



**Third Session of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean
Center on Health Science Information (BIREME)**

**BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Knowledge Management and Communication Area – KMC**

The third session of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Science Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held in BIREME headquarters, in São Paulo, Brazil, on December 5th, 2012. 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 institutionality.

The session had the participation of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Dominican Republic, Member States elected to the Advisory Committee of BIREME according to Resolution 6 of the 49th Directing Council of PAHO/WHO (CD49.R6) for a three years mandate (2010-2012) in addition to the representatives from Bolivia and Suriname, Member States elected for a mandate of three years (2012- 2014) according to Resolution 2 of the 51st PAHO/WHO Directing Council (CD51.R2).

Note: the delegates from Argentina and Suriname participated remotely.

FINAL REPORT

São Paulo (SP), December 17th, 2012

FINAL REPORT

Opening Session

- 1) On 5 December 2012, in BIREME, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, took place the third meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Center, which fulfills advisory functions before the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session had as leader of the Secretary, Adalberto O. Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and *ex officio* Secretary, supported subsequently by the elected President, Ana Estela Haddad, Associate Professor of the Department of Orthodontics and Odontopediatrics of the Faculty of Odontology, University of São Paulo, deputy delegate, representing on the occasion Marcia Aparecida do Amaral, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Brazil. In addition to the President of the session, Rodrigo Fuentes, Professional of the Department of Epidemiology of the Health Planning Division of the Ministry of Health of Chile was elected rapporteur of the session.
- 2) Adalberto O. Tardelli acknowledged the presence and participation of the delegated representatives of the Member States of the Advisory Committee of BIREME and emphasized the importance of the meeting within the framework of the development of BIREME. Still during the opening remarks, Marcelo José D'Agostino, Manager of the area of Knowledge Management and Communications (KMC) of PAHO/WHO, by telephone, emphasized the support of the Director, Mirta Roses Periago and of the Deputy Director of PAHO/WHO, John K. Andrus, to the institution strengthening of BIREME, and the importance of the actions carried out in 2012 within the framework of the institutional development of BIREME such as the realization of the CRICS9, the II Meeting of the National Advisory Committee, the III Session of the Advisory Committee and the Establishment of the Scientific Committee of the Center. The issues under discussion on the agenda of the Session were reviewed and the Session started.
- 3) The representative from Brazil pointed out the continuous support of the Brazilian Government and of the Scientific Community for the development of BIREME in the context of its new institutional framework. She also shared information on the joint efforts with PAHO/WHO for the establishment of the Headquarters Agreement of BIREME in Brazil, estimated to be concluded in 2013.
- 4) The participants reiterated their support for the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME and their recognition towards the Government of Brazil and its Ministry of Health, for the effective commitment to BIREME as

regional reference institution in scientific and technical information in health. In addition, they pointed out that the new institutional framework of BIREME allows the democratization of the participation of other countries in the development and progress of BIREME.

Procedural matters

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

Presidency: Brazil (Ana Estela Haddad)

Rapporteur: Chile (Rodrigo Fuentes)

PRESENTATIONS

- 6) The presentations focused on the socialization of information concerning the development of BIREME and the current situation on implementation of its new institutional framework and of its structures of governance (Advisory Committee, Scientific Committee and Secretary), as well as its evolution and functions as a part of the Area of Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) and critical importance as Specialized Center of PAHO/WHO in scientific and technical information consolidated in its 45 years of existence centered on technical cooperation with the countries of the region and outside the region at the levels of local, national, regional, and global action.

First presentation: *Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information. Institutional Reform. Ana Estela Haddad, Professor, deputy delegate, representing on the occasion Marcia Aparecida do Amaral, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Brazil.*

Second presentation: *Institutional Framework and structures of governance of BIREME. Adalberto Otranto Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and ex-officio Secretary of the Advisory Committee.*

Third presentation: *Mission, Objective, Technical Cooperation, Plan of Work and budget of BIREME aligned to the Strategic Objectives of PAHO/WHO. Adalberto Otranto Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and ex-officio Secretary of the Advisory Committee.*

Comments and Recommendations

- 7) The issued recommendations continue to aim for the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME, expressed in proposals on the use and access of

the available scientific information in its databases and the dissemination of its projects, products and services in the countries of the Region in addition to the need for engaging in strategic topics such as support to the countries and its institutional reform in the process of implementation.

