



# XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference

Santiago, Chile  
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# VI Meeting Regional Committee



CSP14/7 (Eng.)  
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 23: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION AND  
NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Background

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at its 15th Meeting, the Director prepared a study "on relations with nongovernmental organizations", taking into account the policies followed by the World Health Organization in this regard. This study (Document CEL6/5) was presented to the 16th and 19th Meetings of the Executive Committee, at which consideration of the matter was postponed. At its 22nd Meeting, the Committee resolved to recommend to the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference that consideration be given to the following criteria, procedures, and privileges pertaining to the admission of nongovernmental organizations into relations with the Pan American Sanitary Organization:

### Relations between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations

#### I. CRITERIA

The following criteria should be met before a nongovernmental organization can be regarded as eligible to be considered for relationship:

1. The organization shall be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
2. The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes, and principles of the Pan American Sanitary Code and the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
3. The organization shall be of recognized standing and shall represent a substantial proportion of the persons organized for the purpose of participating in the particular field of interest in which it operates. To meet this requirement, a group of organizations may form a joint committee or other body authorized to act for the group as a whole.

4. The organization shall have a directing body and authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives; evidence of this authority shall be presented if requested.
5. The organization shall normally be inter-American in its structure and scope, with members who exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action.
6. Save in exceptional cases, a national organization which is affiliated to an inter-American nongovernmental organization covering the same subject on an international basis shall present its views through its government or through the inter-American nongovernmental organization to which it is affiliated. A national organization, however, may be included in the list after consultation with, and with the consent of, the Member Government concerned, if the activities of the organization are not covered by any international organization or if it offers experience upon which the Pan American Sanitary Organization wishes to draw.

## II. PROCEDURES

1. The Executive Committee shall serve as a Standing Committee of the Directing Council on relations with nongovernmental organizations. The Standing Committee shall consider information submitted by nongovernmental organizations, voluntarily or by invitation, and shall make recommendations to the Directing Council; it may invite any such organization to speak before it in connection with the organization's application. Bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring valuable contributions to the work of the Pan American Sanitary Organization in terms both of quality and quantity, the Committee may recommend postponement of consideration or rejection of an application.
2. The government concerned shall be consulted with regard to possible approval of any national organization.
3. The Directing Council, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, shall decide whether an organization is to be admitted into relations with the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
4. Nongovernmental organizations desiring to establish official relations with the Pan American Sanitary Organization shall address their requests, and any documentary material pertaining thereto, to the Directing Council through the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The Director of the Bureau shall

send to all members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations an adequate summary of the information concerning each application to be considered, at least two months before the Standing Committee convenes. The said summary of information shall at the same time be circulated to the members of the Directing Council.

5. The Director of the Bureau shall inform each organization of the Directing Council's decision on its application. The Director of the Bureau shall maintain a list of the organizations admitted into relations, and this list and any amendments thereto shall be circulated to the Member Governments of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
6. This list shall also be circulated to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, who may give it such further distribution as he deems desirable.
7. The Directing Council, through the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, shall review the list biennially and shall determine the desirability of maintaining relations with the organizations on the list.

### III. PRIVILEGES

1. The right to appoint an observer to participate, without right of vote, in the regular meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Organization or in conferences convened under its authority, on the following conditions: Whenever the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Directing Council, the Executive Committee, or a conference convened under the authority of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, discusses an item in which a related nongovernmental organization is particularly interested, such an organization, on the invitation of the chairman of the meeting or on his acceding to a request from the organization, shall be entitled to make a statement of an expository nature, and may, with the consent of the meeting, be invited by the chairman to make, in the course of the discussion of the item before the meeting, an additional statement for purposes of clarification.
2. Access to the non-confidential documentation of the regularly convoked meetings.

3. The right to submit a memorandum to the Director of the Bureau, who would determine the nature and scope of the circulation. In the event of a memorandum being submitted which the Director considers might be placed on the agenda of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Directing Council, or the Executive Committee, such memorandum will be placed before the Executive Committee for possible inclusion in the agenda of such meeting.

#### Conclusion

If the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference approves the criteria, procedures, and privileges submitted above for its consideration, they might be incorporated in a resolution that would constitute general administrative regulations under the terms of Article 23 of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, which further authorizes the Directing Council to conclude special agreements of a reciprocal character with organizations having interest in or relation with public health.