

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XVI Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



XVII Meeting

Washington, D. C.
September-October 1965

Provisional Agenda Item 17

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PLACE OF THE XVII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE, XVIII MEETING OF THE
WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAS AND AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 7-A, B,
AND C OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULE 1 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
DIRECTING COUNCIL

Where to hold the next Pan American Sanitary Conference has been discussed at various meetings of the Governing Bodies, since the adoption of Resolution XXXVIII of the XVI Conference (Minneapolis, Minnesota, 21 August-3 September 1962). In that resolution the Conference requested the Directing Council to designate the place of the XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference, bearing in mind the invitations that were received, those that might be received by the date of the meeting, and all other relevant circumstances with regard to the opening of the new building of the Pan American Health Organization.

The Director for his part, summarized the various facets of this subject in his report on the organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference (Document CE52/13) as follows:

"Place of the XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

At its most recent meeting, the Directing Council decided to put off a decision on this matter until its next meeting in 1965.

At the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference, XIV Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas, the Governments of Uruguay and Cuba invited the Organization to hold the Conference in their countries. At the XV Meeting of the Directing Council the Government of Peru invited the Conference to Lima. The Governments of Bolivia, Honduras, France, and Paraguay, have proposed that the Conference should always be held at the Headquarters of the Organization in Washington. Finally, the Representative of Venezuela in the discussion during the fifteenth plenary session of the XV Directing Council suggested that a system of rotation should be adopted which, while ensuring that full use was made of the Headquarters building, would also allow the Conference to be held in other places, and the Representative of Nicaragua stated that it was essential for the next Conference to be held in Washington, since the Organization will have its own building, although that did not mean to say that the Conference would always have to be held in Washington. Indeed, the Conference should decide on each occasion where its next meeting was to be held. With respect to the last-mentioned proposal it should be recalled that the United States of America had pointed out that a constitutional amendment was necessary in order to hold the next meeting in Washington.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that, in accordance with Resolution XXIII of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, when the country selected for the meeting is unable to meet its commitment because of unforeseen circumstances, the meeting of the Conference will automatically be held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. This provision appears in the Rules of Procedure of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference (Rule 13) and now stands in Rule 2 of the present Rules of Procedure: "If for any reason the Conference cannot be held in the country chosen, the meeting shall take place at the Headquarters of the Bureau." This provision applied to the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference."

At its 52nd Meeting (Washington, D.C. 19-23 April 1965) the Executive Committee, in accordance with instructions received to present to the XVI Meeting of the Directing Council a report on the organization, structure, and place of the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization, discussed where the Conference and the Directing Council were to meet. Its report on the organization of the Conference attached to its Final Report reads as follows:

- "3. To recommend to the Directing Council that the next meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference be held at the new headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., and that it approve the following constitutional amendment to that effect:

Article 7-A. The Conference shall meet every four years at the Headquarters of the Organization on a date fixed by the Director of the Bureau in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Article 7-B. Notwithstanding the provision of the immediately foregoing paragraph, the Conference may meet in any Member Country of the Organization provided that the Government concerned invites it, and the Conference itself or the Directing Council at its meeting held one year before that appointed for the Conference accepts the invitation.

Article 7-C. When the provisions of the immediately foregoing paragraph apply, the Government of the country in which the Conference is to be held shall appoint a Committee to cooperate with the Bureau in organizing the Conference.

4. To propose to the Directing Council that it amend Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure to read as follows:

Rule 1. The Director of the Bureau shall convene the Council to meet in conformity with Article 12, paragraph A, of the Constitution and pursuant to a resolution of the Executive Committee. The meeting shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization or at a place chosen by the Conference or the Council. Whenever the meeting is not held at the Headquarters of the Organization, the Director shall fix the date of the meeting in consultation with the Host Government."

Should the amendment to Article 7 of the Constitution proposed by the Executive Committee be adopted, it should be borne in mind that the present paragraphs C to G of that Article could, without change, become paragraphs D to H of the amended text of the new article.

It is incumbent on the meeting of the Directing Council to decide where the XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference, XVIII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, scheduled for next year, is to be held.

Note: The two reports referred to in this document appear as Appendixes 1 and 2 to Document CD16/22 (Organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and Amendments to Articles 7-D, 12-B, and 14 of the Constitution).