Session 3
Regional Efforts for Combating Zika Virus in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Targeted emergency response:

- Latin America and the Caribbean faced an outbreak of Zika virus, WHO declared an international public health emergency in Feb 2016
- 45 countries and territories with confirmed autochthonous cases
WHO declared on 7 April 2016 that “based on a growing body of preliminary research, there is Scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome”. 
Regional Response to Fight Zika

Regional level Approach:

1) Short-term: Prompt virus detection
   • Strengthen diagnostic capacity in MSs: Scientists and technicians trained on the use of reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
   • RT-PCR detection systems equipment provided to national laboratories

2) Mid-term: Vector control
   • Launched a 4-year regional project: 19 countries
   • Target: Established area-wide integrated vector management approach with a SIT component to control Aedes mosquito populations transmitting Dengue, Chikungunya and, particularly Zika.

3) Common strategic vision:
   • Global issue needs the engagement of all concerned parties (commitment, funding, logistics, etc.); including:
     - Detection: Through molecular testing RT-PCR, nuclear-derived diagnostic technique
     - Control: Most effective technical means to tackle the emergency: The sterile insect technique (SIT): a proven and robust technology successfully applied against several viral diseases including Chikungunya, Dengue and, more recently, Zika.
Cooperation Modalities and Partnerships

**MULTILATERAL**
- Strategic Alliances
  - WHO/PAHO
  - FAO (MOSCAMED)

**SOUTH-SOUTH**
- Networking
- Member States’ established capabilities shared
- Collaboration focused on sub-regions: *Central America and the Caribbean*

**NORTH-SOUTH**
- Support provided by USA, Japan and France
- Bilateral collaboration: USDA

**TRIANGULAR**
- Training provided by experts from the region
- Interregional collaboration: Participation of African countries in regional activities
Key Future Milestones

- Regional network enhanced
- Strong ties with strategic partners at national, regional and international levels
- Capabilities strengthened in both virus detection and control
- Sustainability of institutions enhanced