



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Topic 12: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE XV PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

Background

The first report on arrangements for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, to be held this year in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was presented by the Director to the X Meeting of the Directing Council. In that report (Document CE10/26), the Council was informed that the following dates proposed by the Director for the Conference and related meetings of the Executive Committee were acceptable to the United States Government and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico:

35th Meeting of the Executive Committee:	16-19 September 1958
XV Pan American Sanitary Conference:	21 September-6 October 1958
36th Meeting of the Executive Committee:	6 October 1958

At the same time, the Director reported that, in accordance with Article 7-B of the Constitution of PASO, a Coordinating Committee had been designated by the Secretary of State of the United States to cooperate in organizing the Conference. That Committee is headed by the Honorable Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs (United States), with Dr. Guillermo Arbona, Secretary of Health, and the Honorable Arturo Morales Carrión, Undersecretary of State, (both of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico), serving as Executive Chairman and Secretary, respectively. The other members of the Organizing Committee are Mr. Harold G. Kissick and Mr. William L. Krieg, of the U. S. Department of State; Dr. Arthur S. Osborne, of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and Mr. Adolfo Porrata, of the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Director, at this time, has the honor to report to the Executive Committee on the preparations for the Conference made since the meeting of the Directing Council.

1. Preparatory Arrangements

In interviews with the Executive Chairman and the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, the Bureau was informed that the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has agreed to assume, through its Department of State, the following responsibilities in connection with the holding of the Conference at San Juan:

- a) To advance to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau the amount of \$25,000 to cover the rental for simultaneous interpretation and sound-recording equipment, as well as payment of salaries, travel, and per diem of simultaneous interpreters, and freight and handling charges for transportation of conference documents and material from the Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C., to San Juan and return.
- b) To provide the secretariat personnel requested by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the verbatim reporting services, registration and information desk, publicity services, and library.
- c) To assist in the selection of the secretariat personnel to be recruited locally for the account of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
- d) To provide at the San Juan Intercontinental Hotel, which has been selected as the conference site, the necessary meeting rooms, secretariat offices, material and equipment, as well as maintenance and other related services and facilities, as agreed upon by the Organizing Committee and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The space and installations will be available for such period as the Bureau requires.
- e) To grant tax exemption on all equipment, materials, documents, and publications sent by the Bureau headquarters in Washington to San Juan, for use at the meetings.
- f) To provide the Conference and the secretariat with local transportation service for official purposes.
- g) To prepare a program of social, cultural, and recreational activities and to attend to the reception and accommodation of members of the Conference and staff of the secretariat.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, on its part, will assume the following obligations:

- a) The Bureau will assign those members of its permanent staff that it deems necessary for the secretariat work, and will recruit and pay such additional temporary personnel as it may decide is required. The Bureau will defray the costs of salaries, travel, and per diem of the afore-mentioned personnel.

- b) The Bureau will make arrangements for rental of the simultaneous interpretation equipment and sound-recording equipment and will handle recruitment of interpreters and other personnel required for the operation of these services.
- c) The Bureau will provide the office material and supplies required for the secretariat work.
- d) The Bureau will defray the cost of issuing and printing the proceedings of the Conference, in the English and Spanish languages.
- e) The Bureau will present a final accounting, accompanied by the pertinent supporting documents, of the actual expenditures incurred against the amount of \$25,000 advanced by the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

As for other preparations, the Organizing Committee has made preliminary plans for the accommodation of the delegations and the secretariat staff, and is cooperating with the Bureau in the arrangements for equipment, services, installations, adaptation of premises, and preliminary selection of secretariat staff.

## 2. Method of Work of the Conference

For the purpose of organizing the secretariat services, the Director proposed to the Directing Council, at its X Meeting, that the method of work that gave such satisfactory results at the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1954 be adopted also for the XV Conference.

In Resolution XVI, the Directing Council authorized the Director to proceed with "the arrangements for organizing the secretariat of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference on the basis of dividing the work of the meeting into plenary sessions, sessions of two main committees, and sessions of such working parties as may be established."

Accordingly, the Director has taken measures to organize the sessions of the XV Conference in the manner authorized by the Directing Council. Provision will be made at the Hotel San Juan Intercontinental for four meeting rooms: one for the plenary sessions of the Conference, where one of the main committees will also meet; one for the second main committee; and two for the meetings of the working parties.

