

**Twelfth 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 Twelfth (XII) Session of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on 23 August 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, 23 August, 2023

## FINAL REPORT

### Opening Session

- 1) On 23 August 2023, the Twelfth Session of BIREME's Advisory Committee (AC) was held online, which fulfills advisory functions before the Director of PAHO/WHO.
- 2) João Paulo Souza, Director of BIREME and *ex-officio* secretary of the AC, began with welcoming words, thanking the AC members for their participation and justifying the absence of Dr. Sebastián García Saisó, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH).
- 3) The importance of holding the session within the framework of the institutional development of the Center was highlighted and the Agenda for the XII Session was presented.
- 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 twelfth session:

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

**Rapporteur:** Chile (Valentina Sandoval)

### Presentation & Discussion

- 6) Under the presidency of Ana Estela Haddad, representative of Brazil and Secretary of Information and Digital Health of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the first item on the agenda was a status report on BIREME's "Headquarters Agreement". The President of the Session herself reported on the progress of the headquarters agreement, which has received a favorable technical and legal opinion from the Ministry of Health and is now awaiting an opinion from the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 7) Next, BIREME'S Director presented the Center's 2023-2025 Strategy, including the Recommendations from the Center's Scientific Committee and highlighting its relevance for organizational positioning within the scope of the PAHO agenda for the Region.

- 8) In addition to the general context of PAHO's Mission and Vision, and considering the situation of BIREME's information products and services in the specific context of the global megatrend of digital transformation, the presentation included the following topics: objectives of the strategy; methods for developing the strategy; priority areas of work and activities for BIREME; implementation of the Strategy; theory of change; new organizational chart; monitoring and evaluation; expected results; recommendations from the Scientific Committee.
- 9) In summary, based on the needs identified by countries and PAHO offices in the Region, the strategy seeks to produce impacts at the country level, through the development and operation of information products and services designed to drive action in health, with decision-making based on scientific evidence. Thus, it is expected that the implementation of Strategy 2023-2025 will contribute to consolidating BIREME as the "Pan American Information Center for Action in Health".

### **Comments and Recommendations**

- 10) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, in addition to congratulating BIREME on the development of the strategy and recognizing BIREME's programmatic alignment with the priority themes for the region, also indicated support for the initiative to improve BIREME's engagement with the countries of the Region.
- 11) The members of the Committee reached a consensus, as described below, which will be sent to the Director of PAHO/WHO:

*Considering the purposes of the BIREME Strategy 2023-2025 (i.e., to contribute to PAHO's vision of health for all and to facilitate the development of information products compatible with the most advanced stage of digital transformation), BIREME's Advisory Committee:*

- i. Recognizes the proposed strategy as a valid approach;*
- ii. Recommends its implementation.*

### **Other topics**

- 12) Next, the President and the Secretary ex-officio of the Session proceeded to report on the composition and rotation of members of BIREME's Governance Committees, as required by the bylaws, asking the members to indicate the names of technical experts in the development and exploitation of information products and services, with a special interest in artificial intelligence, to compose the Scientific Committee (three vacancies) as of 2024.

13) Concluding the agenda for the day, the dates and suggested agendas for the next meetings of the Governance Committees were announced, as follows:

- a. Proposed Agenda: Evaluation of the 2023 Activity Report; Evaluation of Strategy Implementation; Evaluation of the 2024-2025 Biannual Work Plan.
- b. Proposed dates: Scientific Committee (March 20, 2024) and Advisory Committee (March 27, 2024).

### **Closing of the session**

14) The Delegates of the Member States were thanked for their presence, with emphasis on the discussions held and the results achieved at the meeting, as well as the BIREME team for its performance at the Center in scientific information in Health and especially in holding the XII Session of the Advisory Committee.

15) After the exchange of recognition and expressions of courtesy, the main objectives achieved towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were highlighted and, in testimony, the twelfth session of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) was closed, the Director of BIREME and Secretary ex-officio, signs this final report in the original Spanish language.

Held online on August 23 of the year two thousand and twenty-three.

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

### **João Paulo Souza**

Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Secretary ex-officio of the twelfth session of the  
BIREME/PAHO/WHO Advisory Committee

Annexes  
**Annex A**

**AGENDA**

**Opening of the Session**

- Presentation of the members of the BIREME Advisory Committee
- Appointment of President and Rapporteur

**Update on progress related to BIREME's "Headquarters Agreement"**

**Presentation of the 2023-2025 Strategy**

- Recommendations from BIREME's Scientific Committee
- Discussions

**Report on the composition and rotation of members of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Committee**

- Discussion

**General recommendations for the Director of PAHO/WHO**

**Report on proposed dates for 2024 meetings**

- Advisory Committee and Scientific Committee

## **Annex B**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

##### **Brazil**

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

##### **Chile**

Valentina Sandoval, Dr. Bogoslav Juric Turina Library, Ministry of Health

##### **Costa Rica**

Adriana Salazar González, International Relations Unit, Ministry of Health

##### **Guatemala**

Wendy Saenz Alivat, Normative Technician, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

##### **Trinidad and Tobago**

Stewart Smith, Senior Health System Advisor, Ministry of Health

##### **BIREME/PAHO/WHO, Director, Managers and Teams**

João Paulo Souza, Director and Secretary ex-officio

Carmen Verônica Abdala, Manager of Cooperative Information and Evidence Services and Production of Information Sources

Sandra Janostiac, Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies and Administration of Information Sources

Silvia Almeida de Valentin, Administrative Management and Planning Manager

## **Annex C**

### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**BIREME** - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information, called Regional Library of Medicine at the time of its creation

**AC** - BIREME Advisory Committee

**CC** - BIREME Scientific Committee

**DC** - PAHO/WHO Directing Council

**EIH** - Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health

**VHL** - Virtual Health Library

**PAHO** - Pan American Health Organization

**WHO** - World Health Organization

## **Annex D**

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. BIREME's 2023-2025 Strategy