Formed by 11 countries at the First Sanitary Convention of the American Republics, PAHO is the world’s oldest international public health agency.

Becomes the health agency for the Inter-American System, reporting to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Becomes the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), part of the UN System.
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Equity at the heart of environmental public health
HEALTH IMPACT ATTRIBUTED TO KNOWN AND AVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE AMERICAS

13% of premature deaths in high-income countries

1,016,000 premature deaths per year

19% of premature deaths in low- and middle-income countries
A critical challenge

Environmental public health inequalities between and within countries
HOW WILL THE AGENDA BE IMPLEMENTED?

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs and institutions
- Foster an environmentally sustainable and resilient health system
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities

THEMATIC AREAS

- Climate Change and Health
- Chemical Safety
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Air Quality and Health
A shared responsibility

✓ Call to action to the environmental public health community to lead
✓ Embracing health system resilience and environmental sustainability
✓ Use of the power of partnerships and knowledge
EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION

EARTH OBSERVATIONS

MONITORING
La Soufrière – Monitoring Air Pollution from Volcanic Activity: Daniel Tong and HAQAST supported PAHO by preparing a List of Satellite and Modeling Tools for the St Vincent Volcanic Eruption. This information was used by PAHO to prepare a fact sheet with recommendations to reduce exposure to air and water pollution. HAQAST also provided guidance to communicate/understand available earth observations resources.

RESEARCH
Support to Research Proposals: PAHO partnered with research institutions on the preparation of funding proposals addressing air quality and health. PAHO served as a stakeholder to foster experience exchange and sharing lessons learned among national health and environmental authorities in the Americas.

KNOWLEDGE
Outreach and Capacity Building: PAHO partners with GeoHealth members to participate on outreach events. Specific country support to use earth observations in Bolivia is being discussed with NASA ARSET. There is a growing demand from stakeholders in the Americas to incorporate earth observations for environmental health decision making processes.
Thank you!

AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2021-2030