

**JOINT STATEMENT OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH OF  
THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES, AND  
THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Having met on February 28, 2008 in Washington, D.C to discuss more efficient and effective technical cooperation in support of border health;

Given that the United State of America and the United Mexican States are Member States of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and that both the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Health of México are Representatives of their respective countries before PAHO, and are also Co-Commissioners of the United States-México Border Health Commission;

Recognizing that PAHO has been an important partner with the United States and Mexico in improving border health, fostering a binational approach since 1942 through the Border Office in El Paso, Texas, and that the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission has worked with PAHO and other partners since 2000 to optimize health and quality of life along the United States -Mexico border;

Wishing to maximize the use of individual and collective resources in support of border health;

Wishing to further align cooperation and action in border-health issues according to the priorities of the United States-México Border Health Commission and PAHO's mandate, and to promote a more synergistic approach amongst the various actors; and

Intending to develop a framework that addresses priorities in border health, and brings together collective efforts in support of technical cooperation between the Border Health Commission and PAHO, particularly through its Border Office in El Paso;

Agree to launch a process starting with the establishment of a working group composed of representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services of the Government of the United States of America, the Secretariat of Health of the United Mexican States, PAHO and the Border Health Commission, to develop an integrated cooperation framework taking into account the mandates of the Governing Bodies of PAHO and the World Health Organization (WHO) and those of the Border Health Commission; and

Request that by May 1, 2008, the working group present the above mentioned framework regarding the further alignment of the work plans of the PAHO/WHO Border Office and the U.S. Mexico Border Health Commission, to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Health of México and the Director of PAHO, for their consideration and decision.

SIGNED at McAllen, Texas, United States of America, in triplicate, this fourth day of March, 2008, in the English and Spanish languages.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



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Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of Health and Human Services

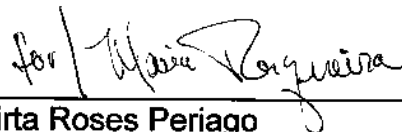
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES:



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José Angel Córdova Villalobos  
Secretary of Health

FOR THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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Mirta Roses Periago  
Director