Reviewer's report

**Title:** Towards the construction of health workforce metrics for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 February 2011

**Reviewer:** Norbert Dreesch

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments on:

Nigenda G. et al. Towards the construction of health workforce metrics for Latinamerica and the Caribbean

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

Literature review consolidating over a decade of published HRH data. Relevant in its contribution to the growing body of knowledge in identification of data needing to be collected for HRH planning and management.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

Yes.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

Review article data are well presented and sound for social science research of this kind.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

Yes.

7. Is the writing acceptable?

Yes, but editorial review should iron out issues in readability. For example, page 6. line 7 reads:
“rationales which make difficult ...” should read” rationales which make it difficult” or page 8, line 5 for the correct form of ‘to incorporate’ “to” or “in” as presently stated, or, on the same page, line 6 from the bottom reads: “Is in these three fields”, editing is needed here.

After these corrections: publishing standard.

Revisions needed:

On page 5, line 1 the World Health Report 2006 is quoted but no reference given. To be corrected and reference numbering aligned.

Current reference 5 refers to the beginning of the Global Decade for HRH in 2005 but cannot be the source for the statement, if WHR 2006 is the source document. Reference 5 refers to The Toronto Call for action of 2005.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None declared in emailed report