

**DECLARATION OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN HEALTH COUNCIL
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TOWARDS THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE
(EVD) AND COOPERATION WITH THE BROTHER COUNTRIES OF AFRICA
December 2, 2014**

The South American Health Council, meeting via videoconference on December 2nd, 2014, with the participation of the Ministers of Health and Delegates of Member States of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay and Venezuela.

1. Considering the declaration of the World Health Organization (WHO), which reported the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic as a public health emergency of international relevance, having caused considerable repercussions to our sister countries in Africa,
2. Considering that the International Community, in full cooperation with the WHO; the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER); the regional integration organizations and the civil society organizations have been developing efforts and actions for the control, mitigation and confrontation of this epidemic, with the mobilization of funds to this end,
3. Taking into account that avoiding the transmission of the EVD and guaranteeing the protection of the health of the population are the main goals to be reached towards the eventual appearance of any case of the disease in the South American Region,
4. Considering that all Member States of UNASUR are implementing Response Contingency Plans for the potential appearance of the Ebola virus – EVD,
5. Highlighting the importance of the adoption, in the South American Region, of cooperation measures that are effective and urgent in order to provide help to our brother countries of Africa, which have been affected by this epidemic,
6. Considering that some countries of the region have made donations to the countries affected in Africa,
7. Stating the relevance of strengthening international cooperation in the South American countries for the implementation of the International Health Regulations throughout the whole region for the preparedness and response towards the EVD and other extraordinary events that might be considered of international relevance,
8. Considering that it is essential to develop and to implement horizontal cooperation measures that are effective, tangible and urgent, which can contribute for the detaining of the outbreak of this disease, or any other extraordinary event that might be considered of international relevance, in our region,
9. In accomplishment of the mandates of the chancellors of Africa and South America (ASA), and based on the recommendations of UNASUR's Council of



Ministers of Foreign Affairs and on the ASA Meeting of High Level Officials, held in New York, on September 25 and 26, in the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly, which urged the South American Health Council to generate cooperation actions in the fight against the outbreak of the EVD in Africa,

10. In support of the Declaration of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) on Ebola, held in Havana, Cuba on October 20, 2014,
11. Congratulating the initiative of the Government of Cuba and the member countries of the ALBA-TCP of convoking the countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to the Technical Meeting for the Fight against Ebola, in Havana, Cuba on October 29 and 30 of 2014,
12. In support of the strategic lines for the Prevention and Fight against the Ebola virus disease and other diseases by viral hemorrhagic fevers, adopted during the Havana Technical Meeting at the "Pedro Kouri" Tropical Medicine Institute, held from November 10 to 14,
13. Considering the outcomes of UNASUR's Seminar on the fight against the Ebola epidemics, which took place at Fiocruz, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from November 25 to 27, 2014, which counted with the participation of representatives of the Network of National Institutes of Health (RINS-UNASUR) and of the Technical Group on Health Surveillance and Response (GTVR-UNASUR),

Agrees:

1. To put the Coordinating Committee in charge of the development of an UNASUR's Cooperation Framework, within 60 days, in accordance with the PAHO/WHO Plan, for the strengthening of the national and regional capacities and for the prevention and the confrontation of the EVD, and also other extraordinary event that might be considered of the same nature, which contemplates the axis of epidemiological surveillance, laboratorial diagnosis, clinical treatment and risk communication.
2. To express their solidarity to the member countries of the African Union, especially to the brother countries of West Africa, and to include an international cooperation component in UNASUR Cooperation Framework for the support to this region, aiming at strengthening the governance of the global EVD proposal in close coordination with the PAHO/WHO.
3. To reinforce the commitment and consolidate efforts for the strengthening of the basic capacities of all countries for the implementation of the INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005).



4. To identify resources for the financing of UNASUR's Cooperation Framework for the strengthening of the national and regional capacities to prevent and confront the EVD as an event of international relevance or any other extraordinary event that might be considered of the same nature, in convergence and articulation with the PAHO/WHO Plan and with the support of the Secretary General of UNASUR.
5. To express the importance of having UNASUR's Cooperation Framework incorporating elements for the strengthening of national and regional capacities in epidemiological surveillance, laboratorial diagnosis, clinical treatment, risk communication and research and development for the prevention and control of the EVD any other extraordinary event that might be considered of international relevance.
6. To coordinate their efforts to prevent and fight the potential appearance of the EVD, through the strengthening of the communication mechanisms and with intensified surveillance in cross-border zones, as well as the development of scenarios for the response coordination in these zones, with the definition of mechanisms and bi or trinational references in each point.
7. To articulate and harmonize actions developed for the prevention and control of the Ebola and any other extraordinary event that might be considered of international relevance, with those of other regional integration mechanisms and international organisms.
8. To put the present Declaration forward to the Council of Delegates, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and, through them, to the consideration of the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR Member States.