

directing council



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XXXIII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
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XL Meeting



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (presented by Dr. Norman Gay (Bahamas))

Article 9.C of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization stipulates that one of the functions of the Council is to consider the annual report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The present report has been prepared in fulfillment of this legal requirement, and it outlines the work carried out by the Executive Committee during the past year, when its 100th and 101st Meetings took place.

100th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 100th Meeting of the Executive Committee dealt with its agenda and accomplished its work in a single plenary session held at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 25 September 1987.

Attending the Meeting were representatives of the Member Governments of the Executive Committee--Argentina, Bahamas, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia, and United States of America--together with those of El Salvador, Panama, and Uruguay, who joined the deliberations of this Governing Body after having been elected to serve on the Committee in place of those of Brazil, Colombia, and Honduras, whose terms of office were ending.

The meeting proceeded with confirmation of the officers, who included, again, under my chairmanship, Dr. José Thome Amador (Ecuador), Vice Chairman, and Dr. Carlos Miguez Barón (Uruguay), Rapporteur. According to the usual practice, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau acted as Secretary ex officio.

After the agenda of the Meeting was approved (Document CE100/1), the Meeting proceeded with the filling of seats on the various organs of the Executive Committee, as follows:

Argentina and the Bahamas were elected members of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, Brazil and Colombia having completed their terms of office on the Executive Committee.

El Salvador and Uruguay were designated as members of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development, to replace the outgoing members, Brazil and Honduras.

Panama and the United States of America were designated as members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations, the terms of Colombia and Honduras having come to an end.

The Committee decided, in addition, that meetings of the Governing Bodies may be adjourned without awaiting the signing of the Final Report in the closing session, which would save time and money.

101st MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

The 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization was held, as was the custom, at the Headquarters building in Washington, D.C., from 27 to 30 June 1988.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Member Governments of the Committee who, on that occasion, were from Argentina, Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, United States of America, and Uruguay, with observers from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, as well as Spain. In addition, observers from five intergovernmental organizations and two nongovernmental organizations were present. The Subcommittee on Planning and Programming and the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development were represented, respectively, by the Chairman of the former and the Rapporteur of the latter, who provided the Committee with reports on the preparatory work carried out by the respective subcommittees.

In the absence of the Rapporteur, Dr. Carlos Miguez Barón (Uruguay), at the first plenary session, the Committee elected Dr. Rodolfo Rodríguez (Argentina) to serve as Rapporteur pro tempore. Subsequently, when Dr. Rodolfo Rodríguez (Argentina) was absent at the final plenary session, the Committee designated Dr. Rommel Gilberto Villacorta Arévalo (El Salvador) as his replacement.

Eight plenary sessions were held, and in the course of only four days it was possible to cover the work of the agenda, without failing to give the necessary depth of examination that the items required, so that the Executive Committee was able to fully comply with the duties assigned to it under

Article 14 of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization and to make the pertinent recommendations to the Council concerning the matters detailed below.

Item 2.1: Adoption of the Agenda

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure, in the first plenary session the Executive Committee adopted the provisional agenda (Document CE101/1, Rev. 2) presented by the Director. The description of the work accomplished by the Executive Committee, as given in the present report, follows the order in which the items appear in this document.

Item 2.2: Representation of the Executive Committee at the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure, it was decided to designate Dr. Rodolfo Rodríguez (Argentina), together with the Chairman, to represent the Executive Committee at the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas. Mrs. Marlyn Kefauver (United States of America) and Dr. Manuel Quijano Narezo (Mexico) were designated as alternate representatives for Dr. Rodríguez and the Chairman, respectively.

Item 2.3: Dates of the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 12.A and 14.A of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization and Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, in the first plenary session the Director was authorized, in response to his proposal, to convene the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of WHO, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, for the period from 26 September to 1 October 1988, at the Headquarters of the Organization in Washington, D.C. It was so recorded in Resolution I.

Item 2.4: Provisional Agenda for the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

At the end of its deliberations in the eighth plenary session, the Executive Committee, in its Resolution XVI, approved the provisional agenda (Document CD33/1) prepared by the Director for the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XL Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, with the addition of the following three items: "Aedes albopictus," "Medical Education," and "the Program Budget Situation, 1988-1989." In addition, the Committee decided to add another topic to the approved agenda: "Fight against the Use of Tobacco."

Item 3.1: Report of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

In the first plenary session, Dr. Rodríguez, in his capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, outlined the work carried out by this body during the course of two meetings held in December 1987 and April 1988. These meetings were attended by representatives of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, and the United States of America, who studied in detail eleven items of major concern. Three of these items--proposed support for the development and strengthening of local health systems, hiring under local conditions of employment, and the provisional draft of the proposed program budget of WHO for the Region of the Americas for 1990-1991--were included on the agenda of the 101st Meeting of the Council and were discussed in detail at other times during the Meeting. The other items covered by the Subcommittee were the following:

Methodology of the PAHO Technical Cooperation, Planning, Programming and Evaluation System (AMPES). The Subcommittee examined AMPES as an instrument not only for the planning of technical cooperation through the Country Representative Offices but also for making it possible to define and analyze national priorities, which are the objectives of this cooperation, and to evaluate the progress of technical cooperation and the fulfillment of national targets. It was clear that efforts needed to be made to enhance the mechanisms of AMPES.

