



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

Committee's 2013-2015 Work Plan

Work plan

The Committee's last two work plans focused on two key areas: revitalizing the Committee and studying specific themes. Measures have been taken to revitalize the Committee's work: a list of members was developed, rapporteurs and vice-presidents were appointed, a meeting was held between the general assemblies, and partnerships were formed. As well, the study on child mortality was completed, and studies into the subjects of "Water, Health and Poverty" and chronic diseases were undertaken.

To continue the work that has been started, under this work plan the Committee will pursue the same two focus areas declared for the 2011–2012 period. As such, the Committee's objectives for 2013–2015 will be as follows:

- 1) Consolidate the measures aimed at revitalizing the Committee's work; and
- 2) Pursue the in-depth study of the themes in conjunction with the rapporteurs.

1. Consolidating measures aimed at revitalizing the Committee's work

- Consolidate the list of Committee members;
- Identify the respective duties of each member of the board;
- Follow up on progress on the themes the Committee is studying;
- Maintain the partnership initiated with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and create partnerships with other international organizations for support in studying the themes;
- Hold a meeting between the general assemblies.

2. Themes

a. Pursuing the “Water, Health and Poverty” theme

In his *Plan of the President*, COPA President Jacques Chagnon named four key issues on which he wanted the COPA to focus particular attention. One of these four issues is protecting water resources. The *2010–2011 Work Plan* thus stated that the Committee would study the theme "Water, Health and Poverty". The study was initiated in Québec City with experts present, and with the appointment of a rapporteur, Ms. Alicia Gutiérrez, Member of the Chamber of Deputies for the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina.

2013–2015 Objectives:

- Presentation of a report by the rapporteur, and its review by members for further development;
- Adoption of a final resolution.

b. Pursuing the chronic diseases theme

These days, an increasing number of people are suffering and dying from chronic diseases such as diabetes, several types of cancer, arthritis and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. In light of this fact, the Committee, under the *2011–2012 Work Plan*, mandated itself to study the theme of chronic diseases. As its first initiative, Brazilian Member of the Legislative Assembly and Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Volnei Morastoni, participated in the Pan American Forum for Action on Chronic Diseases in Brasilia on May 8 and 9, 2012.

2013–2015 Objectives:

- Presentation by the rapporteur;
- Conference of experts (to be confirmed);
- Adoption of a final resolution.

c. Follow-up of the child mortality theme

At the meeting in Cuba, the study of the child mortality theme was completed. To ensure the situation is monitored, Argentinean Senator María de los Angeles Higonet was designated to present her colleagues the developments in data on child mortality on the continent.

d. New study theme – Proposal: *Public health policy integration*

2013–2015 Objectives:

- Adoption of a new theme;
 - Appointment of a rapporteur;
 - Conference of experts;
 - Further collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO);
 - Presentation of a preliminary report;
 - Adoption of a resolution.
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Draft Schedule of Committee Work

Intersession meeting - POSTPONED

Location: Paramaribo, Surinam

Date: to be determined

Content:

1. Pursuing the study of the theme
 - 1.1 Chronic diseases
 - 1.1.1 Legislation on tobacco use
 - 1.1.2 Diabetes one-stop-shop
2. Study of new theme:
 - 2.1 Public health policy integration
3. Invitation of speakers
4. Adoption of resolutions on the themes.

ANNEX I

Themes studied by the Committee during previous meetings

Ixtapan, November 2002	Means at the disposal of parliamentarians to improve access to health services in the Americas
Caracas, November 2003	Protection of access to healthcare and medication, follow-up on trade negotiations from a health perspective, the preservation of the capacity to legislate on issues of public health
Foz d'Iguaçu, May 2005	Public health systems in the context of international trade negotiations
Quito, June 2006	Sexual and reproductive health
Mexico and Toluca, September 2008	Sexual and reproductive health in relation to HIV/AIDS
Salta, September 2009	Adoption of a resolution on A(H1N1) influenza
Mar del Plata, November 2011	Child mortality
Quebec, September 2011	Water, Health and Poverty Tuberculosis, AIDS and paludism
Cuba, October 2011	Child mortality and maternal health Assistance Program for people with disabilities Current situation of tuberculosis in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean
Brasilia, October 2013	Chronic Diseases Water, Health and Poverty