

*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION



*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



22nd Meeting  
Washington, D. C.  
22-30 April 1954

CE22/22 (Eng.)  
22 April 1954  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 23: OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO  
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

(Topic presented by the Representative of Argentina)

The Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization is made up of 7 representatives of the American Republics. Their term of office is three years and each year two or three members are replaced by others.

The present practice is for members to be elected according to geographical distribution, so that all the regions of the Americas will be equitably represented.

Thus, there is nearly always a representative from each region of countries, which are annually changed on a rotation basis.

These members of the Executive Committee are the ones who carefully study the annual budgets; the distribution of the health programs in the Hemisphere; and the recommendations and special proposals of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Hence, it is necessary to have a detailed knowledge of the progress and the scientific and technical trends of the Organization.

However, the results of the health campaigns and the needs of the zones are made known to the members of the Executive Committee only through information provided by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in its Annual Reports, which, naturally, have to be somewhat undetailed and summary.

Moreover, the health needs of the various countries do not always become evident enough to be incorporated in the work programs, either because of a lack of tenacity in making requests or because of the absence of anyone to submit or justify them.

In order to overcome these difficulties, many more or less impracticable procedures have been proposed: to detail to the headquarters of the Bureau, for 3 or 4 months, each member of the Executive Committee; to appoint a committee of members of the Executive Committee to visit the Zone Offices

and study their development, making a report on the results of their mission. We feel that the Meetings of the Executive Committee would be more valuable in evaluating and guiding the work if each member were to become acquainted with the status of activities in neighboring countries just as he does with the health problems in his own country, as well as find out the health needs of those countries, whereby these representatives could be their temporary spokesmen, making known their aspirations.

Therefore, we suggest that it be established as an obligation of the members elected to the Executive Committee that they visit the neighboring countries in the region, at the latter's request, to ascertain the results of the cooperative programs being carried out, and that they also receive from those countries and present on their behalf, at the meetings of the Executive Committee in which they take part, the health programs that should be studied and decided upon by that body without delay.