Technical cooperation among countries in subregional initiatives: Central America and Panama. As the result of an analysis of the subregional initiatives, special importance was given to the strategy of cooperation among the countries, with particular emphasis on those that had been being carried out in Central America and Panama. The Subcommittee expressed an interest in those initiatives that would make it possible to strengthen efforts on the part of the countries and in the technical cooperation offered by PAHO.

Impact of the reduction in WHO Regular Funds on the Regular Program Budget of PAHO/WHO for 1988-1989. The Secretariat gave a detailed report to the Subcommittee on the overall reduction of US\$50 million projected by the Director-General of WHO and the repercussions that this would have for the Region of the Americas--namely, a reduction of US\$4,940,000. This would mean a 2.7% reduction in the combined PAHO/WHO regular program, which had originally been approved at US\$183,803,000.

The Subcommittee requested that, in examining these reductions, the Secretariat be guided always by program priorities, and it emphasized the necessity of avoiding any reductions in technical cooperation among countries.

Residency Program in International Health. This program was cited for its importance in promoting leadership in the health field, and for its potential for improving technical cooperation among the Member Countries of the Organization. Three groups of residents had already participated over a period of three years--a total of 25 professionals from Latin American countries, one from the United States of America, and two from Canada.

The Subcommittee pointed out the need for the Ministries of Health, the universities, and other institutions to help identify possible candidates, to find suitable placement for these professionals afterwards, and to monitor their progress and contributions to the programs in the countries.

Joint evaluation of PAHO/WHO technical cooperation at the country level. The Subcommittee examined the experience acquired as a result of the evaluation effort and the adjustment in the methodology to be used after the Joint Meetings to Analyze Technical Cooperation, held in 13 countries at the end of 1987. It appeared that the programming process at the country level had been strengthened. Relations between the technical personnel in the countries and the PAHO representatives had been studied, and the opportunity had been taken to inform high-ranking national authorities about the doctrine and purposes of PAHO. The Organization had changed the profile of technical resources in some of its Country Representative Offices to make it more responsive to the needs for cooperation that had been identified.

Conclusions of the 81st Meeting of the Executive Board of WHO. The discussion of this item led to a very useful exchange of views. The topics covered included the nomination of the new Director-General of WHO, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima; the relationship between the Regional Offices and Headquarters; and the mechanisms used for election of the Regional Directors and the selection of WHO Representatives in the countries, which were not being used in the Region of the Americas in the selection of PAHO Representatives. Continuity in the auditing of programs by WHO Headquarters staff was also examined.

Procurement of essential drugs. After a review of all aspects of this important topic, the Subcommittee concluded that encouragement should be given to the establishment of a Regional Revolving Drug Fund that would make it possible for the countries to effect savings, perhaps with support from such agencies as the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

Staff Health Insurance. The cost of insurance benefits was reported to be producing a deficit, especially at Headquarters in Washington, D.C. To deal with this problem, at the end of 1985 WHO decided to increase the quota contributions of both the employer and the employees. This meant that all the Regions of WHO would be making up for a deficit that is generated largely in the Americas. In 1987 PAHO was asked to cover at least the deficit for

its active staff in the Region, but this could not be done because there were no budgetary allocations for the purpose. The Committee did not consider it necessary to adopt a resolution on this item.

After presentation of the report on the work of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, there was an interesting and broad-ranging discussion covering practically every aspect of the planning system, with emphasis on the need to have flexibility within the limits imposed by the decisions of the Governing Bodies. The discussion also touched on the repercussions of the new reduction in the WHO budget of some US\$25 million, which meant a total loss to PAHO of some US\$5 million.

There was much praise for the work accomplished in the area of technical cooperation among countries, and Dr. Quijano was congratulated on his election as Chairman of the Executive Board of WHO.

Item 3.2: Report of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development

Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, Rapporteur of the Special Subcommittee, presented this item. She described in detail the work accomplished at the meeting held at Headquarters from 11 to 14 April 1988. She also described a workshop, held in Port-of-Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) from 4 to 6 May 1988, whose conclusions had been very useful in determining the needs of women in the Caribbean.

The proposals of the Special Subcommittee were presented to the Executive Committee in the form of a draft resolution. The discussion that followed highlighted the support that had been received from the Inter-American Commission of Women, which had excellent relations with PAHO; the sympathies evoked by the mission of protecting women; the need for a radical change of thinking, not merely legal provisions, and of this being based on education not only of women but also, and especially, of men. The serious problem of violence against women was also mentioned.

The draft resolution was approved unanimously and became Resolution II. In it, the Executive Committee proposed that the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council adopt a resolution to request the Member Countries and the Director to undertake various measures aimed at putting the plans for women, health, and development into practice.

Item 3.3: Report by the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration, 1988

The Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration, composed of the Representatives of Argentina, Ecuador, and Saint Lucia, held a session on 27 June 1988 and presented its report at the eighth plenary session. The Executive Committee approved Resolution XIV, in which note was taken of the decision of the Award Committee to confer the PAHO Award for Administration, 1988, on Dr. Guido Miranda Gutiérrez of Costa Rica, and the report of the Award Committee was transmitted to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

In its report, the Award Committee gave special recognition to the accomplishments of the candidate proposed by Colombia, Dr. Héctor Abad Gómez, and, noting the egregious act of terrorism that caused his death, expressed its repudiation of all types of violence against individuals for political or ideological reasons.