## 3. Technical Discussions

The 33rd Meeting of the Executive Committee, under the authorization given by the Directing Council at its X Meeting, selected the topic "The Prevention of Accidents in Childhood" for the Technical Discussions to be held at the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The Committee also authorized the Director to designate the expert to prepare an introductory statement on the topic selected, and agreed that at its 34th Meeting the Committee would draw up a set of procedures for the Technical Discussions at the Conference.

On 3 January 1958, the Director informed the governments that Dr. James L. Goddard, Chief of the Accident Prevention Program, United States Public Health Service, had accepted the invitation to prepare the introductory statement on the topic of the Technical Discussions. This statement, which has been completed, includes an analysis of the data on deaths caused by accidents in childhood, presented by the Member Governments in their four-year reports.

To facilitate the Executive Committee's work in preparing the rules for the Technical Discussions, the Director submits to the Committee for consideration the draft text appearing in Annex I to this document.

#### 4. Status of *Aedes aegypti* Eradication in the Americas

Among the topics on the agenda of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference is that covering the status of *Aedes aegypti* eradication in the Americas.

The combined efforts of the Member Governments and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, carried out in accordance with the mandate of the Directing Council, 1/ have made possible the eradication of *A. aegypti* in Brazil, Chile, part of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Aruba, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, French Guiana, and Grenada.

In view of the strategic importance of this campaign, the Director believed it timely to invite the governments of those countries in which eradication has been completed to present an official declaration to that effect to the Conference, after confirmation of eradication has been made by Bureau technical staff in cooperation with the health authorities of the respective countries. In addition, the Director will present a document based on the periodic reports of the countries covering the status of eradication, on such special reports from the governments, in support of their official declarations, as are received in the Bureau by 15 July 1958, at the latest.

The Director believes that this topic, because of its importance, should be considered in plenary session of the Conference. The presentation of the document prepared by the Director would be followed

by the official declarations of the countries that have completed eradication, and other delegations that so wish could present information to supplement that contained in the document.

5. Reports of the Member States on Public Health Conditions and Progress Achieved during the Period between the XIV and XV Pan American Sanitary Conferences

The Conference agenda includes also the above topic, in conformity with Resolution XV of the III Meeting of the Directing Council (Peru, 1949), which recommended that Member States "present, at each Pan American Sanitary Conference, a written report, preferably of a statistical nature, on the work accomplished between Conferences."

The XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference (Chile, 1954), in Resolution XXIV, declared that the "Summary of Reports of the Member States, 1950-1953", prepared by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is a valuable document for providing knowledge of the health problems of the Americas and for coordinating health programs," and recommended that the Member States undertake immediately to improve and expand these statistical data for their reports to the next Conference.

With a view to assisting in this effort and to facilitate the comparability of information, the Bureau sent to the Member States, on 27 January 1956 and 15 January 1957, a set of forms to be completed and transmitted to the Bureau for use in preparing the summary statistical report.

The Director is pleased to inform the Executive Committee that all the Member Countries have sent their reports to the Bureau and that the summary is now being published and will be distributed in advance of the Conference.

The important data in these reports will undoubtedly throw light on public health conditions and problems that merit special study and the examination of which will serve as a guide in the formulation and coordination of health programs in the Americas.

To derive fullest advantage from this presentation the Director submits to the Executive Committee for consideration the following proposed procedure for discussion of the reports at the Conference:

a) The document summarizing the four-year reports of the Member Governments will be presented in plenary session.

b) Delegations of governments that wish to supplement the information on their respective countries may take the floor immediately

after presentation of the topic.

c) On completion of the delegations' oral reports, specific points and public health problems that are considered to warrant special study will be selected for examination by Committee I (Technical Matters).

#### 6. Malaria Eradication in the Americas

Another of the topics on the Conference agenda is the status of malaria eradication in the Americas. To facilitate the presentation of the country reports on this subject and to obtain uniform data, the Bureau prepared and sent to the governments, on 28 February 1958, a set of tables for use in compiling the required information. Following the established practice, the Bureau will prepare, for consideration by the Conference, a document containing a general summary of the individual country reports on the status of malaria eradication, without prejudice to each delegation's making an oral statement to emphasize salient points in the eradication program in their countries.

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The Executive Committee, after studying this report, may wish to consider a resolution along the following lines:

#### Proposed Resolution

Arrangements for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference,  
X Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health  
Organization (1958)

The Executive Committee,

Having studied the report of the Director on the preparations for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference (Document CE34/13 and Annex I),

#### RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the arrangements made for organizing the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference and related meetings of the Executive Committee to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico (1958), and to express its appreciation to the Government of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to the Organizing Committee, for the cooperation given in the preparations for these meetings.

