



Dissemination of Information PAHO activities November 2010

Dear [ECONMED](#) participants:

On this occasion we are glad to share **the opening of the consultation/ demand of feed back (until November 30th)** for the projected [regional strategy for generic medicines](#) elaborated by PAHO's [Medicines and Health Technology Unit](#) (HSS/MT) with the goal of enriching the document "[Guide for the implementation of strategies of generic medicines in Latin American and Caribbean countries as a mechanism to improve Access to Medicines](#)" (attached and hyperlinked – ONLY IN SPANISH UNFORTUNATELY) elaborated as part of the fulfillment of [Resolution CD45/R7 "Access to Medicines"](#) approved by PAHO' s Directive Council in October 2004 Which requested PAHO to support Member States in the design and implementation of interventions along strategic lines seeking to improve conditions of access to medicines in the Region, highlighting four axes for action:

- a) **Coherent generic drugs policies;**
- b) **Strategies of cost containment with emphasis on price regulation of prices and intellectual property rights management;**
- c) **Strengthening of supply systems of essential public health products.**
- d) **Consolidation of regional mechanisms for the joint procurement of medicines.**

The document object of this consultation is the result of a dynamic process of discussion and exchange, led by a working group made up of [PAHO](#) pharmaceutical experts and the support and collaboration of individuals with proven knowledge on pharmaceutical policies from academia and public health institutions within the region.

This proposal is based upon the assumption that generic medicines contribute to improve conditions of access by the population to essential medicines, defining a generic medicines strategy as the *set of actions that generate an adequate framework of quality and competition in the market of generic medicines*. However, it is acknowledged that a combination with other interventions will be necessary in order to improve/guarantee greater access such as other measures of cost containment, a rational selection of medicines, an intellectual property rights management with a public health perspective and the consolidation of trustworthy health and supply systems.

[ECONMED](#) can be a suitable mechanism in order to propose and share eventual remarks/ suggestions/ possible amendments. We shall ask that all contributions/observation/additions shared to the list to be also sent to medicines@paho.org

