



## *Una Reunión Internacional sobre el Uso de Internet en los Desastres y las Epidemias*

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Visite la página Web: <http://www.paho.org/spanish/disaster.htm>

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## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Communicable diseases, as well as natural and manmade disasters, do not respect borders. As epidemics of influenza, cholera or malaria, global warming and, more recently, the "El Niño" phenomenon demonstrate, prevention and response are not only a local concern.

The participants of more than 40 countries present at the international meeting of **Health Crisis and the Internet: Harnessing the Power of the Internet for Disasters and Epidemics**, stressed that health crisis management cannot be accomplished without access to and management of timely and quality information. Without direct communication between and among decision makers and operational implementers, and without a free flow of reliable information among all involved, effective contingency planning and emergency response will not be possible.

This Meeting endorses the goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the conclusions of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama, Japan in 1994.

The participants recognize that establishing a global culture of prevention implies adopting a global culture of information by which actors at the local, national, regional, subregional, and international levels are encouraged and enabled to exchange information, ideas and experiences, communicate freely across institutional and geographical borders, and consult with individual experts or collective databases to improve the performance of their duties and functions in the context of disaster reduction.

Similarly, the WHO/PAHO target of **Health For All by the year 2000**, particularly the eradication of selected diseases and the prevention of emerging diseases, demand

