

**DECLARATION of the MEETING
TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL
Mexico City 12-13 May, 2008**

Recognizing that cervical cancer is one of the most common causes of death among women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC);

That 33,000 women die each year of cervical cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean.

That it is estimated that, if this trend continues, the number of deaths from cervical cancer will double by 2030.

That it primarily affects vulnerable populations such as poor women and indigenous populations.

Expressing concern for the high burden of this disease, with the highest mortality rates in the world and its economic impact in Latin America and Caribbean.

That now we know HPV causes virtually 100% of cervical cancers.

That today there are vaccines against HPV, which offer great hope towards the prevention of 70% of the infections by this virus.

That the primary limitation for its use is the high cost.

That vaccines against HPV do not replace screening programs, diagnostics and treatment.

That with the introduction of this vaccine we have an opportunity to strengthen prevention and comprehensive control through improving coverage and quality of screening, diagnostics, and treatment services.

The participants resolve to:

Promote the integration among programs responsible for immunization, cancer prevention and control, and adolescent and reproductive health with the goal of strengthening efforts toward the prevention and control of cervical cancer.

Take the opportunity with the introduction of the vaccine against HPV to strengthen sexual and reproductive education, training of personnel, as well as cancer screening services, diagnostics and treatment.

Continue considering immunization programs as a regional public good with high political priority.

Consider the introduction of a vaccine against HPV based on technical, programmatic and operational criteria of individual countries, taking into consideration the need to strengthen the cold chain, epidemiological surveillance systems, and the laboratory network in countries.

Work together and with PAHO's Revolving Fund to obtain affordable prices for HPV vaccines so that all the countries in the region can introduce the vaccine in their national immunization programs as soon as possible.

Generate mechanisms and negotiating processes with high-level financing stakeholders at the national level, which will ensure the sustainability of vaccination programs, prevention and control of cervical cancer.

Country Participants

**Argentina
Barbados
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica**

**Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Jamaica**

**México
Nicaragua
Panamá
Paraguay
Peru
United States
Venezuela**