



*directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

IX Meeting

Antigua Guatemala  
September 1956

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

VIII Meeting



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STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF EL SALVADOR  
on the  
PROPOSED PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS OF THE PASO FOR 1957, AND  
OF THE PASO AND OF THE WHO FOR THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS FOR 1958

The Delegation of El Salvador wishes to clarify its position with respect to the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Sanitary Organization for 1957, which has already been approved, and the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and that of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for 1958, submitted for consideration to the Directing Council and the Regional Committee, respectively, budgets that are now being studied by a special working party.

In the opinion of El Salvador, the budgets of both organizations should clearly reflect a general policy of work, since it is through their own regular budgets that these organizations are able to carry out methodically and uninterruptedly the plans they have adopted.

The Delegation of El Salvador considers unacceptable the idea that an international public health organization is unable to adopt a general policy of work for a period of several years. In fact, both the PASO and the WHO have received general working directives from their governing bodies. It is therefore the responsibility of their operating agencies to follow those directives and to adjust their budgets and administrative structure in order to carry out those plans.

Past meetings of the PASO Conference and Council have already drawn up general guides, specifying certain priority programs to which the Bureau should devote special attention and effort. The most recent instructions of this kind were that the Bureau should apply the maximum effort to the eradication of malaria. Moreover, the XIV Conference declared that this program should be considered as URGENT, in view of the nosological and epidemiological characteristics of the disease.

The Eighth and Ninth World Health Assemblies adopted similar resolutions with respect to the work of the WHO and instructed the Director-General to devote careful and diligent effort toward promoting the eradication of malaria, seeing to it that the Organization provides the necessary technical aid.

The Delegation of El Salvador considers it logical that the specific instructions mentioned above should be reflected in the programs and budgets of the PASO and the WHO.

The Director of the Bureau, for his part, believes that he has fulfilled his obligation with the establishment of COMEP, deciding to suggest to the governments that they request from the UN Technical Assistance Fund the payment of technical advisory personnel that they may need for their eradication campaigns. Likewise, the Director-General of the WHO has not considered it necessary to assign funds from the regular budget for the eradication of malaria in the Americas, and also has apparently placed his entire confidence in the fact that the UN/TA Fund will be able to assume the financial burden required to satisfy WHO's technical responsibility in the eradication program.

The Delegation of El Salvador believes that the establishment of COMEP was a necessary and indispensable prior step in the coordination of eradication projects in the Continent. If the matter is judged on a purely theoretical basis, the Delegation does not believe that it is a logical or wise administrative policy to exclude from the regular budgets of the PASO and the WHO the necessary allocations to provide direct and permanent technical assistance to the countries, in the knowledge that the latter are investing considerable sums of money in eradication programs and utilizing for those programs a great deal of UNICEF aid in the form of supplies and equipment. It will take several years to complete the eradication campaign.

The Delegation reiterates its conviction that, in the spirit and the letter of the resolutions that gave rise to and govern the activities of the PASO and the WHO in the malaria eradication program, the two organizations are jointly responsible to the governments for the success of that undertaking, and that the fulfillment of that responsibility should be made evident in the proposed programs and budgets of both organizations.

The position of El Salvador in this matter is a clear and sincere expression of sound principles of health administration. If its Delegation made reference to the country when the PASO budget for 1957 was discussed, it was only to call attention to a specific deficiency in that document. After all, the success or failure of the malaria eradication campaign in the Americas will depend, in large measure, on the success or failure of the campaign in El Salvador, or in any other country that is not or cannot be isolated, geographically or epidemiologically, from its neighbors.