



43th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

Punta del Este, Uruguay, April 7 – 8, 2016

43th COSALFA RESOLUTIONS

Punta del Este, Uruguay

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RESOLUTION I

Antigen/Vaccine Regional Bank for Foot-and-Mouth Disease

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO has submitted a draft version of the Bank Project to COSALFA 41, approved by Resolution I and given the mandate to elaborate the project;
- The PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO report to COSALFA 42 denotes significant progress in the development of the Project;
- PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO has submitted two documents with proposals on biosecurity requirements and their evaluation mechanism to COSALFA 42 for revision and comments;
- Resolution I of COSALFA 42 reiterates the decision to assign to PANAFTOSA the management and administration of BANVACO and requested PANAFTOSA to submit the final version of the project;
- PAHO has submitted legal and administrative considerations that should be included in the project.

Resolves:

1. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO updates the project, including PAHO legal and administrative considerations, and submits the project within the next 30 days along with the model of the Articles of Agreement proposed by PAHO.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO reviews the documents with proposals on biosecurity requirements for laboratories working with foot-and-mouth disease viruses and the evaluation mechanism, and submits them together with the proposed Articles of Agreement of BANVACO.
3. That delegates review the documents and, no later than 45 days after receiving them, submit the comments and modifications necessary for future approval within the framework of COHEFA 13 to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.
4. That during the review process, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO maintains permanent consultations, virtual meetings, videoconferences, etc., with the countries for better elaboration of the document content.

(Approved in the plenary session
of April 8, 2016)



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RESOLUTION II

Manipulation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus Strains Exogenous to the Region

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- RESOLUTION IX of the COSALFA 28 Meeting, ratified the inconvenience of introducing/maintaining/manipulating foot-and-mouth disease virus strains exotic to the region as a measure to mitigate risks;
- RESOLUTION 4 of the COHEFA 12, requests COSALFA to analyze the biological security requirements and conditions necessary to review the restrictions applied to the manipulation of foot-and-mouth disease virus strains exogenous to the region;
- The decision of the region to create a strategic reserve of antigens and vaccines of foot-and-mouth disease BANVACO;
- That the documents elaborated by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and an expert group for BANVACO on Minimal Requirements of Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management and the Evaluation Mechanism of Biosecurity Conditions, establish biological security requirements and conditions for the manipulation of the foot-and-mouth disease virus in the region;
- That the risk of accidental or deliberate release of infectious agents from a laboratory is inherent to the biological risk management a laboratory carries out for a specific biological hazard and is independent of the serotype or strain of foot-and-mouth disease being manipulated.

Resolves:

1. That the scope of the documents elaborated for biosecurity management of BANVACO is extended to any activity associated to the foot-and-mouth disease virus in the region.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO convenes a meeting with specialists and representatives of the public and private sectors of the countries of the region within 90 days in order to address regulatory and operative aspects for the application of the biological security requirements and conditions necessary to review the restrictions applied to the manipulation of foot-and-mouth disease virus strains exogenous to the region.
3. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO will define the terms of reference of the meeting.

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RESOLUTION III
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus serotype “C”

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Considering:

- At global level, serotype C has occurred in four geographical areas and new occurrences have not been reported since 2004;
- Barring 4 South American countries, systemic application of serotype C vaccines has been discontinued;
- The last occurrence of serotype C foot-and-mouth disease in the Americas was in the year 2004;
- The historical pattern of occurrence, spread and distribution of serotype C in the region shows clear differences with that observed for serotypes A and O;
- The countries conduct systematic, both passive and active, surveillance actions that show a prolonged absence of viral activity, without recurrence, in the region recognized as FMD free.

Resolves:

1. That the countries using serotype C vaccination provide the information about the epidemiological surveillance activities for FMD to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO prepares a risk analysis at regional level, with the collaboration of experts of the region, to review the need to maintain systemic vaccination programs with serotype C, assessing the accumulated evidence and estimating the risk of serotype C persistence in the region, suggesting risk management measures and other relevant strategies.
3. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO submits a technical report on whether it is relevant or not to continue immunizing with serotype C vaccines.

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RESOLUTION IV

Technical Cooperation with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- The presentation of the Venezuelan Delegation on the current situation of the FMD Prevention, Control and Eradication Program;
- COSALFA 43 has learned about the correction in Venezuelan occurrence records for the year 2013, and the difficulties of the program regarding surveillance actions, as well as to comply with coverage and timeliness of vaccination cycles, which might entail a potential sub-regional risk;
- The Technical Cooperation Plan agreed between INSAI and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, that started its activities in the year 2015, as well as the Sub-regional Project for the Eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean Region with FAO cooperation;
- The offer of the Government of Ecuador to transfer to INSAI, free of charge, the computer system that supports the management of healthcare data and the related training, in order to reinforce the current epidemiological surveillance system.

Resolves:

1. To recognize Venezuela's willingness to receive technical cooperation and collaboration from the countries and to align the management of the National Program for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease to the PHEFA, and to urge the country to continue with the work agreed with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.
2. To request the countries to take the necessary steps, within a framework of regional solidarity, to facilitate vaccines to Venezuela, as soon as possible, to overcome the situation of shortage of the current immunization campaign.
3. That Venezuela evaluates and gives priority to its immunization strategy with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO support.
4. To reiterate to INSAI to take the necessary steps to effectively integrate the private sector of Venezuela to the work performed by COSALFA and to create collaboration bonds with delegates of the private sector.
5. That Venezuela considers the gentle offer of the Government of Ecuador about the relevance of transferring its computer system in order to reinforce the current epidemiological surveillance system.

