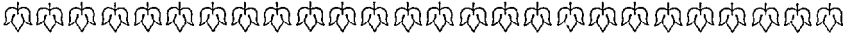


# ENGLISH SECTION



## The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference

Acta Final

(*Translation*)

The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference initiated its work in the city of Lima on October 12, 1927, at a formal session presided over by Hon. Pedro José Rada y Gamio, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Peru, who made the opening address. The delegates of the Republics represented in the conference made appropriate responses and the temporary chairman of the conference, Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, delivered the closing speech of the session.

The first general session of the conference was held on October 13, 1927, Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, temporary chairman, presiding.

In conformity with the rules and regulations the delegates proceeded to elect the permanent president of the conference, and, on motion of the delegates of Uruguay and of the United States of America, Doctors González and Cumming, respectively, Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, who had been designated temporary president by the former conference, held in Habana, was unanimously elected. In like manner Dr. Baltazar Caravedo was elected secretary general of the conference.

In compliance with the provisions of the second paragraph of the second article of the rules and regulations, the selection by lot to determine the numerical order of the delegations was effected and resulted as follows:

1. Colombia.
2. Honduras.
3. Panama.
4. Paraguay.
5. United States of America.
6. Guatemala.
7. Bolivia.
8. Dominican Republic.
9. Costa Rica.
10. Venezuela.

11. Haiti.
12. Uruguay.
13. Ecuador.
14. Argentina.
15. Cuba.
16. Brazil.

Doctors Bolívar J. Lloyd, Bento Oswaldo Cruz, and Alfredo Sordelli were elected secretaries of the conference.

The conference resolved to appoint the following committees, apportioning the topics of the program among them in the manner indicated below:

The first committee, entitled "Executive Committee and Committee of Credentials."

The second committee, entitled "Committee on the Pan American Sanitary Code" was assigned topics 1, 17, 25, 26, and 27.

The third committee, entitled "Committee on Sanitary Organization of the Pan American States," was assigned topics 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 21, and 29.

The fourth committee, entitled "Committee on Epidemiology, Sanitation, and Prophylaxis" was assigned topics 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24.

After a report made by the secretary general, Dr. Baltazar Caravedo, the conference definitely approved the credentials of the following delegates:

Republic of Argentina: Doctors Laurentino Olascoaga, Nicolás Lozano, and Alfredo Sordelli.

Republic of Bolivia: Doctors Adolfo Flores and Adolfo Durán.

Republic of Brazil: Doctors João Pedro de Albuquerque and Bento Oswaldo Cruz.

Republic of Colombia: Dr. Julio Aparicio.

Republic of Costa Rica: Dr. Solón Núñez F.

Republic of Cuba: Doctors Fernando Rensoli and Mario G. Lebrede.

Republic of Ecuador: Dr. Luis M. Cueva.

Republic of the United States of America: Doctors Hugh S. Cumming, Bolívar J. Lloyd, and John D. Long.

Republic of Guatemala: Mr. Pablo Emilio Guedes.

Republic of Haiti: Mr. Victor Kieffer Marchand.

Republic of Honduras: Dr. José Jorge Callejas.

Republic of Panama: Dr. José Guillermo Lewis.

Republic of Paraguay: Dr. Isidro Ramírez.

Republic of Peru: Doctors Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, Sebastian Lorente, Baltazar Caravedo, Daniel E. Laverería, and Julio C. Gastiaburú.

Dominican Republic: Doctors Ramón Báez Soler and Alejandro Bussalleu.

Republic of Uruguay: Dr. Justo F. González.

Republic of the United States of Venezuela: Dr. Emilio Ochoa.

The conference unanimously resolved to designate as honorary presidents the chief executives of the nations represented.

There were accepted in subsequent sessions, Dr. Julio C. Gastiaburú as delegate for Nicaragua, this country ranking 17 in numerical

order; Dr. Guillermo Angulo Puente Arnao as delegate of Haiti, and Mr. Jaime G. Bennett as delegate of Costa Rica.

The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference discussed and adopted the following motions, resolutions and conventions, namely—

1. The American delegations, assembled in Lima on the occasion of the Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, express their thanks and appreciation to the President of the Republic of Peru, Hon. Augusto B. Leguía, for the splendid manifestations of hospitality which he has shown them and for the extraordinary progress which has been made in the establishment of the basic principles of hygiene and sanitation in the Republic of Peru during his administration.

