



77th World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 17

Draft 14th General Programme of Work 2025 – 2028

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Mr. Chair

The Bahamas is appreciative of the Secretariat's work yielding the 14th draft general programme of work (GPW14). We believe that the draft along with the results narrative and framework are necessarily strong and ambitious, as we recognize the complex nature of promoting, providing and protecting health and well-being in the 21st century.

The Bahamas acknowledges the intentionality of the Secretariat to incorporate document scanning of CARICOM-specific priorities, mandates and strategies, as outlined in the CCHIV and the Outcomes of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (among others) for alignment with the GPW14. Although we are thankful for this consideration, our voices must ring beyond the pages of these and other documents.

We note the journey to drafting and consultations, which began in August 2023; and the information session in April 2024, coordinated through PAHO's leadership, for CARICOM Member States. This sensitization was welcomed. But, meaningful engagement is desired.

Mr. Chair

There must be a way to sustainably engage a greater proportion of Member States in the CARICOM Region in these important, directing setting consultations. As we sit in this Assembly, we face varied realities. The reality is that not all Member States have mission representation in Geneva; and where representation may exist for small island states – including the CARICOM community – there are often limited human resource capacities. Not to mention the time zone reality – among others.

The Bahamas calls for strengthened consultative mechanisms for the Caribbean sub-region of the Americas. And, further propose that the metric of success for future consultations be revisited to include regional and sub-regional thresholds. With consideration for the latter being no less than 60%.

Mr. Chair

The role of WHO in climate change is firmly rooted in the GPW14, and rightly so. As this programme of work responds to climate change as an escalating health threat, so too must prominence be placed on violence (in all its forms) as a public health threat and determinant.

Mr. Chair

The GPW13 results report is noted; and requests the Director General to distill lessons learned and flag those areas of widest gap; and make this available to Member States. And, we look forward to the availability of the technical notes for new indicators in GPW14

The Bahamas supports the resolution.