2. To recommend that the Director make the necessary preparations for the presentation and study of the following topics at the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, following the procedure set forth in Document CE34/13:

- a) Technical Discussions on "The Prevention of Accidents in Childhood"
- b) Status of Aedes aegypti Eradication in the Americas
- c) Reports of the Members States on Public Health Condition and Progress Achieved during the Period between the XIV and XV Conferences
- d) Malaria Eradication in the Americas

3. To transmit to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference for consideration the proposed Rules for Technical Discussions (Document CE34/13, Annex I)

RULES FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

PART I

Constitutional Basis for the Technical Discussions

Art. 1. The Conference shall serve as a forum for the interchange of information and ideas related to the prevention of disease, the promotion, preservation, and restoration of mental and physical health, and the advancement of socio-medical measures and facilities for the prevention and treatment of physical and mental diseases in the Western Hemisphere.

PART II

Nature of the Technical Discussions -- Participation

Art. 2. The Technical Discussions are an integral part of the Agenda of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, but the conclusions reached during them shall not be of an official character unless the Conference so expressly resolves.

Art. 3. All members may participate in the Technical Discussions, whether they be delegates, alternates, or advisers of the delegations represented at the Conference at which the Technical Discussions are held.

Art. 4. Representatives of international organizations, intergovernmental or nongovernmental, that maintain official relations with the World Health Organization or with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, may participate in the Technical Discussions.

PART III

Selection of Topics for the Technical Discussions

Art. 5. The selection of topics for Technical Discussions at the Pan American Sanitary Conferences shall be made at the meeting of the Directing Council that precedes each Conference.

Art. 6. The purpose of the Technical Discussions shall be to deal with matters of regional interest related to the activities of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the national public health administrations, the study of which may produce immediate and practical results in the field of continental health.

Art. 7. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall, at the earliest possible date, inform the members, territories, and organizations entitled to representation, of the topic selected for the Technical Discussions.

## PART IV

### Designation and Duties of the Experts

Art. 8. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall designate an expert to present an introductory statement on each topic selected for the Technical Discussions.

Art. 9. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall place at the disposal of the designated expert such background material as he considers useful for the preparation of his introductory statement.

Art. 10. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall transmit to the members, territories, and organizations entitled to representation a copy of the introductory statement prepared by the expert, at least 30 days before the scheduled opening date of the Conference at which the Technical Discussions are to be held.

Art. 11. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall not be held responsible for the opinions and ideas expressed in the introductory statement.

## PART V

### Conduct of the Technical Discussions

Art. 12. The presentation of the topic of the Technical Discussions shall be made in plenary session of the Conference, through a statement by the expert designated by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in which he will give a summary of the introductory paper prepared for the Discussions.

Art. 13. The Technical Discussions shall be held in sessions of Committee I (Technical Matters), preferably on a date that falls approximately midway in the course of the Conference.

Art. 14. While the Technical Discussions are being held, no other activity of the Conference shall take place.

Art. 15. The Chairman of Committee I shall organize the work of the Technical Discussions.

Art. 16. A Rapporteur for the Technical Discussions shall be elected by majority vote of the participants present and voting who are members of the delegations represented at the Conference.

Art. 17. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall appoint a Technical Secretary to assist the Rapporteur.

Art. 18. The Committee may establish working parties for the study of the Technical Discussion topic. In this case, each working party shall elect a Moderator and a Rapporteur, who will be assisted in their functions by a Technical Secretary appointed by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

## PART VI

### Reports

Art. 19. The Rapporteur of the Technical Discussions shall prepare a report summarizing the opinions expressed in the course of the Discussions and containing the recommendations and conclusions, if any. This report will be submitted to Committee I for consideration and approval.

Art. 20. If working parties have been established, the Rapporteur of the Technical Discussions shall prepare a combined report from the reports approved by the working parties.

Art. 21. Committee I may adopt recommendations on the topic of the Technical Discussions. The final approval of such recommendations shall be subject to the same procedures as those applied for the other recommendations of the Conference.

Art. 22. The report approved by Committee I shall be presented to the Conference in plenary session.

Art. 23. The Conference normally will take note of the report unless, by a two-thirds vote, it decides otherwise.