Item 3.4: Report by the Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO on the Requests of the Inter-American College of Radiology, the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, and the Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals to Establish Official Relations with PAHO.

The Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO, made up of the Representatives of Panama, Saint Lucia, and the United States of America, met on 29 June 1988 to examine the applications presented by the Inter-American College of Radiology, the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, and the Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals to be allowed to establish official relations with PAHO. Their report was presented in the eighth plenary session, and the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XV, in which it was resolved that said relations be established, and that the Chairman of the Committee should inform the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council of this decision.

Item 4.1: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas.

Dr. St. John (PASB) presented the Executive Committee with the most recent data on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Americas. In summary, it could be said that from 5 to 10 million people in the world were infected, of whom between 2 and 2.5 million resided in the Americas.

The speaker reported on progress in understanding the behavior of HIV, which produces biomolecular changes in the amino acids of the glycoprotein envelope, resulting in a total loss of antibody reaction. The matter was highly complex, he said, and, as a result, preventive intervention through public health was very difficult. The speaker also provided extensive details about surveillance of the epidemic throughout the world and in the Americas, and about the characteristics of homosexual and heterosexual transmission, transmission associated with blood transfusion, and transmission via the sharing of needles among intravenous drug abusers. His prognosis was for a worsening of the situation, despite prevention efforts, which would call for determined cooperation among the health, educational, and financial sectors, as well as the community at large, and he indicated that it might be necessary to redefine national priorities in favor of the health sector in general.

The discussion that followed touched on all the problems posed by AIDS: government support of programs, the protection of children, organizational weaknesses in programs around the world, the possibility of establishing a revolving fund to facilitate the countries' acquisition of reagents for diagnosis, the problems of hemophiliacs, the usefulness of information and education programs, and the socioeconomic consequences of AIDS.

The principal aspects of the discussion were brought together in a draft resolution that was presented by the Rapporteur at the fifth plenary session. It was approved with minor amendments as Resolution VI, in which it was recommended that the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council approve a resolution endorsing the objectives of the Global Program on AIDS in the Americas; urging that the Member Countries make special contributions to promote activities and research in relation to AIDS and that they make their human and institutional resources available to PAHO for this purpose; and requesting that the Director continue the search for funds in support of the efforts being undertaken by the Governments in the area of AIDS.

Item 4.2: Plan of Action for the Eradication of Indigenous Transmission of Wild Poliovirus from the Americas by 1990.

Dr. de Quadros (PASB) presented this important item, giving a detailed report on the status of the entire Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the Americas, as well as on the efforts being made by the countries to eradicate transmission of the wild poliovirus in the Western Hemisphere by 1990. Less than three years remain before that target date, and it was said that an enormous effort would have to be made if these objectives were to be attained.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of PAHO/EPI had recommended that the countries which still had endemic poliomyelitis hold national vaccination days twice a year using the trivalent oral vaccine against poliomyelitis (VOTP) at six-to-eight week intervals, in order to successfully interrupt transmission of the wild virus. At the same time, advantage should be taken of these programs to include other vaccines, such as DPT, tetanus toxoid (TT), and measles vaccine, thus expanding the general coverage of the EPI.

The general discussion on this item was held in the fourth plenary session. Many representatives intervened. Various aspects of the world program, in which the Region of the Americas was a pioneer, were brought out. Attention was called to the need to diversify measures depending on the situation in the particular countries, taking advantage of the effort being spent on the national vaccination days.

In some of the interventions it was pointed out that there were difficulties with laboratory network surveillance. It was also emphasized that there was need for consistent political will in the actions being taken against polio.

It was reported, in addition, that the Revolving Fund used for the procurement of vaccines was practically exhausted, although it was hoped that by the end of the biennium the Fund would once again be able to continue providing program support.

The Rapporteur brought together the principal aspects of the discussion in a draft resolution in which the Executive Committee approved Resolution VII proposing that the Directing Council: express its thanks to USAID, IDB, UNICEF, and Rotary International for their assistance in the campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis; urge the Member Countries to make every effort to fulfill their commitments pursuant to the guidelines of the Regional Plan of Action and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and to accelerate and strengthen the work of the laboratory network so that it could support program monitoring; to stress that those countries still endemic for polio establish at least two national vaccination days for the purpose of expanding general coverage under the EPI; and that those countries not endemic for polio should ensure that high levels of immunization were maintained. The resolution would also call upon the Member Countries to monitor immunization coverage at the level of the smallest political administrative units; to improve the rates of VOTIP immunization among children under 1 year of age; to strengthen surveillance systems; and to investigate thoroughly all cases of paralysis, taking special measures with those classified as probable polio. Finally, it would request the Director to make a progress report on this item at the XXXIV Meeting of the Directing Council in 1989, one year before the target date for the eradication of poliomyelitis.

