



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



78th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
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Provisional Agenda Item 21

CE78/18 (Eng.)
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TOPIC OF THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS, 1978

The Directing Council at its XXIV Meeting, held in Mexico City in October 1976, amended Rule 7 of the Rules for Technical Discussion to provide for the topics for Technical Discussions to be selected by the Directing Council or the Conference two years in advance.

The purpose of the change is to give the Secretariat time to prepare the documents for the Discussions well in advance and to transmit them to the governments with enough anticipation, in order to provide adequate time for delegates to study them.

The XXIV Meeting of the Directing Council selected a topic to be discussed by the Council at its XXV Meeting to be held in 1977 and another to be discussed by the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference, which will take place in 1978. The topic selected for 1977 is "Coordination Between Social Security Systems and Public Health." Planning for this discussion is already well advanced and the documentation will soon be transmitted to governments.

The topic selected for 1978 is: "Drugs: Incidence of Drugs in Health Costs. National and International Problems." Planning for this discussion has already begun. However, in initiating the planning, the Secretariat finds itself somewhat uncertain as to the exact meaning of the title, which is to some extent ambiguous.

In view of the uncertainty concerning the proposed content for these Discussions, the Director suggests that preparation should be directed toward analyzing factors that affect the costs of medicaments and the extent to which these drug costs contribute to the total costs of comprehensive health services in the Americas. Drug costs will be analyzed and discussed with respect both to national and international problems and possible solutions.

For this purpose it will be necessary to obtain up-to-date information on the present situation in all countries of the Region, in order to

provide a sound basis for a discussion of this topic. Therefore a questionnaire has been prepared covering such items as:

- (a) administrative organization for the control of drugs,
- (b) resources available,
- (c) drug control legislation,
- (d) domestic production,
- (e) imports and exports,
- (f) pattern of drug use, and
- (g) procurement procedures.

Although we believe these statistics will be very informative, they will be supplemented by more detailed country studies.

It is the Director's belief that the approach suggested is consistent with the intent of the XXIV Directing Council when it selected this item for discussion in 1978. If the Executive Committee is in agreement, it may wish to adopt a clarifying resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

TOPIC OF THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS, 1978

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having examined Document CE78/18 presented by the Director concerning the topic selected by the Directing Council at its XXIV Meeting, held in Mexico City, for the Technical Discussions to be held during the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1978,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Directing Council at its XXV Meeting that it clarify the topic of the Technical Discussions for the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1978 by adopting the title: "The Impact of Drug Expenditures on Health Costs: National and International Problems."
2. To request Member Governments to cooperate fully with the Organization to assure the success of the Discussions.