



VIII Regional Meeting of the Observatories of Human Resources in Health for the Americas

Action Plans for a Decade of Human Resources in Health: Toward a Common Vision

Lima, Peru
20-22 November, 2006

The 2006 VIII Regional Meeting of the Observatories of Human Resources for Health in the Americas holds particular importance as it falls during the World Health Organization's year of human resources for health. With the launching of the 2006 World Health Organization Annual Report, "Working Together for Health," the world is focused on the critical importance of a well-distributed, effective, trained, and compensated workforce in achieving effective health systems and meeting the national and international needs of all populations.

One year after the *Toronto Call to Action* of last year's landmark meeting of the Observatories, the stakeholders and decision makers from the countries of the Region will re-convene to exchange their experiences over the last year to share lessons learned, successes gained, and best practices recommended. The purpose of this year's Lima Meeting is for the countries of the Americas to "answer the call" by beginning to develop their national plans of action to achieve significant improvements in their human resources in health (HRH) over the next ten years. With the momentum and encouragement provided through the successes of key country experiences, the participants will work in small groups to devise their own country plans.

The hope is that the participants of this meeting will attain knowledge, support, and understanding of the planning process so that they will be able to identify a detailed 10-year vision for developing an effective health workforce, define the specific activities needed to reach that vision, and establish benchmarks and indicators for measuring progress and success. The results that are expected to come out of this meeting are for each country to:

- Formulate a statement of the changes it wants to achieve in the next years;

- Define key indicators of desired changes and a monitoring process to track progress;
- Identify needs for technical assistance and financial support;
- Agree on strategies for cooperation between countries within the Region of the Americas and explore possible cooperation with countries of Americas;
- Exchange information and evidence generated by the Observatories and exchange experiences from countries who have already initiated activities and programs to address the five primary HRH challenges;
- Recruit support from experts, technical agencies and funding institutions to mobilize political, financial, and technical resources.