



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **FOURTH SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 17-19 March 2010*

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*Provisional Agenda Item 3.2*

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### **EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET POLICY**

#### **Background**

1. In 2003, the 44th Directing Council, called for an in-depth discussion of the distribution of the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) resources, which led to a general revision of the Regional Program Budget Policy (RPBP) and its allocation policy. This revision took into consideration several global and regional mandates and initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and WHO's Global Program of Work, and focused on country-centered orientations and subregional integration considerations. In September 2004, the 45th Directing Council adopted Resolution CD45.R6, which among other things, requested the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (the Director) to "present to the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference a thorough evaluation of the Regional Program Budget Policy."

2. Given this mandate, as well as the need to ensure that the RPBP continues to respond to the changing health needs of PAHO Member States and that the Organization's resources are allocated equitably, an evaluation of the RPBP must be carried out at this time.

3. In order to obtain an independent assessment of the RPBP and related issues, the Director has instructed that this evaluation be undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight and Evaluation Services and that it be included in its Workplan for 2010.

#### **Terms of Reference**

4. The evaluation will be guided by the above-mentioned Resolution CD45.R6 and the following Terms of Reference, to verify that:

- (a) in reallocating resources among countries, no country's core allocation is reduced by more than 40% of its proportional allocation, as approved in the Biennial Program Budget, 2004-2005;
- (b) the allocation to Key Countries (Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua) is protected, so that they do not experience a reduction of their proportional share;
- (c) the minimum level for the subregional component of the program budget is increased to 7%; and
- (d) the prioritization in the allocation among areas of work is consistent with the attainment of the health-related goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

5. The evaluation should also:

- assess the architecture of the RPBP and the decisions made in the formulation of the policy;
- identify achievements, problems, and constraints in the Policy's management;
- gather lessons learned from its implementation;
- assess whether the RPBP defining criteria need to be updated for a more equitable budgetary allocation among countries; and
- suggest recommendations that can optimize funding allocation policy at the level of PAHO's overall funding.

6. Qualitative and quantitative analysis will be used. The evaluation includes, but is not limited to, the following sources of information:

- desk review of materials available at PAHO Headquarters;
- personal interviews with PAHO Managers, PAHO/WHO Country Representatives and Administrators, and concerned stakeholders external to the Secretariat;
- questionnaires to PAHO staff, PAHO/WHO Country Representatives, and Center Directors; and
- external expertise on statistical matters.

#### **Action by the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration**

7. The Subcommittee is invited to take note and comment on the evaluation in progress as requested by Resolution CD45.R6, as well as on the above Terms of Reference. The Office of Internal Oversight and Evaluation Services will present the preliminary findings and recommendations of the RPBP Evaluation to the 146th session of the Executive Committee in June 2010.