



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



**World Health  
Organization**  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
**Americas**

**BIREME**

Latin American and Caribbean Center on  
Health Sciences Information

## **Seventh Session of the Advisory Committee 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 sixth session of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held at BIREME, in São Paulo, Brazil, on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was held in compliance to Resolution 5 of the 49<sup>th</sup> 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 Advisory Committee: 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 Argentina and Peru, Member States elected as members of BIREME Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution CD54.R5 for a three years period (2016-2018) and delegates from Barbados and El Salvador, Member States elected as members of BIREME Advisory Committee according to Resolution 9 of the 29<sup>th</sup> Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP29.R9) for a three years period (2018-2020).

### **FINAL REPORT**

São Paulo (SP), November 8, 2018

## FINAL REPORT

### Opening Session

- 1) On November 7 and 8, 2018, in BIREME, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, the Seventh Session of the Advisory Committee of the Center took place, which fulfills advisory functions before the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session was led by the Secretary, Diego González Machín, Director of BIREME and Secretary ex-officio, supported by the President-elect, Marcelo Barbieri, Coordinator of Knowledge Management and Communication, Health Research Directorate, Health Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Social Development (MSyDS) of Argentina, together with the elected rapporteur, Nadia Patricia Rodriguez, Coordinator of the Department of Health Research, National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Health of El Salvador.
- 2) On November 7, 2018, the delegates of the Member countries of the AC presented themselves and visited the premises of the Center. Then they listened at the presentation by the Director of BIREME: “*BIREME TODAY – Products and Services of BIREME as PAHO/WHO Technical Cooperation*”.
- 3) On November 8, 2018, Diego González Machín began the meeting with words of encouragement to the contribution of the members present and gave the floor to Francisco Becerra, Interim Director of EIH. In his words, he mentioned the support of the Organization as a whole for the operation of BIREME, as a Specialized Center for Scientific and Technical Information for the Region and that has come in the last two years particularly being strengthened and becoming even more active with all countries of the Region. He also recognized the support of members of BIREME Governance Committees who also represent Member States of the Organization.
- 4) The presence and participation of the delegates representing the Member States of BIREME AC and the importance of holding the meeting in the framework of the development of the Center was acknowledged.
- 5) The Chairman and the Rapporteur of the Seventh Session were elected, the items on the meeting agenda were reviewed and the Session was started.

### Procedural matters

- 6) The following Member States were elected in order to constitute the directing panel of the Advisory Committee of BIREME in its seventh session:

**Presidency:** Argentina (Marcelo Barbieri)  
**Rapporteur:** El Salvador (Nadia Patricia Rodriguez)

## PRESENTATIONS

- 7) The presentation of the *ex officio* Secretary who was supported by the management, administration and technical team of BIREME generated discussions that emphasized the historical importance of BIREME in the Region of the Americas, as well as the number of institutions (more than two thousand) that operate in Network for the access and use of the scientific and technical information in health. Information about the development of BIREME and the current status of the implementation of its new institutional framework and governance structures (Advisory Committee, Scientific Committee and Secretariat) was also shared, as well as its functions as part of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH), the potential role of BIREME in PAHO/WHO political, strategic and normative instruments and its critical importance as a Specialized Center of the Organization. The technical cooperation program of the Center, projects, products and services available to the countries of the Region (and outside it) at the local, national, regional and global levels were highlighted.

The presentations, discussions and recommendations were directed as follows:

**Institutional framework:** *Current status of BIREME's Institutional Framework*

**First Axis:** *BIREME – Financial Sustainability*

**Second Axis:** *BIREME – Technical Cooperation*

## Comments and Recommendations

- 8) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, facilitated by the President of the Session and the *ex officio* Secretary, were directed towards the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME, expressed in proposals for effective dissemination of its projects, products and services in the countries of the region. Also the need to cover strategic issues and, in particular, the implementation of the institutional framework that define BIREME's institutional framework in Brazil and throughout the Region.
- 9) The recommendations in the three main aspects addressed, which were widely discussed and agreed upon among the CA members, will be highlighted as follows:

## **Institutional Framework** *Current situation of BIREME's Institutional Framework* **Discussions and Recommendations**

Diego González Machín presented the achievements and progress in complying with the recommendations of AC 2017. The negotiation recommendation with the new government of Brazil is pending the renewal of the Headquarters Agreement for the financial sustainability of BIREME. It was recommended to broaden global technical alliances and this has been accomplished through projects such as the GIM (Global Index Medicus), which provided funding. Advances: Diffusion of the work of BIREME, courses in different spaces, infometrics, scientific communication. Mobilization of professionals for CRICS10. Financial contributions from PAHO/WHO.

### **First Axis: BIREME – Financial Sustainability** **Discussions and Recommendations**

Danny Gill (Barbados) asked whether BIREME has the capacity in terms of human resources and financial health to meet future goals. Renato Murasaki (AFI/MTI - BIREME) responded and commented on the alliances that BIREME has to develop together with collaborative networks, i.e., they have the technical capacity, and what they lack, obtain it from the countries, as an example: support from France for translation, *Hospital Italiano* de Buenos Aires that shared experience of electronic medical record registration, among others.

Nadia Rodríguez (El Salvador) asked about the vision and technical projection of BIREME in the short and medium term to grow and develop. Likewise, its interaction with IANPHI (International Association of National Public Health Institutes), ICSU (International Council for Science), and other cooperation agencies to mobilize resources and other options for growth can be explored, and due to the fact that BIREME has an important role in driving these networks of democratic access to information, should delegate some tasks, remaining solely with the strategic actions. Diego González Machín (DIR BIREME) explained that precisely this form of work is described in the framework of FENSA, where the relationship with non-state actors is expressed, when the PAHO/WHO Steering Committee in 2016 determined that WHO could have a conflict of interest, but that could generate support from other instances; the member countries asked that to avoid this and to regulate, FENSA was created, which determines the regulatory, procedural and ethical framework to raise funds from universities, pharmaceutical companies, private companies and others, and that this is not questioned.

Danny Gill (Barbados) has broadened the topic, saying that if BIREME seeks funding and does it together with the countries, it can find greater opportunities.

Diego González Machín (DIR BIREME) spoke on the Network of PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers, which are already formally recognized by PAHO/WHO as collaborators of BIREME, such as INFOMED and others.

Silvia de Valentin (GA - BIREME) made her presentation on the costs and financial sustainability of BIREME. She stated how BIREME could expand the funding sources of its Biannual Work Plan (BWP), the key elements for the development of its plan. She clarified

that BIREME's whole work is in response to PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan and Technical Cooperation Work Plan, especially to Health Systems. In addition, it follows the BIREME Statute, its Institutional Framework, member states of PAHO/WHO, public international organizations in scientific and technical information and communication.

Regarding finances, Silvia de Valentin (GA - BIREME) presented the current financial situation and BIREME 's operating costs, elements that generated discussions among the members of the CA were clarified, considering PAHO/WHO Annual Contribution, the Annual Contribution of the Government of Brazil, the implementation of its institutional framework (Article 4 of the Statute), a Headquarters Agreement that must be formalized and the Term of Cooperation (TC-93) with the Ministry of Health of Brazil and the financing gap.

There was a broad discussion on the financing and sustainability of BIREME and how each country should support the mobilization of resources for the growth and development of BIREME.

Likewise, it was proposed to identify networks that strengthen BIREME, in addition to seeking possible cooperation projects with BIREME in the countries.

It was also discussed how to increase the institutions of the countries, through a joint work plan with the countries, on cooperation projects already developed by the countries; for this we should have a diagnosis.

The members of the AC proposed to promote priority projects to carry out a risk mitigation plan in case the mobilization of funds did not arrive in a timely manner. Danny Gill (Barbados) requested the report of BIREME's fund-raising plan, which was agreed to be shared with all CA members for better understanding.

