



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



**World  
Health Organization**  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

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**17<sup>th</sup> INTER AMERICAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE  
“One Health and the Sustainable Development Goals”**

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RIMSA17 (Eng)  
22 July 2016  
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**RIMSA 17 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Asunción, Paraguay  
*21-22 July 2016*

## **RECOMMENDATION I**

### **One Health and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### CONSIDERING:

- The presentations and discussions of the Opening Conferences of the RIMSA 17: One Health and the Sustainable Development Goals, which highlighted the most relevant strategies and milestones to achieve the Sustainable Development goals and targets;
- The significant socio-economic development of the region and its increasing role as a food production platform for the world, are threatened by the occurrence of zoonotic diseases, especially the emerging and re-emerging ones, the appearance of antimicrobial resistant pathogens and risks to food safety and quality, which endanger not only the health of the population, particularly the most vulnerable social groups, but also animal health, as well as the economies based on this platform and international trade in these products;
- That regional agriculture is an essential contributor to global food security, and that there are examples of models, where agriculture has driven economic and social development helping to reduce poverty, inequity and has led to improved welfare of society, and consequently animal health strategies which have a direct or indirect impact on the health and well-being of the people, such as the eradication of FMD led by PAHO, and for this reason should be considered a public good;
- That the One Health approach, a concept that requires intersectoral, inter-programmatic and interdisciplinary governance of initiatives needed to promote and protect the health of people, animals and the environment in an integrated manner. In addition, this One Health approach contributes to the strengthening and institutionalization of intersectoral dialogue between Health, Agriculture and Environment, and particularly among the medical, veterinary, environmental and educational communities;
- The commitment of the countries of the Region of the Americas towards Sustainable Development, ratified by the 193 Member States with the approval of Resolution 69/13 of the United Nations General Assembly: Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- That progress towards sustainable development in the Region has been variable or inconsistent with significant negative social and/or environmental impact, and that in order to achieve the regional goals and objectives of 2030, an equity and equality centered agenda has been proposed, that ensures social inclusion, sustainable production and reducing the carbon footprint, by strengthening the regional architecture and public-private partnerships; and that for the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs, it is necessary to improve regional statistical tools and incorporating new indicators;
- The commitment of PAHO Member States in the Region to contribute to the elimination of health inequities by applying the "**One Health in all policies**" approach as a strategy to address all social, economic and environmental health determinants, and to promote sustainable wellbeing for the population that is aligned with the current 2014-2019 Action Plan.

RECOMMENDS:

1. To urge Member States to:

- a. Consider the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in their policies, plans and programs within the context of their national and local realities, as provided for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- b. Pay special attention to the effective implementation of the "One Health" concept in local, national and regional governance processes required to execute intersectoral initiatives between health, agriculture and environment, for the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring the provision of the necessary financial resources.

2. Request PAHO Director to:

- a. Lead and provide priority support to those country initiatives that benefit from a One Health approach, related to the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)

## **RECOMMENDATION II**

### **Panel 1 - Intersectoral contribution between Health and Agriculture for the Sustainable Development Goals: Governance of Zoonotic Diseases**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### **CONSIDERING:**

- The presentations and discussions in Panel 1 regarding the relevance of emerging, re-emerging and endemic zoonotic diseases in the Americas, and the need to improve integrated surveillance between health and agriculture, joint risk management and risk communication as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms both at national and regional levels;
- That the efforts for the prevention and control of these diseases, as clearly demonstrated by the examples and experiences presented by the panelists, have highlighted the need for intersectoral collaboration and solid governance between stakeholders through the One Health approach;
- That intersectoral governance mechanisms and capacity development should be developed through planned and regular interactions based on risks derived from endemic zoonosis, from which mechanisms for early detection and rapid, efficient and coordinated response can be developed to address the risks of emerging diseases;
- That all efforts leading to enhanced governance, intersectoral approaches and capacity building require resources for the education of all actors, with emphasis on producers, and the development of structures and processes that ensure the generation of robust evidence-based policies;
- The need to consider the multiple impacts that derive from the implementation of (animal and public) health policies, and the required balance to ensure equity of impact across all sectors and actors;
- The need for national regulatory frameworks that promote and ensure intersectoral approaches, as well as the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and the norms and standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that provide the legal framework for both disease reporting and the development and evaluation the capacity to manage zoonotic diseases.

