

## Hon. Boyce meets President of Panama and US Health Secretary

Minister of Health and Human Services the Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce recently had the privilege of meeting President of Panama His Excellency Martin Torrijos and United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt.

The meeting took place in Panama earlier this month during a high-level meeting of regional health ministers which took place in Panama City along with the 37th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Hon. Boyce said the conference was extremely successful, enlightening and informative, noting that during the meeting, the hemisphere's top health policy authorities launched the Health Agenda for the Americas which set out the health priorities the governments propose to tackle over the next decade.

The minister, who was accompanied to the conference by her personal assistant Mrs. Lynne Chase, was one of several Health Ministers from around the world who signed the declaration. The Health Agenda for the Americas is an instrument regional Health Ministers will use to work jointly until 2017, and offers a collective direction in order to prevent diseases like dengue, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

It will be a framework to orient the development of future health plans and the strategic plans of those organizations interested in cooperating in health with the countries of the Americas, including Pan American Health Organisation Organisation and the World Health Organisation.

Panamanian President Martín Torrijos, Panamanian Health Minister Camilo Alleyne, UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon and PAHO Director Mirta Roses, along with OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, were among those who attended the meeting.

### **CAPTION:**

**(1) Minister of Health and Human Services the Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce shaking hands with United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt.**

**(2) Minister of Health and Human Services the Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce with  
President of Panama His Excellency Martin Torrijos.**