

**Eleventh 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 Eleventh (XI) session of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on 8 February 2023. The meeting was held in compliance to Resolution 5 of the 49<sup>th</sup> Directing Council of PAHO/WHO (CD49.R5).

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 Colombia and Costa Rica, Member States elected as members of BIREME AC according to Resolution CD58.R6 for a three years period (2021-2023) and delegates from Chile, Guatemala and, Trinidad and Tobago, Member States elected as members of BIREME Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution CD59.R11 for a three years period (2022-2024).

**FINAL REPORT**

São Paulo, Brazil, 8 February, 2023

## FINAL REPORT

### Opening Session

- 1) On 8 February 2023, the Eleventh Session of the Center's AC was held online, which fulfills advisory functions before the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session was led by João Paulo Souza, Director of BIREME and Secretary ex-officio, supported by the appointed President, Ana Estela Haddad, Secretary of Information and Digital Health of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, together with the BIREME management team in support of the Rapporteur named Adriana Salazar, Head of the International Relations Unit, Ministry of Health of Costa Rica.
- 2) Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH) began with words of welcome, recognizing the participation of the AC members, emphasizing the importance of the BIREME AC, and the recommendations from its members for the continued sustainability of the Center.
- 3) The participation of the AC members was thanked and the importance of holding the session within the framework of the institutional development of the Center was highlighted.
- 4) The AC members and BIREME staff participating in the session introduced themselves and the work began.

### Regulation Matters

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

**Presidency:** Brazil (Ana Estela Haddad)

**Rapporteur:** Costa Rica (Adriana Salazar)

### PRESENTATION

- 7) The Director of BIREME presented the proposal to revise the Statute of BIREME, considering that BIREME no longer has its headquarters on the UNIFESP campus:
  - a) **Article I - Legal Status:** The Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information, also known by its original name the Regional Library of Medicine ("BIREME"), is a specialized center of the Pan American Health Organization ("PAHO"), Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization ("WHO"), established pursuant to the resolutions of the Directing

~~Council of PAHO and operating continuously in Brazil, with headquarters in the city of São Paulo, since its creation, effected through an agreement signed between PAHO and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.~~

- b) ~~**Article XI – Facilities:** The arrangements regarding the physical facilities and other services provided to BIREME, headquartered since its creation on the UNIFESP campus in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, should be reflected in an agreement involving PAHO, the Government of Brazil, and UNIFESP.~~
- 8) The proposed adjustments were unanimously approved by the AC Members to be presented on the agenda of the next Directing Council of PAHO.
- 9) The Director of BIREME then presented the annual report on BIREME's activities, highlighting the Center's technical cooperation program, its projects, products and services made available to countries in the Region (and beyond) at the levels of local, national, regional and global action, with emphasis on actions carried out from December 2021 until today, highlighting BIREME's priorities and strategic actions, and the financial contributions in the period.

### **Comments and Recommendations**

- 10) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, facilitated by the President of the Session and by the Secretary ex officio, in addition to congratulating BIREME for the presentations and for the progress in technical cooperation products and services, were directed towards the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME, expressed in proposals for a more effective dissemination of its projects, products and services in the countries of the Region, seeking intersectoral partners, in addition to the need to venture into strategic issues and in particular, the implementation of institutional frameworks that define and sustain BIREME's institutional framework both in Brazil and throughout the Region.
- 11) The AC members and the participants reached a consensus on the recommendations, which are summarized below and will be sent to the PAHO/WHO Director for consideration.
- i. Incorporate the proposed changes to the BIREME Statute;
  - ii. Review the other language versions of the BIREME Statute to ensure full consistency among them;
  - iii. Move forward with the implementation of the BIREME Statute, especially the formalization of its Headquarters Agreement in Brazil, in order to enable the annual financial contributions through the Ministry of Health;

- iv. Continue strengthening the search for financing and sustainability of BIREME with the support of PAHO/WHO and to expand with the exploration of alternative sources;
- v. Include BIREME in the PAHO/WHO Country Cooperation Strategies to promote the dissemination of evidence products and services in health sciences developed by the Center, increasing the spaces for promotion of information products and services developed by BIREME, within the countries and internally in PAHO/WHO and identifying specific actions to disseminate them effectively;
- vi. Strengthen links with PAHO/WHO country offices and national counterparts, including academia, to support the identification of funding sources and the development of technical cooperation projects;
- vii. Develop the BIREME Cooperation Strategy in line with the PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan and the objectives and functions of BIREME;
- viii. Develop the BIREME Work Plan for 2024-25 (BWP 2024-2025) aligned with the new BIREME Cooperation Strategy (2023-2025).

### **Other topics**

- 12) 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 area of scientific information on Health and especially in the realization of the Eleventh 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 Eleventh 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 eighth day of the month of February of the year two thousand and twenty-three.

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



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João Paulo Souza  
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO  
Ex-officio secretary of the eleventh 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**

Ana Estela Haddad  
Secretariat  
Information and Digital Health Secretary  
Ministry of Health

Indiara Meira Gonçalves  
International Affairs Advisory – AISA  
Ministry of Health

##### **Chile**

Valentina Sandoval  
Library “Dr. Bogoslav Juric Turina”

##### **Colombia**

Jaime Castellanos  
Advisor to the Minister of Health and Social Protection

##### **Costa Rica**

Adriana Salazar González  
Head of International Relations  
Ministry of Health

##### **Guatemala**

Wendy Saenz Alivat  
Normative Technique  
Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

#### **PAHO/WHO, HQ**

Sebastián García Saiso  
Director of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – EIH

#### **BIREME/PAHO/WHO**

<i>João Paulo Souza</i>	<i>Director and Secretary ex officio</i>
<i>Lilian Calò</i>	<i>Coordinator of Scientific Communication</i>
<i>Carmen Verônica Abdala</i>	<i>Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI)</i>
	<i>Production of Information Sources (PFI)</i>
<i>Juliana Sousa</i>	<i>Supervisor of VHL Instance Monitoring and Projects</i>
<i>Rosemeire Pinto</i>	<i>Supervisor of User Attention Services</i>
<i>Sueli Suga</i>	<i>Supervisor of Referential Information Sources</i>
<i>Sandra Janostiac</i>	<i>Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies (MTI) and</i> <i>Administration of Information Sources (AFI) until 31/OCT/2021</i>



Marcos Luis Mori	Supervisor of Technical Support Network
<i>Silvia Almeida de Valentin</i>	<i>Manager of Administrative Management and Planning (GA)</i>
Marcia Ymanaka Barretto	Coordinator of Infrastructure of Information Technologies
Adriano Rehder de Sá	Controllership and Processes

Annex D

**ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

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

**VHL** – Virtual Health Library