#### **RECOMMENDS:**

1. To urge Member States to:
  - a. Establish and/or strengthen, at the highest level of the relevant government department, transparent, robust and intersectoral governance mechanisms and platforms between relevant organizations, adequately resourced, that facilitate and promote the strengthening of priority capacities, with an emphasis on human resource development.
  - b. Establish and/or strengthen health policies with the development of legal frameworks, internal rules and working guidelines to coordinate regular actions for the management of zoonosis, and for the development and/or strengthening and execution of early warning and rapid response mechanisms to the threats resulting from emerging and re-emerging zoonosis.

2. To request PAHO Director to:

- a. Support Member States for the creation and/or strengthening of concrete intersectoral auditable and well recognized best practice-based mechanisms and platforms, so they can contribute to an improvement in the governance of endemic, emerging and re-emerging zoonosis;
- b. Collaborate with Member States in the development and strengthening of national, sub-regional and regional strategies and action plans including appropriate indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of priority zoonosis;
- c. Provide technical cooperation to Member States for the reinforcement of integrated systems for the surveillance, prevention, control and elimination of endemic and emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, following the One Health approach.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)

## **RECOMMENDATION III**

### **Panel 2 - Intersectoral contribution between Health and Agriculture for the Sustainable Development Goals: Food Safety**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### CONSIDERING:

- The technical document and the Panel 2 discussions, which highlight the relevance of foodborne diseases affecting the community as a whole, particularly the most vulnerable groups, and whose prevention and control requires contribution by all the actors from of the health and agriculture sectors, including the private sector and consumers;
- The challenges the Member Countries are facing to achieve universal health coverage and recognizing the importance of food safety as a priority for public health and food security;
- The importance of integrated food systems that address all stages of the food chain, from the farm to the table, incorporating the five components: 1. Laws, regulations and policies for food safety; 2. Competent authorities; 3. Surveillance and control; 4. Inspection; and, 5. Education;
- That the implementation of national normative frameworks have to reference the Codex Alimentarius guidelines and that the application of Good Practices and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) change the paradigm from a reactive to a preventive approach;
- The need to strengthen diagnostic laboratories with the incorporation of new technologies such as complete gene sequencing;
- That incorporation and use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) will help countries to design more effective and transparent food control systems thereby facilitating local and international food trade.

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. To urge Member Countries to:
  - a. Strengthen and develop food safety programs, taking the 5 components into the consideration: 1. Food safety laws, regulations and policies 2. Competent authorities; 3. Surveillance and control; 4. Inspection and 5. Education. Integrating the health and agriculture sectors and incorporating other sectors such as environment, tourism, and industry, with the active participation of non-governmental organizations and consumer organizations, using new information and communication technologies.
2. To request PAHO Director to:
  - a. Update and submit to PAHO Directing Council a Food Safety strategy and plan of action to support the countries in the modernization of integrated food control systems, using new information and communication technologies.

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on 22 July 2016)

## RECOMMENDATION IV

### Panel 2 - Intersectoral contribution between Health and Agriculture for the Sustainable Development Goals: Antimicrobial Resistance

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### CONSIDERING:

- The technical document and the Panel 2 discussions which highlight that antimicrobial resistance is currently a threat for public health and animal health, and that its containment requires the cooperation of the health and agriculture sectors, including the private sector, and that their leading role is therefore essential at all levels;
- The importance of preserving antimicrobial agents as essential drugs that contribute significantly to the reduction of morbidity and mortality attributed to infectious diseases in humans and animals;
- That there is a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance as a result of the collaboration between WHO, FAO, and OIE and that PAHO has established a plan of action on antimicrobial resistance for the region of the Americas;
- That in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that countries improve food safety and promote the rational and appropriate use of antimicrobials to protect the health of the population and attain safer trade, it is important to promote and implement the provisions of the standards, codes, principles and guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. To urge Member Countries to:
  - a. Develop their national action plans on antimicrobial resistance, aligned with the Global Action Plan, within the context of each country's particular conditions, and allocating the necessary resources for its development and implementation, based on multisectoral interventions and including the public and private sectors as well as integrated surveillance mechanisms, and promoting the rational and appropriate use of antimicrobial drugs in health and agriculture through the One Health approach.
  - b. Actively participate in conjunction with WHO, FAO and OIE in the Codex Alimentarius working group to develop a Guide on the Management of Antimicrobial Resistance through a One Health approach.
2. To request PAHO Director to:
  - a. Continue providing technical cooperation to member states for the strengthening and/or development of their national plans applying the One Health approach, in a complementary and coordinated manner with the other relevant international, regional and sub-regional cooperation agencies in the Region of the Americas.