Item 4.3: Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Programs

Addressing this item in the fourth plenary session, Dr. Solís (PASB) gave a detailed description of the activities carried out by PAHO since 1984, when the XXX Meeting of the Directing Council approved the Organization's "Action Policy with Respect to Population Matters."

Contributing to the discussion of this item were representatives and observers, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development, and the Director. Attention focused on analysis of the data relating to the principal problems, inter alia, the demographic characteristics of the populations in the Americas; their dynamics and the status of the different components; the rapid changes taking place in the population, with declining fertility and birth rates; and the decreases in natural population growth, which nevertheless continued to be high. It was noted that a significant aging of the population was taking place, and that urban growth was posing problems.

With regard to the indicators, it was pointed out that hundreds of times more women were dying from causes associated with reproductive activity in South America than in the countries of Northern Europe, and that almost all these deaths could be avoided.

It was announced that at least 13 countries would fail to meet the targets for life expectancy proposed in the Regional Plan of Action. Fifteen countries would fail to attain the target for infant mortality of 30 per 1,000 live births. In Latin America no fewer than 700,000 infant deaths could be prevented if the resources available were properly utilized.

On the basis of this information, the Rapporteur prepared a draft resolution, which was presented to the Executive Committee and approved as Resolution IX, in which it was proposed that the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council adopt a resolution calling on the Governments to: promote measures in support of mothers and children; attempt to improve not only the extension of coverage by the services but also their quality; coordinate technical and financial cooperation for maternal and child health and family planning; set targets for the reduction of maternal mortality; and initiate intersectoral actions aimed at helping adolescents to develop healthy life styles and avoid risk-associated behaviors that lead to drug addiction, accidents, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies.

The resolution asked the Director to continue to support the implementation of collective mandates in this field and the mobilization of resources, and to report again on progress in this area at the meeting of the Directing Council in 1991.

Item 4.4: Provisional Draft of the Program Budget Proposal of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for the Biennium 1990-1991.

This item was initially covered at the third plenary session in the presentation by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming of the Subcommittee's examination of this subject. Dr. Rodríguez reported on the reduction in the program budget of WHO, which meant a reduction of US\$2,470,000 for the Region of the Americas. The Subcommittee advised that the Director, in his consideration of possible reductions in PAHO programs, should be guided by the program priorities that had been set by the Governing Bodies; in other words, the US\$2,470,000 reduction should not have a uniformly proportional impact: an effort should be made, to the greatest extent possible, to avoid affecting certain programs that must be maintained in their original form.

More detailed information was then provided by Mr. Milam (PASB), who reminded the Committee that the budget projections for 1990-1991 had been published for the first time in Official Document 210 in May 1987. At that time, the projection for WHO Regular Funds was US\$69,448,000, an increase of US\$6,817,000 (10.9%) over the program of US\$62,631,000 approved for 1988-1989 by the Fortieth World Health Assembly. However, the Forty-first World Health Assembly had called for a global reduction of US\$25 million in the program for 1988-1989, resulting in a reduction of US\$2,470,000 for the Region of the Americas, or a revised 1988-1989 program of US\$60,161,000.

The proposal for WHO Regular Funds for 1990-1991 was \$65,027,000, an increase of 8.1% over 1988-1989, or 3.8% more than the program originally approved for 1988-1989, which meant, in the end, that it was \$4,421,000 less than the amount originally projected in May 1987.

Mr. Milam presented details of the budget, with tables and accounts, and reminded the Committee that in June 1989 it would be examining the PAHO regular budget proposal for 1990-1991, whereas at the moment the recommendations being made to the Directing Council of PAHO would lead to the recommendations which that Governing Body would be making to the Director-General, who in turn would present the global WHO proposal for 1990-1991 to the Executive Board of WHO and the World Health Assembly, which would make the final decision in 1989.

In the open discussion that followed, some of the representatives and observers requested and obtained more detailed information, and the Director gave a careful explanation of the following adjustments that had had to be made because of the \$2,470,000 reduction in the PAHO budget for 1988-1989, as approved by Resolution WHA41.10 of the World Health Assembly: (1) a reduction of US\$256,500 in activities under Direction, Coordination, and Management of the Organization, excluding the activities of the Governing Bodies, with special focus on the Program of the Regional Director; (2) a reduction of US\$1,020,200 under Health System Infrastructure, without affecting the international residency program; (3) a reduction of US\$866,700 under Health Science and Technology, without affecting either research or oral health; (4) a reduction of US\$37,700 under Nutrition; (5) a reduction of US\$250,700 under Protection and Promotion of the Health of Specific Population Groups, with a reduction of US\$199,300 in Workers' Health through the elimination of a vacant post; (6) a reduction of US\$86,300 under Protection and Promotion of Mental Health, US\$50,000 under Psychosocial and Behavioral Factors, and US\$35,400 under Prevention and Control of Alcohol and Drug Abuse; (7) a reduction of US\$132,400 under Promotion of Environmental Health, without affecting Food Safety; (8) a reduction of US\$359,600 under Disease Prevention and Control, without affecting Immunization, Disease Vector Control, Diarrheal Diseases, or Other Noncommunicable Disease Prevention; (9) a reduction of US\$326,600 in program support--US\$196,000 under the dissemination of scientific and technical information, and US\$130,500 under Budget and Finance.

