



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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RELATIONS OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION WITH OTHER ORGANS OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

I. FOURTH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

From 15 to 23 March 1966 and from 25 March to 1 April 1966 the Fourth Meetings of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council at the Expert Level and at the Ministerial Level were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Agenda of the meeting contained two items relating to health: "Study of the first five-year period of the Alliance for Progress - Economic, Social, and information aspects" and "Rural development - Economic and Social aspects".

As in previous years the Organization was represented at the meeting by a group of observers. PAHO submitted a document entitled "Facts on Progress" (CIES/864) which examines the results obtained during the first five years and future prospects with regard to the health goals of the Charter of Punta del Este and the Ten-year Public Health Program contained in Resolution A.2, bearing in mind the present rate of investments and the expected return from human and material resources, and a report "Health - Problems, Achievements, and Prospects" (CIES/863) which contained comments on certain wide-spread health problems in Latin America, the resources and instruments being used to solve them, the progress achieved and prospects for development. A report prepared in cooperation with the Department of Social Affairs of the Pan American Union analyzed the relations between the medical programs of social security institutes and those of Ministries of Health.

In accordance with Resolution XV of the last meeting of the Directing Council the Director advised the Ministers of Health about the Fourth Annual Meetings of IA-ECOSOC and asked them to include in their Government's delegation a technical official of the Ministry of Health. This suggestion was followed by the Governments of Argentina, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Peru.

Chapter IX of the Final Report of the Meeting at the Expert Level (CIES/966) dealt with human resources, health, and education. The part

concerning health contains a summary of the information presented by the Bureau in the above-mentioned documents, in particular on life expectancy, childhood mortality, communicable diseases and eradication programs, water supply and sewerage disposal, nutrition and health resources.

Two groups of resolutions emanating from the Meeting at the Ministerial Level (Final Report - CIES/1063) are worthy of attention. The first group includes resolutions directly concerning health and the second those which are of particular interest with respect to functions also being carried out by PAHO.

In the first group mention should be made of a resolution on health and development planning, the basis of which was the data supplied by PAHO in the two documents submitted to the meeting.

Particular attention was paid to the need for including the health sector in planning and carrying out programs of urban and rural development, to the importance of better coordination of all the available health services, and to the need for funds for applied research on the administration of health programs. In addition there are several resolutions on population which clear the way for further studies on that subject; that on social security recommends to the Governments that they make use of the technical assistance of the OAS, PAHO, and ILO and a resolution on a study for the future financing of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. Finally, there is a resolution on the program and budget of the Special Assistance Fund for Development for the period 1 April 1966 to 30 June 1967 which includes the authorization for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. This budget amounts to \$9,336,820.

The Technical Cooperation Program of the OAS was originally established to give short-term support to programs which were expected to be financed by other methods of financing once they had become established. For special reasons, the source of financing of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has continued to be the Technical Cooperation Program. In recent years a change in the system of financing this institution has been under discussion. The Government of Brazil contributes the land, buildings, and pays some local costs of the Center; sometimes this institution receives assistance for special purposes, i.e., research, from sources such as the United States of America but most of the costs are borne by OAS.

In recent years the demand for services has been increasing and consequently the cost of operating it has been greater, as has been the case with the whole Technical Cooperation program.

During the same period the rate of increase of contributions from the Member Governments to the Technical Cooperation Program has been very slow. Bearing in mind the pressure of increasing costs and the greater demand for program activities in relation to limited resources, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council approved a budget for a 15 month period from 1 April 1966 to 30 June 1967, and reduced the planned level for all

1966 Technical cooperation Program projects, including the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, by 25 per cent.

Consequently it is essential to meet immediate financial needs while at the same time planning for long-term operation.

The IA-ECOSOC resolution on the future financing of the Center constitutes acknowledgment of the importance of the program and of the need to establish a firm and adequate financial basis.

The resolution recommends that a study be made of the present status of the foot-and-mouth disease problem and of the control campaigns under way and being prepared. It also recommends the Organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization to draw up proposals for stable, long-term financing of the Center and to submit them to CIAP.

The above-mentioned study on the foot-and-mouth disease problem and foot-and-mouth disease control programs is already under way, and the Director has begun to plan the financial study with the Secretary General of the OAS. Both Organizations are undertaking negotiations with a view to obtaining a short-term and long-term financing of the Center at a level which will allow it to meet the needs of the Americas.

