



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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ACTIONS TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE ELIMINATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA  
OFFICES OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Resolution XIII of the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council (1985) requests the Director to continue negotiations with Member Governments of the former Area Office countries on new basic agreements, contributions towards operating costs of Country Offices, and future status of PAHO-owned buildings currently occupied by the Country Representatives' offices in those countries. In addition, Resolution XIII requests the Director to continue efforts relating to the Country Representatives' important role in the development of the Organization's strategies and cooperation programs and to continue the evaluation of the need for and use of the Organization's multicountry resources.

The Director is pleased to present this report, as requested by last year's Directing Council (Resolution XIII).

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ACTIONS TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE ELIMINATION AND FUNCTIONS OF  
THE AREA OFFICES OF THE BUREAU

I. BACKGROUND

The Director presented a report to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council in September 1985 on the Actions Taken in Regard to the Elimination and Functions of the Area Offices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Document CD31/11). After reviewing this report, the Directing Council adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION XIII

ACTIONS TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE ELIMINATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE  
AREA OFFICES OF THE BUREAU

THE XXXI MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the report presented by the Director on the actions taken in regard to the elimination and functions of the Area Offices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Document CD31/11);

Considering Resolution II of the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council; and

Bearing in mind the report of the Executive Committee on this topic,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Director:
  - a) To continue negotiations with the Governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela to finalize new Basic Agreements for the establishment of Country Representatives' Offices, similar to the agreements in effect with other Member Governments of the Organization;
  - b) To continue negotiations with the Member Governments for contributions towards the operating costs of Country Offices, in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Agreements between PAHO/WHO and the Governments;

- c) To continue negotiations with the Governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela regarding the future status of the PAHO-owned buildings currently occupied by the Country Representatives' Offices in those countries;
- d) To continue efforts to ensure that the Organization's Country Representatives play their important part in the development of the Organization's strategies and cooperation programs;
- e) To continue the evaluation of the need for and use of the Organization's multicountry resources in the field and take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that those resources are put to the best possible use;
- f) To report to the Executive Committee in 1986 on the progress of the above-mentioned negotiations.

2. To urge the Governments to cooperate with the Director in the implementation of these measures.

## II. NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS ON NEW BASIC AGREEMENTS

New draft Basic Agreements or addenda to the existing agreements between PAHO/WHO and the Governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela were submitted to these Governments on the dates indicated below. These agreements are similar to the agreements in effect with other Member Governments and have been designed to replace and/or amend the Zone Office agreements which covered the operations of the PAHO Zone/Area offices in those countries. Complete new Basic Agreements were not needed in Guatemala and Venezuela and, with the concurrence of these Governments, addenda to the existing agreements were developed. Their current status is as follows:

<u>Government</u>	<u>New Draft Basic Agreement or Addendum was Presented to the Government</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Argentina	16 April 1984	Signed 9 November 1984; awaiting ratification
Guatemala	23 February 1984	Under review by Government
Mexico	12 February 1984	Signed 30 May 1984, and placed into effect on 27 November 1985
Peru	8 March 1984	Signed 21 November 1984; awaiting ratification
Venezuela	7 March 1984	Under review by Government

As indicated above, new agreements have been signed by the Governments of Argentina, Mexico and Peru. Addenda to the existing agreements are currently under review by the Governments of Guatemala and Venezuela. The Country Representatives will continue to participate in discussions with the national authorities to provide any required information and assistance.

### III. NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS ON OPERATING COSTS OF NEW COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

The new basic agreements and addenda to existing agreements include provisions for contributions by the Governments towards the operating costs of the Country Offices. These provisions are similar to those of agreements in effect with other Member Governments of the Organization. The following indicates the current status of the negotiations with the Governments on operating costs for the new Country Representative Offices in the five former Area Office countries:

#### a) Argentina

Subsequent to the signing of the new Basic Agreement on 9 November 1984, provisions were made in the national budget for approximately US\$170,000 as the annual support from the Ministry of Health to cover operations and personnel costs of the Country Representative's Office. It is anticipated that this annual support will be on a continuing basis in future years, in accordance with the provisions of the new Basic Agreement. Payment of these contributions is awaiting the ratification of the Basic Agreement by the Government.

#### b) Guatemala

Although the new Basic Agreement is still under review by the Government of Guatemala, the Ministry of Health has already made available to PAHO the amount of Q.40,000 (US\$40,000) to finance local staff members in 1984, and Q.40,000 (US\$40,000) in 1985. A payment in the amount of Q.40,000 for 1986 from the Government is expected in the near future. In addition, the Government has been providing 10 Government staff members for PAHO Guatemala projects.

