

---

## SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 27 May – 1 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The President of the World Health Assembly was Botswana, represented by Dr. Edwin Dikoloti.
2. Five countries served as Vice Presidents of the World Health Assembly in representation of their respective regions, with Guyana representing the Region of the Americas. Brazil served as Vice-chair of Committee A and Honduras served as Rapporteur of Committee B. The Region was also represented at the General Committee by the Bahamas, Bolivia, Cuba, Guyana, and the United States of America, as well as in the Committee of Credentials by Haiti and Uruguay.
3. In his High-Level Welcome to the World Health Assembly,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, spoke to the importance of global forums such as the World Health Assembly, noting the work that had been done to develop an agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and to strengthen the International Health Regulations (IHR). Dr. Tedros underscored the need to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address major challenges to global health such as climate change, displacement, and the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases, among others. He further explained that to achieve its goals, WHO must be empowered and equipped, citing the launch of the WHO Investment Round as a major step toward mobilizing resources for WHO's work. In closing, the Director-General expressed his hope that consensus could be reached on the important resolutions and decisions that had been put forward for consideration.
4. During the World Health Assembly, Member States of the Region of the Americas actively participated in the discussions. WHO's work in health emergencies was a common theme in the statements given by Member States, particularly the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) and the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR. There were a variety of notable awards and recognitions for countries and people of the Americas during the Assembly. The Director-General's Award for Global Health was presented to H.E. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, for her leadership in climate action and health and her work as the Chair of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance as well as to Professor Katalin Karikó and Professor Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania for their outstanding contributions to the development of mRNA vaccines for COVID-19.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Director-General's High-Level Welcome at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly is available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/speeches/item/who-director-general-s-high-level-welcome-at-the-seventy-seventh-world-health-assembly-27-may-2024>.

5. The agenda of the Assembly included general items related to technical and health issues, as well as administrative, budgetary, and institutional items.<sup>2</sup> As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B, and in plenary sessions.

6. The 77th World Health Assembly adopted 20 decisions and 17 resolutions. These included the Fourteenth general programme of work for 2025–2028, a landmark resolution on climate change and health, and a package of amendments to the IHR, among others. A list of selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the 77th World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region of the Americas, the related documents and resolutions of the Pan American Health Organization, and some of the implications for the Region can be found in the Annex.

### **Other Matters: Executive Board**

7. The 155th Session of the Executive Board was held on 3 and 4 June 2024. The Chair of the Executive Board was Barbados. Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, and the United States of America currently occupy the other five seats of the Board that represent the Region of the Americas.

8. The agenda of the 155th Session of the Executive Board included the Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (SCHEPPR), matters of management, governance, and finance, as well as staffing, among others.<sup>3</sup> Member States from the Region acknowledged the importance of the SCHEPPR, particularly given the recently approved amendments to the IHR and the ongoing work of the INB.

9. Regarding dates for future sessions of the Executive Board, the World Health Assembly and other bodies, the Board agreed on the following timetable:

- a) The Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response to hold its fifth meeting on 3 and 4 September 2024.
- b) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its forty-first meeting from 29–31 January 2025.
- c) The Executive Board to hold its 156th Session from 3–11 February 2025.
- d) The Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response to hold its sixth meeting on 16 and 17 April 2025.
- e) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its forty-second meeting from 14–16 May 2025.
- f) The Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly to be held from 19–27 May 2025.

---

<sup>2</sup> The agenda of the 77th World Health Assembly, as well as other related documents discussed, are available at: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha77.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha77.html).

<sup>3</sup> The agenda of the 155th Session of the WHO Executive Board, as well as other related documents discussed, are available at: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_eb155.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb155.html).

