

*executive committee of  
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



16th Meeting  
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Topic 12: REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
ON REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

Background

At its V Meeting the Directing Council adopted Resolution XIV, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"RESOLVES:

- "1. That the revision of the Constitution be postponed until the opinion of the Governments and of the interested agencies are more fully known.
- "2. That a permanent committee of the Executive Committee be established, for the specific purpose of studying the revision of the Constitution.
- "3. That the existing documents on the subject be referred to the said committee, as well as any documents that arrive in sufficient time to enable it to prepare the report and the draft revisions that the Directing Council is to consider at its VI Meeting."

In accordance with the above, the Executive Committee, adopted the following resolution at its 15th Meeting (Resolution I):

"RESOLVES:

- "1. To appoint the Representatives of Chile, the Dominican Republic and the United States as the Permanent Committee to study the revision of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, and to prepare a report and draft revision to be submitted to the Directing Council at its VI Meeting.
- "2. To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to transmit to the above-mentioned Permanent Committee the existing documents on this subject, as well as any that may

be received later, and to make available the cooperation of the necessary technical staff of the Bureau in order to facilitate the work of the said Committee."

#### Members of the Committee

The following representatives were appointed to serve on the Permanent Committee: the Government of Chile appointed Mr. Alberto Díaz Alemañ; the Dominican Republic appointed Dr. Luis F. Thomen, who was assisted by Dr. Arturo Calventi, Adviser; the United States of America was represented by Dr. H. van Zile Hyde, Mr. Howard B. Calderwood and Mr. Simon N. Wilson, Dr. Luis F. Thomen was elected Chairman of the Committee.

#### Cooperation of the Secretariat

The Committee has had the cooperation of the technical personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and particularly that of the Director, the Secretary General and the legal advisers of the Bureau. The Committee also had at its disposal a set of documents, previously circulated by the Secretariat, which included the resolutions and official documents relating to the revision of the Constitution and also the draft revisions which had been previously submitted to the Governments.

#### Work of the Committee

The Committee for the Revision of the Constitution has so far held six (6) meetings: on 3 and 23 January, on 28 February, on 17 March, and on 2 and 8 April 1952.

After establishing a general plan of work, the Permanent Committee during its meetings studied the basic problems of the revision of the Constitution and its repercussion on the functioning of the Organization. Document CEL3/10 (Annex III), based on the present Constitution, was used as a working document; its Articles were studied one by one and many were replaced by new texts which were approved in principle but subject to further modifications in order to bring the various provisions into harmony, improve their form and legal content, determine which of them should be incorporated into the Rules of Procedure, and finally, prepare equivalent English and Spanish texts.

The Committee also established a legal working group composed of the Representative of Chile, a Representative of the United States of America, the Adviser to the Representative of the Dominican Republic, and the legal advisers of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. This working group has met

several times to study special problems and will continue to hold meetings to revise and correlate the articles provisionally approved by the Permanent Committee.

The Permanent Committee will continue to meet as often as necessary so that the new draft revision of the Constitution and the accompanying report may be sent to the Governments and the interested agencies sufficiently in advance to permit adequate study and the transmittal to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of any observations or comments they may wish to make as well as for the transmittal of pertinent instructions to their representatives on the Directing Council of the Organization.

Respectfully submitted to the Executive Committee:

(Signed)

Dr. Luis F. Thomen, Chairman  
of the Permanent Committee

(Signed)

Alberto Díaz Alemañy  
Representative of Chile

(Signed)

Howard B. Calderwood  
Representative of the  
United States of America