

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

Washington, D. C.
May 23-30, 1949

INDEXED

TOPIC XI. NATIONAL COMMITTEES ON VITAL AND
HEALTH STATISTICS

I. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS public health programs, on the national as well as on the international level, cannot receive the proper orientation without the aid of reliable statistics, and

WHEREAS there is still lack of coordination and even duplication of efforts in the statistical activities of some countries, and

WHEREAS in general the problems of health statistics remain unsolved in the majority of the American Republics,

II. RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau recommends to the Executive Committee that it approve and support the recommendation contained in Resolution No. 9 issued by the representatives of 29 countries to the International Conference for the Sixth Decennial Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death, held in Paris in April, 1948, and later endorsed by the I World Health Assembly, regarding the establishment of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics. These Committees, composed of representatives of the administrations entrusted with the collection and processing of vital and health statistics, will study the methodological problems involved in the production of statistics in the field of public health.

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CONFERENCE FOR THE SIXTH DECENNIAL REVISION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LISTS OF DISEASES AND CAUSES OF
DEATH

(Held in Paris, France, April 1948.)

RESOLUTION No. 9

REGARDING NATIONAL COMMITTEES ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

Whereas the needs by Health Organizations for current, reliable and comparable data;

Whereas the relatively primitive character of the National Statistics Mechanisms for producing such data;

Whereas the intimate relationship between Vital Records, Vital Statistics, Morbidity Statistics and Population Statistics; and

Whereas the advantages of developing a degree of international uniformity in certain of these methods and procedures,

The Conference
RECOMMENDS

1. that all governments establish, either singly or jointly, national committees on Vital and Health Statistics composed of representatives of administrations entrusted with the compilation of such statistics;
2. that such national committees study broadly the problems of producing satisfactory national and international statistics in the field of Health;
3. that these national committees also study the problems of producing Health Statistics which are related to the family structure and to the Social-Economic, and occupational background of the individual;
4. that these national committees in tropical regions pay particular attention to the statistics needed for tropical diseases;
5. that these national committees in countries facing the problems of population pressure and malnutrition pay particular attention to the statistics needed for these problems;
6. that all national committees co-operate with schools of Medicine and Public Health so as to come to grips with the problems of Statistical Education and Training in the field of Vital and Health Statistics;
7. that in view of the interest signified by delegates from various countries at the Conference;

- a) the competent authorities of Belgium, France, Switzerland study the question of completeness and accuracy of Medical Certification of Causes of Death in relation to the confidential character of the certificate;
- b) the competent authorities of Canada, and the United States of America prepare an adaptation of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, to the needs of Armed Services;
- c) the Canadian and United States National Committees individually or jointly pay particular attention to the methods by which Health Statistics might be interlinked with other types of related statistics and in such a manner that they will be based on a knowledge of the characteristics and distribution of the population;
- d) the Vital Statistics Administration of Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America study methods of presentation of Statistics of Multiple Causes of Death;
- e) the competent authorities of Denmark, France, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom pay particular attention to the problem of Cancer Registers and Statistics;
- f) the competent authorities of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America pay particular attention to the methods for obtaining reliable statistics on the frequency and causes of foetal death (classification of periods of gestation under 28 weeks, classification of multiple causes, methods of certification);
- g) the competent authorities of France and India pay particular attention to the ~~problems~~ of Morbidity and Mortality from tropical diseases;
- h) the competent authorities of Ecuador, India, Italy and Venezuela study the problems involved in the Statistics of Malaria morbidity;
8. that these national committees shall report their findings and recommendations, from time to time, to an Expert Committee of the World Health Organization for international consideration, clearance of national viewpoints and co-ordination with the interested statistical services of other inter-governmental organizations.