**Action by the Directing Council**

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

Annex

## Annex

**Table 1: Selected Resolutions Adopted by the 77th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas**

Resolution	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA77.1</a> Fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028	Draft fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028 Document <a href="#">A77/16</a>	<a href="#">CD60/INF/12</a> (2023) Fourteenth General Programme of work of the World Health Organization, 2025–2028	<p>In addition to serving as the strategy that will guide the Investment Rounds to begin in late 2024, the Fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028 (GPW 14) will constitute an important input for the results framework that will be developed for the PAHO Strategic Plan 2026–2031. The strategic vision articulated in the GPW 14 is consistent with strategic considerations in the PAHO Program Budget 2024–2025 and PAHO Director’s five strategic pillars.</p> <p>The difference between the PAHO and WHO strategic planning cycles should be observed (2026–2031 and 2025–2028, respectively). GPW 14 overlaps for one year (2025) with the current PAHO Strategic Plan and spans three PAHO program budget periods (2025, all of 2026–2027, and 2028). Experience with the implementation of GPW 13 during 2019–2023 (extended to 2025) has shown the importance of having clear alignment between the results frameworks of the two organizations to facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.</p> <p>The GPW 14 contains an initial list of 86 outcome indicators compared to 46 in the GPW 13. The absence of indicator baselines or targets will pose difficulties for monitoring and reporting. Member States will continue to be consulted on the finalization of the indicators, baselines, and targets as part of the WHO Programme budget 2026–2027 development.</p> <p>The development of PAHO’s new Strategic Plan 2026–2031 was initiated at the 174th Session of the Executive Committee in June 2024, with the presentation of the proposed process to develop the Strategic Plan, including its roadmap. This new Strategic Plan will respond to the global health priorities set out in the GPW 14.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p><a href="#">WHA77.2</a> Social participation for universal health coverage, health and well-being</p>	<p>Universal health coverage Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CD60/6</a> and <a href="#">CD60.R4</a> (2023) Policy on the Health Workforce 2030: Strengthening Human Resources for Health to Achieve Resilient Health Systems</p> <p><a href="#">CD53/5,Rev. 2</a> and <a href="#">CD53.R14</a> (2014) Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage</p>	<p>Within the Region of the Americas, there is a need to expand equitable access to comprehensive, quality health services centered around people and communities, emphasizing the strengthening of primary health care. Efforts should focus on improving health service quality, reducing barriers to healthcare, addressing social and economic determinants of health, strengthening health system governance and resilience, and enhancing regional cooperation.</p> <p>PAHO's work on universal health coverage is extensive, advocating for equitable access to quality health services without any barriers, addressing health disparities through programs targeting gender, ethnicity, and social determinants of health, and strengthening health systems based on primary health care. PAHO's technical cooperation is improving governance, financing, and intersectoral collaboration.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHA77.3</a> Strengthening mental health and psychosocial support before, during and after armed conflicts, natural and human-caused disasters and health and other emergencies</p>	<p>Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CD60/7</a> and <a href="#">CD60.R5</a> (2023) Policy on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adult</p> <p><a href="#">CD60/9</a> and <a href="#">CD60.R12</a> (2023) Strategy for Improving Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Region of the Americas</p> <p><a href="#">CSP30/9</a> and <a href="#">CSP30.R3</a> (2022) Policy for Improving Mental Health</p>	<p>Resolution WHA77.3 calls for integrated, quality mental health services which are accessible and affordable to all and urges Member States to implement the WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030, incorporating mental health and psychosocial support into emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The resolution also underscores the need for long-term investments in community-based services and cross-sectoral coordination to improve access to care.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p><a href="#">WHA77.5</a> Accelerating progress towards reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.1 and 3.2</p>	<p>Acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health and child mortality Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CSP30/8</a> and <a href="#">CSP30.R2</a> (2022) Policy for Recovering Progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals with Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health and Intersectoral Work</p> <p><a href="#">CSP30/INF/12(B)</a> (2022) Plan of Action for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health 2018–2030: Progress Report</p> <p><a href="#">CD56/8, Rev. 1</a> and <a href="#">CD56.R8</a> (2018) Plan of Action for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health 2018–2030</p>	<p>Implementing the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030) has proven difficult. Although the regional Plan of Action for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health 2018–2030 was approved by PAHO Member States in 2018 to comply with the SDGs, progress in maternal health continues to be insufficient. Positive changes are starting to be seen in the reduction of the regional maternal mortality rate—repositioning maternal deaths at pre-pandemic levels—however, the average rate of reduction in the maternal mortality ratio is far from the levels needed to meet the regional target of 30 or fewer maternal deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030.</p> <p>PAHO is developing a package of interventions to prioritize maternal mortality reduction, including: <i>a</i>) convening Member States and relevant partners in a “call for action” to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality and to reposition the issue of maternal health in countries’ health agendas; <i>b</i>) developing and disseminating a new strategy for accelerating maternal mortality reduction in the Region of the Americas based on Primary Health Care; <i>c</i>) creating an internal Task Force with representatives from the prioritized country offices and all areas of the Organization to provide technical support; <i>d</i>) convening an external Scientific Advisory Group to support PAHO in the development of actions to reduce maternal mortality; and <i>e</i>) making available to Member States a platform for accessing good practices that contribute to reducing maternal mortality.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHA77.6</a> Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses</p>	<p>Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses Document <a href="#">A77/5</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CE174/13</a> and <a href="#">CE174.R2</a> (2024) Strategy and Plan of Action to Decrease the Burden of Sepsis through an Integrated Approach 2025–2029</p>	<p>Resolution WHA77.6 aims to accelerate national and global responses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), ahead of the second UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR, which will take place in September 2024. The resolution welcomes the four WHO strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in the human health sector (2025–2035) and urges Member States to apply these in their national action plans.</p>

