

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIX Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



XXI Meeting

Washington, D.C.
September-October 1969

Provisional Agenda Item 7

CD19/20 (Eng.)
27 August 1969
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Presented by Dr. Orontes Avilés, Representative of Nicaragua,
Chairman of the 60th and 61st Meetings of the Executive Committee)

In accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, as recently revised, which provides that the Committee shall be represented at meetings of the Directing Council by its Chairman, I have the honor to present the annual report on the activities of the Executive Committee from October 1968 to the present date, the period during which the 60th and 61st Meetings were held.

60th Meeting of the Executive Committee

The 60th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 25 October 1968, following the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council. In the course of the Meeting the following new Representatives took office: Dr. Alberto F. Mondet, Argentine Republic; Dr. Murillo Belchior, Brazil; Dr. Alvaro Aguilar Peralta, Costa Rica; and Dr. Pedro Daniel Martínez, Mexico. The following Representatives also attended: Dr. David Bersh Escobar, Colombia; Dr. Benjamin Blood, United States of America; Dr. Orontes Avilés, Nicaragua; Dr. Mervin U. Henry, Trinidad and Tobago; and Dr. Carlos M. Imaz, Uruguay.

Dr. Orontes Avilés, Representative of Nicaragua, was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Benjamin D. Blood, Representative of the United States of America, was appointed Vice-Chairman. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Abraham Horwitz, acted as Secretary ex officio of the Committee.

At the 60th Meeting the following items were dealt with:

1. Approval of the changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization, in the light of the increase in the Membership of the Executive Committee to nine Member Governments.
2. Review of the Resolutions of the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that are of interest to the Executive Committee, and recommendation for their inclusion in the agenda of the 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. Decision to include in the agenda of the 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee an item dealing with the topic of the next Technical Discussions, "Financing of the Health Sector".
4. The Director of the Pan American Bureau was authorized to convene the 61st Meeting on a date to be fixed in agreement with the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

61st Meeting of the Executive Committee

The 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization was held in Washington, D.C., at the Headquarters of the Organization, from 23 June to 1 July 1969, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The following Members of the Committee, Observers and officials of the Bureau attended the Meeting:

Members:

Dr. Alberto F. Mondet Dr. Victorio V. Olguín	ARGENTINA
Dr. Murillo B. Belchior	BRAZIL
Dr. David Beresh Escobar	COLOMBIA
Dr. Manuel Angel Cortés Vargas Dr. Alvaro Yglesias Vieto	COSTA RICA
Dr. Pedro Daniel Martínez Dr. Ramón Alvarez Gutierrez	MEXICO
Dr. Orontes Avilés	NICARAGUA

Dr. Mervyn U. Henry

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Dr. Benjamin D. Blood
Dr. Leo J. Gehrig
Dr. David Frost
Miss Julie Ann McGrath
Mr. Edward B. Rosenthal
Mr. Simon Wilson

UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

Dr. Abelardo Sáenz Sanguinetti

URUGUAY

Secretary ex officio:

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY
BUREAU

Observers:

Mr. Henri B. de Coignac

FRANCE

Mr. Corneille W. J. Jonckheer
Mr. Hans E. Mathon

KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American States:

Mr. Jose A. Tijerino
Mr. Beryl Frank
Mrs. Alzora Eldridge

Inter-American Development Bank:

Mr. Humberto Olivero

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Rockefeller Foundation:

Dr. Guy S. Hayes

In accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, as amended by the Executive Committee at its first plenary session, the officers of the Committee were as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Dr. Orontes Avilés	NICARAGUA
<u>Vice Chairman:</u>	Dr. Benjamin D. Blood	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Dr. Manuel Angel Cortés	COSTA RICA
<u>Secretary</u>		
<u>ex officio:</u>	Dr. Abraham Horwitz	DIRECTOR, PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

The Executive Committee held 12 plenary sessions, and a closing session, and made a careful examination of the following items:

Rules of Procedure of the Governing Bodies of PAHO. The Executive Committee considered the Report of the Director, prepared in implementation of Resolution XV of the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, and concluded that the proposed changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Directing Council and the Conference would facilitate the conduct of business of the meetings of those bodies. It, therefore, approved the changes and recommended to the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council that it give them its favorable consideration.

