



Germán Velasquez

Date of birth: 7 April 1948

Nationality: Colombian/French

Occupation: WHO fixed-term staff

Professional address: WHO, 20 rue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Personal address: 5 chemin des Vergers, 01210 Ferney Voltaire, France

EDUCATION

1967 - 1971 Javeriana University, Bogota, Colombia - Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Humanities

1971 - 1974 Sorbonne University, Paris, France - Master's degree in Economics

1983 - 1985 Sorbonne University, Paris, France - PhD in Health Economics (cum laude)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current post

Associate Director of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicine. Managing and monitoring the country support activities in all WHO regions. Cluster focal point for the area of globalisation/trade, intellectual property and access to medicines. Since July 2000, I have been attending the WTO Council for TRIPS as the alternate of the WHO observer, the Executive Director of the Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals Cluster.

I joined WHO in 1989 as the health economist of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs and built up a unit of Health Economics and Drug Financing (EDF). This unit has developed and provided to countries relevant policy



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models, concept and tools in areas such as: the role of medicines in the context of health reforms, the various options for health and drug financing, the implications of changing models of development and globalization, public and private roles in the pharmaceutical sector, health insurance schemes and pharmacoeconomics. At the same time, I have been responsible for advocacy and follow-up of national essential drug programmes in the WHO Region of the Americas.

Previous employment

1. Nine years (1979-88) as an adviser to various Ministries of Health (MOH) in Africa (particularly Mozambique 5 years and Mali 4 years) in primary health care programmes, drafting and implementing drug policies and advising MOH in the management and monitoring of the pharmaceutical sector at the national level.

2. 1974-1978: Employed by INC Pharmaceuticals, at different levels and in various countries:

- Planning Manager, ICN-ARCO, Lugano, Switzerland. (2 years)
- Financial Director of ICN Pharmaceuticals Belgium, Brussels, Belgium. (1 year)
- General Manager of P.T. ARCO-INDONESIA, Jakarta, Indonesia (1 year)

PUBLICATIONS

In the context of my work at WHO, I have been the author or co-author of over 30 publications on subjects such as: health economics and medicines; health insurance schemes; globalization, international trade agreements, intellectual property and access to medicines. The majority of these documents are available in English, French and Spanish.