The Director warned that PAHO was losing its very capacity to introduce change, which always entailed expenditures. The room for maneuvering, he said, was getting increasingly tighter.

Based on all this discussion, the Rapporteur prepared a resolution that was approved by the Executive Committee at its fifth plenary session as Resolution V. In it, the Directing Council was asked to approve a resolution requesting the Director to convey to the Director-General of WHO the request for US\$65,027,000 for the Region of the Americas for the biennium 1990-1991, so that it might be examined by the Executive Board of WHO and the World Health Assembly in 1989.

Item 4.5: Joint Plan of Action for the Andean Subregion

In presenting this item, Dr. Ochoa (PASB) gave the history of cooperation agreements in the Andean Subregion, such as the Cartagena Agreement and the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, up through the formulation of a Joint Plan of Action for the Andean Area that was endorsed by the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference, in which the support of the Governments was requested for that initiative and the Director was charged with reporting periodically on the matter to the Governing Bodies.

In November 1987 the Ministers of Health of the Andean Area met in Quito and approved a Joint Plan of Action with five priority areas: health service infrastructure, maternal and child health, malaria, essential drugs, and drug abuse. They also agreed to incorporate natural disasters as a sixth priority area. The aim was to support these priority areas by first using national and subregional resources and cooperation among countries. Dr. Ochoa gave details of the achievements in each area and of the support received.

It was pointed out that the countries of the Andean Subregion shared common problems and a specific overall framework in which they could carry out their joint actions. This had been implemented thanks to policy decisions that had been taken by all the Governments. The intention was to strengthen Andean integration, beginning with health but at the same time not overlooking the other sectors--a type of integration which had drawn its strength from a shared history and a number of common objectives and problems.

In the discussion on this item, the Representative of Ecuador submitted a proposal to the Executive Committee for the creation of an Andean Subregional Institute for Health Development Research which would have its headquarters in Quito and would utilize the existing infrastructure of the Institute for Health Research and Development, which was part of the Ministry of Public Health in Ecuador and was self-financing. This meant that the only request would be for international backing by PAHO. The Andean Subregional Institute for Health Development Research would have a component for social medicine, another for nutrition, and a third for odontological research. This last could serve as a WHO Oral Health Center similar to the ones that already exist in Africa and Asia. This project was being negotiated with WHO.

The Committee's discussion reflected a desire to work together in seeing that these efforts are successful.

The various aspects and problems related to this item were also discussed in depth by the observer from the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, several speakers, and the Director.

The Rapporteur presented a draft resolution that was approved by the Executive Committee at its sixth plenary session (Resolution VIII). In it, the Committee proposed the text of a resolution in which the Directing Council was asked to congratulate the Governments of the Andean Countries on the Joint Plan of Action; forward this Plan to WHO and to the Andean Parliament in order to promote support for it; and request that the Director orient the technical cooperation of the Bureau in keeping with the objectives of the Plan, at the same time seeking other sources of financing so that it might be put into practice more rapidly.

Item 4.6: Development and Strengthening of Local Health Systems in the Transformation of National Health Systems

This item was introduced by Dr. Paganini (PASB), who explained that the development and strengthening of local health systems had been the fruit of collaboration by the entire staff and that it had been planned as part of the primary health care strategy with a view to the goal of health for all by the year 2000.

Dr. Paganini gave a detailed presentation on the status and problems of the health services in the Americas in the midst of a profound economic crisis and a period of demographic change, associated with a typical pathology of underdevelopment along with the need to meet an ever-greater and more complex demand. He referred also to the changes already being made in the countries and to the way in which the strengthening of some of the local health systems could, when they were designed according to the real needs of the local population and in an integrated fashion, improve the national services and serve not only persons but also the environment.

Dr. Rodríguez, in turn, reported on the study of this topic undertaken by the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming at its last meeting in 1987. The Subcommittee was of the opinion that the idea of strengthening the local health systems could be the answer to the problems of inequity and ineffectiveness in particular services, and that it could provide a mechanism to help ensure that the objectives and priorities established by the countries in collaboration with PAHO corresponded to the need to provide better and more comprehensive health services.

In the discussion on this item, the speakers pointed out various aspects of interest, such as the need to train personnel; the interaction of the various PAHO programs; the apparently inadequate approach to financing problems and development of managerial capacity; the need to carry out ongoing analyses of the situation; the desirability of harmonizing the local

health systems with the pharmaceutical industries in the countries; the repercussions of governmental change for the health programs, which might gain more continuity through the strengthening of local health systems; the participation of women in the new organization, as the ones principally responsible for family health; the risk of too much atomization and the need for integration; and the desirability of eliminating excessive bureaucratization of the public sector in the area of health.

It was also pointed out that the local health systems were not a substitute for health programs but rather it was the latter that provide content for the local services.

The Committee approved Resolution X, which brings together the various aspects of the plan cited in the discussion and requesting the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council to adopt a resolution to have the Governments give their support to the development of local health systems with the collaboration of the PASB.