The representative of Brazil rescued the 2 (two) institutional frameworks of BIREME that coexist through the Agreement of Maintenance and Development of the Center and the Statute of BIREME in effect from 2010 that foresees the establishment of its structures of governance and of 2 (two) main legal instruments: (1) the Headquarters Agreement of BIREME in Brazil; and (2) the Installations Agreement of BIREME in the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). In addition, she spoke about the structure of financing of the biannual budget of BIREME with focus on the contributions of the Brazilian Government through the Ministry of Health. She pointed out the historical importance of Brazil in the continuous maintenance of BIREME.

Furthermore, the delegate shared information on the efforts of the Government of Brazil jointly with PAHO/WHO for the establishment of the Headquarters Agreement of BIREME in Brazil, estimated for 2013, based on the support of the Ministry of Health upon reviewing the results obtained within the framework of the work plans of BIREME and monitoring of the current activities in the context of the Agreement of Maintenance and Development that will be extended until 2013.

The delegate of Bolivia mentioned the importance of the new institutionality of BIREME for the democratic exercise of the participation of countries in the continuous development of the Center. He recommended that all the PAHO/WHO Member States are permanent members of the Advisory Committee of BIREME without limit of time not to condition the participation of countries to political circumstances. The Director of BIREME argued by the current rule in the seen Statute that the rotation of the members of the Advisory Committee permits the democratic participation of the Member States of PAHO.

The delegate of Chile pointed out the quantity and diversity of projects in which BIREME participates, in addition to those related to the Virtual Health Library (VHL). He shared that he is himself a user of VHL and that, in his perception, public health institutions find information in this area through the databases and sources of information available in the VHL. He also recommended the importance of making the systems and technological solutions developed by BIREME easier and more attractive to expand the international collaboration in the area of management of the scientific and technical information in health. The Director of BIREME made clear that new technological solutions are

included in the recommendations of the 6° Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library (VHL6).

The delegate of the Dominican Republic recognized the complexity and the challenges of BIREME's technical cooperation. He mentioned that the Strategy and Plan of Action of eHealth bring many challenges for the countries, taking into consideration the current local capacities. He recommended (a) strengthening the use of tools developed by BIREME in all the countries of the Region; (b) to disseminate systematically the existing tools, which can be reused by other countries; (c) to develop a regional repository of good practices of the countries also for public health; and (d) to support the development of capabilities in the area of information sciences in the countries, taking into account the shortage of professionals in this area, mainly in the governmental institutions.

The **delegate of Suriname, through remote participation**, mentioned the need for greater support by BIREME to her country considering the access to the scientific information and the development of policies for non-communicable diseases in Suriname.

Discussion and Presentation of the Terms of Selection and Appointment of the Specialists for the Scientific Committee of BIREME

- 8) The terms of reference for the selection and appointment of the specialists for the Scientific Committee of BIREME were presented by Adalberto Otranto Tardelli, Director of BIREME and *ex officio* Secretary of the Advisory Committee and Albino José Belotto, Temporary Advisor and former staff member of PAHO/WHO, with considerations to its legal bases and the dynamic used by PAHO/WHO for the selection and appointment of the specialists for the Committee. There was submitted for consideration the candidates indicated by 4 (four) Member States of PAHO/WHO (Brazil, Canada, Honduras and Trinidad & Tobago) and, by PAHO/WHO, an expert of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the United States.

Observations and Recommendations

The delegate of Brazil understood the selection criteria defined and presented. She also spoke about the need for guaranteeing an effective operational dynamic of the Scientific Committee of BIREME, which establishment process is undergoing, taking into consideration the work objectives of the Committee, the recommended number of experts and the need for appropriation of the process by its members undergoing nomination. Moreover, she also recommended communication actions among the members of the Committee, both virtually

and in person. Furthermore, she also proposed to hold a two days workshop with the members of the Committee in order to define and approve its internal regulation on a priority basis sharing its objectives and expected results.

Furthermore, on the technological approach in the discussions of the Scientific Committee, she recommended involving foreign experts groups and forging strategic partnerships in the Area.

The delegate of Bolivia agreed with the observations and recommendations by the Brazilian delegate, besides commenting on Article VII of the Statute of BIREME on the Scientific Committee and the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee (presented by the Director of BIREME and that they will be evaluated by its members during the first on-line meeting of the Committee). The delegate expressed a specific doubt on the period of participation of the members published in these two documents, i.e. for 2 (two) or 3 (three) years.

