



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PAHO DIRECTOR, DR. MIRTA ROSES-PERIAGO, VISITS THE BAHAMAS FOR  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL MANAGERS OF  
THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**



The annual meeting of the Caribbean Sub-regional Managers of the Pan American Health Organization [PAHO] will be convened in Nassau, The Bahamas

during the period, 13-17 April, 2009. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, the PAHO Director and Regional Director for the Americas of the World Health Organization [WHO], will attend this meeting together with PAHO-WHO Country Representatives for the Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands, Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela & the Netherlands Antilles. PAHO/WHO staff from its Sub-regional Office for Caribbean Program Coordination, the Directors of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute as well as Area Managers and other staff from PAHO's Headquarters in Washington, DC, USA will also be in attendance at this meeting.

The purpose of this internal meeting will be to strengthen the capacity of managers to define and manage PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation, both at the country and sub-regional levels, while simultaneously ensuring a country focused approach. During this meeting Managers will discuss and analyze strategic topics, including the implications of the global economic crisis on health, regional initiatives and technical issues to advance the mission of the Organization. Additionally, the issues of strategic planning and results based management will be discussed, in order to ensure that they are better reflected in the formulation and implementation of the Secretariat's policies and programs at country, sub-regional, regional, and global levels, and in its relationship with other Agencies.

During her visit to The Bahamas, Dr. Roses-Periago will also pay courtesy calls on the Governor General, His Excellency Arthur D. Hanna; the Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Brent Symonette; and the Minister of Health, the Honorable Dr. Hurbert A. Minnis.

Dr. Roses was elected as the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau by the countries of the Hemisphere in September 2002, and she took office on 1 February 2003 for a five-year term, serving as the first woman to head the world's oldest international health organization. In September 2007, she was reelected to a second term as Director of PAHO.

Dr. Roses Periago has promoted a work philosophy that links consensus building with the forging of partnerships to attract new social actors to the defense of health, focusing efforts on achieving visible improvements in the health situation of the countries, providing support for priority countries, and strongly promoting equity in health with the decentralization of resources targeted to national priorities, and care for neglected populations.

PAHO, founded in 1902, works with all the countries of the Americas to improve the health and quality of life of their peoples. It also serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization [WHO]. The

Commonwealth of The Bahamas has been a member of the Pan American Health Organization since 1974. The first PAHO/WHO Country Office in The Bahamas was established in 1978 and later accorded full country status in 1982.

The last official visit of the PAHO Director to The Bahamas occurred in March 2007. Dr. Roses Periago will travel from The Bahamas to Trinidad and Tobago to attend the Summit of The Americas.

**DR. MERLE LEWIS**

**PWR, THE BAHAMAS AND TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS**

**10 APRIL 2009**