Item 4.7: Program Policy in Food and Nutrition

In his presentation on this item, Dr. Daza (PASB) gave an overview of the situation prevailing in the Region, with energy-protein undernutrition and specific deficiencies in iodine, iron, and vitamin A, together with malnutrition associated with some of the chronic diseases, sometimes due to insufficient intake and other times to nutrient imbalance.

He also looked at the countries' efforts to improve the situation, hindered by the economic crisis which had made it necessary to reduce social expenditures on nutrition, following which he referred to the collaboration provided by the Organization in this area with a view to creating technical cooperation mechanisms that would give the countries the capacity to deal with their problems, to train human resources, and to promote research.

Finally, he noted the policies and lines of action that were being submitted to the Executive Committee, asking that the Governments be urged to strengthen their capacity to diagnose and effect ongoing surveillance of the food and nutrition situation.

There was an interesting and wide-ranging discussion on this item. The principal points were brought together in Resolution XVII of the Executive Committee, prepared by the Rapporteur and approved in the eighth plenary session. The Executive Committee proposed to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council the text of a resolution in which: consideration was given to the persistence of food and nutrition problems of the Region, largely because of the marginal social and economic conditions of major sectors of the population, which had been aggravated by the economic crisis; the need was recognized for coordinated multisectoral actions; it was also recognized that other problems existed having to do with specific deficiencies and nutrient imbalances; the Member Governments were urged to strengthen their policies and strategies for improving the availability of

food; and the Director was asked to emphasize technical cooperation in the various aspects of these problems.

Item 4.8: Drug Abuse Prevention

This item, included on the agenda at the request of the United States of America, was presented by Dr. Madrigal (PASB), who covered the situation in the Region in great detail with regard to the production and consumption of drugs and then went on to review the points that were being submitted for consideration by the Committee: the development of strategies and mechanisms of action so that the countries of the Region would have trained human resources; an infrastructure that would allow an alternative to the medical model and permit greater coverage and community involvement--that is, the promotion of leadership, community organization, and awareness, and the encouragement of self-help groups; information systems, with data bases, mechanisms for epidemiological surveillance, and interdisciplinary studies to help in understanding the causes and risk factors that lead to drug abuse; programs to make the public aware of the problems connected with the production, illegal trafficking, and consumption of psychoactive substances through use of the communications media and through health education and promotion; optimum intersectoral coordination to avoid duplication of efforts; and, finally, the encouragement of research as an instrument for understanding the etiology, for diagnosis, for planning, and for program evaluation.

In the discussion that followed, several speakers reported on the approaches and action being taken by their governments in this area and expressed the desire and need to step up the campaign against drug abuse. Dr. Grant, from WHO, also intervened, referring to the inclusion of the activities in the Eighth General Program of Work of the World Health Organization.

The Executive Committee, at its eighth plenary session, approved Resolution XVIII, which proposed to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council the text of a resolution supporting the efforts of PAHO/WHO to coordinate with other international agencies in the struggle against drug abuse in the Region; requesting the Governments to support these activities and make technical resources available to the Organization; requesting the health authorities to provide leadership for the groups and commissions that formulate intersectoral programs for drug abuse control; promoting the participation of the health sector, in coordination with other sectors, in promoting and encouraging primary prevention, with emphasis on the groups at greatest risk and on adolescents; and requesting the Director to use available resources to focus more attention on this problem.

Item 5.1: Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions

In presenting this item, Mr. McMoil (PASB) pointed out that on 1 January 1988 the total arrears of contributions due prior to the current fiscal year had amounted to US\$25,380,172. The payments received between

that date and 17 June 1988 had totaled US\$18,987,892, reducing the arrears to US\$6,392,280. He also reported that after 17 June Costa Rica had made a payment of US\$4,420, which brought the total overdue arrears down to US\$6,387,859 as of that date. For the same time period in 1987, the arrears had amounted to US\$7,500,950. In other words, the payment status was improving.

With regard to contributions for 1988, US\$23,300,939 had been collected as of 17 June 1988, which represented 38% of current year assessments, as compared with 25% at the same time in 1987.

The collection of arrears and current year assessments totaled US\$42,293,252 and comprised about 70% of the current year's assessed level of contributions, as compared with 33% in 1987.

Mr. McMoil recalled the situation at the opening of the XXXII Meeting of the Directing Council, in September 1987, when the provisions of Article 6.B of the PAHO Constitution were applicable to Bolivia and the Dominican Republic.

As of the beginning of the 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Governments of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Suriname were more than full two years behind in their quota contributions.

The Rapporteur prepared a draft resolution on this item, which was approved by the Committee as Resolution III. This resolution thanked the Member Governments that had already made their payments for 1988 and urged the other Member Governments to make their outstanding quota contributions as soon as possible; it also recommended to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council that the voting restrictions stipulated in Article 6.B of the PAHO Constitution be strictly applied to those Member Governments which, by the opening of that Meeting, had not made substantial additional payments toward their obligation or manifested their intention of so doing through a formal communication to the Secretariat. Finally, the Director was requested to continue to report on this question, both to the Member Governments in arrears and to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

Item 5.2: Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor for 1986-1987

In presenting this item, Mr. McMoil (PASB) explained that the corresponding two reports had been issued separately in order to facilitate their distribution prior to the beginning of the 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee, and that at the conclusion of the Meeting, Official Document 220, containing the biennial Financial Report and the corresponding Report of the External Auditor, would be published.

