

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION
FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C., May 3-13, 1948

FINAL REPORT

The Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee was convened in the City of Washington, D. C., United States of America, from May 3 to 13, 1948, by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The following persons were present:

REPRESENTATIVES:

BRAZIL

Dr. Heitor Prager Fróes,
Director General of the National Department of Health

COSTA RICA

Dr. Antonio Peña Chavarría,*
Director of the Hospital San Juan de Dios

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr. L. L. Williams, Jr. (Alternate)
Chief, Health Branch,
Division of International Labor, Health and Welfare,
Department of State

MEXICO

Dr. Ignacio Morones Prieto,
Under Secretary of Health and Welfare

URUGUAY

Dr. Juan José Leunda (Alternate),
Assistant Director of the Institute of Epidemiology and Contagious Diseases

VENEZUELA

Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon (Alternate),
Chief of the Malaria Division

ALTERNATE:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr. James A. Doull,
Director of the Office of International Health Relations,
U. S. Public Health Service

ADVISORS:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Howard B. Calderwood,
Specialist, Division of International Organization Affairs,
Department of State

MEXICO

Dr. Angel de la Garza Brito,
Director General of Health and of the School of Public Health

* Present at the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plenary Sessions

OBSERVERS:

ARGENTINA

Dr. Alberto Zwanck,
Permanent Representative to the International Health Organizations,
Ministry of Public Health

MEXICO

Dr. C. Soto Maynez
Physician to the President

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU:

Dr. Fred L. Soper,
Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau
Dr. John R. Murdoock,
Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau
Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante,
Secretary General of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

ABSENT:

CUBA

Dr. Luis Espinosa y G. Cáceres (Representative)
Director of Health

The first session took place at 10 A.M., on May 3, 1948, under the temporary chairmanship of Dr. Fróes. The election of officers was immediately taken up, with the following results:

Chairman: Dr. Heitor Prager Fróes,
Vice Chairman: Dr. Ignacio Morones Prieto,
Secretary: Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante.

The draft rules of procedure were discussed, and approved after consultation with a committee consisting of Drs. Morones Prieto and Gabaldon.

Dr. Soper read his report covering the period from October 1947 to April 1948 (document OSP.CE4.W/-3), which was approved without change.

The agenda for the Fourth Meeting (document OSP.CE4.W/-1, Annex I) which had been prepared by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was also adopted by the Executive Committee.

The following Working Committees were appointed:

Committee I: Organization and Budgets of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Drs. Morones Prieto, Williams (Rapporteur), and Peña Chavarria.

Committee II: Relations with the World Health Organization.

Drs. Gabaldon (Rapporteur) and Leunda.

Committee III: Subjects for the Annual Report and Agenda of the Directing Council.

Drs. de la Garza Brito (Rapporteur), Doull and Leunda.

Drafting Committee: The Chairman of the Meeting, The Secretary, and Drs. Gabaldon and Morones Prieto.

Dr. Pedro Nogueira, Director of the Health Unit of Marianao (Cuba), and Dr. Luis F. Galich, Director General of Public Health (Guatemala), were present at the Eighth Plenary Session, at which the Final Report was approved.

Nine plenary sessions and sixteen of the Working Committees were held.

The Closing Plenary Session was held on May 13, 1948, at 10:00 P.M.

I AND II—ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Because of the urgency of the financial problem of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the solution of which must necessarily affect the organization of the Bureau, the Executive Committee preferred to forego consideration of questions of organization, in order to concentrate on finance.

With regard to finance, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS:

Quota contributions at the rate of forty cents or one dollar per thousand inhabitants have proven inadequate to enable the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to discharge in full the duties assigned to it by the Pan American Sanitary Code and Conferences, notwithstanding assistance which has been received from outside sources; and

WHEREAS:

The Bureau is bound by Article 60 of the Pan American Sanitary Code to follow the formula of the Pan American Union which has been based on population; and

WHEREAS:

The Union has adopted a new formula for one year which is no longer based solely on population and which no longer produces a fixed sum as the contribution due from each Member Government, providing only a percentage distribution which can be applied only to a pre-determined budget; and

WHEREAS:

The Bureau should draw up a program based upon duties assigned to it by the Code and the Sanitary Conferences, and measures should be initiated to assure adequate funds to permit the Bureau to carry out such a program,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Recommends that the Directing Council approve the principle of an adequate budget apportioned according to a fixed scale of contributions, and take steps to give effect to this principle at the earliest possible moment.

2. Instructs the Director to prepare a scale of contributions, taking into consideration the discussions on this subject in the meetings of the Committee on Budget and Organization, and to communicate such scale to Member Governments for their study, with the request that their Representatives to the Second Meeting of the Directing Council be authorized to initiate action with a view to giving effect to such a scale.

3. Recommends that the Pan American Sanitary Organization adopt its own formula for apportioning expenses among its Members, which will necessitate amending the Pan American Sanitary Code.

4. Instructs the Director to prepare a draft protocol for the sole purpose of amending Article 60 of the Pan American Sanitary Code so as to permit the Pan American Sanitary Organization to adopt its own scale of contributions, and to communicate it to Member Governments for their study, with the request that their Representatives to the Second Meeting of the Directing Council be authorized to sign a protocol for the above mentioned purpose.

5. Instructs the Director to prepare detailed programs of activity for:

- (a) The period from January 1, 1949, to June 30, 1949, and
- (b) The period from July 1, 1949, to June 30, 1950; and to attach to each of these programs detailed budgetary estimates.

6. Instructs the Director to communicate such programs and budgetary estimates to Member Governments in ample time for their study before the Second Meeting of the Directing Council.

7. Instructs the Director to request the governments, in the name of the Executive Committee, to authorize their representatives to the Second Meeting of the Directing Council:

- (a) To approve a program and a budget for the two periods mentioned above;
- (b) To agree to the division of the budget for each of these periods into two parts: one part, which might be called the administrative budget, to be apportioned according to the scale adopted by the Pan American Union; the other part, which might be called the operating budget, to be apportioned according to a scale to be adopted by the Directing Council;
- (c) To agree on behalf of their Governments to contribute to this latter part on the basis of the scale adopted by the Directing Council pending amendment of the Code.

8. Authorizes the Director to carry out as much of the program approved by the Directing Council at its First Meeting as is feasible with available funds, in view of the fact that only one member has paid a voluntary contribution and that the timing of the other payments is not known.

III—RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Executive Committee, in its capacity as Negotiating Committee

with the World Health Organization as provided under paragraph (b) of Part 1 of the Resolution on "Relations with the World Health Organization and other Organizations" approved by the Directing Council at its First Meeting, was unable to make further headway in the pertinent negotiations, for the reason that only three American countries have thus far ratified the Constitution of the World Health Organization, whereas according to Paragraph (3) of Article 6 of the Resolution concerning the Agreement between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization approved by the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference, at least 14 American countries must have ratified the aforesaid Constitution in order that the Agreement between said Organization and the Pan American Sanitary Organization may be concluded.

However, since it is necessary and convenient that the closest relations continue to exist between the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Secretariat of the World Health Organization, which will supplant the Interim Commission of said Organization, and in order to continue to carry out the instructions contained in Article 7 of the aforementioned Resolution of the Conference, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that the adoption of the following resolution would constitute a forward step in these relations:

WHEREAS:

It is necessary that a close working relationship continue to exist between the World Health Organization and the Pan American Sanitary Organization until such time as an Agreement is reached between the two, and

WHEREAS:

The Executive Committee is empowered under paragraph (b) of part 1 of the Resolution on Relations with the World Health Organization and other Organizations approved by the Directing Council at its First Meeting, and having in mind the instructions contained in Article 7 of the Resolution concerning the Agreement between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization, approved by the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference, with regard to the maintenance of close relations between both organizations,

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
RESOLVES:**

To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to enter into administrative arrangements with the Director General of the World Health Organization in order to coordinate plans for the Western Hemisphere and harmonize the action of both organizations, reporting periodically on these arrangements.

IV—PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERS

The Executive Committee approved the following proposals of the Representatives of Uruguay and Venezuela:

Second Inter-American Conference on Brucellosis. (Proposal of the Representative of Uruguay, seconded by the Representative of Mexico.)

WHEREAS:

The time is opportune for holding the Second Inter-American Conference on Brucellosis, and having heard the favorable report presented by the Observer for Argentina,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

That the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall issue a call this year for said meeting, which will deal with problems affecting the health of many nations of the Continent.

Pan American Public Health Corps. (Proposal of the Representative of Venezuela, seconded by the Representative of Brazil.)

WHEREAS:

A well-defined public health career does not exist in some of the American countries, and since it would be possible to form an international corps specialized in public health, constituted by persons from the American countries who would be recruited and promoted in conformity with the highest standards of capacity and justice,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to initiate studies leading to the formation of a Pan American Public Health Corps. This study, which shall be guided by the pertinent legislation in effect in certain countries, should be presented at the first opportunity to the Executive Committee for its consideration and submission to the Directing Council.

V—SUBJECTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CONSIDERING

The subjects to be dealt with in the Annual Report of the Council to the participating governments,

RESOLVES:

That these subjects should be grouped under the following headings: I—Technical subjects; II—Administration; III—Finance; IV—Miscellaneous.

I—Technical subjects

- a) Eradication of vectors;
- b) Research;
- c) Education;
- d) Publications;
- e) Regional agreements;
- f) Representation of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau at international conferences, expert committees and other international organizations;
- g) Recommendations.

II—Administration

- a) Reorganization of the Bureau;
- b) Assistance to member governments;
- c) Relations with the World Health Organization;
- d) Recommendations.

III—Finance

- a) Expenditures;
- b) Income;
- c) Recommendations.

IV—Miscellaneous.

VI—AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE DIRECTING
COUNCIL

WHEREAS:

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has received affirmative opinions from 16 member countries regarding the holding of the VI Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health jointly with the Second Meeting of the Directing Council,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
RESOLVES:

That the meeting of these groups be held in Mexico City.

WHEREAS:

The dissemination of knowledge regarding new discoveries in pertinent matters that has prevailed at the Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health should be maintained, and in addition the functions assigned by the Constitution to the Directing Council should be discharged,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
RESOLVES:

To divide the meeting into two sections: the first, a Technical Section, which shall be the joint meeting of the Sixth Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health and of the Directing Council; and the second, an Executive Section, which shall be a meeting of the Directing Council alone. To facilitate the meeting, the Executive Committee suggests the appointment of a single group of officers and submits the following tentative agenda for said meeting:

*Tentative Agenda of the Second Meeting of the
Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization
and of the
VI Conference of National Directors of Health*

First part: *Technical Section.*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of rules of procedure.
3. Control of diseases propagated by arthropod vectors.
4. Observations on new rodenticides.
5. Control of venereal diseases.
6. Problems of hydatidosis.
7. Problems of histoplasmosis.
8. Evaluation of new drugs for:
 - (a) Tuberculosis;
 - (b) Malaria;
 - (c) Filariasis;
 - (d) Leprosy;
 - (e) Rickettsial diseases;
 - (f) Plague.

Second part: *Executive Section.*

1. *Achievements of the Organization.*
 - (a) Progress of the campaign for eradication of *Aedes aegypti*;
 - (b) Progress of investigations in venereal diseases, onchocerciasis, etc.;
 - (c) Professional education;
 - (d) Publications;
 - (e) Regional agreements;
 - (f) Representation at international conferences;
 - (g) Recommendations.
2. *Administration.*
 - (a) Consideration of the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;
 - (b) Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Council to the member governments;
 - (c) Reorganization of the Bureau;
 - (d) Plan for organization of a Pan American Public Health Corps;
 - (e) Assistance to member governments;
 - (f) Relations with the World Health Organization;
 - (g) Relations with the Pan American Union and other organizations.
3. *Finance.*
 - (a) Income;
 - (b) Expenditures;
 - (c) Consideration and approval of the budget for the first half of 1949, and for the period from July 1, 1949, to June 30, 1950.

For the Technical Section, the Executive Committee authorizes the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to communicate with the various health authorities, in order to choose the experts who shall take part in the preparation of the papers dealing with the various items of the agenda.

The Executive Committee further resolves that the sessions of the Technical Section shall not exceed three days in duration, and also that the Executive Section (Meeting of the Directing Council) can not have a fixed closing date, although it is recommended that a tentative date be chosen.

This Final Report was approved at the Plenary Session of May 13, 1948, and signed in the City of Washington, D. C., U. S. A., on the same date, at the Closing Session, by the Representatives of the countries composing the Executive Committee, as well as by the Director, Assistant Director and Secretary General of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

(sgd.) HEITOR P. FRÓES
Representative of Brazil

(sgd.) A. PEÑA CHAVARRÍA
Representative of Costa Rica

(sgd.) LOUIS L. WILLIAMS, JR.
Representative of the United States of America

(sgd.) I. MORONES P.
Representative of Mexico

(sgd.) JUAN JOSÉ LEUNDA
Representative of Uruguay

(sgd.) ARNOLDO GABALDON
Representative of Venezuela

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU:

(sgd.) FRED L. SOPER
Director

(sgd.) JOHN R. MURDOCK
Assistant Director

(sgd.) M. E. BUSTAMANTE
Secretary General

Psitacosis.—A. Averbach, y J. Ink (Semana Médica, 931, dbr. 4, 1947) declaran que la epidemia de psitacosis que ocurrió en Buenos Aires en el año 1946, aunque estuvo limitada a ciertos suburbios de la ciudad, presentaba tan elevada contagiosidad, que frecuentemente enfermaban, casi simultáneamente, siete de ocho personas residentes en la misma casa. Se hizo el diagnóstico de psitacosis debido a que la epidemia comenzó con el contacto de algunos pacientes con un loro que había muerto de psitacosis aviaria, y los síntomas clínicos y curso de la enfermedad eran los de la psitacosis. La enfermedad siguió el curso de la neumonitis atípica, en la que resultó beneficiosa la administración de penicilina. En todos los casos de esta epidemia se observó exantema, no descrito previamente en la psitacosis, y consistente en densas manchas de color perlado, o bien diminutas o de un diámetro entre 2 y 4 mm. La piel de la parte posterior del cuello era normal o levemente roja. El exantema apareció al comienzo de la enfermedad y persistió por espacio de 20 a 40 días. Se comunican cinco casos.