#### c) Mexico

In accordance with the provisions of the new Basic Agreement signed on 30 May 1984, the Government of Mexico is providing an annual amount of 15,615,798 Mexican pesos (US\$32,533 at current rate of exchange) towards the rental costs of the Country

Representative's Office. Negotiations will continue on possible Government contributions for other operating costs of the Country Representative's Office.

d) Peru

In accordance with the provisions of the new Basic Agreement signed on 21 November 1984, the Organization received from the Ministry of Health in February 1986 an amount equivalent to US\$32,778, as contribution towards the operating costs of the Country Representative's Office. Moreover, an additional payment of 1,270,000 inti (US\$72,571 at current rate of exchange) was received from the Ministry of Health in March 1986. Similar contributions are anticipated for future years.

e) Venezuela

Negotiations on contributions by the Government towards operating costs of the Country Representative's Office are awaiting finalization of the addendum to the existing agreement. The Government of Venezuela has been providing an annual grant of 72,000 bolivares (US\$3,793 at current rate of exchange) toward the operating costs of the Country Representative's Office. The Country Representative is continuing negotiations on other possible contributions towards the operating costs of the Country Representative's Office.

#### IV. PAHO-OWNED BUILDINGS

PAHO owns the office buildings of the former Area Offices in Argentina, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela, which are now occupied by the new Country Representatives' Offices for those countries. In Mexico, PAHO rents office space for the Country Representative's Office. As indicated in paragraph III.c above, the Government of Mexico provides an annual grant towards these rental costs.

The current status of the PAHO-owned buildings is as follow:

a) Argentina

The Country Representative's Office operates on two floors of a building located in downtown Buenos Aires. These are the facilities of the former Area Office and have been owned by PAHO since 1954. Since the Ministry itself does not have enough space for its own structures and is renting offices in private buildings, it has indicated its willingness to provide economic support for the PAHO/WHO physical facilities for the time being. The approximately US\$170,000 for annual support of operating costs of the Country Representative's Office indicated in paragraph III.a above includes funds in lieu of providing office space.

b) Guatemala

The office space currently utilized by the Country Representative's Office has been owned by PAHO since 1969. Negotiations with the Government are continuing to seek a coordinated solution to the office space requirements of the Country Representative's Office.

c) Peru

The building in Lima, Peru, which houses the Country Representative's Office has been owned by PAHO since 1967. Negotiations will continue with the Government regarding office space of the Country Representative's Office.

d) Venezuela

The building in Caracas which houses the Country Representative's Office has been owned by PAHO since 1970. The Ministry of Health is housed in rented buildings/offices, which are not sufficient for its own requirements, and it appears that the current situation will continue for some time. Discussions on the terms of PAHO operations in Venezuela, including office space, will continue. Negotiations on the future of this building are awaiting finalization of the addendum to the Basic Agreement.

#### V. COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIES AND COOPERATION PROGRAMS

The Organization has developed and implemented revisions to its planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation system, as of 1 January 1986. The system now encompasses long-term plans, medium-term programs, biennial program budgets, annual operating program budgets, quarterly work plans and procedures for monitoring and evaluation, representing a systematic method which is being implemented at all levels of the Organization.

The PAHO/WHO Representative (Country Representative), as the focal point at the country level for PAHO/WHO cooperation with the Member Governments, provides the essential PAHO contact to interact with the countries in the definition and execution of technical cooperation under this system. This role of the Country Representative recognizes the importance of the PAHO/WHO Representative in the implementation of the managerial strategy and the Regional Program Budget Policy and in the development of the Organization's strategies and cooperation programs. Further refinement of the AMPES system over the next few years will require continuous coordination of efforts between the countries and the PAHO Secretariat, with special emphasis on the role of the Country Representative at the country level, where the policies and mandates of the Governing Bodies are joined to national health strategies, plans and programs.

## VI. MULTICOUNTRY RESOURCES IN THE FIELD

The evaluation of the need for and the use of the Organization's multicountry resources in the field is a subject of continuous review and analysis at both the Headquarters and field office levels. During the development of the 1986 Annual Operating Program Budget (APB), detailed reviews and analyses were made of the proposed country programs and the multi-country resources needed to support them. These detailed reviews and analyses covered the use of resources at Headquarters and Country levels as well as horizontal coordination between individual programs. The resultant 1986 Annual Operating Program Budget gives effect to the optimum use of multicountry resources in the field. Continual refinements will be made on use of these resources through the operation of the revised system.

## VII. SUMMARY

The Director will continue negotiations with the Member Governments on new basic agreements, contributions towards operating costs of the Country Representatives' offices and the future of PAHO-owned buildings. It is anticipated that the revised system of planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation, which was placed into effect on 1 January 1986, as well as continuous efforts at coordination with the Member Governments, will ensure that the Country Representatives play their important part in the development of the Organization's strategies and cooperation programs. This revised system will include the evaluation of the need for and use of the Organization's multicountry resources in the field to ensure that those resources are put to the best possible use.