

Thirteenth 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 Thirteenth (XIII) Session of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on 29th August 2024. The meeting was held in compliance to Resolution 5 of the 49th 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 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), and Cuba and Guyana, Member States elected as members of BIREME Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution CD60.R9 for a three years period (2024-2026). Guatemala and Guyana members could not participate in the session.

MINUTES

São Paulo, Brazil, 29th August, 2024

MINUTES

Opening Session

- 1) On 29 August 2024, the Thirteenth Session of BIREME's Advisory Committee (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*, assisted by the appointed President, Ileana Alfonso, member representing Cuba.
- 2) Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH) initiated the session 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 and the Agenda for the XII Session was presented.
- 4) The AC members and BIREME personnel participating in the session agreed on the beginning of the session.

Regulation Matters

- 5) The following Member State was elected to constitute the directing panel of the AC of BIREME in its thirteenth session:

Presidency: Cuba (Ileana Alfonso)

Presentation and Comments

- 6) The Director of BIREME presented a comprehensive overview of the center's progress under its work plan, guided by the Strategy 2023-2025, which aligns with PAHO's strategic goals and emphasizes digital transformation, innovation, and user-centered development of information products. Key initiatives discussed included enhancing decision-making capacities in health, leveraging advanced technologies, and fostering technical cooperation with countries. The presentation also covered BIREME's research and development efforts on digital frontiers and their integration into public health information products.
- 7) In addition, the presentation highlighted BIREME's role in developing and sustaining public health information products and services, such as the Virtual

Health Library (VHL) and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (LILACS), along with its dedication to operational and financial sustainability through agile methodologies and fundraising initiatives.

- 8) Following the presentation, the Advisory Committee engaged in discussions, with key messages and recommendations summarized in Box 1.

Box 1: Key messages and recommendations from BIREME Advisory Committee (AC).

- i. BIREME AC commends the Secretariat and technical teams for their outstanding achievements since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee.
- ii. The Advisory Committee fully endorses the Scientific Committee's recommendations.
- iii. The Committee recommends strengthening communication with Ministries of Health and PAHO Country Offices to guide the development of information products that effectively respond to public health needs at the country level, with particular emphasis on supporting evidence-informed health policy, practices, and health systems development. These components should be reflected on the Technical Cooperation Strategies with PAHO Country Offices.
- iv. The Committee underscores the importance of implementing BIREME's Headquarters Agreement in Brazil for the Center sustainability.

- 9) The session concluded with closing remarks from the EIH Director, who expressed special appreciation to Chile, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, countries rotating out of the committee.
- 10) 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 Thirteenth Session of the Advisory Committee.

Session Closure

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

In witness whereof, the Thirteenth 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 the minutes.

Held online on the twenty-nine day of the month of August of the year two thousand and twenty-four.

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

João Paulo Souza
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Ex-officio secretary of the thirteenth session of the
Advisory Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Brazil

Paulo Sellera, Director of the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Dissemination of Strategic Health Data and Information, Ministry of Health

Chile

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

Cuba

Ileana Alfonso, Director of the National Center for Medical Sciences Information - Infomed

Trinidad and Tobago

Stewart Smith, Senior Health System Advisor, Ministry of Health

PAHO/WHO

Sebastián García Saisó, Director of EIH

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

João Paulo Souza, Director and Secretary *ex-officio*
Technical and administrative team, Secretariat

DOCUMENTS

The documents for the XIII Session of the AC are available on the [Governance Committees Portal of BIREME](#), that are:

1. Agenda of the Session ([link](#))
2. Summary Executive Report ([link](#))
3. Executive Report ([link](#))
4. Strategy 2023-2025 ([link](#))
5. News published in BIREME Bulletin ([link](#))