Finally, it was proposed to make visible and socialize all the products and the collaboration of BIREME with the countries, since they are often unknown.

## **Second Axis: BIREME – Technical Cooperation Discussions and Recommendations**

Presentation by Carmen Verônica Abdala (PFI/SCI - BIREME) on technical cooperation where she talks about information management and knowledge management for decision making. That everything develops in search interface in open access, through the decentralized collaboration from the countries. She spoke about the operation of LILACS and its importance to make scientific production visible in Latin America, followed by a quality control of the information.

One of the products of the bibliographic control of the BIREME health literature through the VHL, where LILACS (85,000, 50% full text, 80% articles, there are others: theses, monographs, congresses and conferences), repositories, different national and regional authorities. About 40% provide open access to the full text, that is, 11 million since 1967.

She then spoke about the search interfaces and the promotion of access to and use of health information. Courses of access and use of scientific information in health. Services of search and application of information, and explained the operation of Telehealth.

She mentioned the evidence on integrative health practices such as reiki, acupuncture and the gaps of scientific evidence for decision making.

Renato Murasaki (AFI/MTI) presented the alignment of information technologies by Open and Free Software, cloud servers, use of standards, service-based architecture, agile process of software development, the Web as a platform. Quality of metadata.

Interoperable data sources (extraction, transformation and loading). BVS infobutton. It mentions health legislation, especially in relation to non-communicable diseases and their determinants. BRISA and GIM were presented. Also the CVSP/VHL Educational Resources Repository. More than 30.000 data processing in 2018 to keep the database updated.

LILACS scientific journals in SciELO: capacity development in scientific communication and offer online platform for flow management (OJS).

Lilian Caló (COM DIR) spoke about the actions on scientific communication (VHL Scientific Communication, expert selection services, indexing of LA&C journals in databases, indexing criteria, face-to-face scientific communication courses in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French) and institutional communication (Institutional Website, PAHO Intranet, BIREME Bulletin, social networks, internal bulletin PSI). It was announced the online course on scientific communication to be released in April/2019.

### **General Recommendations:**

- I. It was proposed to make visible and socialize all the products and the collaboration of BIREME with the countries, since it is often unknown;
- II. For the countries in the Region to carry out concrete actions integrated with BIREME and transmit synergies to make visible this knowledge production;
- III. To promote priority projects to carry out a risk mitigation plan, in case the mobilization of funds does not arrive in a timely manner;
- IV. Use social networks to publish numerical data and infographics that improve the social communication of scientific knowledge;
- V. To promote alliances with scientific communication professionals;
- VI. To increase the membership of the countries, through a joint work plan with the countries on cooperation projects already developed by the countries. For this purpose, a diagnosis should be available; and

- VII. To identify networks that can strengthen BIREME. Seek in the countries possible cooperation projects to and from BIREME.

### **Other topics**

- 10) The presence of the Delegates of the Member States was appreciated, especially the discussions and results achieved at the meeting, as well as the BIREME team for their performance in the Center in the area of scientific information in Health, and especially in the VII Session of the Advisory Committee.
- 11) It was informed to all participants that the working papers and photo gallery would be available by email and also in their workbooks delivered during the two-day session.

### **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 and the seventh session was then closed.

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

It took place in São Paulo, Brazil, in the seventh and eighth day of the month of November of the year two thousand and eighteen.

