

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

In compliance with Resolution XXIII of the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, and in particular with its request for the presentation of a study on procedures applicable to the establishment of relations with intergovernmental organizations and to the status of their observers, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau presents for consideration by the 84th Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO a document setting forth the background on this subject and the legal basis on which it rests, and proposes general rules for the establishment of such relations and for the status of the observers of such organizations.

PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, in considering the request of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for authority to appoint an observer to the the meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and the Directing Council, acknowledged the importance of establishing relations with certain intergovernmental organizations, and requested the Director to make a study of procedures for doing so, and on the status of their observers, and to present it to the Executive Committee for consideration in its 84th Meeting.

I. Background

The meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and the Directing Council of PAHO (Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas) are attended by observers from organizations of the United Nations System by virtue of the relations maintained between those organizations and the World Health Organization (WHO). Similarly, under the Basic Agreement in effect between them, the Organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization each sends observers to represent it at the meetings of the other's Governing Bodies. The same reciprocity obtains between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pan American Health Organization by virtue of the important association they have maintained for more than two decades, and which was especially referred to in Resolutions CSP16.11 and CSP18.41 of the XVI and XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conferences, respectively. The XX Pan American Sanitary Conference and the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council authorized the Hipólito Unanue Agreement and the Caribbean Community, respectively, to appoint representatives to their meetings.

II. Legal Bases

The legal bases are: Articles 26 of the Constitution of PAHO and 70 of the Constitution of WHO; Articles 7, 8, 16, 17 and 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference; Articles 3, 8, 9, 16, 17, 27 and 60 of the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, and Articles 4, 5, 10 and 13 of the Rules for Technical Discussions at meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and the Directing Council; Resolution CSP14.28 (1954) of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and Resolution CD1.2(2) (1947) of the Directing Council.

III. Criteria

1. It is recommended that the criteria adopted by the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference in Resolution CSP14.28 for the establishment of cooperative relations with other international and inter-American organizations, and with nongovernmental organizations, be observed where applicable, on the premise that the principles of cooperation that animate such relations apply a fortiori to the establishment of relations with intergovernmental organizations.

2. By Directing Council Resolution CD1.2(2) the Executive Committee is designated "to act as the Committee on Relations with other specialized organizations, governmental and nongovernmental." By the same token, this must also be the body to recommend to the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference the establishment of relations with intergovernmental organizations.

3. Any agreement for the establishment of official relations with a subregional intergovernmental organization shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

4. Any intergovernmental organization with which the Organization maintains relations may be invited by the Organization to participate in the meetings of the Directing Council and the Pan American Sanitary Conference, to which end it should designate a representative who shall act as observer.

5. The nature and scope of the reciprocal obligations and privileges arising out of the establishment of relations with any subregional intergovernmental organization shall be specified in the specific agreement entered into with each organization.

IV. Status of Observers

It is recommended that the status of observer for an intergovernmental organization be subject to the following conditions:

1. He may participate, in the manner provided in the applicable Rules of Procedure but without the right to vote, in the open sessions of the Conference and in the meetings of the Directing Council of PAHO, in accordance with the terms of the invitation issued by the Secretariat.

2. He may also participate in the sessions for Technical Discussions that are part of the meetings referred to in the foregoing paragraph, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for those Discussions.

3. At the invitation of the chairman, he may address the aforementioned sessions when they are concerned with matters of direct relevance to the work of his organization.

4. He shall be entitled to receive a copy of the minutes of the open sessions and of any other official documents of the meeting, except of those regarded as confidential or for limited distribution.

5. He may cooperate, when requested to do so, in the programming of joint activities in health matters of mutual interest.

6. He may submit to PAHO his views and observations on programs going forward in areas of mutual interest.

7. He may request the joint participation of PAHO in conferences and seminars on matters of mutual interest.

Annexes

CSP14.28 The XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference,

Considering that collaboration in matters of common interest to the Pan American Sanitary Organization and other international and inter-American organizations contributes to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Organization, as stated in the Pan American Sanitary Code and in the Constitution of the Organization,

RESOLVES:

That the Pan American Sanitary Organization establish and maintain cooperative relations with other international and inter-American organizations in the manner that it deems appropriate; that the criteria given below be observed when the Pan American Sanitary Organization establishes cooperative relations with any other international and inter-American organizations; and that these relations be established or maintained in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 23 of the Constitution.

Criteria

1. The organization shall be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
2. The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes, and principles of the Pan American Sanitary Code and the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.
3. The organization shall be of recognized standing and shall represent a substantial proportion of the persons organized for the purpose of participating in the particular field of interest in which it operates. To meet this requirement, a group of organizations may form a joint committee or other body authorized to act for the group as a whole.
4. The organization shall have a directing body and authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives; evidence of this authority shall be presented if requested.
5. The organization shall normally be inter-American in its structure and scope, with members who exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action.
6. Save in exceptional cases, a national organization that is affiliated to an inter-American nongovernmental organization covering the same subject on an international basis shall present its views through its government or through the inter-American nongovernmental organization to which it is affiliated. A national organization, however, may be included in the list after consultation with, and with the consent of, the Member Government concerned, if the activities of the organization are not covered by any international organization or if it offers experience upon which the Pan American Sanitary Organization wishes to draw.

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[CDI.2(2)] The Directing Council,

Taking into consideration the report submitted by the Committee on Relations, the Final Act of the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference, and the provisions of the Constitution of the World Health Organization; and

[Having studied] the Committee report that refers to relations with other specialized organizations,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate the Executive Committee to act as the Committee on Relations with other specialized organizations, governmental and nongovernmental.

2. To authorize the Executive Committee to begin the necessary studies in order to achieve the centralization in the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of all the inter-American institutions that are at present promoting the physical and mental well-being of the inhabitants of the Continent.

3. To establish a section or department in the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to study and suggest the type of relationship that should exist with these organizations, such recommendations to be submitted by the Director of the Bureau to the Executive Committee for approval; this section or department shall be charged, furthermore, with soliciting [data] from said organizations, which shall be placed at the disposal of any country requesting them.

4. To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to study and plan, in agreement with the Director General of the Pan American Union, the necessary measures for the maintenance of close relations between the two organizations.

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