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RESOLUTION V
Implementation of the Technical Working Guide

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- The Extraordinary V COSALFA held in Cuiabá, Brazil, approved the Technical Guide with technical, epidemiological and methodological guidelines to address the last phase of PHEFA and requested PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to promote its implementation in the countries;
- That the PRE-COSALFA 43 Seminar was entirely aimed at addressing the guidelines and methodologies recommended by the Technical Guide and to define strategies for their implementation;
- It was agreed in the Seminar to consider the Technical Guide as a tool that allows to objectively observe the process of status transition, and it highlighted the need to extensively disseminate the epidemiological guidelines and methodologies to develop a critical mass in professional cadres, not only at central but also at local level;
- COSALFA 43 endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the International Seminar regarding the approval and the suitability of implementing the Technical Guide.

Resolves:

1. To recommend the countries to start implementing the Guide and apply the epidemiological and methodological guidelines, with the support of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and the Expert Group.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO take the steps to expand the training of technical cadres to apply the methodologies recommended in the Guide.
3. That the countries use the recommendations of the Guide in the sub-regional approach of the last phase of the PHEFA with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO support.

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RESOLUTION VI
PHEFA 2016 – 2017 Biennial Plan

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- During the Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA 43, the 2016 – 2017 Biennial Plan was submitted to the Delegates for information, evaluation and comments (Annex document);
- The countries agreed on the proposed actions of PANAFTOSA Technical Cooperation within the Framework of PHEFA, and that they are essential for the development of PHEFA and the achievement of its goals;
- The member countries agreed on the integral funding of the approved actions of the 2016 – 2017 Biennial Plan.

Resolves:

1. To unanimously approve the 2016 – 2017 Biennial Plan of PANAFTOSA Technical Cooperation.
2. That public and private sectors represented in the COSALFA commit to manage and supply the necessary resources foreseen in the Biennial Plan, in order to comply with the technical cooperation and follow-up actions of the PHEFA.
3. That PANAFTOSA should provide orientation to the countries on the specific mechanisms (Trust Fund, Agreements, Covenants, and Technical Cooperation Terms) that will enable PAHO/WHO to receive resources from member countries to comply with the technical cooperation actions within the framework of PHEFA.

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RESOLUTION VII
Demand and Production of biologicals

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- The increase in the regional production demand of I-ELISA3ABC/EITB complete kits and the need to guarantee the supply on this phase of PHEFA;
- The progressive change in the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease in the region, which should be accompanied by the development of new diagnostic tools and strategies;
- The demand of countries for new developments related to the production of complete and quality kits for ELISA SI, ELISA CFL and ELISA 3ABC/EITB.

Resolves:

1. That PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO continues meeting the demand of diagnostic kits, both for vaccine quality control and for conducting eradication, surveillance and prevention plans.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO continues developing cutting-edge diagnostic methodologies for vesicular and confusing diseases, applied to different species, for laboratorial use.

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RESOLUTION VIII
Recognition to Dr. Francisco Muzio

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- Dr. Francisco Muzio's professional career and dedication in the participatory development of initiatives and projects for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease at national, regional and continental level;
- His contribution as epidemiology consultant in the International Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO), in the coordination of the Project for the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the River Plate Basin and his outstanding work in the Permanent Veterinary Committee (CVP) and other international cooperation organisms;
- His active and constant participation in processes for research, development and assessment of animal health projects, human resources training, and support to veterinary services in the countries of the region.

Resolves:

1. To acknowledge and thank Dr. Muzio for his prolific contribution to the generation, development and strengthening of programs for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease at national, regional and continental levels.
2. To wish Dr. Muzio every success in the course of his professional practice, and acknowledge him for his perseverance in the pursuit to achieve the goals of the final phase of the continental eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

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RESOLUTION IX

Acknowledgements

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- The political relevance and excellent environment created by official authorities and the representatives of the private sector of Uruguay, the dedication and care of the staff of the General Directorate of Agricultural Services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), for the organization of the 43th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA and the Pre COSALFA International Seminar.

Resolves:

1. To thank the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, represented by the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Tabaré Aguerre, for the political support offered to the 43th COSALFA.
2. To express our gratitude to the technical and administrative group of the General Directorate of Livestock Services, in the person of its Director, Dr. Francisco Muzio, President of COSALFA 43, for his consideration, hospitality, and dedication during the meetings.
3. Likewise, to thank the Private Sector of Uruguay for its active participation in the organization of the event, and the generosity and warmth shown during the meetings.

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RESOLUTION X
Designation of COSALFA 44's Host Country

The 43th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA

Considering:

- The Brazilian delegation has submitted to consideration its country's offer to host the 44th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA;
- The delegations have expressed their support to Brazil's offer.

Resolves:

1. To thank the offer and assign the state of Goiás, Brazil, as the host of the 44th Regular Meeting of the COSALFA, in April 2017, at a location and on a date to be defined.

(Approved in the plenary session
of April 8, 2016)