Provisional Agenda for the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council, XXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas. The Committee made a detailed study of the provisional agenda prepared by the Director for the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council, XXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas, approved it and authorized the Director to include in the provisional agenda such additional items as might be proposed by Governments and by those organizations entitled to propose agenda items.

"Financing of the Health Sector": Topic for the Technical Discussions to be held at the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council. The Executive Committee analyzed the outline presented by the Director for the preparation of the working document for the Technical Discussions to be held at the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council on the topic "Financing of the Health Sector" and considered that it covered all the points recommended by the Member Countries at the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council. It, therefore resolved to approve the outline and instructed the Director to prepare the relevant working document, taking into account the suggestions made by the representatives in the course of the discussion.

Representation of the Executive Committee at the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council, XXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas. The Executive Committee noted that Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee approved by Resolution I at the same Meeting, provides that the Executive Committee shall be represented at meetings of the Governing Bodies by its Chairman, in the present instance Dr. Orontes Avilés, the Representative of Nicaragua, and it appointed the Rapporteur, Dr. Manuel Angel Cortes Vargas, the Representative of Costa Rica, as his alternate in the event that the Chairman was unable to attend.

Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor for 1968. The Executive Committee undertook a detailed review of both reports, which show that the Organization is in a sound financial position and indicate that the percentage of quota collections was practically the same as that of the previous year but was higher in the case of arrears, thus increasing the Working Capital Fund and the reserves for termination costs. It, therefore, resolved to transmit the reports in question to the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council and to commend the Director for having maintained the Organization in a sound financial condition. It nevertheless deemed it desirable to draw the attention of Governments to the desirability of settling their quota contributions as early as possible in each financial year, and it thanked the External Auditor for submitting in accordance with the provisions of Article 12.6 of the Financial Regulations, the necessary and appropriate observations with respect to the efficiency of the administrative, financial and accountancy procedures and controls.

Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for 1970. The Executive Committee devoted eight sessions to a detailed and thorough examination of the Proposed Program and Budget of the Organization, prepared by the Director pursuant to Article 14-C of the PAHO Constitution. The Director informed the Committee that the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council had given favorable consideration to a budget for 1970 of \$14,054,716, representing an increase of 11.6 per cent over 1969 and including an additional annual item of \$200,000 to make up in part for the voluntary contribution of the United States to the Malaria Fund (1.6 per cent) and the increase in the cost of programs due to the rise in the cost of living, which could be estimated conservatively at 5 per cent, and the expansion of some new country programs. The Director also reported that in December of last year, the General Assembly of the United Nations, to which all the countries of the Continent belong, had approved a general increase of 5 per cent in the salaries of professional staff, amounting to a sum of \$375,000 which was absorbed for the present year by using part of the annual increase in the Working Capital Fund. He said that to avoid increasing unduly the level of the budget for 1970, it had been decided to cut the cost of the Organization's programs by 1.6 per cent below the amount which the Directing Council had in mind; but the inclusion of the increase in salaries

mentioned above, the \$200,000 for malaria, and the rise in the cost of living referred to, brought the budget of the Organization for 1970 up to \$14,054,716 or 13 per cent increase over 1969. The Director pointed out that the cuts in the programs had been made mostly in inter-country programs, an attempt being made not to interfere with those being carried out in countries at the request and with the collaboration of Governments.

In addition to the discussion of budgetary matters, the debate included an analysis in depth of the individual projects and general questions relating to the Organization's policy and program. The Executive Committee, following a wide-ranging discussion, recognized that the programs contained in the documents under discussion were sound and represented public health projects necessary and beneficial for the health of the peoples of the Continent. Nevertheless, in view of the financial difficulties of many of the Member countries, it resolved to transmit to the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council for its favorable consideration a Proposed Program and Budget for the Pan American Health Organization for 1970 at a level of \$13,852,119, representing an increase of 10 per cent over the level for 1969. It likewise agreed to suggest that the Director report to the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council on the modifications which should be made in the Program and Budget to sustain such a program and budget level.