2. The American delegations assembled in Lima on the occasion of the convening of the Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, extend a vote of thanks to the president of the conference, Professor Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, for the laudable manner in which he has directed the debates and the work of the conference, and to the organizing committee for the splendid organization effected, and request that this vote be transmitted to the Chancellery of Peru.

3. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference approves the following:

#### Memorandum Concerning the Interpretation of the Pan American Sanitary Code

By dangerous or contagious disease, referred to in the latter part of article 4 of the code, is understood all diseases of an epidemic character.

Let it be understood that the obligation to notify "adjacent countries" means all of the American Republics.

With reference to article 9 it shall be understood that the sanitary measures referred to are to be applied to vessels from the infected area.

In the interpretation of articles 11 and 30 it is understood that article 11 refers to the scientific definition of an infected area and article 30 to the standard prescribed by the Pan American Sanitary Code which the sanitary authorities should follow.

Where article 29 reads "autochthonous cases," this should be understood to mean one or more cases.

That in the interpretation of article 35 it is understood that a clean ship is one coming from a clean port of Class A or B, which, during its voyage, has not had aboard any case of bubonic plague (including rodent plague), cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus fever, or any other disease of an epidemic character, and which vessel has strictly complied with the requirements contained in this code.

Concerning article 41, inset 5, and article 44, inset 3, which refer to human or rodent plague and to smallpox, respectively, it is understood that there is no objection to the application of the measures which the local sanitary authorities may decide upon in each case in view of the special circumstances.

That in cases of doubtful interpretation of the articles of this code which refer to the application of sanitary measures to vessels, consideration shall be given to the actual conditions found on the vessel in preference to conditions at the ports whence the vessel comes.

4. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference reminds all the signatory powers of their obligation to adopt the model bills of health to which article 16 of the code refers.

5. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference suggests to the signatory or adhering nations the expediency of naming in all ports of entry a medical service whose duty it shall be officially to diagnose cases of contagious disease.

6. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference recommends that the Pan American Sanitary Office [Bureau] recommend to shipbuilders and navigation companies that build ships or are merely engaged in transportation, that, for their own sake, they should in the future build ratproof vessels

7. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference recommends to the Governments of the American countries the construction of ratproof wharves, that is to say, wharves of steel and cement, and also that the freight in warehouses be carefully elevated 1 foot above the floor and placed in separate sections in order to leave free spaces for easily guarding against rodents.

8. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, considering that mortality statistics constitute the fundamental basis of our knowledge of the sanitary conditions of the peoples of America, especially recommends that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau endeavor to put in operation as soon as possible the plan suggested by the Pan American Scientific Congress, assembled in Lima in 1924; namely, that it take appropriate action to the end that all the countries of America, which have not already done so, adopt the classification of the causes of death now prevailing in the United States of North America (Convention of Paris of 1920), with its methods and procedure in the compilation of statistics, in order to be able to determine in a systematic manner the mortality rates of the different countries.

9. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, considering that the placing of sanitary inspectors on vessels, both on the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, has proved of benefit in facilitating the application of prophylactic measures to vessels coming from infected ports, recommends to the Governments of the American Republics that

such inspectors be so placed by any country desiring to do so, in the manner allowed by its sanitary regulations.

10. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference very respectfully requests of the signatory Governments the faithful observance of articles 3, 4, and 5 of the Pan American Sanitary Code, which constitute the basis of international defense against epidemic diseases of a grave character.

11. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference declares that toxicomania constitutes a grave danger to the future of the countries of the American continent because of its easy increase and pernicious effects on the race, and recommends to the Governments of the different States the organization of social defense against toxicomanias by establishing repressive, fiscal, therapeutic, and prophylactic measures on the following bases:

a. Reduction of the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of narcotics, limiting their use to therapeutic necessities and in accordance with the regulations of the sanitary authorities of each country, which shall fix the penalties incurred by infractors.

b. Reporting of cases and obligatory treatment in special establishments under the State, in confinement and in charge of medical specialists; and

c. Prophylaxis should also be realized by education and anti-narcotic propaganda.

12. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference reiterates its adherence to that principle of reform of governmental procedure which will prepare the State for the adoption of a definite public policy in matters of hygiene, and declares that only by the establishment of a department dedicated exclusively to medico-social problems is it possible to make effective to the fullest extent a national and international policy of hygiene and sanitation; consequently it is recommended that those Governments which have not yet done so should create a department or ministry of health.

13. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference again reaffirms that for the eradication of bubonic plague it is necessary to study the complex local problems that its endemo-epidemic character offers in order to determine with precision the factors which contribute to its genesis;

That while these investigations are being made the campaign [against plague] should tend to a realization of measures of security against rodents, particularly the rat-proofing of vessels, of dwellings, and in general all temporary or permanent habitations of man.

The conference recognizes that the destruction of rats can and must be continued without cessation in the hope of reducing their number and subjecting these rodents to biologic control;

That to protect man against the spread of bubonic plague, such biologic control may be usefully employed, and

That this work must be done by a centralizing high entity.

14. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, with the object of determining the development and extent of intestinal parasitosis on this continent, recommends to the sanitary institutions of the countries of the Pan American Union that they send reports of such works as are officially recognized as important to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which will undertake to map out parasitosis in America.

15. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference recommends to the American Governments that they cooperate by means of laws, decrees, or resolutions, in campaigns throughout the entire continent against venereal diseases, and most respectfully urges said Governments to endeavor by these means to lessen prostitution.

That there be established free official clinics for venereal disease provided with a complete stock of medical supplies, where the public may find treatment within its reach, in order that by this measure the spread of venereal disease may be restricted.

16. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, bearing in mind the participation of the Governments of the American Republics in the International Sanitary Conference held in Paris in June, 1926, to revise the International Sanitary Convention of 1912, is of the opinion that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau should assume and fulfill the duties and obligations of a regional organization, as it is called in the said convention, for the collection of reports of communicable disease and for the transmission of these reports to the governments belonging to it and to the Office International d'Hygiène Publique of Paris.

17. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, in view of the progress attained in the combating of tuberculosis in the different countries and of the experimental methods of immunity now employed, recommends to the governments that, through the intermediary of their sanitary institutions, they periodically send to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau all data relating to vaccination against tuberculosis, and said bureau shall make known the reports on the results achieved on the American continent at the next meeting.

18. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference suggests to the American Governments that they consider the question of pre-nuptial examination as an adjunct to the prophylaxis of venereal diseases.

19. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference declares: That the health and welfare of the laboring class is intimately related to the public health and to the economic development of a country,

and that the losses sustained in industry cause serious harm to the nation, diminish the present output of labor, and particularly the future yield of the population, by undermining its health, for which reason the conference recommends to the different countries of America the necessity of establishing special agencies within departments of health which shall have charge of everything relating to labor and sanitation in industry in order to place laborers in the best possible conditions of life consistent with their mental and physical capabilities.

20. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference declares that alastrim, so long as its nature is not definitely determined, shall be considered, in so far as international sanitary measures are concerned, the same as smallpox.

21. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference recommends to the American countries that they establish a mutual interchange of all rules, regulations, laws, and sanitary orders, and of all authoritative reports that may be of interest to other countries, sending copies of them to the other countries and likewise to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

22. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, in view of the evident desire which exists of holding meetings from time to time of the officers and members of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, as occasion may require, resolves:

*a.* That meetings of these officers and members be held in Washington, on call of the director, and at intervals of 1 year to 18 months, as circumstances may require; and

Be it further resolved that hereafter the actual and the traveling expenses of the members of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau be paid out of the funds of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, including the daily expenses during the period of the conference, which shall not exceed \$10 per day, United States gold.

*b.* When, in the discretion of the director, a member or representative of the Sanitary Bureau is required to perform any official duty away from his place of residence, the director is authorized to pay out of the funds of the bureau the necessary and traveling expenses of said representative member, including a per diem, as provided for in paragraph *a* which precedes, during the time which he does not spend in sea travel.

It is understood that salaries shall be paid by the Government of the member or representative.

23. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference resolves that, in view of the evident necessity for more direct contact and more perfect interchange of information between the sanitary authorities of the American Republics, there should be established, and there is hereby established, the position of traveling representative, who shall be a member, ex officio, of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and who shall be appointed by the director from among the members of the public health services of the various republics for such

periods of time as the director may deem necessary for the service of the bureau.

24. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference recommends for the study and resolution of the ninth conference the subject of hospital organization on a sanitary standard in America and recommends to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that it prepare a systematic compilation of data obtained from sanitary authorities concerning the condition of hospitals on the continent.

25. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, in view of the importance of the question and of the favorable results achieved in the countries which have solved it, viz: the problem of safeguarding milk, with special reference to the pasteurization of that food product; and the decrease noted from the standpoint of infantile mortality death rate and of demography in general, recommends to the Governments that they give their best attention to the scientific methods and processes that have been adopted in some countries to bring about in the shortest time the lessening of a large number of diseases that may be warded off and designates as a topic for the ninth conference the drafting of a law or ordinance on the hygienization of milk for consumption.

26. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference having taken cognizance of the proposed rules and regulations concerning the hygienizing of milk which the special committee appointed by the Peruvian Government has prepared, takes pleasure in declaring that from a scientific point of view, they fulfill the requirements of hygiene.

27. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference reiterates its recommendation that there be constituted a health personnel selected on the basis of the most perfect fitness and that there be provided the stimulus of legitimate and gradual promotion in said career, and at the same time recommends the establishment of institutes of hygiene and social medicine for the accomplishment of this object.

28. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference insists on calling the attention of the American Governments to the expediency of continuing the war on alcoholism within the particular manner best adapted to the characteristics of each country.

29. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference suggests that for future conferences the Pan American Sanitary Bureau solicit from the Governments of the signatory countries a list of questions in whose study those countries are particularly interested—which list should be received by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau at least 18 months before the meeting of the next conference. The said bureau shall examine and elect from the subjects proposed, formulating a program of the most important topics, judging from the number of countries that have submitted them. This program shall be sent to



the Governments for their consideration at least one year before the meeting of the ninth conference. On holding the ninth conference each delegate shall read a résumé of not more than two pages of ordinary paper on the topics of the program which may interest him, without prejudice to his submitting complete treatise on the same questions which shall be delivered to the office of the chairman of the conference.

30. The Eighth Pan American Sanitary Conference, having in mind that certain countries of America are giving marked attention to conditions found in school buildings, teaching, sanitary inspection, etc., recommends to all Governments that they give their attention to those questions of school hygiene by reason of their social as well as economical importance, and send to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau one year prior to the meeting of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference their instructions, with such reports as they deem suitable for the adoption of methods or processes of reform on this important question, as the proposition is to appear on the agenda of the ninth conference.

Additional Protocol Approved ad Referendum by the Conference

The ratification of the sanitary code shall be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State of the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban Government shall communicate these ratifications to the other signatory States, which communication shall constitute exchange of ratifications. The convention shall become effective in each of the signatory States on the date of ratification thereof by said State, and shall remain in force without limitation of time, each one of the signatory or adherent States reserving the right to withdraw from the convention by giving in due form a year's notice in advance to the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

The conference at its session of October 19, 1927, proceeded to designate the seat of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference, and the city of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, was chosen by acclaim.

The conference named for provisional president of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference Señor Dr. Gregorio Araoz Alfaro, who was appointed president of the Argentine delegation and found it impossible to attend this conference.

The conference proceeded to elect the officers and members of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of Washington, the following being elected by acclaim:

Honorary Director

DR. CARLOS ENRIQUE PAZ SOLDÁN

Director

DR. HUGH S. CUMMING

Vice Director

DR. MARIO G. LEBREDO

Secretary

DR. SEBASTIÁN LORENTE

Members

DR. SOLÓN NÚÑEZ F.

DR. RAMÓN BÁEZ SOLER

DR. JUSTO F. GONZÁLEZ

DR. JOÃO PEDRO DE ALBUQUERQUE

The closing session of the conference was held on the evening of October 20, 1927, Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán presiding. At this meeting Doctors Fernando Rensoli and Luis M. Cueva, delegates for Cuba and Ecuador, respectively, and the chairman of the Peruvian delegation, Dr. Sebastián Lorente, made addresses, their remarks being included in the proceedings of the conference.

Done and signed in the city of Lima on the twentieth day of the month of October one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and a certified copy delivered to each of the delegations for transmission to their respective countries, a copy to be sent through diplomatic channels to the Department of Foreign Relations of Peru and to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington.

(s)

Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán

*Chairman of the Conference.*

(s)

Baltazar Caravedo,

*Secretary General of the Conference.*