

*executive committee of  
the directing council*

*working party of  
the regional committee*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 6: PUBLIC HEALTH SEMINARS AMONG BORDERING NATIONS

(Topic Proposed by the Government of Colombia)

Exposition of Motives

The Government of Colombia is aware of the border public health meetings that the Pan American Sanitary Organization has been promoting, some of which took place in Colombia, to the obvious benefit of the participating countries.

However, these meetings have focused their activities toward the solution of border public health problems, whereas the public health needs at the borders of the American nations are only a minor part of the public health problems common to them.

The territorial extension of most of our countries; their political distribution, which gives regional autonomy to many areas; their similar demographic problems; the scarcity of resources with which the majority of them is faced in the development of their public health campaigns; and their low common level of culture, all these would justify holding public health seminars in each country, with the greatest possible frequency, which would be attended by the public health authorities of the various regions of the country in which the seminar was held, for the purpose of obtaining an over-all view of the public health problems of the nation and of the solutions applied in each territorial area.

These meetings should have the advice of experts of the international and regional public health organizations, whose knowledge and experience would be a valuable contribution to the deliberations.

Such meetings should also be attended by the public health authorities of those countries which have similar problems and have a common interest in the study of the means

utilized in solving them.

These meetings would in no way be in competition with the strictly border meetings that have been held sporadically; in fact, they might be held jointly, for Colombia is interested in broadening their radius of action, thus making them more effective.

On the basis of the foregoing considerations, Colombia takes the liberty of presenting the following draft resolution:

Draft Resolution

The Executive Committee,

Considering it convenient to broaden the radius of action of the border public health meetings that have been taking place among some of the countries of the Americas; and

Considering that this objective could be achieved with great benefit for the participating countries by holding public health seminars attended by the regional health authorities of the country where they would take place, by experts of the international and regional public health organizations, and by the leaders of such activities in countries where similar health problems exist,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Member Countries of the Pan American Sanitary Organization the periodic holding of public health seminars with the participation of national and international health authorities and those of countries having similar health problems.

2. The public health seminars will be freely convened by the government of the country where they are to be held, which will duly consult with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to determine the common interest of other participating countries.