolution on oral health requests the Director-General to: <i>a)</i> develop, by 2022 a draft global strategy, in consultation with Member States, on tackling oral diseases, aligned with the Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030 and pillars 1 and 3 of WHO’s GPW13, for consideration by the WHO governing bodies in 2022; and <i>b)</i> to translate this global strategy, by 2023, into an action plan for public oral health, including a framework for tracking progress with clear measurable targets to be achieved by 2030.</p> <p>The burden of oral diseases shows significant inequalities, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations and those of lower economic status. Inequalities are found, as in other noncommunicable diseases, throughout the life course and across populations in low-, middle- and high- income countries. With limited resources for prevention and control, low- and middle-income countries face the highest burden of oral diseases.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74.6 Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access</p>	<p>Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property products Document A74/9</p>	<p>CD55/10.Rev.1 and CD55.R12 (2016) Access and Rational Use of Strategic and High-cost Medicines and Other Health Technologies CD48/18 and CD48.R15 (2008) Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property: A Regional Perspective</p>	<p>The implementation of the elements of the he Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI) and its prioritized actions remain highly relevant for the Americas. Since the adoption of Resolution CD48.R15 Public health, innovation and intellectual property: a regional perspective (2008), several related activities were implemented in the region. In 2020, PAHO provided technical assistance to the Government of Costa Rica for the development of the proposal of the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) and, together with ECLAC, organized a regional dialogue among the health, industry, and science and technology sectors to improve access to medicines and other health technologies in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regarding the improvement in the transparency of the markets, PAHO collaborated with WHO and Argentina in the organization of the 3rd Fair Pricing Forum, held in April 2021, continue working with the “Regional Initiative for Information exchange on prices, coverage and economic regulation of health technologies” to improve access to information and the exchange of experiences among Member States in the region.</p> <p>A policy on Increasing production capacity for essential medicines and health technologies is expected to be discussed during the 59th Directing Council of PAHO.</p>
<p>WHA74.7 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies</p>	<p>WHO’s work in health emergencies Document A74/9 Strengthening WHO’s global emergency preparedness and response Document A74/9 Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) Documents A74/9 and A74/9 Add.1</p>	<p>CD58/INF/14-C (2020) Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021: Progress Report CD58/INF/12 (2020) Plan of Action for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance: Final Report CD55/17.Rev.1 and CD55.R10 (2016) Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021 CD53/12 and CD53.R9 (2014) Plan of Action for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance</p>	<p>Resolution WHA74.7 establishes a Member States’ Working Group (MSWG) on Strengthening WHO preparedness and response to health emergencies, open to all Member States, to <i>a</i>) consider the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the IHR Review Committee and the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, taking into account relevant work of WHO, including that stemming from resolution WHA73.1 (2020) and decision EB148(12) (2020), as well as the work of other relevant bodies, organizations, non-State actors and any other relevant information and <i>b</i>) submit a report with proposed actions for WHO, Member States, and non-State actors, as appropriate, for consideration by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board.</p> <p>At the request of PAHO Member States at the 168 Executive Committee, PASB supports Member State engagement with the Working Group and the Vice Chair from the Americas, by convening regular meetings to facilitate information sharing and inform regional discussions among Member States on working methods, including terms of reference and modalities for the group as well as its work, products, and deliverables decisions of this MSWG. The first meeting was held on 12 July 2021.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74.8 The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities</p>	<p>WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability Documents A74/9 and resolution EB148.R6</p>	<p>CD58/INF/7 (2020) Plan of Action on Disabilities and Rehabilitation: Final Report</p> <p>CD53/7.Rev.1 and CD53.R12 (2014) Plan of Action on Disabilities and Rehabilitation</p>	<p>Resolution WHA74.8 focuses on people with disabilities and the barriers and inequity that they often face in accessing healthcare. The resolution calls on Member States to incorporate disability- and gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches and “identify and eliminate attitudinal, environmental and institutional obstacles and barriers”. It also requests the Director-General to develop, by the end of 2022, a global report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, to be submitted for consideration by the WHA76.</p> <p>People with disabilities represent around 15% of the population of the Americas. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inequities and barriers that the disability community still face in accessing equitable healthcare. All countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes an article on their equal right to health. The proposed resolution is in line with this article so will support Member States to achieve their commitments in this regard.</p>
