

## 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL

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

*Virtual Session, 20-24 September 2021*

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*Provisional Agenda Item 8.17-B*

CD59/INF/17  
30 July 2021  
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#### **B. FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

##### **Background**

1. This document presents the resolutions of relevance for the activities of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) adopted during the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). Due to COVID-19 this Session was held virtually, on 20-21 October 2020.<sup>1</sup>

2. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS Member States and other official delegates, representatives of the governments accredited as permanent observers, representatives of agencies in the inter-American System, including PAHO, and entities belonging to the Summit Implementation Review Group. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas, H.E. Darren A. Henfield, was elected president of this regular session of the General Assembly.

3. The theme of the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly was “Facing the Challenges of COVID-19 in the Hemisphere: A Collaborative Approach to Address Vulnerabilities and Build Resilience in Times of Crisis, Based on the Four Pillars of the OAS.” The OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro Lemes, opened the meeting.

4. The General Committee recommended that the Plenary adopt the following draft resolutions:

- a) “Strengthening Democracy”;
- b) “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”;
- c) “International Law”;
- d) “Strengthening the Participation of the Permanent Observers in the Activities of the Organization of American States”.

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<sup>1</sup> The agenda, full documents, and resolutions are available at:  
<http://www.oas.org/en/council/AG/regular/50RGA/documents.asp>

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5. The report of the General Committee indicated that no consensus was reached on two resolutions prior to the General Assembly and for this reason they were submitted for a vote. These included:

- a) “Restoring Democratic Institutions and Respect for Human Rights in Nicaragua through Free and Fair Elections.” The resolution was approved with 20 country votes, two votes against, and 12 abstentions.
- b) “The Lack of Minimum Democratic Conditions to Guarantee Free, Fair, and Transparent Elections in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.” The resolution was approved with 21 votes, four votes against, and nine abstentions.

6. The General Assembly adopted a total of 17 resolutions and one declaration. In addition, all resolutions and declarations adopted during the General Assembly received footnotes from the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda questioning their legal validity due to their non-recognition of the credentials of the Venezuelan delegation. Likewise, during the report of the Secretary General regarding credentials, the delegations of Mexico and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also expressed their non-recognition of the credentials of the Venezuelan delegation.

7. Prior to the start of the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly, a dialogue between the heads of delegation and representatives of civil society organizations and other social actors was held. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General participated in the dialogue. Representatives of civil society and social actor coalitions, as well as representatives of youth, workers, and the private sector, presented inputs regarding the work they are developing around the central theme of the General Assembly. They also presented their recommendations to Member States on the same topics. Their recommendations were followed by interventions from Member States. Diverse groups were present, representing, inter alia, pro-family, pro-life, LGBTI, and religious interests. The meeting was also attended by representatives of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant groups.

8. The Assembly was closed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas, who highlighted the relevance of the OAS in the strengthening of cooperation and multilateralism in the context of the regional challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary General recognized all the Member States for their commitment to realizing the outcomes of this General Assembly and called attention to the importance of preserving peace in the Region.

9. A selected list of resolutions of interest to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization and related to its work as the specialized health agency of the inter-American System is provided in the table below.

**Table: Resolutions adopted by the Fiftieth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly related to PAHO mandates**

Resolutions of the OAS General Assembly	Linkage to PAHO mandates
<p>AG/RES. 2961 (L-O/20) Promotion and Protection of Human Rights</p>	<p>Health and Human Rights (Resolution <a href="#">CD50.R8</a> [2010]) (Document <a href="#">CD50/12</a> [2010])</p> <p>Plan of Action for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (Resolution <a href="#">CD56.R8</a> [2018]) (Document <a href="#">CD56/8, Rev.1</a> [2018])</p> <p>Report of the Director on Addressing the Causes of Disparities in Health Services Access and Utilization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans (LGBT) Persons (Document <a href="#">CD56/INF/11, Corr.</a> [2018])</p> <p>Report of the Commission on Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas (Document <a href="#">CD56/INF/8</a> [2018])</p> <p>Policy on Ethnicity and Health (Document <a href="#">CSP29/7, Rev. 1</a> [2017]) (Resolution <a href="#">CSP29.R3</a> [2017])</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2952 (L-O/20) Advancing the Hemispheric Response to Climate Change in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025 (Resolution <a href="#">CD57.R2</a> [2019]) (<i>Official Document</i> <a href="#">359</a> [2019])</p>
<p>AG/RES. 2956 (L-O/20) The Challenges to Food Security and Nutrition in the Americas in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic within the Framework of the Plan of Action of Guatemala</p>	<p>Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025 (Resolution <a href="#">CD57.R2</a> [2019]) (<i>Official Document</i> <a href="#">359</a> [2019])</p>

Resolutions of the OAS General Assembly	Linkage to PAHO mandates
AG/RES. 2950 (L-O/20) Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach	Health, Human Security and Well-being (Resolution <a href="#">CD50.R16</a> [2010]) (Document <a href="#">CD50/17</a> [2010])  Plan of Action for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health 2018-2030 (Resolution <a href="#">CD56.R8</a> [2018]) (Document <a href="#">CD56/8, Rev.1</a> [2018])
AG/RES. 2957 (L-O/20) Program-Budget of the Organization for 2021	The Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 (Resolution <a href="#">CSP29.R2</a> [2017]) (Document <a href="#">CSP29/6, Rev. 3</a> [2017])  Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025 (Resolution <a href="#">CD57.R2</a> [2019]) ( <i>Official Document</i> <a href="#">359</a> [2019])
AG/RES. 2949 (L-O/20) Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas	Framework of Engagement with non-State Actors (Resolution <a href="#">CD55.R3</a> [2016]) (Document <a href="#">CD55/8, Rev. 1</a> [2016])
AG/RES. 2954 (L-O/20) Towards an Inter-American Business Charter	Establishment of SDG Alliance  Framework of Engagement with non-State Actors (Resolution <a href="#">CD55.R3</a> [2016]) (Document <a href="#">CD55/8, Rev. 1</a> [2016])

Resolutions of the OAS General Assembly	Linkage to PAHO mandates
AG/RES. 2955 (L-O/20) Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting resilience	The Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 (Resolution <a href="#">CSP29.R2</a> [2017]) (Document <a href="#">CSP29/6, Rev. 3</a> [2017])  Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020-2025 (Resolution <a href="#">CD57.R2</a> [2019]) ( <i>Official Document</i> <a href="#">359</a> [2019])  Health of Migrants (Resolution <a href="#">CD55.R13</a> [2016]) (Document <a href="#">CD55/11, Rev.1</a> [2016])

### Action by the Directing Council

10. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report.

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