

*executive committee of  
the directing council*



**PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

*working party of  
the regional committee*



**WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

119th Meeting  
Washington, D.C.  
September 1996

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*Provisional Agenda Item 4.4*

CE119/2 (Eng.)  
26 September 1996  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WOMEN,  
HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT AND DATES OF THE 17TH MEETING**

The report of the 16th Meeting of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development was presented to and well received by the Executive Committee at its 118th Meeting in June 1996. The importance of incorporating a gender perspective in health programming was emphasized and new terms of reference of the Subcommittee were proposed.

During the deliberations of the Executive Committee on this subject, the Director of PAHO proposed that the time had come to rethink the functioning of this Subcommittee, stressing that this consideration was made in the spirit of examining all the functions and modes of operation of the Organization, in search for greater efficiency in its work.

The Director noted that much has changed since the Subcommittee was established in 1980 (Resolution CD27.R17). The Program on Women, Health, and Development has matured to become a full-fledged active program of technical cooperation in the Division of Health and Human Development. The Director stated that, in his view, PAHO no longer needed a mechanism to provide oversight in this area. The technical cooperation in the area of women, health, and development can be reviewed in the same manner as other programs are reviewed by the Governing Bodies.

The Executive Committee accepted the validity of the Director's proposal but agreed that the Subcommittee should be consulted and that the Director should report to this 119th meeting of the Executive Committee. At that time, the Executive Committee approved Resolution CE118.R1, as follows:

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***THE 118th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,***

**Having seen Document CE118/6, Report of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development; and**

**Noting with satisfaction the significant progress which the Member Governments, the Organization, and particularly its Secretariat, have achieved in the area of women, health, and development since the Special Subcommittee was established in 1980,**

***RESOLVES:***

- 1. To take note of the report of the 16th Meeting of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development and to thank the members for their work.**
- 2. To take note of the discussion on the report with reference to the possibility of altering the Subcommittee's mode of functioning.**
- 3. To ask the Director:**
  - (a) To ensure incorporation of the concept of gender in all PAHO programs, taking account of national and local experiences and monitoring the situation to keep the Directing Council informed;**
  - (b) To consult with the Member Governments currently serving on the Subcommittee concerning the functions and terms of reference of the Subcommittee.**
  - (c) To report on these matters to the Executive Committee at its 119th Meeting.**

**In accordance with this resolution, the Director invited the members of the Subcommittee to meet with him on Tuesday, 24 September 1996.**

**At that time, the Subcommittee members agreed that:**

- (a) The Subcommittee should meet in 1997, at which time it would review its functioning, future, and the possibility of adjusting the terms of reference in light of the progress made by the Regional Program in this area;**
- (b) The Subcommittee would report on its deliberations and present its recommendations to the Executive Committee at its 120th Meeting in June 1997.**

**The Executive Committee is invited to set the dates for the 17th meeting of the Subcommittee in 1997.**