

Ninth Session of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)

BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – (EIH)

The ninth session of the AC of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on December 17th, 2020. The meeting was held in compliance to Resolution 5 of the 49th Directing Council of PAHO/WHO (CD49.R5) in which the Statute of BIREME was approved, in effect from the year 2010, which defines its new institutional framework.

The session was attended by the following members of the AC: Permanent Members - representatives of PAHO/WHO and Brazil in accordance with Resolution CD49.R5, when BIREME Statute was approved; and Non-permanent Members - delegates from Barbados and El Salvador, Member States elected as members of BIREME AC according to Resolution 9 of the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP29.R9) for a three years period (2018-2020) and delegates from Guyana, Mexico and Uruguay, Member States elected as members of BIREME Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution CD56.R4 for a three years period (2019-2021).

FINAL REPORT

São Paulo (SP), December 17th, 2020

FINAL REPORT

Opening Session

- 1) On December 17th, 2020, the Ninth Session of the AC of the Center was held online, which fulfills advisory functions before the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session was led by Diego González Machín, Director of BIREME and Secretary ex-officio.
- 2) Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH) began with words of welcome, acknowledging the participation of the members of the AC, emphasizing the importance of the BIREME AC, and of the recommendations of its members for the continued sustainability of the Center.
- 3) The participation of the AC members was thanked and the importance of holding the meeting within the framework of the institutional development of the Center was highlighted.
- 4) The members of the AC and BIREME staff participating in the session introduced themselves and the work was started.

PRESENTATION

- 5) The Director of BIREME thanked those attending the meeting for online participation and began the presentation: BIREME: Mission, Priorities, Strategic Actions and compliance with the recommendations of the VIII session of the AC (2019).
- 6) During his presentation Diego González highlighted the technical cooperation program of the Center, its projects, products and services available to the countries of the Region (and outside of it) at the local, national, regional and global levels of action with emphasis in the actions carried out from November 2019 to date.

Comments and Recommendations

- 7) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, facilitated by the Secretary ex officio were directed towards the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME, expressed in proposals for effective dissemination of their projects, products and services in the countries of the Region seeking intersectoral partners, in addition to the need to address strategic issues and in particular, the implementation of the institutional frameworks that define the institutionality of BIREME both in Brazil and throughout the Region.
- 8) Marco Aurélio Santana da Silva [Brasil]
He reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and recognized the importance of continuing the alliance with BIREME, recalling that TA2/TC93 was recently renewed to generate greater commitment in the country and mainly to share and access all this scientific production that it does for health and primary care. He thanked and

mentioned that participation means strengthening ourselves and being closer and closer, guaranteeing this partnership.

Later, he commented that the second parcel of the resources of TA2/TC93 is scheduled for the beginning of the 2021 exercise.

Silvia de Valentin [BIREME] commented that it is necessary to consider, as soon as possible, the extension of TC93 whose validity is February/2022.

Diego González [BIREME] agreed and added that in addition to this TC there is also another, with the CGDI of the MoH, which also needs to be extended.

Recommendation:

- The recommendations for 2021 (for BIREME) will be made, after the CIT (Tripartite Interagency Commission, in Portuguese *Comissão Intergestores Tripartite*) meeting, in the coming days and with the approval of the Director and the Secretary.

9) Nadia Patricia Rodriguez [El Salvador]

She commented that for some years El Salvador was not present in LILACS, but since the visit of BIREME professionals in January/2020, it is visible the advances we have made in innovation, with the support and implementation of BIREME products together with the National Institute of Health / Ministry of Health (INS/MoH). She congratulated BIREME for the great effort made, despite the pandemic, and how it has continued to advance and strengthen work networks.

Recommendation:

- Strengthen the search for financing and the sustainability of BIREME with the support of PAHO.

10) Thameshwar Merai [Guyana]

He commented that since it is the first time he has participated, he does not have many recommendations at this time. He congratulated on the continuous work. She also mentioned the interest in the topics covered by CLAP, specifically in the possibility of developing a pilot with the software to collect information to help pregnant mothers.

He commented that after exploring the e-BlueInfo application they would like to use it in Guyana as an information platform for Primary Health Care and was interested to know if there is an English version.

Renato Murasaki [BIREME] clarified that the application platform is in three languages (Spanish, Portuguese and English) and the contents are in the language in which they are published. As it mainly relies on the information produced by the countries, in the case of Guyana it would be information in English. He recalled that two meetings had already been held with Guyana to discuss the use of e-BlueInfo and that BIREME remains interested in being able to implement it in the country.

