

# PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

## NUTRITION INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA \*

The Third Meeting of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama, with headquarters in Guatemala City, Guatemala, was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from the 12 to the 14 of December, 1949. This Meeting was convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

This Institute, designed to promote and stress the development of the science of nutrition in the Central American Republics and Panama through scientific research, nutrition surveys, clinical and biochemical studies, etc., was founded with the collaboration of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, by virtue of an agreement signed on February 20, 1946, by the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The Rockefeller Foundation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of San Carlos, in Guatemala, and the Kellogg Foundation, gave their earnest cooperation to this enterprise.

The main objective of this Meeting was to expand the terms of the original agreement on an international basis which would guarantee the permanency of this Institute as an international organization.

In fulfilment of a resolution adopted at this Meeting, the following is a transcription of the Final Act, and the Protocol, Annex to the 1946 Agreement extending the duration of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama, both signed on the 14th day of December, 1949, by representatives of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and by a representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

## NUTRITION INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA

### THIRD MEETING

*Tegucigalpa, Honduras*

*December 12-14, 1949*

### FINAL ACT

The Third Meeting of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from December 12 to 14, 1949, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The following persons were present:

\*Estos documentos fueron publicados en español en el *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana*, febrers 1950, p. 183.

DELEGATES

EL SALVADOR

Dr. Juan Allwood Paredes  
Director General de Sanidad  
Ministerio de Asistencia Social

Dr. Mario Héctor Salazar  
Asesor Jurídico de la Delegación

GUATEMALA

Dr. Luis F. Galich  
Director General de Sanidad  
Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social

HONDURAS

Dr. Juan A. Mejía M.  
Director del Hospital "San Felipe"  
Ministerio de Gobernación, Justicia, Sanidad y Beneficencia

Dr. Manuel Cáceres Vijil  
Jefe del Departamento de Enfermedades Transmisibles  
Dirección General de Sanidad  
Ministerio de Gobernación, Justicia, Sanidad y Beneficencia

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Dr. Emilio B. Budnik  
Public Health Division

Dr. Juan A. Montoya  
Chief, Central American Sector Office

Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw  
Director, Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama

OBSERVERS

COSTA RICA

Dr. Fernando Escalante Pradilla  
Director General de Asistencia  
Ministerio de Salubridad Pública y Protección Social

PREPARATORY WORK

PRELIMINARY SESSION

A preliminary session was held under the Acting-Chairmanship of Dr. Juan A. Mejía M., with Dr. Juan A. Montoya as Acting Secretary, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting.

CREDENTIALS

It was agreed not to appoint a Credentials Committee and that credentials be submitted to the Tentative Governing Board, which was done.

### GOVERNING BOARD

Following a motion which was carried, it was agreed unanimously to ratify the Governing Board which was acting, with a change in the Rules of Procedure providing that no Vice-Chairman would be appointed and that the Chairmanship should be by election, in rotation by alphabetical order of names of countries. In turn, Drs. Juan A. Mejía M., Juan Allwood Paredes, Luis F. Galich, Manuel Cáceres Vijil and Juan Allwood Paredes, thus acted as Chairman of the five plenary sessions which were held.

### RULES OF PROCEDURE, PROGRAM AND AGENDA

The Rules of Procedure, the Work Program and the Agenda were then submitted to the Meeting for consideration. These were all approved with a few modifications.

### RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

The following Resolutions were approved:

#### I. NUTRITION INSTITUTE PROGRAM

##### WHEREAS:

The work program proposed for development by INCAP, including specific plans for 1950 and for the five succeeding years, as well as for nutrition work related to the activities which INCAP may carry out in various countries, is fully adjusted to the immediate and future needs of the member countries,

#### THE THIRD MEETING

##### RESOLVES:

To approve the INCAP Program just as described in Document INCAP-2-II-6.

#### II. 1950 BUDGET

##### WHEREAS:

The Budget was submitted to the Meeting for consideration and in view of the importance of the activities contemplated by it,

#### THE THIRD MEETING

##### RESOLVES:

To approve the proposed Budget for 1950, on the basis of a contribution per country of \$12,500.00 (twelve thousand five hundred dollars), United States currency, and to ratify the other provisions contained in the Protocol attached to this present Act.