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on 22 July 2016)

## RECOMMENDATION V

### Panel 3 - International Technical Cooperation Organisations

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### CONSIDERING:

- The comments made by the participants in panel 3, regarding the contribution of international cooperation to One Health and the Sustainable Development Goals in the region of the Americas;
- The importance of the contribution made by cooperation agencies, which is expected to be strengthened in terms of Sustainable Development Goals;
- The existing agreements between several international technical cooperation agencies for the implementation of a One Health approach;
- The importance of broadening and strengthening synergies and coordination between different international cooperation agencies at the regional, subregional and national levels;
- The One Health Tripartite Agreement between the FAO, OIE and WHO (2010), that coordinates the shared responsibilities and global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. Requests to the Director of PAHO, to convey the gratitude of the representatives of the countries participating in this meeting to the Heads of the international and regional cooperation agencies that participated in the Panel 3 of RIMSA 17.
2. That international cooperation agencies in Public Health, Animal Health, and the Environment, consolidate and strengthen the coordination of their technical cooperation to the countries in the One Health framework, and formalize an initiative leading to a strategy and integrated action plan agreed by the countries of the Region.
3. That the aforementioned strategy and action plan are based upon robust evidence, with a clear future vision and consideration of multiple possible scenarios, innovative in their design with contributions from academia and centers of excellence, with indicators adapted to the region's context and with focus on achieving equity, and clearly reflecting the impact and costs of implementation to present it, properly documented, to budget holders.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)



## **RECOMMENDATION VI**

### **Reports of the COHEFA 13, COPAIA 7 and REDIPRA 15**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

**CONSIDERING:**

- The Reports and Recommendations approved at the 13th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA 13), the 7th Pan American Commission on Food Safety (COPAIA 7) and the 15th Meeting of Directors of National Programs for Rabies Control in the Americas (REDIPRA 15).

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. To endorse the reports, resolutions and recommendations derived from COHEFA 13, COPAIA 7 and REDIPRA 15.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)

## **RECOMMENDATION VII**

### **Acknowledgement of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting of Health and Agriculture,

**CONSIDERING:**

- The support of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay to host the 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting of Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 17);
- The excellent organization and support provided by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Health and Social Welfare, and Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Paraguay;
- The presence and participation of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Mr. Horacio Cartes Jara;
- The cordiality, hospitality and the courtesies extended to the delegates and participants to this meeting.

**RECOMMENDS:**

2. To express sincere appreciation and thanks to the authorities of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, in the person of His Excellency, Mr. Horacio Cartes Jara, President of the Republic, as well as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Social Welfare, and Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Paraguay;
3. To extend its appreciation to all public and private institutions, as well as their dedicated personnel for their invaluable work and support to the development of this Meeting;
4. To request the Director of PAHO, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, to formally send the Government of the Republic of Paraguay a sincere appreciation on behalf of the delegates and participants in the RIMSA17 for their outstanding contribution to the organization and outcomes of this Meeting.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)

## **RECOMMENDATION VIII**

### **Acknowledgement to PAHO in the person of its Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne**

The 17th Inter American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture,

#### **CONSIDERING:**

- In full respect of the topics included in the Agenda of the RIMSA 17, as well as those of the previous technical events COHEFA 13, COPAIA 7 and REDIPRA 15;
- The efforts and dedication provided by PAHO/WHO staff and other collaborators, both before and during these meetings, that made their organization and development possible;
- The challenges both for PAHO and the participating international cooperation organisations, as well as for participating countries, of consolidating the commitments derived from these meetings for the benefit of all the people of the region;
- The significance of a forum such as RIMSA for strengthening intersectoral synergy and promoting active and extensive participation of multiple players and the whole of civil society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **RECOMMENDS:**

1. To congratulate and thank the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in the person of its Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, for the successful organization of the RIMSA 17, the relevance of the topics included in its Agenda, and the quality and generosity of the shared experiences and knowledge of all the speakers and participants.
2. To appreciate in advance the follow-up to the recommendations and commitments by PAHO/WHO, agreed at the RIMSA 17 and in the technical events COHEFA 13, COPAIA 7 and REDIPRA 15.

(Approved in plenary session  
on 22 July 2016)