



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



49th DIRECTING COUNCIL

61st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2009

Provisional Agenda Item 8.3.1

CD49/INF/3-A (Eng.)
13 July 2009
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE 62nd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The 62nd World Health Assembly opened in Geneva on 18 May 2009 with officials from the 193 member countries in attendances. The Director-General noted that the world was dealing with numerous crises, including the current financial crisis and the contraction of the global economy. She added that the world was facing the prospect of the first influenza pandemic of this century, stressing that concerns raised by a pandemic must not overshadow or disrupt other vital health programs and that an effective public health response to the threats depended on effective health systems that were inclusive, offering universal coverage right down to the community level.
2. The World Health Assembly listened to addresses from of two guest speakers: United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Mrs. Sarah Brown, Patron of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood. The Secretary-General said that he had made global health one of his highest priorities. He urged delegates to make solidarity the heart of the world's response to the influenza A (H1N1) outbreak, adding that all people should have access to drugs and vaccines and noting the need to share virus samples and the respective data. Mrs. Brown stressed that reducing infant mortality was vitally important to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and pointed out that little progress had been made toward attainment of Millennium Development Goal 5 (Improve maternal health).
3. During the first plenary session, the World Health Assembly elected Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva (Sri Lanka) President of the 62nd World Health Assembly by acclamation. Mr. Oscar Ugarte, Minister of Health of Peru, was elected 1st Vice-President. Other items:

- (a) The Committee on Credentials was formed, consisting of delegates from 12 Member States, among them Belize and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from the Region of the Americas. In addition, pursuant to Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Nominations was formed, which proceeded to choose the President, Vice-Presidents, chairmen of the main committees, and members of the General Committee of the Assembly.
 - (b) The Agenda of the 62nd World Health Assembly contained 18 items, the majority of which were related to health policy and the rest to administrative, budgetary, and institutional matters. As in previous Assemblies, these matters were addressed in the committees and the plenary. The World Health Assembly adopted 16 resolutions and one decision. The full version of these resolutions, as well as other documents from the World Health Assembly, can be accessed at the WHO website:
http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha62.html.
 - (c) The majority of these resolutions are especially relevant to the Member States of the Region of the Americas and the Regional Office; of particular importance are those related to the preparations for pandemic influenza: the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits; implementation of the International Health Regulations; primary health care; the social determinants of health; and the monitoring of progress toward attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
4. The respective resolutions are summarized in the tables annexed.

Other Matters: Executive Board

5. The 125th Session of the Executive Board opened on 28 May, with the following representatives from the Americas in attendance: Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.
6. The Agenda of the 125th Session of the Executive Board contained four items on technical matters, including the global elimination of measles, the safety and quality of blood products, and birth defects; management, and financial matters; staffing matters, and other matters for information. The Board took note of the reports submitted and approved the date and location of the 63rd World Health Assembly, among other matters. The full version of these reports and other related documents can be accessed at the WHO website: http://apps.who.int/gb/s/s_eb125.html.

Action by the Directing Council

7. The Directing Council is requested to take note of these resolutions and consider their implications for the Region of the Americas.

Annexes

Technical and Health Policy¹ Matters

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.1	Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment EB124/7 EB124/7 Corr.1	<p>Through this resolution the Assembly adopts the action plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment and urges Member States to implement the action plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in accordance with national priorities for health plans, policies, and programs.</p> <p>It also requests the Director-General to provide support to Member States in implementing the actions proposed in the action plan and to continue to give priority to this issue within the framework of the Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and the program budgets in order to strengthen the capacity of the Member States and increase the technical capacity of the Secretariat.</p>	Towards the Elimination of Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) in the Americas CD48.R12
WHA62.10	Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits EB124/4 EB124/4 Add.1	Through this resolution the Assembly requests the Director-General to work with Member States to take forward the agreed parts of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for sharing influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits and to facilitate a transparent process to finalize the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and its Annex and report the outcome to the Executive Board at its 126th session in January 2010.	Avian Influenza and Influenza Pandemic Preparedness CD48/INF/3

¹ The following information is available on the respective websites:

- Agenda of the 62nd World Health Assembly: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A62/A62_1Rev1-en.pdf).
- Resolutions of the World Health Assembly: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha62.html#Resolutions).
- Agenda of the 125th Session of the WHO Executive Board: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB125/B125_1-en.pdf).