#### III. DRAFT PROTOCOL ANNEXED TO THE 1946 AGREEMENT

##### WHEREAS:

There is a need to extend the Agreement of February 20, 1946, which founded the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama, on the

basis of a long-term International Agreement which will guarantee permanent status to the Institute as an international organism,

**THE THIRD MEETING**

**RESOLVES:**

To approve and sign, separately, the Protocol contained in Document INCAP-2-H-7, relating to the extension of the Agreement signed between the Governments of the Countries of Central America and Panama and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, on February 20, 1946, and to annex it, as a complementary document, to this Final Act.

**IV. INCAP PERSONNEL REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS:**

It is an immediate necessity, for the better functioning of INCAP, to adopt pertinent provisions to regulate the activities, duties and rights of its personnel,

**THE THIRD MEETING**

**RESOLVES:**

To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to prepare a draft of Rules of Procedure for INCAP, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Council, the Director of PASB also being authorized to put them into force temporarily.

**VOTES**

The Third Meeting of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama expresses its gratitude to the Government of Honduras, to the Minister of the Interior, Justice, Health and Welfare, to the health authorities and members of the staffs of the various departments, for the many courtesies shown to the Delegates at this Meeting and for the facilities which at all times were made available for the success of the Meeting.

The Delegates attending the Third Meeting unanimously expressed their desire that the first meeting of the Council of INCAP be held in the City of San José, Costa Rica, if, at that time, this country has become an Active Member of INCAP.

This Final Act was approved and signed in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on the fourteenth day of December of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

MARIO H. SALAZAR  
Representative of El Salvador

MANUEL CÁCERES VIJIL  
Representative of Honduras

L. F. GALICH  
Representative of Guatemala

EMILIO BUDNIK  
Representative of the Pan American  
Sanitary Bureau

## PROTOCOL

ANNEX TO THE 1946 AGREEMENT EXTENDING THE DURATION OF  
THE "NUTRITION INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL AMERICA  
AND PANAMA"

The Representatives of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, having held the Third Meeting of the "Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama," in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, December 12 to 14, 1949, agreed to extend the Agreement signed February 20, 1946, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Central America, which created said Institute, by signing the following Protocol agreed upon by the Delegates of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and annexing this present Protocol to the afore-mentioned Agreement.

---

WHEREAS:

one of the fundamental purposes of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, as formulated in Article 1 of its Constitution, shall be to promote and coordinate efforts of the Countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life and promote the physical and mental health of the people;

## WHEREAS:

the "Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama" (henceforward called INCAP), was founded for the purpose of concentrating attention on the problems of human nutrition and assisting effectively in their solution, in accordance with the Agreement signed by the Delegates of the Republics of Central America and Panama and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, on February 20, 1946, in Guatemala City, and which entered into force July 1 of the same year, for an initial period of four years;

## WHEREAS:

even though INCAP has made progress in the initial development of its program—due to the continual interest shown and the valuable co-operation extended by the contracting parties—there remains for the future a wide field of activities and many important services to be rendered to the area, and because such broad health programs require more time to be carried out it is deemed of great interest to persevere in such efforts;

## WHEREAS:

the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (henceforward called the "Bureau"), in view of the magnitude and importance of these problems, has established a Nutrition Section; maintains great interest in encour-

aging scientific studies and surveys in this field, and is disposed to continue patronizing INCAP and to encourage its programs and activities;

WHEREAS:

great interest has been shown and much technical and financial aid furnished by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of San Carlos in Guatemala, the Rockefeller Foundation, and other scientific institutions;

WHEREAS:

the experience acquired in recent years with INCAP and the relevant plans for its activities make it advisable to maintain the Institute, extending the original Agreement, which founded it, by means of the present administrative ruling in the form of a Protocol;

WHEREAS:

the signatory countries and the "Bureau" all wish to extend the period of cooperation with INCAP;

The Delegates of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau subscribe to the following

PROTOCOL

*Article 1*

The objectives of INCAP will be to promote and encourage the development of the science of nutrition and its application in the Republics of Central America and Panama, by means of scientific investigations relating to analysis of foodstuffs, nutrition surveys, clinical and biochemical studies, training of technical personnel, collaboration with Universities and Agricultural Institutions in the region and with other scientific groups active in work related to this field.

Only those projects which will benefit the countries of the Sector, directly or indirectly, will be undertaken by INCAP and the results of all work performed will be placed at the free disposal of the Member Governments.

*Article 2*

INCAP will be directed by a "Council" composed of one representative from each of the signatory countries and from each country which later subscribes to and ratifies this Protocol, a representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and a representative of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

*Article 3*

The functions of the Council will be:

A) To consider and approve the annual reports on the activities of

INCAP which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau must prepare and submit to it each year.