The delegate of Chile demonstrated understanding of the selection criteria and agreed with the observations and recommendations of the delegate of Brazil in addition to recommending that the Scientific Committee of BIREME may support the process of using the databases and the sources of information operated regionally by BIREME. He still recommended that the Scientific Committee of BIREME prioritizes the harmonization of the electronic systems and the technological platforms of BIREME in order to improve at local, national, and regional levels the access and use of the available sources of information.

The delegate of the Dominican Republic agreed with the observations and recommendations of the delegates of the Advisory Committee and in addition recommended prioritizing the definition and approval of the rules of procedure of the Scientific Committee of BIREME at the first in person meeting of the members of the Committee.

Furthermore, the delegates of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and the Dominican Republic agreed with the indicated specialists by the 4 (four) PAHO/WHO Member States and by PAHO/WHO: Brazil and Canada over a period of 2 (two) years, Honduras, Trinidad & Tobago and an expert of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the United States, over a period of 3 (three) years.

It has been agreed the definition of communication actions in order to strengthen the operational dynamic of the Committee including the implementation of a workshop prior to the first in person meeting of the Scientific Committee of BIREME that should occur in the first semester of 2013.

Final Observations and Recommendations

The delegated of Brazil, President of the Session, acknowledged and accepted all the recommendations, as well as the participation and presence of all members, congratulating the team of BIREME for the organization of the meeting, considering the format and the available contents. She recommended that the experience of Brazil and BIREME become available to all the countries of the Region, considering the multi-institutional commitment, in addition to the Government's, in favor of the maintenance and strengthening of BIREME during its 45 years of existence. She pointed out the importance of the continuous integration (virtual and in-person) of the members of the structures of governance of BIREME.

The delegate of Chile recommended the importance of disseminating technical cooperation of BIREME in the health information institutions of the countries of the Region, promoting the VHL, its projects, products, and scientific and technical information services.

The delegate of Bolivia mentioned the importance of the countries of the Region in the development of national policies in the Area of Knowledge Management and Communications and of eHealth integrated to the local or sub regional conditions of the countries. He pointed out that Bolivia has more than 40 (forty) institutions that support BIREME with information content load in VHL recognizing, in this regard, the efforts of PAHO and of the Ministry of Health of Bolivia. He also recommended the creation of mechanisms to support the availability of infrastructure and local personnel, in particular, in Bolivia, to allow the continuous development of VHL and its sources of information. He still recommended that BIREME make itself present in the countries' national health information policies, within the framework of technical cooperation with PAHO/WHO.

The delegate of Argentina, remote participant, reconciled with the specific observations of the delegate of Bolivia and also recommended the promotion to use the VHL, its products and services which are developed and coordinated regionally by BIREME.

The delegate of the Dominican Republic agreed with the final comments of the delegates of the Member States of the Advisory Committee of BIREME.

The delegates of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and the Dominican Republic recognized the importance of the role from BIREME to the countries of the Region, the complexity and challenges of its technical cooperation and, by the

argumentation of the Director of BIREME, supported the use of the Strategies and Plans of Action on eHealth and Knowledge Management and Communications, considering that they are also frameworks that formalize the actions of technical cooperation with the Center.

Other topics

- 9) The presence of the Delegates of the Member States was acknowledged, being pointed out the discussions carried out and the results reached by the meeting as well as to BIREME's team by its performance throughout the trajectory of the Center in the area of the scientific information in Health.

- 10) It was informed to all participants that the working documents are available in the Online Collaborative Space of the Advisory Committee of BIREME [<http://comites.bireme.org>]. Each member received an individual access password. Besides, the details of the discussions which took place during the meeting can be accessed as follows:

In Spanish

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=1110&psid=2012-12-05.0330.M.904420B7E684575AFAD25E83BF25F2.vcr>

In English

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=1110&psid=2012-12-05.0332.M.70101164160546C804497A623105D3.vcr>

Session Closure

After the exchange of recognition and expressions of courtesy, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out and the third session was closed.

In witness whereof, the third 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 delegated of Brazil, 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 fifth day of the month of December of the year two thousand and twelve. The original signed document will be deposited in the files of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Ana Estela Haddad
Delegate of Brazil
President of the third session of the
Advisory Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Adalberto Otranto Tardelli
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Secretary *ex officio* of the third 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 work plan, the state of its technical cooperation program. The results obtained by the 6th edition of the Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library (VHL6) in the 9th edition of Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information (CRICS9) carried out in PAHO/WHO Headquarters on October 20th-24th, 2012.

