

Executive committee of  
the directing council

**PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**



Working group of  
the regional committee

**WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

120<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Washington, D.C.  
June 1997

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*Provisional Agenda Item 3.4*

CE120/9 (Eng.)  
21 March 1997  
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## **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, composed of representatives of Chile, Paraguay, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, will meet during the course of the 120th Meeting of the Executive Committee to review the application of the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USP) for official working relations, and to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for its decision.

In accordance with the *Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations*, adopted by the Directing Council in Resolution CD38.R5 (1995), the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. has submitted the required documentation, which will be at the disposition of the Standing Committee.

Once the Executive Committee receives the report of the Standing Committee, it is asked to make a decision on the establishment of official working relations with this organization.

## **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, composed of the Representatives of Chile (Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras), Paraguay (Dr. Roberto Dullak Peña), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (Dr. Earl Asim Martin), met on 25 June 1997 to consider the application of one nongovernmental organization for admission into official relations with the Pan American Health Organization and to formulate a recommendation to the Executive Committee for its decision.

During 1996-1997, United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC) corresponded with PAHO concerning possible admission into official relations and submitted all the necessary information as stipulated in the *Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations*, adopted by the XXXVIII Meeting of the PAHO Directing Council in September 1995. The USPC has been working informally with PAHO over the past several years.

The USPC and PAHO recognize the importance of ensuring that drugs and biologicals meet high standards of quality in order to improve public health. Similarly, both organizations agree that the provision of accurate and clinically relevant scientific information to health care professionals and patients can serve to improve public health. It is therefore proposed that USPC and PAHO formalize a relationship in order to plan and coordinate efforts to support national programs throughout the Americas in the development of quality standards and to improve drug and therapeutic information sources.

The USPC is a nonprofit scientific corporation dedicated to working in the public interest. It has a history of collaboration with the Organization in the area of pharmaceuticals and has invited representatives from medical, pharmaceutical, and other health care professionals and scientific associations from other countries as participants and observers in its activities. For example, the USPC Expert Advisory Panel on International Health has a significant number of members from the countries of the hemisphere. The USPC's two major publications are the *United States Pharmacopeia* and *USP Drug Information*. Both are recognized texts on drug quality and drug use, respectively, and are utilized both formally and informally as authoritative sources of standards throughout the Americas. The USPC has translated both these important texts into Spanish as an indication of its commitment to improve the quality and use of pharmaceuticals throughout the Region. Under the six-year proposed program, the USPC will continue its work to date and will offer new opportunities for collaboration with the Member States of PAHO, including sponsoring visiting scientists and attending major medical and pharmaceutical congresses in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to present papers, conduct seminars, and sponsor training programs.

After reviewing the supporting documentation, the Standing Committee recommended that PAHO establish official relations with the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., and grant to it all the privileges afforded nongovernmental organizations in official relations with PAHO.

In light of the above, the Standing Committee recommends the following proposed resolution for the consideration of the Executive Committee:

*Proposed Resolution*

**ADMISSION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INTO OFFICIAL  
RELATIONS WITH THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

*THE 120th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,*

Having studied the report (Document CE1209, Add. I) of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations; and

Bearing in mind the *Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations* (1995),

**RESOLVES:**

1. To authorize the establishment of official relations with the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC).
2. To request USPC to continue with the identification, together with PAHO, of specific lines of work at the regional level and with the countries of the Region as soon as possible.