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

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Marcelo Barbieri  
Delegate of Argentina  
President of the seventh session of the  
Advisory Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

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Diego González Machín  
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO  
Secretary *ex officio* of the sixth 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**

Institutional strategic, normative and political documents and the potential role of BIREME:

- Establishment of a new institutional framework for the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) Resolution 5 adopted in the 49<sup>th</sup> Directing council (CD49.R5), carried out at PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 28<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.
- Biennial Work Plan (BWP) of BIREME 2018-2019



## Annex B

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

#### Working documents

1. Meeting Agenda of the Seventh Session of the Advisory Committee of BIREME
2. Members of the Advisory Committee of BIREME. List of Participants
3. Executive Report of BIREME
4. Report of the Sixth Session of the Advisory Committee of BIREME. Meeting held in BIREME on February 2, 2017
5. Statute “Establishment of a new institutional framework for the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)”. CD49.R5
6. Internal Rules of the Advisory Committee
7. Biennial Work Plan of BIREME (BWP) 2018-2019
8. Election of Three Members to BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 56<sup>th</sup> Directing Council (CD56.R4), held at PAHO Headquarters on September 23-27, 2018
9. Election of Two Members to BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP29.R9), held at PAHO Headquarters on September 25-29, 2017
10. Election of Three Members to BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 54<sup>th</sup> Directing Council (CD54.R5), held at PAHO Headquarters on September 28 to October 2, 2015
11. Election of Two Members to the BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Directing Council (CD53.R5), held at PAHO Headquarters on September 29 to October 2, 2014
12. Election of Three Members to BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 28<sup>th</sup> Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP28.R5), held at PAHO Headquarters on September 17-21, 2012
13. Election of Two Members to BIREME Advisory Committee. Resolution adopted at the 51<sup>st</sup> Directing Council (CD51.R2), held at PAHO Headquarters on 26-30 September 2011

## Annex C

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### **Argentina**

Marcelo Barbieri

Coordinator Coordinator of Knowledge Management and Communication,  
Health Research Directorate, Health Secretariat, Ministry of Health and  
Social Development (MSyDS) of Argentina

Knowledge Management and Communication

Research for Health Directory

Secretariat for Health

Ministry of Health and Social Development (MSyDS)

##### **Barbados**

Danny Gill

Director

Policy and Research Planning

Ministry of Health and Welfare

##### **Brazil**

Galba Freire Moita

General Coordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation

CGMA/DEMÁS/SE

Ministry of Health

##### **El Salvador**

Nadia Patricia Rodriguez

Coordinator

Department of Health Research

National Institute of Health

Ministry of Health

##### **Peru**

Manuel Jesús Loayza Alarico

Executive Assistant

National Center for Epidemiology, Disease Prevention and Control

Ministry of Health

##### **PAHO/WHO - Headquarters**

Francisco Becerra Posada

EIH Director, a.i.

**BIREME/PAHO/WHO**

*Diego González Machín*  
Lilian Calò

*Director and Secretary ex-officio*  
Scholarly Communication and Institutional  
Communication Coordinator

*Carmen Veronica Abdala*

*Manager of Cooperative Information and Evidence  
Services (SCI) and of Information Sources Production  
(PFI)*

*Renato Murasaki*

*Manager of Information Methodologies and  
Technologies (MTI) and of Information Sources  
Administration (AFI)*

*Silvia Almeida de Valentin*

Marcia Ymanaka Barretto  
Adriano Rehder de Sá

*Manager of Administration and Planning (GA)*  
Information Technology Infrastructure Coordinator  
Controller

Annex D

**ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**BIREME** – Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

**BRISA** - Regional Base for Health Technology Assessment Reports of the Americas

**CD49** – Session 49<sup>th</sup> of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CD49.R5** – Resolution 5 of the 49<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CD51.R2** – Resolution 2 of the 51<sup>st</sup> PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CD53.R5** – Resolution 5 of the 53<sup>rd</sup> PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CD54.R5** – Resolution 5 of the 54<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CD56.R4** – Resolution 4 of the 56<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**CRICS** – Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information

**CRICS10** – 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information

**CSP28** – 28<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

**CSP28.R2** – Resolution 2 of the 28<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

**CSP29** – 29<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

**CSP29.R9** – Resolution 9 of the 29<sup>th</sup> PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

**CVSP** – Virtual Campus of Public Health

**FENSA** - Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors

**GIM** – Global Index Medicus

**LILACS** – Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature, main regional bibliographic database of BIREME

**VHL** – Virtual Health Library