



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

# PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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Topic 24: INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

(Topic presented by the Representative of Argentina)

The World Health Organization has an Executive Board composed of 18 members elected from among the Member Countries of the Organization.

During recent years other countries have joined the Organization and, because of this, a group of members are in favor of increasing the membership of the Board from 18 to 24, proposing that this topic be taken up at the forthcoming meeting of the Seventh World Health Assembly, to be held in Geneva next May.

Our country presents to this Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization the following remarks that might have an influence on the decision to be made there:

1. The practice at international meetings shows that executive bodies with a large membership are less executive, more dilatory, more contradictory, and reach the necessary decisions with greater difficulty. We believe that, however important any problem may be, 18 experts are sufficient to arrive at a solution. Therefore, we feel that that number should not be increased, because we consider it sufficiently representative to meet the needs of the Organization.

2. The World Health Organization covers the expenses incurred by the members of the Executive Board at its meetings; therefore, an increase in their number will cause an increase in the general budget, with an increase in the quota contributions of the Member Governments, and if the said budget is not increased, an equivalent deduction would have to be made from the funds allotted to the operating programs of the Organization.

3. Since there is no urgent reason to compel an immediate decision in this regard, we suggest that this Executive Committee, if it is in agreement with this proposal, authorize the Director of the Pan American

Sanitary Bureau to suggest to the Seventh Assembly, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and as Regional Delegation for the Americas of the World Health Organization, that a decision on this subject be postponed until the VIII World Assembly.

4. Meanwhile, the different Regional Delegations of the World Health Organization should be consulted on the advisability of such an increase and the opinions they express at the VIII Assembly should be heeded.