<p>WHA74.9 Recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination</p>	<p>Global technical strategy and targets for malaria 2016–2030 Document A74/55</p>	<p>CD55/13 and CD55.R7 (2016) Plan of Action for Malaria Elimination 2016-2020</p>	<p>Resolution WHA74.9 urges Member States to step up the pace of progress through plans and approaches, consistent with WHO’s updated global malaria strategy and the WHO Guidelines for malaria, and calls on countries to extend investment in and support for health services, ensuring no one is left behind; sustain and scale up sufficient funding for the global malaria response; and boost investment in the research and development of new tools.</p> <p>PAHO’s Plan of Action for Malaria Elimination 2021-2025 is currently being finalized and is aligned with the recent updates to the Global technical strategy and targets for malaria 2016–2030. This new Plan of Action is mandated under CD57/R7 (2019) PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative: A Policy for an Integrated Sustainable Approach to Communicable Diseases in the Americas.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74.16 Social determinants of health</p>	<p>Social determinants of health Documents A74/9 and resolution EB148.R2</p>	<p>CD57/10 and CD57.R10 (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030</p> <p>CD53/10.Rev.1 and CD53.R2 (2014) Plan of Action on Health in All Policies</p>	<p>Resolution WHA74.16 requests the Director-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, an operational framework, building on the work of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and building on existing resources and tools and subsequent work, for the measurement, assessment and addressing, from a cross-sectorial perspective, of the social determinants of health and health inequities, as well as their impact on health outcomes, and to submit it for consideration by the WHA76 in 2023.</p> <p>In the Region of the Americas, progress has been made in implementing the social determinants of health agenda. The Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030 has integrated the action on the social determinants of health and Health in All Policies. PAHO commissioned a report on health inequities and social determinants of health in the Americas, which was also presented in the 57th Directing Council of PAHO. The pandemic constitutes an important opportunity to strengthen the integration of social determinants in the member states' agenda as a "must" to recover health, social, economic, and political development with equity. In this context, PAHO has developed guidelines and reports, and played a role in creating a participatory space for dialogue through sub-regional and regional meetings, with indigenous and afro descendant populations and mapping process of civil society organizations in the regions.</p>
<p>WHA74.17 Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches</p>	<p>WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children Document A74/21</p>	<p>CD54/9.Rev.2 and CD54.R12 (2015) Strategy and Plan of Action on Strengthening the Health System to Address Violence against Women</p> <p>CD48/20 and CD48.R11 (2008) Preventing violence and injuries and promoting safety: a call for action in the Region</p>	<p>Document A74/21 reports on the implementation of the WHO global plan to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children. The report references achievements in the Americas, including PAHO's Status Report on Preventing and Responding to Violence against Children (launched in November 2020), the first of its kind and the only Region to do so. The global report is also complimentary to a progress report on the Strategy and Plan of Action on Strengthening the Health System to Address Violence against Women, which will be presented to the PAHO Governing Bodies this year.</p> <p>Resolution WHA74.17 aims to enhance health sector efforts to advance evidence-based approaches to preventing and responding to violence against children, including through the roll-out of INSPIRE in collaboration with partners, strengthened capacity for service providers and support to parents. The resolution is timely in the context of COVID-19 and stresses the need to scale up efforts, including essential health services for survivors. PAHO has been active in advocating for and supporting action on domestic violence, including through new guidance, policy dialogue and trainings.</p>

Table 2. Selected Decisions Adopted by the 74th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74(10) Follow-up of the Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases</p>	<p>Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 and decisions EB148(6) and EB148(7)</p>	<p>CD58/INF/6 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Final Report CD52/7, Rev.1 and CD52.R9 (2013) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases CSP28/9, Rev.1 and CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 provide follow-up information on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs, including: <i>a</i>) a mid-point evaluation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030; <i>b</i>) the final evaluation of the WHO global coordination mechanism (GCM) on the prevention and control of NCDs; and <i>c</i>) recommendations and options to improve the function of the GCM. Through Decision WHA74(10), the Health Assembly decided to request the Director-General to present, in response to the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030 and the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the global action plan, an implementation roadmap 2023–2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030.</p>
<p>WHA74(11) The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO’s work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases</p>	<p>Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 and decisions EB148(6) and EB148(7)</p>	<p>CD58/INF/6 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Final Report CD52/7, Rev.1 and CD52.R9 (2013) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases CSP28/9, Rev.1 and CSP28.R13 (2012) Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.1, A74/10 Add.2, A74/10 Add.3 provide follow-up information on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs, including: <i>a</i>) a mid-point evaluation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030; <i>b</i>) the final evaluation of the WHO global coordination mechanism (GCM) on the prevention and control of NCDs; and <i>c</i>) recommendations and options to improve the function of the GCM. Decision WHA74(11) requests the Director-General to develop a work plan for the WHO global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, to be submitted to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, and to present the work undertaken and results achieved so far to Member States and non-State actors in 2022 in order to receive their further guidance on the implementation of the work plan.