B) To make suggestions or recommendations regarding the general directives of INCAP and studies of specific problems.

C) To analyze the specific studies or projects developed by INCAP.

D) To consider the financial situation of INCAP and approve the balance sheet which the "Bureau" must submit to it annually.

#### *Article 4*

The Council will meet in ordinary session once each year and in extraordinary session upon the request of at least two of its members, who will state what points they wish to have discussed.

The presence of the absolute majority of the Active Members of the Council will constitute a quorum. Active Members will be taken to mean those contracting parties who are not in arrears in the fulfillment of their obligations to INCAP.

#### *Article 5*

The Council will determine the annual budget of INCAP.

#### *Article 6*

The Council will have a Chairman who will be elected annually, and who will occupy office until his successor has been elected and has assumed office in his place.

#### *Article 7*

The "Bureau" will continue to patronize INCAP, making available its resources, such as its Nutrition Section and the facilities of its administrative organization. It also agrees to make available to INCAP the services of the Chief of its Nutrition Section and to place at its disposal other technicians, whenever necessary, to further the development of INCAP programs.

#### *Article 8*

The "Bureau" shall coordinate, execute, supervise and administer the programs and activities of INCAP, giving an annual account of its management activities to the Council.

#### *Article 9*

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, with the knowledge of the Council, will appoint a consultative board of experts in nutrition and related sciences which will collaborate in the plans for the scientific program of INCAP.

*Article 10*

The basic annual quota which each signatory country shall contribute for the central activities of INCAP will be \$12,500.00 (twelve thousand five hundred dollars), United States currency, payable in advance to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

This amount will be the basic quota for the future, and it may be changed if the representatives of the Member Countries, previously authorized by their respective governments, unanimously agree to make the change.

*Article 11*

The field activities of INCAP to be carried out in each country will be financed by mutual agreement between the Government and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. It is felt that in order to insure the efficient and favorable development of the field work, it is indispensable to cover at least the salaries of a physician trained in nutrition, a nutritionist, a hemato-parasitologist, and the expenses required for their transportation and efficient performance of their work.

*Article 12*

The Government of Guatemala commits itself to take the necessary measures to permit INCAP to use, without any cost whatsoever and for the duration of its existence, both the buildings constructed for its services, improvements and enlargements, and the ground on which these are constructed.

*Article 13*

The participating countries pledge themselves to take appropriate measures to exempt from all duties the equipment and materials which INCAP will furnish for the development of its projects in each country.

*Article 14*

On designating candidates for fellowships or training studies, the Governments contract not to separate such candidates from their studies so long as their work is satisfactory in the opinion of the entity which is giving them training, and also will guarantee that on their return their services will be utilized in the field for which they were trained, for a period of not less than five years and with a just or previously agreed upon salary. The candidate, in turn, will pledge himself under contract to devote his services to the particular field for the specified length of time.

*Article 15*

Technical personnel whose work is not satisfactory can be separated from the Institute by the Director of INCAP, after previous consultation with the members of the Council and the approval of their majority.



Administrative personnel of INCAP will be appointed and separated from service by the Director of the "Bureau" or his representative.

*Article 16*

The present Protocol is annexed to the Agreement which created INCAP, signed in Guatemala City on February 20, 1946, and it will become effective and remain in force for a period of five years starting January 1, 1950.

*Article 17*

The Protocol and the afore-mentioned basic Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement among the contracting parties.

*Article 18*

The countries of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama may incorporate with INCAP by approving and ratifying this Protocol and paying their respective quota for the fiscal year of their ingress. Such decisions must be reported to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

*Article 19*

In addition to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama, membership in INCAP may be granted to other countries and institutions which are interested and submit their request to the Council, which will be the competent body to decide on their admittance and the conditions relating thereto.

*Article 20*

This Protocol will be placed in the archives and given to the custody of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington, D. C.

The "Bureau" is to send photostat copies of this Protocol to each of the contracting parties and to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and is to publish the text of the Protocol in a forthcoming issue of its Bulletin.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, and being duly authorized by their respective Governments, the Representatives present at the Third Meeting of the "Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama" held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from December 12 to 14, 1949, do adopt the present Protocol and sign below, in Tegucigalpa, on the fourteenth day of December of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

J. ALLWOOD P.

Representative of El Salvador

JUAN A. MEJÍA M.

Representative of Honduras

L. F. GALICH

Representative of Guatemala

EMILIO BUDNIK

Representative of the Pan American  
Sanitary Bureau