

**62nd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 77th Session
of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas
(Washington, D.C., United States of America, 29 September to 2 October 2025)**

**Report by the President (Sen. Dr. The Hon. Jerome X. Walcott, Minister of Health and
Wellness, Barbados)¹**

PART 1: TOPICS OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

WHO Programme budget 2026–2027

During the discussion on the PAHO Program Budget 2026–2027² and a report on key strategic issues in the relationship between PAHO and WHO³, observations were made regarding the WHO Programme Budget 2026–2027. Concern was expressed about the reduction in the WHO Programme budget 2026–2027 and its impact on regional allocations. While the rationale for the reduction was acknowledged, it was noted the continuing imbalance in the allocation of WHO resources among the regions. It was highlighted that the Region of the Americas continues to receive the smallest allocation and generally a lower percentage of actual funding than other regions. Member States were urged to continue advocating for an equitable distribution of WHO programme budget resources among the regions.

Emergency prevention, preparedness and response

In reviewing a report on strategic issues in the relationship between PAHO and WHO³ and a report on implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)⁴, participants welcomed the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement and recognized the contributions of Member States from the Americas to the global negotiations. Member States emphasized the importance of the Pandemic Agreement and the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System in reducing inequalities, improving access to critical health products, and enhancing international cooperation in the response to future global health emergencies. Member States expressed their commitment to actively engage in negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System and asked the Regional Office to facilitate their participation, including consultations and briefing sessions.

Member States reaffirmed the importance of the International Health Regulations (2005) in ensuring global and regional health security and welcomed the entry into force

¹ The full report of the session (Document CD62/FR) and all documents, resolutions and decisions mentioned in this report are available at: <https://www.paho.org/en/governance/directing-council/62nd-directing-council>

² Documents [CD62/5](#) and [OD375](#), Resolution [CD62.R4](#).

³ Document [CD62/INF/1](#).

⁴ Document [CD626/INF/2](#).

of the 2024 amendments. They acknowledged ongoing challenges to its full implementation, including gaps in certain core capacities, which has led to uneven levels of preparedness. Other challenges include limited specialized human resources, the need for stronger cross-border collaboration, and problems with data interoperability.

PART 2: TOPICS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2026–2031⁵

The PAHO Strategic Plan 2026–2031 was approved under the theme “Together toward a healthier Americas for all”. The Strategic Plan sets the health impact and outcome results that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and Member States have committed to achieving by the end of 2031. Its overarching goal is to improve health and well-being for all throughout the Region. The Plan comprises five strategic objectives. It is aligned with and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work of WHO and various global strategies adopted by the World Health Assembly.

Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2026–2027²

The PAHO Program Budget for 2026–2027, the first biennium under the PAHO Strategic Plan 2026–2031, was approved at US\$762 million—a 7% net reduction with respect to the budget for 2024–2025, reflecting in part the decrease in the WHO allocation to the Region. In light of the additional financial burden from the 20% increase in Member States assessed contributions to WHO, PAHO Member States decided to maintain its assessed contributions to PAHO at the same level as in 2024–2025. It was noted, however, that PAHO assessed contributions have not increased since 2012, meaning that PAHO’s Assessed Contributions in real terms have been reduced by approximately US\$78 million.

PAHO Budget Policy⁶

An updated PAHO Budget Policy was adopted to ensure transparent, evidence-based, and flexible resource allocation across the functional levels of PAHO (regional, subregional, country offices). The policy will guide the allocation of resources during the period covered by the new PAHO Strategic Plan (2026–2031). It establishes criteria for determining indicative budget envelopes and offers flexibility to enable the Organization to respond to changing circumstances.

⁵ Documents [CD62/4](#) and [OD374](#), Resolution [CD62.R1](#).

⁶ Document [CD62/6](#) and Resolution [CD62.R3](#).

Plan of Action on Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control 2025–2030⁷

A plan of action was approved to support Member States in accelerating the action needed to meet global targets relating to noncommunicable diseases, including those of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. The plan of action focuses on common risk factors for four major noncommunicable diseases: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

Policy for Expanding Equitable Access to High-cost and High-price Health Technologies⁸

A policy was approved with the aim of expanding access to high-cost and high-price health technologies through five lines of action. The policy proposes actions to reduce barriers to access through evidence-based approaches; build capacity for health technology assessment; enhance innovation, research and development, and production capabilities in the Region; and strengthen regulatory frameworks and promote regulatory convergence. The policy also encourages the use of the PAHO's Revolving Funds for pooled procurement to achieve economies of scale, thus enabling countries of the Region to access high-cost and high-price vaccines, medicines and other health technologies at more affordable prices.

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⁷ Document [CD62/8](#) and Resolution [CD62.R8](#).

⁸ Document [CD62/9](#) and Resolution [CD62.R7](#)