Mr. McMoil presented an explanation, with accompanying details, of the Director's report on the financial transactions of the Pan American Health Organization for the period 1 January 1986 to 31 December 1987. He also referred to the financial position of the Organization as of 31 December 1987. He then went on to review the statements of accounts for the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, (CFNI) and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). In addition, he presented the financial statement and the report of the auditor for the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF). In compliance with the provisions of Resolution XIV of the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, a special Annex had been prepared reporting the extent to which program support costs had been applied to projects initiated in 1987 and financed with extrabudgetary funds.

Next, the External Auditor, Mr. Press, presented his report, referring to the matters that had arisen concerning the statements of accounts, which had been discussed with the staff of PAHO. All had been satisfactorily resolved, and corrective action had been taken where appropriate. After these discussions, the final version of the auditor's report had been sent to the Director for his comments and to verify its accuracy and completeness.

The principal matters that were discussed were the bank and imprest accounts, the new Headquarters office building, monitoring and evaluation, control of manpower, and the computer systems. More diligence was requested in the presentation of the bank and imprest accounts; it was found that the cost of remodeling the office space for the new Governor Shepherd building had exceeded the authorized limit.

The External Auditor provided details on all those areas that might be improved.

Mr. McMoil and the Director answered several questions from those present and provided more detailed information; Mr. Marks did the same for the PAHEF accounts.

After all the questions and observations of those present had been clarified, the Executive Committee approved Resolution IV. In it, the Committee calls on the Directing Council to approve the text of a resolution taking note of the Financial Report; thanking the External Auditor for his work; expressing concern over the low rate of quota payments on the quotas to CFNI and INCAP and urging the Member Governments of the Centers to pay their contributions; requesting the Director to monitor the financial situation of those Centers and to review the relationship between PAHO and PAHEF; endorsing the Director's proposal to credit the surplus of US\$859,500 to the Miscellaneous Income Account; and congratulating him on the Organization having maintained a balanced financial position.

Item 5.3: Amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

In presenting this item, Mr. Gauthier (PASB) referred to the amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which required approval by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 020, and indicated that all the proposed amendments had already been approved and were in use in the World Health Organization, with the exception of the one concerning the salaries of the Director, Deputy Director, and Assistant Director.

The Rapporteur read two draft resolutions, one to confirm the amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, thereby standardizing employment conditions in PASB and WHO, which was approved (Resolution XI), and the other to establish the salaries of the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director and to recommend that the Directing Council establish the salary of the Director (Resolution XII).

Item 5.4: Hiring under Local Conditions of Employment for the Mobilization of National Resources

The first part of this item was presented by Dr. Rodríguez, in his capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, who reported on the study carried out by that Subcommittee. He referred to the conversion, reported earlier, of 213 posts to the new system, all for support services--116 of them at PANAFTOSA, 44 at CEPANZO, 16 at ECO, and, in addition, 37 posts established at the PAHO/WHO Representation in Brasília. In international support services, 45 posts had been eliminated since they had remained vacant.

The Subcommittee expressed its general satisfaction with the measures taken by the Secretariat and indicated the desire to have more information so that it could examine the savings that had resulted.

Next, Mr. Gauthier (PASB) reported that application of the new system was working well; he confirmed the figure of 213 posts of the new type, which was not expected to increase substantially; and he explained that the cost of those posts was between 40% and 50% less than that of equivalent posts in the United Nations system. He categorically rejected the assertion of the Representative of the Staff Association that the interests of some of the staff members had been prejudiced, pointing out that what in fact had happened was that some staff members, after having retired, had been happy to accept a position under the new conditions.

In the discussion that followed, the Secretariat provided explanations in response to questions raised by those present, and the Director enthusiastically praised the loyalty, fidelity, and zeal of the staff members who had been hired under local conditions. It was agreed that it was not necessary to adopt a resolution on this subject.

Item 5.5: PAHO Building Fund and Maintenance and Repair of PAHO-Owned Buildings

The PASB Chief of Administration, Mr. Tracy, presented this item, reporting on the construction of a new building at 2121 Virginia Avenue. He went on to say that the heating, cooling, and elevator systems at the Headquarters building were in good condition despite the fact that they were 25 years old. He gave details on maintenance expenditures and on the finances of the Fund. He then answered several questions from representatives and observers.

The Director intervened to say that it would be necessary to correct certain defects in the new building in order to improve working conditions, and that this would result in further expenditures. No resolution was adopted.

Item 5.6: Pan American Health Organization Flag

Mr. Portocarrero (PASB) presented this item and pointed out that on different occasions the Governments and other institutions had expressed the desire to fly a PAHO flag in order to show their support for the goals and principles of the Organization. He gave details on the design of the standard and announced that use of the flag would be regulated by a code based on the one for the WHO and United Nations flags.

The Rapporteur read a draft resolution, which was approved unanimously (Resolution XIII), in which the Executive Committee requested the Directing Council to adopt and approve the proposed design as the official flag of the Pan American Health Organization and asked the Director to adopt a code for it as well as regulations governing its use and the protection of its dignity.