Debate, questions and answers

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

- 1) Biennial Work Plan (BWP) of BIREME
Summary of the Biennial Work Plan of BIREME 2012-2013
- 2) Establishment of a new institutional framework for the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) Resolution 5 adopted in the 49th Directing council (CD49.R5), carried out in PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 28th - October 2nd, 2009
- 3) Strategy and Plan of Action on eHealth Resolution 5 adopted in the 51st Directing Council (CD51.R5), carried out in PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 26th - 30th, 2011
- 4) Strategy and Plan of Action on Knowledge Management and Communications Resolution 2 adopted in the 2nd Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP28.R2), carried out in PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 17th – 21st, 2012

Debate, questions and answers

Terms of selection and nomination of the specialists of the Scientific Committee: (1) Legal Bases; (2) Dynamic used for the selection and appointment session of the indicated specialists by the PAHO/WHO Member States and by PAHO/WHO; and (3) Proposal with the names of the indicated candidates of the Committee. Annex I) Summarized *curriculum* of the specialists indicated for the Committee and Annex II) Article III of the Statute of BIREME

Debate, questions and answers

Annex B

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

1. Agenda of the Meeting
3rd Session of the Advisory Committee of BIREME
2. Participants at the Meeting
Members of the Advisory Committee and BIREME's team
3. Report on the Second Session of the Advisory Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO Meeting carried out in BIREME on October 25th, 2011
4. Regulation of the Advisory Committee of BIREME
5. Terms of reference for the selection and nomination of the specialists of the Scientific Committee
6. Biennial Work Plan (BWP) of BIREME
Summary of the BIREME's Biennial Work Plan 2012-2013
7. Establishment of one new institutional framework for the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)
Resolution 5 approved in the 49th Directing Council (CD49.R5), carried out at PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 28th - October 2nd, 2009
8. Strategy and Plan of Action on eHealth
Resolution 5 approved in the 51st Directing Council (CD51.R5), carried out at PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 26th -30th, 2011

9. Strategy and Plan of Action on Knowledge Management and Communications Resolution 2 approved in the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference (CSP28.R2), carried out at PAHO/WHO Headquarters on September 17th – 21st, 2012

Note: all the working documents are available to the members of the Advisory Committee at the Online Collaborative Space: <http://comites.bireme.org>

Information documents

File with dissemination material (folders) of BIREME/PAHO/WHO, its new institutional framework, and its products, services and events that characterize the technical cooperation program by means of the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and its associated networks.

Annex C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Argentina

Andrea Carbone (remote participant)
Adviser at the Secretary of Health Determinants
Ministry of Health of the Nation

Brazil

Ana Estela Haddad
Associate Professor at the Department of Orthodontics and Odontopediatrics at Faculty of Odontology, University of São Paulo, Deputy Representative
Ministry of Health

Bolivia

Ramiro Asturizaga Rollano
Technical Professional at the Unit of Health Services and Quality
Ministry of Health and Sports

Chile

Rodrigo Fuentes

Professional at the Department of Epidemiology of the Health Planning Division
Ministry of Health

Dominican Republic

Rafael Montero
FCS - School of Public Health UASD. R.D
Ministry of Public Health

Suriname

Marthelise Eersel (remote participant)
Health Director
Ministry of Health

PAHO/WHO

ex officio Secretary
Adalberto O. Tardelli
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

BIREME

Silvia Almeida de Valentin
Manager of Administration Management and Planning (GA)

Renato Murasaki
Manager of Information Methodologies and Technologies (MTI) and Acting
Manager of Administration of Sources of Information (AFI)

Carmen Verônica Mendes Abdala
Manager of Evidence and Information Cooperative Services (SCI) and Acting
Manager of Production of Sources of Information (PFI)

Marcia Ymanaka Barretto
Supervisor of Information Technologies and Infrastructure (ITI/GA)

Fabício Lima
Supervisor of Controllershship and Processes (CPP/GA)

Albino José Belotto
Temporary Advisor and former PAHO employee

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

CD49 – Session 49th of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD49.R5 – Resolution 5 of the 49th PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD49.R6 – Resolution 6 of the 49th PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD50 – Session 50st of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD51 – Session 51st of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD51.R5 – Resolution 5 of the 51st PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CRICS – Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information

CRICS9 – Ninth edition of the Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information

CSP28 – 28th PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

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

eHealth– Electronic Health

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

MEDLINE – main NLM database

NLM – USA National Library of Medicine

UNIFESP – *Universidade Federal de São Paulo*, founded as *Escola Paulista de
Medicina*