Reviewer's report

Title: PAHO’s Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative - A Broken Promise in Latin America

Version: 2 Date: 14 May 2009

Reviewer: RA Montenegro

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Inclusion of figures and examples. There are not examples and figures for supporting the main argument of the paper, that is, lack of development of PAHO’s initiative. E.g. Indigenous People with mental illness, main types of illness, main causes of, covered and not covered Indigenous Populations, etc. There is not an analysis of existing or non existing epidemiological information (on mental health).

2. Revisiting of general comments (see e.g. Minor Essential Revisions, 3).

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. In page 1, Title don’t reflect main issue of the paper, Mental Health. Latin America? Or Latin America and the Caribbean?

2. In page 3, 2nd paragraph authors refer to “Mestizo (the dominant Spanish speaking ruling group)”. This is not a technical analysis of non indigenous populations, which include a more diverse universe of phenotypes. All the paragraph include general descriptions, but the reality has a high degree of diversity in Latin America and the caribbean.

3. On page 3, 2nd paragraph. Authors said: "Additionally, they are invisible because Latin America countries hold a strong conviction that the Indigenous Peoples are almost extinc by the force of historical events". This is a general descriptions that cannot reflect the diversity of situations. E.g. in Western Bolivia Indigenous People is not invisible.

- Discretionary Revisions

1. In page 6, 3th Paragraph, the comment about unsuccessful meeting with the representative of PAHO in Ecuador cannot be interpreted as PAHO’s failure. The listing of efforts (letters, emails, telephone calls, visits) reduce the seriousness of the approach. A gap in a country for a specific event cannot be used as a proof of failure of the initiative. Authors could summarize all the paragraph indicating, e.g., that PAHO's representative in Ecuador don't answered invitations to participate in a key conference. Nevertheless, there is lack of figures and
examples, which are more effective than a failed contact with PAHO’s representative.

Validity
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- Accept after major compulsory revisions
- Accept after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore)
- Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing'