

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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RESOLUTIONS APPROVED CE16/18 (Eng.)
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Drafting Committee) ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 16: COORDINATION OF INTER-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESSES

Background

The problem of coordinating inter-American and Pan American medical congresses has been discussed at various meetings of the Executive Committee and the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization. The XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Ciudad Trujillo) established policies to govern the future action of the Executive Committee and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in regard to coordination of inter-American and Pan American medical meetings and congresses (Resolution X, paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7), in conformity with previous resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee and the Directing Council. 1/

Paragraph 3 of the aforesaid Resolution X instructs the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to cooperate fully with the Council for the Coordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, created in Brussels under the auspices of UNESCO and the World Health Organization, with reference to meetings that are world-wide in scope. Since the World Health Organization is represented on the afore-mentioned Council by one of its principal officers, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, as Regional Office of the WHO, maintains certain relations with the Brussels Council, through the WHO. An example of the collaboration given to an international congress is the technical assistance furnished by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, at the request of the WHO and using funds furnished by that Organization, in the preparations for the Fourth International Congress of Mental Health, held in Mexico in December 1951.

1/ See annex hereto for complete text of Resolution X of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Paragraph 4 of the aforesaid Resolution X instructs the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau "to use, as far as applicable, procedures established by that Council in the coordination of regional medical congresses". In addition to publishing a schedule of international congresses and giving advice on the selection of dates and sites for such meetings, the Council for the Coordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, offers and furnishes to member organizations, and occasionally to non-members, services of a technical nature (organization of the secretariat, interpreting, preparation of documents, etc.) as well as financial aid in certain carefully selected cases. A proposal to expand the activities of the Council for Coordination gave rise to a decision of the WHO Executive Board that, for the present, there was no reason to change the policies governing its collaboration with the Council (Document EB9/R/14/Rev.1, 4 February 1952).

Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of Resolution X, relating to the functioning of the system of coordination, could be put into practice only to a very small extent. Only on rare occasions have the organizers of meetings and congresses given advance notice of their plans and programs. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, on the other hand, has provided assistance to a certain number of meetings and congresses. At the request of the Governments or of the official organizing committees, the Bureau has taken the responsibility of notifying other Governments of certain scientific congresses on medical and public health topics, so as to enable these Governments, in turn, to transmit the information to interested persons and institutions. Although the Bureau has in all cases endeavored to ascertain that the meetings and congresses in question were of interest to the countries, from the official and scientific viewpoint, in many cases the information available on the scope and the program of such meetings has been incomplete.

Action Taken by the Bureau

In addition to being represented at inter-American and Pan American medical meetings and congresses, the Bureau has on several occasions given assistance in organizing such meetings, in response to invitations received. In 1951, members of the Conference Section staff were sent to Panama and to Mexico to help organize the secretariat of the meeting on aftosa fever and the International Congress of Mental Health. Members of the Conference Section staff had the responsibility of organizing the secretariat of the annual meeting of the Council of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama, held in San Salvador. However, except in the case of INCAP, the

Bureau, for budgetary reasons, cannot continue to assist in the organization of congresses, although it might be able to do so in certain cases when the organizers are willing to assume the travel and per diem costs, as in the case of the aftosa conference in Panama.

In effect, it has not been possible to establish, as intended, a systematic method for the coordination of inter-American and Pan American medical meetings and congresses, in conformity with the resolutions adopted by the governing bodies of the Organization, owing to the lack of suitable machinery. For the purpose of serving the Member States in this matter, the Director has the honor to submit the following proposed resolution to the Executive Committee:

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS:

The establishment of coordination policies for official or semi-official inter-American and Pan American medical congresses has been considered on various occasions by the governing bodies of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and was the subject of Resolution X of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference;

Congresses of this nature are constantly increasing in number, thereby increasing the need and the urgency to establish such coordination effectively and on an over-all basis.

Systematic coordination would assist the medical congresses in fulfilling the objective of fostering the progress and publicizing as widely as possible the achievements of medical science, thereby justifying interest in these meetings on the part of the Governments;

The XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference assigned specific functions to the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, with regard to coordination of the inter-American and Pan American medical congresses; and

It is desirable to establish a procedure that will enable the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to carry out effectively the assignment entrusted to them by the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

To adopt a work procedure that will enable it to carry out those provisions of Resolution X of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, for which it is responsible, and to this end:

- a) To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to communicate with the Member Governments to remind them of the content of the said resolution and to request their assistance in carrying out the provisions thereof;
- b) To recommend to the Member Governments that, as requested by the Director, they notify the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of the plans and programs of organizing bodies or committees of medical meetings and congresses that request assistance or are of an official character, so as to enable the Director of the Bureau to make such suggestions as he deems pertinent, on the date, site, organization plans and agenda, in accordance with the instructions he has received from the Executive Committee and the provisions of Resolution X of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference;
- c) To recommend to the Director likewise that, once it has been agreed to hold a congress that is of an official nature or that has the support of one or more of the Member Governments, the Bureau use all means at its disposal to cooperate for the success of the meeting, and, upon request, to provide technical assistance through its services, subject to budgetary limitations.
- d) To instruct the Bureau to transmit each month to the Member Governments a schedule of inter-American and Pan American medical and health meetings and congresses, together with all the supplementary information that it is able to collect; and
- e) To instruct the Director of the Bureau to submit to each meeting of the Executive Committee a report on the progress made in the coordination of official or semi-official inter-American and Pan American medical and health meetings and congresses, and on the work achieved by the Bureau in this regard.

21 April 1952

"A. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS:

There exist various international bodies carrying out important functions relating to the health of the Member Countries;

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations approved a resolution governing some cooperative programs and their coordination;

The Executive Board of the World Health Organization adopted resolutions on the development of relationships with non-governmental organizations;

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its Fourth Meeting, and the Third World Health Assembly have considered the problem of coordination of international agencies;

Important steps have been taken within the United Nations and the Organization of American States systems, and by regional offices of the World Health Organization, to bring about adequate coordination of activities; and

It is desirable to promote the International exchange of scientific information, and to cooperate toward the objective of having scientific meetings properly organized, not excessive in number and conveniently coordinated,

THE XIII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Member Countries and to authorize the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that, for the solution of the above-mentioned problems of coordination, they apply the appropriate resolutions adopted by the World Health Organization, the Organization of American States and the United Nations.

2. To suggest to Member Countries the adoption of the necessary measures to facilitate the coordination of international health activities, within their respective governmental structures, and the creation, within their Health Administrations, of an office whose functions would be to keep informed, to study and to advise on matters pertaining to international health relations.

3. To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to cooperate fully with the Council for the Coordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, created in Brussels under the auspices of UNESCO and the World Health Organization, with reference to meetings which are world-wide in scope.

4. To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to use, as far as applicable, procedures established by that Council in the coordination of regional medical congresses.

5. To recommend that the organizing committees of Pan American medical meetings or congresses which request assistance or have an official status be invited to submit plans and programs to the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, before proceeding with arrangements.

6. To instruct the Executive Committee:

- a) To study carefully the information furnished by the organizing committee as to the purpose and program of a proposed meeting, giving due regard to the coordination of dates; and
- b) To submit suggestions to governments on whether to discourage or encourage the conference in question.

7. To instruct the Executive Committee not to intervene in arrangements for scientific programs which should remain a responsibility of the organizing group, but that it may propose modifications of the Agenda likely to enhance the significance of these meetings to the Americas."