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SELECTION OF ONE GOVERNMENT ENTITLED TO DESIGNATE A PERSON TO SERVE ON THE JOINT COORDINATING BOARD OF THE UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES (TDR)

This year the WHO Regional Committee has to appoint or reappoint one member country to the TDR Joint Coordinating Board for a three-year term commencing 1 January 1984, as the term of office of the Government of Mexico will expire on 31 December 1983. Mexico was appointed for a three-year term by Resolution XII of the XXXII WHO Regional Committee meeting in 1980.

The Special Programme is a global program of international technical cooperation initiated by WHO and co-sponsored by UNDP and the World Bank, with the two interdependent objectives of developing improved tools for the control of tropical diseases and strengthening the research capability of the affected countries.

Summaries of the scientific and technical basis of the Special Programme and the functions, composition and operation of the Joint Coordinating Board are attached as Annexes I and II.

Annexes

UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR
RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES

TDR/CP/78.5
Annex 2

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUMMARY FOR
THE MEMORANLUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STRUCTURES

1. Despite the remarkable advances in medical science over recent decades, parasitic diseases still affect or threaten more than a thousand million people in the tropical countries, taking heavy toll in human lives and gravely impeding economic development. Furthermore, rather than coming under control, in many regions some of these diseases are increasing in both prevalence and severity.

2. This disease burden of the tropics is borne by the very people least equipped to control disease - the populations of the developing countries. Not only is development impeded by disease, but some of the development projects, such as manmade lakes and irrigation schemes designed to improve conditions, have in fact altered the ecology and aggravated major public health problems such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

3. In addition, technical problems have significantly reduced the effectiveness of some disease control programmes. A prime example is the increasing resistance of anopheline mosquitoes to chemical control, the mainstay of the majority of malaria control programmes. In some areas, such insecticide resistance in the vector is combined with chloroquine-resistant strains of the malaria parasite in man, further increasing the severity of the problem.

In the case of filarial infections, especially in onchocerciasis, commonly called river blindness, there is still no effective and safe drug which can be relied upon to kill the adult worms in man. No vaccine is available for any of the parasitic infections and no new effective, cheap and safe drugs for the widespread treatment of the diseases have become available in the past three decades.

4. To stimulate and coordinate goal-oriented research leading to the development and application of new and improved tools for control of these diseases, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases has been planned and initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the assistance and co-sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank (the Bank).

This Programme's two principal objectives can be summarized as:

- research and development for better tools to control tropical diseases, and
- training and strengthening of institutions to increase the research capability of tropical countries.

5. Criteria for selection of the diseases - malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trypanosomiasis (both African sleeping sickness and the American form called Chagas' disease), leishmaniasis and leprosy - included:

- the impact of the disease as a public health problem;
- the absence of satisfactory methods for control of the disease in prevailing circumstances of the tropical countries;
- the presence of research opportunities leading to improved control methods.

Since several major problems requiring research apply to most or all of the six diseases, the Special Programme includes components on epidemiology and operational research, vector control, socioeconomic and biomedical research.

6. Each component of the Special Programme is developed under the guidance and with the participation of multidisciplinary groups of scientists organized into a number of Scientific Working Groups, each with clearly defined research goals.

7. Intimately related to this search for new tools is the equally important and interdependent objective: the development of manpower and the strengthening of research institutions in the endemic countries of the tropics.

8. To these ends, institution strengthening activities focus upon the creation of a network of collaborating centres in tropical countries. These centres will become focal points for strengthening the research capabilities of the affected countries and will also be the sites for training activities.

9. The Special Programme is concerned to ensure that the full spectrum of technologists and scientists is trained to carry out the required research in accordance with the decisions and needs of the countries involved. Thus, while the Special Programme is especially

concerned with training leaders in research, it is not neglecting the training of supporting workers in the laboratory, the clinic and the field.

10. The Special Programme must be looked upon as a long-term effort of twenty years or more. It is hoped, however, that within the next five years some of the new tools will be ready for extensive trials within the national health services of those countries needing them.

FROM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE
AND TECHNICAL STRUCTURES OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME
FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES

TDR/CP/78.5

THE JOINT COORDINATING BOARD (JCB)

Functions

The JCB is the most important administrative body of the Special Programme. For the purpose of coordinating the interests and responsibilities of the parties cooperating in the Special Programme, it shall have the following functions:

- Review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Special Programme. For this purpose it will keep itself informed of all aspects of the development of the Special Programme, and consider reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Standing Committee, the Executing Agency, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Approve the proposed plan of action and budget for the coming financial period, prepared by the Executing Agency and reviewed by the Standing Committee.
- Review the proposals of the Standing Committee and approve arrangements for the financing of the Special Programme in that period.
- Review proposed longer-term plans of action and their financial implications. Review the annual financial statements submitted by the Executing Agency, as well as the audit report thereon, submitted by the External Auditor of the Executing Agency.
- Review periodic reports which evaluate the progress of the Special Programme towards the achievement of its objectives.
- Endorse the proposals of the Executing Agency and the Standing Committee for STAC membership.
- Consider such other matters relating to the Special Programme as may be referred to it by any Cooperating Party.

Composition

The JCB shall consist of 30 members from among the Cooperating Parties as follows:

- Twelve government representatives selected by the contributors to the Special Programme Resources.
- Twelve government representatives selected by the WHO Regional Committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Programme, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Special Programme.
- Three members, designated by the JCB itself, from among the remaining Cooperating Parties.
- The three Agencies which comprise the Standing Committee.

Members of the JCB shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed.

Other Cooperating Parties may, at their request, be represented as observers upon approval by the JCB.

Operation

- The JCB shall meet in annual session, and in extraordinary session if required, and with the agreement of the majority of its members.
- The JCB shall elect each year from among its members, a Chairman who shall:
 - convene and preside over meetings of the JCB; and
 - undertake such additional duties as may be assigned to him by the JCB.
- The Executing Agency shall provide the Secretariat and arrange for supporting services and facilities as may be required by the JCB.
- Subject to such other special arrangements as may be decided upon by the JCB, members of the JCB shall make their own arrangements to cover the expenses incurred in attending sessions of the JCB. Observers shall attend meetings of the JCB at their own expense. Other expenses of the JCB shall be borne by the Special Programme Resources.