Item 6.1: Fortieth Anniversary of the World Health Organization

On this item, Mr. LeClair (PASB) explained that, pursuant to Resolution WHA40.36, the Director had sent letters to each of the Ministers of Health in the Member Countries suggesting activities aimed at various sectors of the population which might be carried out on World Health Day, the first worldwide "smoke-out," to commemorate the anniversary of WHO. He reported on the activities held in the Region to celebrate World Health Day.

Item 6.2: Statement by the Representative from the PAHO/WHO Staff Association

Dr. Gillespie (Representative of the PAHO/WHO Staff Association) presented Document CE101/23, which expressed to the Executive Committee the concern of the staff, particularly at Headquarters, over the problem of health insurance and advocated general recognition of the principles of globality and universality in the provisions of the insurance throughout the world, rejecting the possibility of differential rates of contribution.

With regard to the hiring of staff, he stated that the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming had been told that no staff member had been prejudiced by application of the new system of hiring under local conditions but that in fact there had been cases of interests infringed under the new system.

The Staff Association deplored what it considered to be the current trend toward downgrading of the conditions of employment in the Organization and in the United Nations system.

Regarding the new amendments to the Staff Rules, he said that the Association was in agreement with them and that he felt it was necessary to establish a position of Ombudsman within the Organization.

Item 6.3: Resolutions and Other Measures of the Forty-first World Health Assembly of Interest to the Executive Committee

The Secretary presented this item and indicated that interest in several of the resolutions from the Forty-first World Health Assembly had been such that they had been discussed as agenda items at the 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee. These included, for example, the question of AIDS, the eradication of poliomyelitis, the strengthening of primary health care, child nutrition, the biennial program budget, the Building Fund, salaries and wages, and technical cooperation.

He then referred to the appointment of Dr. Nakajima as the new Director-General and reviewed a series of resolutions.

Interesting observations on this subject were made by those present and by the Director.

Item 7: Other Matters (Aedes albopictus)

At the proposal of the United States of America, the Executive Committee dealt with Aedes albopictus under Item 7 (Other Matters). The presentation was made by Mrs. Kefauver (United States), who gave a history of the problem starting with the appearance of Aedes albopictus in 1985 in the United States and Brazil and covering its subsequent spread, where in many areas it had been displacing Aedes aegypti.

The speaker's Delegation proposed that the Member Governments take measures with regard to: (a) standards for the international transportation of high-risk cargoes, including automobile tire casings; (b) standards for the surveillance of mosquito vectors in transportation carriers, as well as sanitation procedures needed on this subject, so that international ports and border crossing-points would be free of breeding habitats; and (c) cooperative surveillance of the vector species in international ports and border crossing-points. She proposed that an item be included on the agenda for the Meeting of the Directing Council.

Dr. López Antuñano (PASB) endorsed this proposal and provided some interesting details. In the discussion that followed, all the participants supported the proposal.

The Rapporteur read a draft resolution on this item, which was adopted as Resolution XIX of the 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee, in which the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council was asked to urge the countries and territories infested with Aedes albopictus and Aedes aegypti to implement the previous resolutions of the Governing Bodies of PAHO; to reaffirm the statements contained in the Plan of Action approved for the control of Aedes albopictus; to urge all the Member Countries to take the necessary steps to implement regulations on the importation and exportation of used tire casings; to implement national plans for campaigns against Aedes albopictus similar to those against Aedes aegypti; to request the countries to report regularly to the Director on any infestations with this vector; and to request the Director to continue to support these activities in order to prevent the spread of Aedes albopictus.

Item 7: Other Matters (Situation of the Program Budget, 1988-1989)

At the eighth plenary session the Director of the Bureau expressed his deep concern to the Committee over the trend in the budget of the Organization in recent years, which had been characterized by a steady reduction in the rates of increase.

Over the period between 1986 and 1989, WHO funds assigned to the Region of the Americas had been reduced by US\$9.3 million, or 7.7% of the original allocations. During 1986 and 1987 the regular budget of PAHO had been reduced by more than US\$10 million as a result of the lower rate of payment of quota contributions over the past 10 years. The contribution of WHO to the Region had been reduced by US\$5 million. The perspective for 1988 and 1989 was not very optimistic.

In addition, it was expected that the quota contribution of the largest contributor, the United States of America, would be reduced by US\$8.4 million in 1988 and US\$6.6 million in 1989, which would result in an overall reduction of US\$15 million, to which it would be necessary to add the 1987 quota arrears from that same country amounting to more than US\$11 million.

It was further estimated that the quota arrears of other countries would exceed US\$3 million, and it was now beginning to happen that countries which in the past had been prompt in paying their quotas were having problems in this area.

In summary, it was estimated that the reductions in quota contributions to the Organization might exceed US\$18 million for 1988 and 1989, which would represent 15% of its effective working budget. If the additional WHO cutback of US\$4.9 million were to be added to this, the original program of the Organization would suffer total reductions of almost US\$23 million.

The Director pointed out, also, that the magnitude of these reductions in the regular funds would threaten the success of the efforts being made to increase the usefulness and efficiency of the Organization, as well as its capacity to carry on the programs approved by the Governing Bodies.

As a consequence of the presentation of this item, the Committee decided to include it on the agenda for the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council.