The Fourth Meetings approved the statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund which was established by the Second Extraordinary Inter-American Conference of Rio de Janeiro (Resolution VIII) at the proposal of the Government of Mexico. The Fund is dedicated to providing without considerations of a political nature aid in the form of food, medical equipment, and medicines or other types of economic and technical assistance to any country which is threatened by or suffering from or is in an emergency situation of whatever origin. The Fund is made up of voluntary contributions from the Governments, which contributions may be made by a simple notification that certain goods or services or amounts of money are at the disposal of the Fund. The Fund provides aid upon the request of the country affected and will establish cooperative relations with the World Food Program, FAO, PAHO, International Red Cross, CARE, and those other international institutions whose activities and experience might be useful in achieving its purposes. The Fund will carry out its functions under the authority of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. The Fund will be operated by a Committee consisting of the Secretary General of the OAS, the Chairman of CIAP, and the Executive Secretary of IA-ECOSOC.

It is to be noted that at present PAHO/WHO provides Member Governments with assistance in meeting emergencies. Standard operating procedures are in existence and the Emergency Revolving Fund has been much used by Member Governments in such situations.

The second group includes a resolution concerning the improvement of statistics of Latin American countries, which instructs CIAP to undertake an immediate action program and recommends to the Governments that they

undertake a long-term action program; in addition there is a resolution on the standing coordination of planning offices and improvement of planning techniques.

Once again, the Fourth Annual Meetings of IA-ECOSOC recognized the importance of the health sector in economic and social development, which has been one of the leading principles of our Organization in recent years.

II. SECOND EXTRAORDINARY INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The Second Extraordinary Inter-American Conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 17 to 30 November 1965. Delegations of all the American republics, except Cuba and Venezuela, attended and were headed by Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Observers representing the specialized organizations of the Inter-American System and specialized agencies of the United Nations were also present. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the operation of and to strengthen the Inter-American System.

Because of their general interest mention is made of the following resolutions: "The Act of Rio de Janeiro" which refers to the amendments to the Charter of Bogotá at present in force and the "Economic and Social Act of Rio de Janeiro" which emphasizes the economic and social principles underpinning the Inter-American System.

At the meeting it was decided to establish the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund to which we have already referred.

The Rio meeting also approved Resolution IV on the "Coordination of the Activities of International and Inter-American Organizations". In implementation of this resolution the Council of the OAS instructed the Committee on Inter-American Organizations to prepare a general report on the subject.

The Committee on Inter-American Organizations presented its report to the Council of the OAS which approved it and sent it on to the Special Committee charged with the preparation of draft amendment to the Charter of the Organization of American States.

III. MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The amendments proposed by the Special Committee to the Charter of Bogotá which regulates the Specialized Organizations do not change the present situation. They deal merely with adaptations to the new structure of the OAS with a view to giving the General Assembly the functions at present held by the Council.

Although Article 101 of the Charter concerning geographical location of the Specialized Organizations is retained, the Special Committee added a new phrase reading as follows: "and the advisability of the Headquarters of those organizations being chosen in such a way as to ensure the most equitable geographical distribution possible."

Some of the economic standards suggested by the Special Committee relate to health. They are as follows:

"Defense of human potential through the extension and application of modern knowledge of medical science";

"Appropriate nutrition particularly through the acceleration of national efforts to increase the production and availability of foodstuffs";

"Suitable housing for all sectors of the population"; and

"Urban conditions favorable to a healthy, productive, and full life."

Finally, we recall that according to Article 53 of the Charter it is the duty of the Council:

a) To draw up and submit to the Governments and the Inter-American Conference proposals for the creation of new specialized organizations or for the combination, adaptation, or elimination of existing ones, including matters relating to the financing and support thereof;

b) To draw up recommendations to the Governments, the Inter-American Conference, the Specialized Conferences or the Specialized Organizations, for the coordination of the activities and programs of such Organizations, after consultation with them;

c) To conclude agreements with the Inter-American Specialized Organizations to determine the relations that shall exist between the respective agency and the Organization.

In the Preliminary Draft Amendments these functions have been transferred to the General Assembly and are defined as follows:

i) To draft proposals for the coordination of the activities of the organs, organizations, or agencies of the Organization and of their activities with those of the remainder of the Inter-American System.

ii) To strengthen and harmonize cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

iii) To promote collaboration, especially in the economic, social, and cultural fields, with international organizations whose purposes are similar to those of the Organization of American States.

iv) To examine the annual and special reports which the organs, organizations, and agencies of the system are required to submit to it.

The Preliminary Draft of the Amendments to the Charter of the OAS prepared by the Special Committee will have to be submitted to the Third Special Inter-American Conference in July 1966 at Buenos Aires, pursuant to the Act of Rio de Janeiro.