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.11	Medium-term strategic plan 2008-2013, including Proposed programme budget 2010-2011 EB124/19 EB124/20	The Assembly, having considered the report on the Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008-2013, including the Proposed program budget 2010-2011; and having examined the draft amended Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008-2013, endorses the amended Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008-2013, including its revised indicators and goals.	Methodology for the Formulation of the Strategic Plan for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, 2008-2012 CD47.R11 Strategic Plan of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau 2008-2012 CSP27.R4
WHA62.12	Primary health care, including health system strengthening	<p>Through this resolution the Assembly urges Member States to ensure political commitment at all levels to the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma-Ata; accelerate action towards universal access to primary health care; put people at the center of health care by adopting comprehensive health services; promote active participation by all people and re-emphasize the empowering of communities, especially women; and strengthen health ministries.</p> <p>It furthermore requests the Director-General to ensure that WHO reflects the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma-Ata in its work; to strengthen the Secretariat's capacities, including capacities of regional and country offices to support efforts by the Member States; to prepare implementation plans for the four broad policy directions: 1) dealing with inequalities by moving towards universal coverage; 2) putting people at the center of service delivery; 3) multisectoral action and health in all policies; 4) inclusive leadership and effective governors for health.</p>	Panel on Primary Health Care: Addressing Health Determinants and Strengthening Health Systems CD48/14, Rev. 1 CD48/14, Add. I CD48/14, Add. I, Corrig. CD48/14, Add. II CD48/14, Add. II, Corrig.

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.13	Traditional Medicine EB124.R9	<p>Through this resolution the Assembly urges Member States to consider adopting and implementing the Beijing Declaration on Traditional Medicine, in accordance with national capacities, and to widely communicate the knowledge of traditional medicine, treatments, and practices; formulate national policies, regulations, and standards as part of a comprehensive national health systems, and promote appropriate, safe, and effective use of traditional medicine.</p> <p>It furthermore requests the Director-General to support implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Traditional Medicine; update the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2002-2005; give due consideration to the specific action related to traditional medicine in the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property and the WHO Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases; provide policy guidance to countries on how to integrate traditional medicine into health systems, especially to promote, where appropriate, the use of traditional indigenous medicine for primary health care, including disease prevention and health promotion.</p>	Health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas CD47.R18
WHA62.14	Reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health EB124/9 EB124.R6	Through this resolution the Assembly urges Member States to tackle the health inequities within and across countries through political commitment on the main principles of “closing the gap in a generation” as a national concern; coordinate and manage intersectoral action for health in order to mainstream health in all policies, where appropriate, by using health and health equity impact assessment tools to develop and implement goals and strategies to improve public health with a focus on health inequities; to take into account health equity in all national policies; to enhance intersectoral action; to contribute to the empowerment of individuals and groups, especially those who are	Health Promotion in the Americas CD43.R11 Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation in Sustainable Human Development CD43.R15 Millennium Development Goals and Health Targets CD45.R3 Health Promotion: Achievements and Aspirations contained in the Ottawa Charter and Bangkok Charters CD47.R20

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
		<p>marginalized and to take steps to improve the societal conditions that affect their health; to generate new or make use of existing scientific methods and evidence tailored to national contexts in order to address the social determinants and social gradients of health and health inequities; to develop health information systems and research capacity in order to monitor and measure the health of national populations, and to use and, if necessary, to improve existing information systems in order to measure impact.</p> <p>It also requests the Director-General to work closely with partner agencies in the multilateral system on appropriate measures that address the social determinants of health and promote policy coherence in order to minimize health inequities and to advocate for this topic to be high on global development and research agendas; to strengthen capacity within the Organization with the purpose of giving sufficient priority to relevant tasks related addressing the social determinants of health in order to reduce health inequities; and to convene a global event, with the assistance of the Member States, before the 65th World Health Assembly in order to discuss renewed plans for addressing the alarming trends of health inequities through addressing social determinants of health; to assess the performance of existing global governance mechanisms to address the social determinants of health and reduce health inequities.</p>	

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.15	Prevention and control of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis	<p>Through this resolution, the Assembly encourages Member States to work to ensure that they have sufficient resources to meet the internationally agreed upon goal for tuberculosis found in the United Nations. Millennium Declaration by 2015; achieve universal access to diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis; strengthen health information systems and surveillance systems; aim to remove financial barriers to allow all tuberculosis patients equitable access to the tuberculosis care; make available sufficiently trained and motivated staff; strengthen laboratory systems; ensure an uninterrupted supply of first- and second-line tuberculosis drugs and prioritize quality-assured, fixed-dose combination medicines; strengthen mechanisms to ensure that tuberculosis medicines only are sold by prescription only and that they are prescribed and dispensed by accredited public and private providers; undertake effective advocacy, communication, and social mobilization; establish national targets in order to accelerate access to treatment according to WHO guidelines for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis patients; enhance the quality and coverage of DOTS to achieve a 70% detection rate and 85% success rate in tuberculosis treatment; use all possible financing mechanisms in order to fulfill the commitments made; increase investment by countries and all partners substantially in operational research and in research and development for new diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines.</p> <p>It requests the Director-General to provide technical support to Member States in order to develop and implement response plans, based on a comprehensive framework for management of care, for the prevention and control of tuberculosis; develop and implement strategies to engage all relevant health care providers in tuberculosis prevention and control measures; bring the standards of national drug regulatory agencies in line with international standards; strengthen the Green Light Committee mechanism to help expand access to drugs to encourage and assist local pharmaceuticals in high-burden countries to get qualification within that mechanism; promote incentive schemes for research and development; work with countries to develop country indicators and support monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the measures outlined in this resolution.</p>	Regional Strategy for Tuberculosis Control for 2005-2015 CD46.R12