Resolution	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
		<p><a href="#">CD57/12</a> and <a href="#">CD57.R13</a> (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020–2025</p>	<p>PAHO recognizes the need to accelerate the implementation of national action plans on AMR in the Region, particularly in the human health sector. As of December 2023, 25 countries in the Region of the Americas reported having developed multisectoral national action plans on antimicrobial resistance (n=30). The Pan American Sanitary Bureau will support Member States to incorporate these operational priorities into their national action plans, as well as interventions that adapt a people-centered approach and are aligned with strategies for primary care, universal health coverage, and health emergency preparedness and responses.</p> <p>A strategy and plan of action to decrease the burden of sepsis through an integrated approach for the period 2025–2029 will be presented to the 61st Directing Council in 2024 for the consideration of PAHO Member States.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHA77.14</a> Climate change and health</p>	<p>Climate change, pollution and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></li> <li>• Climate change and health Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">CE174/14</a> and <a href="#">CE174.R15</a> (2024) Policy for Strengthening Equity-Oriented Health Sector Action on Climate Change and Health</p>	<p>This resolution recognizes the threat that climate change poses to human health and underscores the urgent need for measures to confront the health risks posed by climate change.</p> <p>The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has been working with countries at regional, subregional and national levels to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. Globally, 13 countries from the Region of the Americas have committed to WHO’s Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health,<sup>4</sup> and outreach continues to increase this number.</p> <p>A policy for strengthening equity-oriented health sector action on climate change and health will be presented to the 61st Directing Council in 2024 for the consideration of PAHO Member States. This regional policy is centered around five lines of action related to adaptation, mitigation, social and community participation, surveillance and information, and financing.</p>

<sup>4</sup> More information available at: <https://www.atachcommunity.com/about-atach/>.

Resolution	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA77.17</a> Strengthening preparedness for and response to public health emergencies through targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)	Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) Document <a href="#">A77/9</a>	<a href="#">CE174/INF/3</a> (2024) Implementation of the International Health Regulations	Resolution WHA77.17 contains a package of amendments to the International Health Regulations to strengthen global preparedness, surveillance and response to public health emergencies, including pandemics. These amendments include <i>a)</i> the introduction of a definition of a “pandemic emergency” to trigger more effective international collaboration in response to events that are at risk of becoming, or have become, a pandemic; <i>b)</i> a commitment to solidarity and equity on strengthening access to medical products and financing; <i>c)</i> the establishment of the States Parties Committee to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Regulations; and <i>d)</i> the creation of National IHR Authorities to improve coordination of implementation of the Regulations within and among countries.



**Table 2: Selected Decisions Adopted by the 77th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas**

Decision	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p><a href="#">WHA77(8)</a> Development of a global strategy and action plan for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035</p>	<p>Universal health coverage Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CE174/19</a> and <a href="#">CE174.R6</a> (2024) Strategy on Integrated Emergency, Critical and Operative Care 2025–2030</p> <p><a href="#">CD59/11</a> and <a href="#">CD59.R12</a> (2021) Strategy for Building Resilient Health Systems and Post COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery to Sustain and Protect Public Health Gains</p>	<p>Decision WHA77(8) requests the Director-General to develop a global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care to support the implementation of resolution WHA76.2 for the period 2026–2035, for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, and to translate the global strategy into an action plan with targets to be achieved by 2035.</p> <p>A strategy on integrated emergency, critical and operative care for the period 2025–2030 will be presented to the 61st Directing Council in 2024 for the consideration of PAHO Member States.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHA77(9)</a> Global action plan and monitoring framework on infection prevention and control</p>	<p>Draft global action plan for infection prevention and control Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CE174/13</a> and <a href="#">CE174.R2</a> (2024) Strategy and Plan of Action to Decrease the Burden of Sepsis through an Integrated Approach 2025–2029</p> <p><a href="#">CD60/INF/10(C)</a> (2023) Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020–2025: Midterm Review</p> <p><a href="#">CD57/12</a> and <a href="#">CD57.R13</a> (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020–2025</p>	<p>According to the annual Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-assessment Survey (2023), in the Region, 13% (4) of respondent countries (n=30) reported having no national infection prevention and control (IPC) program. Conversely, 37% (11) of countries had IPC programs correctly implemented and monitored in health care facilities nationwide. Despite progress, there is a need to scale up IPC programs and activities to substantially reduce the ongoing risk of health care-associated infections (including those that exhibit antimicrobial resistance) and limit infectious disease outbreaks by 2030.</p> <p>A strategy and plan of action to decrease the burden of sepsis through an integrated approach for the period 2025–2029 will be presented to the 61st Directing Council in 2024 for the consideration of PAHO Member States.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA77(20)</a> Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response	Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response Document <a href="#">A77/10</a>		Through Decision WHA77(20), Member States agreed to extend the mandate of the INB to finish its work negotiating the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement as soon as possible. The INB is requested to submit the outcome of these negotiations for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025 or earlier, if possible, at a special session of the World Health Assembly to be held in 2024.