



*directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting

Washington, D. C.  
October 1961

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting



CD13/22 (Eng.)  
28 August 1961  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Topic 17: ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Resolution XXIII of the XII Meeting of the Directing Council, the Director presented to the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee a report on the economic aspects of health activities. The Executive Committee approved Resolution X, as follows:

"The Executive Committee,

Having carefully considered Document CE43/15 in which the Director of the Bureau reported on the consultations undertaken in compliance with Resolution XXIII of the XII Meeting of the Directing Council;

Considering that the Organization has been very much aware of the importance of more firmly linking public health to the balanced economic and social development of nations and, in this connection, has taken an active role in the deliberations of the OAS and its committees; and

Considering that the activities of the Director vis a vis the Special Committee to Study the Formulations of New Measures for Economic Cooperation of the Organization of American States, the international banking organizations, and the Governments and other institutions have effectively contributed to fostering recognition that health is a basic component of social and economic development,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report presented by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Document CE43/15 and to transmit it to the XIII Meeting of the Directing Council with the strong endorsement of the Committee.

2. To congratulate the Director on the skillful and effective manner in which he has presented to the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Governments, the reasons for incorporating the concept of health into planning for economic and social development of the peoples of the Americas.

3. To recommend that the Directing Council approve the following objectives:

a. To fulfill the role of PAHO in the implementation of the Act of Bogotá, particularly with reference to the strengthening of national health services and to the provision of potable water.

b. To contribute even more effectively, through health activities, to the balanced social and economic development of the countries of the Americas.

c. To emphasize the importance of health programs in the preparation of plans for socio-economic development and to emphasize to the Member Governments the need for the participation of health authorities in the preparation of those plans.

d. To give increasing emphasis to the improvement of the administration of health programs, through the strengthening of statistical services, improvement in administrative practices, personnel management and training, and other means for achieving the same end.

e. To assist in the establishment of more effective criteria for the assessment of the economic value of health programs.

4. To recommend that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau render assistance, on request of the national health authorities, in planning in the field of health in such a way as to emphasize the importance of the concept of health in the social and economic development of the countries."

The Director wishes to report to the Directing Council that since the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee several events have occurred which have a direct bearing on promoting a fuller understanding of the significance of health to the economic and social development of the countries of the Americas.

1. The most outstanding of these events was the Special Meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council which took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in August 1961.

Eleven countries included physicians in their delegations to this meeting. The goal for health work, as defined in "The Declaration to the Peoples of America", reads as follows:

"To press forward with programs of health and sanitation in order to prevent sickness, fight epidemics, and strengthen our human potential."

In addition to The Declaration, a special resolution to define health planning as part of economic development and to state the long- and short-range measures to be undertaken in this decade was adopted unanimously.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is planning appropriate conferences and advisory services to carry out the intent of The Declaration, in close cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank.

2. The Bureau has begun the preparation of a guide and manual of national health planning, and is drawing up a plan, in coordination with the relevant activities of the Pan American Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other interested agencies, to be able to provide assistance in national health planning upon request by the national health authorities.



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