11) Alejandro Ernesto Svarch Pérez [México]; Martha Caballero [México]

They mentioned that they identify a very good space for collaboration with BIREME.

Recommendations:

- Make this presentation of BIREME in a parallel event of the Directing Council of PAHO, for the knowledge of the results of the Center by the member states.
- Increase BIREME's promotional spaces
- Identify actions so that the products of excellence developed by the center can receive attention both in the country (Mexico) and in other Member States of PAHO.

12) Graciela Fernández [Uruguay]

Also like Mexico, she commented that it is very important to disseminate BIREME's products. She stressed that the work of PAHO focal points in the countries is essential, since they know the local reality and can establish contact with the authorities at the country level to identify which may be points of cooperation that are an opportunity to contribute both to the BIREME financing as well as for the development and use of the products and services.

Recommendation:

- Strengthen links with Country Offices and national counterparts to support the identification of financing sources and development of technical cooperation projects

13) The members of the Committee and the participants came to a consensus on the recommendations which are summarized below and will be sent for consideration to the PAHO/WHO Director.

- i. The recommendations for 2021 (for BIREME) will be made, after the CIT (Tripartite Interagency Commission, in Portuguese *Comissão Intergestores Tripartite*) meeting, in the coming days and with the approval of the Director and the Secretary.
- ii. Strengthen the search for financing and the sustainability of BIREME with the support of PAHO.
- iii. Make this presentation of BIREME in a parallel event of the Directing Council of PAHO, for the knowledge of the results of the Center by the member states.
- iv. Increase BIREME's promotional spaces
- v. Identify actions so that the products of excellence developed by the center can receive attention both in the country (Mexico) and in other Member States of PAHO.
- vi. Strengthen links with Country Offices and national counterparts to support the identification of financing sources and development of technical cooperation projects

Other topics

14) The participation of the Delegates of the Member States was thanked for highlighting the discussions held and the results achieved at the meeting, as well as the BIREME team for their performance at the Center in the area of scientific information on Health and especially in the realization of the IX Session of the Advisory Committee.

Session Closure

After the participants shared comments on their appreciation for and experiences at the meeting, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out.

In witness whereof, the ninth session of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) was ended, the Director of BIREME and *ex officio* Secretary, signed this final report in its original language, Spanish.

It was held online, in the seventeenth day of the month of December of the year two thousand and twenty.

The original signed document will be deposited in the files of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Diego González Machín
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Secretary *ex officio* of the ninth session of the
Advisory Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Annexes
Annex A

Agenda

Opening of the Session

Presentations on the new institutional framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO), its context in PAHO/WHO, its mission, objective, technical cooperation program, work plan and budget.

Debate, questions and answers

Annex B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Executive Report of BIREME

Annex C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brasil

Cleber Luiz da Silva

Erika Rodrigues de Almeida

Guilherme Cunha Medeiros da Silva

Jeniffer Dantas Ferreira

Marco Aurélio Santana da Silva

Melquia da Cunha Lima

Barbados

Kenneth George

Chief Physician

Ministry of Health and Welfare

El Salvador

Nadia Patricia Rodriguez

Coordinator

Research on Determinants of Health

National Institute of Health

Ministry of Health

Guyana

Frank Anthony

Health Minister

Thameshwar Merai

Chief of Information Technology (IT)

México

Alejandro Ernesto Svarch Pérez

Head of the National Medical Coordination Unit

Institute of Health for Well-being (INSABI)

Martha Leticia Caballero Abraham

In charge of the General Directorate of International Relations

Jose Gustavo Valle Mendoza

Deputy Director of Inter-American Management

Zulema Guerra Carpio

Head of the Department for the Inter-American System

Uruguay

Graciela Fernández

Technical-Medical Deputy Director

National Resource Fund

Ministry of Health

PAHO/WHO, HQ

Sebastián García Saiso

Director of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – EIH

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Diego González Machín

Director and Secretary ex officio

Lilian Calò

Coordinator of Scientific Communication

Carmen Verónica Abdala

Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI)

Production of Information Sources (PFI)

Rosemeire Pinto

Supervisor of User Attention Services

Sueli Suga

Supervisor of Referential Information Sources

Renato Murasaki

Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies (MTI) and

Administration of Information Sources (AFI)

Silvia Almeida de Valentin

Manager of Administrative Management and Planning (GA)

Marcia Ymanaka Barretto

Coordinator of Infrastructure of Technologies of Information

Adriano Rehder de Sá

Controllershship and Processes

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME – Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

VHL – Virtual Health Library