

Translated from Spanish

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL. CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMMES IN LATIN AMERICA

Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA, 27 April 2007

Cancer is a growing public health problem in developing countries where it is anticipated that, in the next fifteen years, two thirds of the expected cancer cases in the world will be concentrated. In Latin America cancer has assumed epidemic proportions, affecting not only people's lives, in particular people of productive age, but also seriously affecting the economy of the region. Serious deficits in the professional staff and equipment required to confront this emerging problem have also been identified. Therefore, the coordinated involvement of international organizations is urgently required in order to provide technical assistance and to help with the identification of new sources of funding.

Thus, the following has been agreed.

1. The IAEA's PACT initiative marks the beginning of the unification of the efforts of the sectors involved and the blast-off for joint and coordinated action against cancer. However, it is clear that the available resources are insufficient to respond to the current and future cancer problem in Latin America, guaranteeing the establishment of minimum quality standards in all radiotherapy services in the region.
2. The political commitment of governments to supporting and funding national cancer prevention and control plans is essential.
3. The health authorities in each country will be responsible for promoting the inclusion of cancer among national priorities, in line with the resolution of the World Health Assembly held in Geneva in 2006. The primary objective of this action will be to create strategic alliances which allow a national cancer control plan to be developed on the basis of a broad consensus.
4. Integrated identification of needs at national level is needed. This could be facilitated using the mechanisms established by PACT and collaborating organizations.
5. Epidemiological information is needed to develop appropriate strategies for each country and the creation or strengthening of population-based cancer records should therefore be promoted.
6. Cancer control plans must include the provision of information to the general public on the scope for preventing cancer and other diseases by modifying lifestyle, and through early detection and appropriate treatment upon diagnosis.
7. The public should be extensively informed that cancer is the most curable chronic disease and that even advanced stages of the disease do respond to efficient palliative treatment. A programme of palliative care should therefore be an integral part of national cancer control plans.
8. Preventive measures which have proven effective are control of tobacco addiction, infections, sedentary lifestyle, exposure to radiation, inter alia, and they must be addressed through existing strategies. These include adherence to recommendations of the framework agreement for control of tobacco, vaccinations, sex education, healthy food and diet, and daily physical activity.

9. Early screening and detection programmes must be implemented for common curable cancers such as cervical, breast, colorectal and skin cancer.
10. Training of health professionals working in the cancer field must be stipulated in cancer control plans. This training is a need which can be realized through the creation of an accredited regional cancer training network, improving the services available to the public.
11. All the participants engage to work with international organizations such as the IAEA, PAHO, IARC, ACS, NCI and related scientific societies such as ALATRO in a coordinated manner, utilizing the progress experienced in various participating countries. Furthermore, the countries of the Latin American community adopt these guidelines through a facilitative process headed by the IAEA's PACT and technical cooperation programme, WHO/PAHO in strategic alliance with other organizations, and NGOs and organized civil society.