Resolution	ITEMS (AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS)	SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	PAHO RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.16	Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property EB124/19 EB124/20	<p>Through this resolution the Assembly adopts the final plan of action in respect of specific actions, stakeholders, and time frames; notes the estimated funding needs related to the plan of action as outlined in document A62/16 Add.1; and accepts the proposed progress indicators outlined in document A62/16, taking note of the need to periodically review and refine.</p> <p>It requests the Director-General to significantly increase support towards greater efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation, and intellectual property and to conduct an overall program review of global strategy and plan of action in 2014 in order to determine its achievements and remaining challenges and recommendations on the way forward to the Assembly in 2015 through the Executive Board.</p>	Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property: A Regional Perspective CD48/18

Administrative and Budgetary² Items

Resolution	ITEMS (AND DOCUMENTS OF REFERENCE)	SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	RESOLUTIONS PAHO AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.3	Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2008 EB124/3	Through this resolution the Assembly, having examined the unaudited interim financial report for 2008; and having noted the third report of the Program, Budget, and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the 62nd World Health Assembly, accepts the Director-General's unaudited interim financial report for the year 2008.	
WHA62.4	Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	The Assembly, aware that Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Zambia were in arrears at the time of the opening of the 62nd World Health Assembly to such an extent that it was necessary for the Health Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the voting privileges of those countries should be suspended at the opening of the 63rd World Health Assembly, decides that if by the time of the opening of the 63rd World Health Assembly, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Zambia are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, their voting privileges shall be suspended as of said opening; that any suspension that takes effect as aforesaid shall continue at subsequent Health Assemblies until the arrears of Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Zambia have been reduced to a level below the amount that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution; that that decision shall be without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 from the Constitution.	

² The following information is available on the respective websites:

- Agenda of the 62nd World Health Assembly: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A62/A62_1Rev1-en.pdf).
- Resolutions of the World Health Assembly: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha62.html#Resolutions).
- Agenda of the 125th Session of the WHO Executive Board: (available at: http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB125/B125_1-en.pdf).

Resolution	ITEMS (AND DOCUMENTS OF REFERENCE)	SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 62nd ASSEMBLY	RESOLUTIONS PAHO AND DOCUMENTS
WHA62.5	Scale of assessments 2010-2011 EB124/21	Through this resolution the Assembly, considering that the latest United Nations scale continues to be the same as that for the financial period 2008-2009, adopts the scale of assessments for Members for the biennium 2010-2011.	
WHA62.6	Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules EB124/22 EB124.R10	<p>Through this resolution, the Assembly, having considered the report on amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, adopts the changes to the Financial Regulations, to be effective from 1 January 2010, and notes that the changes to the Financial Rules as confirmed by the Executive Board at its 124th session shall be effective at the same time as the amendments to the Financial Regulations adopted in paragraph 1.</p> <p>It also authorizes the Director-General to number the revised Financial Regulations and Financial Rules appropriately.</p>	
WHA62.7	Amendments to Staff Regulations EB124/34 EB124/34 Add.1 EB124.R15	The Assembly, noting the recommendations of the Executive Board with regard to the reassignment of staff, including those [cases] not involving promotion, adopts the proposed amendment to paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the Staff Regulations and decides that both amendments shall take effect on 1 June 2009.	
WHA62.8	Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General EB124/34 EB124/34 Add.1 EB124.R16	The Assembly, noting the recommendations of the Executive Board with regard to remuneration of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General, establishes the salaries of Assistant Directors-General and Regional Directors at US\$ 177,032 per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified net salary of US\$ 128,071 (dependency rate) or US\$ 115,973 (single rate); it establishes the salary of the Deputy Director-General at US\$ 194,820 per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified net salary of US\$ 139,633 (dependency rate) or US\$ 125,663 (single rate); it establishes the salary of the Director-General at US\$ 239,632 gross per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified net salary of US\$ 168,761 (dependency rate) or of US\$ 150,079 (single rate) and decides that these adjustments in remuneration shall take effect on 1 January 2009.	