

## **II HEMISPHERIC WORKSHOP ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

*“The Challenges of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in relation to the IV Summit of the Americans mandates and subregional experiences”- San Salvador, May 16 and 17, 2006*

### **STRATEGIC GUIDELINES OF TOPIC 2**

#### **Mechanisms to strengthen information systems in Occupational Safety and Health**

The question that guided the discussion of Topic 2 and around which these guidelines arose is:

What mechanisms and processes should be implemented to strengthen information systems on work-related injuries, both on the local and sub-regional level?

The strategic guidelines for this topic, which were agreed upon in a plenary session during the Workshop, are presented below:

### **STRATEGIC GUIDELINES FOR ACTION**

#### **On OHS information systems**

- Incorporate the information systems within a broader framework of knowledge management that includes investigation, analysis of information, and quality control, utilizing the new information and communication technologies.
- Consolidate the knowledge base on OHS for prevention purposes in order to promote the exchange of information and good practices through the establishment of a web portal for the Americas, for which the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) can provide technical support.
- Make an inventory of regional and sub-regional initiatives related to OHS information systems in order to identify common aspects and weaknesses (ILO-PAHO). Take advantage of the progress made in the production of OHS information in the region (both at the country, sub-regional and regional level), despite its current limitations, in order not to start from zero in building information systems.
- Underscore the importance of public information programmes within which the use of mass media, such as the television, is recommended in order to raise awareness and train in the OHS area.

#### **On systems of registry and notification of work-related accidents and professional illnesses**

- Develop and strengthen information systems on occupational safety and health for the registry and notification of work-related accidents and professional illnesses with the goal of defining intervention priorities and prevention management in the workplace and on the national level.
- Incorporate indicators on work-related accidents and professional illnesses within the basic health indicators for the Americas, based on the available international regulations.

- Harmonise and standardise definitions, indicators and criteria of collection and analysis on work-related accidents and professional illnesses, based on the available international regulations.
- Promote strategies of coordination at the national level among social security, public health, labour and private sector institutions and organisations in the framework of a national system of registration and notification to achieve a unified registry on work-related accidents and professional illnesses. These strategies will be carried out in collaboration with other programmes and projects that exist at the sub-regional and hemispheric level and with the participation of governments, workers and employers. Ask for support from the ILO and PAHO in this process.
- Seek to extend coverage of the registry of work-related accidents and professional illnesses to workers in the informal sector and other categories of workers not currently incorporated in the information systems. To do this, it is necessary to develop methodologies in compiling data for this sector, based on complementary research.
- Control and evaluate quality of the data generated through the information systems and carry out periodic studies for this purpose, such as periodic national surveys on work and health conditions.
- Include training in occupational medicine within the study programs of health professionals, especially regarding the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of professional illnesses.
- Publish information on work-related accidents and professional illnesses and make this information accessible to the general public. In this vein, improve the web pages of Ministries of Labor and other institutions that publish this information. Likewise, make the information and results of surveys periodically carried out by international institutions more accessible to the public.
- For the implementation of both types of systems, take advantage of the offers of technical and financial assistance in developing these core strategies, especially from the Canadian Ministry of Labor, the Programme on Work and Health in Central America (SALTRA), CCOSH, PAHO, ILO and OAS.