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74(13) Global action on patient safety</p>	<p>Global action on patient safety Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.4 and decision EB148(5)</p>	<p>CD57/12 and CD57.R13 (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020-2025</p>	<p>Through the adoption of decision WHA74(13) Member States endorsed the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030, which provides strategic and practical direction to Member States to formulate policies and implement interventions aimed at improving patient safety in all levels and settings. Additionally, the Action Plan outlines concrete actions for eliminating a avoidable harm in health care to be taken by governments, civil society, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, WHO and health care facilities across the world.</p> <p>PAHO Member States in 2019, adopted the "Strategy and Plan of Action to improve quality of care in health service delivery 2020-2025" (Document CD57/12). Within the framework, patient safety is one of the essential attributes of quality of care. Furthermore, it is considered an ethical imperative in health service delivery. Nevertheless, acknowledging that particular concepts and approaches have been recognized, the concepts and approaches of the essential attributes of quality largely overlap, so synergies and a comprehensive approach should be developed in interventions to improve the quality of care. This implies a new quality paradigm that involves overcoming traditional fragmentation and lack of coordination in interventions focused on the different attributes of quality. Support of the Global Action on Patient Safety (GAPS) is a critical component of a national strategy on quality of care and in the context of a broader health system planning.</p>
<p>WHA74(14) Mental health preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>Mental health preparedness and response for the COVID-19 pandemic Document A74/10 Rev.1 and decision EB148(3) Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) Document A74/17</p>	<p>CD44/13 and CD44.R8 (2003) Influenza Pandemic: Preparation in the Hemisphere</p>	<p>Evidence from the Region demonstrates the immense impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of populations and the functioning of mental health systems and services. While the long-term mental health consequences of this crisis remain to be seen, it is likely that the pandemic will contribute to lasting adverse effects on people's mental health and well-being and place prolonged strain on mental health systems in the Region. The impacts of the pandemic threaten and may even reverse country and regional progress.</p> <p>Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Region, PAHO has been supporting Member States in strengthening mental health systems and scaling up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to meet the increased mental health needs. Key areas of technical cooperation included coordination, capacity building in MHPSS, the delivery of remote interventions, and communications for the general population as well as specific at-risk groups.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
			<p>The COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique opportunity to catalyze mental health reform and strengthen mental health in the Region of the Americas. Increase and improve the provision of quality mental health services for all will be necessary. Strengthening technology-based remote interventions is essential to meeting the demand for services when in-person services are not feasible. Considering the endorsement by the WHA74 for the updated Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030, the regional approach should be aligned and highlight the integration of the mental health response in emergencies, which is a major issue in the Region.</p>
<p>WHA74(16) Special session of the World Health Assembly to consider developing a WHO convention, a agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response</p>	<p>WHO’s work in health emergencies Document A74/9 Strengthening WHO’s global emergency preparedness and response Document A74/9 Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) Documents A74/9 and A74/9 Add.1</p>	<p>CD58/INF/14-C (2020) Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021: Progress Report CD58/INF/12 (2020) Plan of Action for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance: Final Report CD55/17, Rev. 1 and CD55.R10 (2016) Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021 CD53/12 and CD53.R9 (2014) Plan of Action for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance</p>	<p>The decision requests the Director-General to convene a special session of the World Health Assembly in November 2021 for Member States to consider developing a WHO convention, a agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.</p> <p>The Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies is requested to prioritize the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, a agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response and to provide a report to be considered at the special session of the Health Assembly.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA74(20) The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections</p>	<p>The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021 Documents A74/9 and decision EB148(13)</p>	<p>CD56/9 and CD56.R9 (2018) Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control 2018-2030 CD55/14 and CD55.R5 (2016) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2016-2021 CD54/13, Rev. 1 and CD54.R7 (2015) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis</p>	<p>The three global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections 2016-2021, are coming to an end. Each of the strategies seeks to ensure the epidemics are ended as public health threats by 2030, yet despite considerable progress in some areas of prevention and treatment, in most cases, the interim 2020 targets across the strategies have not been reached.</p> <p>Decision WHA74(20) requests the Director-General to develop global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2022–2030, for consideration by the WHA75 in 2022. In keeping with this integrated approach, the three strategies will have mid-term targets (to be developed) and common chapters focusing on integration and person-centered care, first level of care, and Universal access to health and universal health coverage.</p> <p>For the Americas PAHO organized three consultations, one in partnership with the Pan Caribbean Partnership for HIV/AIDS, another with Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group and the third in partnership with Drugs for Neglected Diseases <i>initiative</i>, to ensure maximum participation, feedback and input into the strategies’ development process. The consultations highlighted aspects of integration, community participation and services, person-centered care, stigma and discrimination and human rights. Many participants pointed out the need to continue to promote scientific innovation towards these diseases.</p>
