



February 25, 2002

## FINAL AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS MARCH 4-5, 2002 - OTTAWA

#### *Objectives of the HEMA meeting*

- 1) Build bridges between Health and Environment sectors to address common issues*
- 2) Strengthen capacity for countries in the hemisphere to effectively manage health and environment issues*
- 3) Establish follow up mechanisms for addressing health and environment issues in the Americas*
- 4) Contribute, as appropriate, to the 2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.*

#### **DAY 1 - AM (9:00 - 12:00)**

Welcoming remarks from Ministers McLellan and Anderson.

Statement to Ministers by NGOs (Dr. Trevor Hancock, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment)

#### **Session 1: Building bridges between Health and Environment sectors and setting future directions**

The purpose of this session is to take stock of what has been accomplished to date on the implementation of the Pan American Charter on Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development, to discuss barriers to progress and commit to establishing mechanisms for ongoing collaboration and follow up.

- Speaker: Dr. George Alleyne, Director of PAHO

**Proposed Outcome:** Agreement on: an approach to working collaboratively to advance a shared health and environment agenda in the Americas, with a clearly identified follow-up mechanism.

LUNCH (12:15 - 14:15) - Presentation of success story on DDT



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- Speakers: Ms. Janine Ferretti, Executive Director North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and Dr. Julio José Frenk Mora, Mexican Secretary of Health

### **DAY 1 - PM (14:15 - 17:15)**

#### **Session 2: Issues of common concern and shared goals**

The purpose of this session is to discuss and agree upon issues of common concern in the Americas for which common goals would be developed. The areas for consideration include:

- Clean water and basic environmental sanitation to protect health;
  - Clean air to protect health;
  - Sound management of chemicals to reduce human exposure;
  - Anticipating and preventing health implications of natural disasters; and
  - Anticipating and preventing health implications of climate variability.
- Speaker: Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Program - ROLAC

**Proposed Outcome:** Agreement on priority areas for the development of shared goals within the Americas.

### **DAY 2 - AM (9:00 - 12:00)**

#### **Session 3: Building our Capacities to Address Environmental Threats to Human Health**

The purpose of this session is to discuss the role of knowledge in providing the basis for policy responses and actions to address environmental threats to human health. It is proposed that an integrated assessment of health and environment linkages in the Americas be undertaken to provide a baseline against which progress can be measured and to identify concrete actions. It is also proposed that concrete ways of making existing knowledge and information available and readily usable to policy and decisions makers at the country and community levels be identified and implemented. The role of environment and health indicators in identifying areas where action is needed and in tracking progress will also be discussed.

- Speaker: Ms. Maureen O'Neil, President, International Development Research Centre

**Proposed Outcome:** Agreement to undertake an integrated assessment of health and environment linkages in the Americas; develop health and environment



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indicators to monitor progress in the region; and, identify tools necessary for enhancing the transfer and communication of knowledge.

LUNCH (12:00 - 13:30)

**DAY 2 - PM** (13:30 - 14:30)

**Finalization of Ministerial Communiqué**

**Closing Remarks**

**Adjourn Meeting**

**Press Conference (14:45 - 15:30)**

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