Study of the Preparation of Drugs and Biological Products, Production and Maintenance of Equipment and Instruments for Health Programs. The Executive Committee analyzed the problem posed for the economy of the countries by the need to import equipment, instruments and necessary elements for the efficient conduct of health programs; and it considered the advisability of carrying out a study to ascertain whether the countries, with the support of national and international financial institutions, might undertake to produce equipment and instruments of suitable quality, thus reducing their cost and thereby strengthening the national economies and alleviating the balance of payments problems. It, therefore, resolved to request the Director to examine the feasibility of a project designed to assist the countries in appraising their capacity to prepare drugs and biological products and to produce and maintain equipment, instruments and other necessary elements for the development of health services, as well as in determining the volume of exports and imports of those products and their repercussions on the national economy. To this end it requested the Director to prepare an estimate of the resources required to carry out such a study and to submit his conclusions to the Directing Council.

Aedes aegypti Eradication in the Continent. The Executive Committee was given a report on the present status of Aedes aegypti eradication in the Continent, indicating that repeated reinfestations had occurred in countries which had already succeeded in eradicating the vector, with the

consequent threat to health and financial loss. It was informed that two countries had decided to suspend their eradication programs for financial reasons, thus increasing the risk of reinfestation of neighboring countries. It, therefore, resolved to ask the Director to bring the matter to the notice of the XIX Directing Council and at the same time to draw the attention of the Governments which have suspended their eradication programs to the serious consequences of their decision for the rest of the Hemisphere, requesting them to reconsider that decision in the interest of the health of the Continent. The Executive Committee saw fit to recommend to the health authorities of the countries conducting Aedes aegypti eradication to take appropriate measures to achieve that goal with the shortest possible delay and to urge the countries which have eradicated Aedes aegypti to strengthen their surveillance services for the early detection of any new focus that may arise.

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies. The Executive Committee was given a full account of the present status of fluoridation of public water supplies in the Continent and recalled that the XV Directing Council had approved Resolution XXIII instructing the Bureau to promote fluoridation programs in the Hemisphere with a view to reducing dental problems affecting the population. The Executive Committee also resolved to recommend the Directing Council to take up the problem of fluoridation once again at its next Meeting, and to this end it requested the Director to prepare a report on the present status of the program, including the financing by countries which are carrying out a policy of fluoridation of public water supplies.

Smallpox Eradication. The Executive Committee took due note of the progress made in the Smallpox Eradication Campaign in the Americas and considered that as long as endemic foci persist in the Hemisphere, the disease will continue to be a serious problem for public health. It, therefore, recommended the countries which have not yet completed their smallpox eradication campaigns to take the necessary measures to complete them as rapidly as possible; and at the same time it urged the Governments of countries where the disease has already been eradicated to try to maintain and raise the level of immunity of the population and to establish adequate epidemiological surveillance capable of detecting and promptly controlling any outbreak of the disease.

Proposed Criteria for Multinational Centers. The Executive Committee considered that at the present time there are a number of multinational centers financed by the Organization which, although they may provide services to all the countries of the Continent, benefit more directly the countries where they are situated as regards the advisory, training, and research activities they carry out. It, therefore, resolved to recommend to the Directing Council that it request the Director to appoint a Study Group to draft criteria governing the establishment and operation of centers sponsored by the Organization and providing services to several countries.

Proposed Criteria for the PAHO Programs. The Executive Committee noted that many of the programs included in the preliminary draft of the budget estimates of the Organization had been in operation for some time and that therefore it was essential to establish criteria enabling the Governments and the Organization to evaluate their usefulness. It also noted the efforts made by the Organization to improve its information and evaluation systems and to try to ensure that all its projects and programs are aimed at specific targets to be attained within a given time. It, therefore, resolved to request the Directing Council to instruct the Director to prepare, for submission to the Executive Committee at its 64th Meeting, criteria for ensuring that all the Organization's projects are given specific targets and are established for specific periods, and have built into them a permanent system of evaluation.

Long-term Planning and Evaluation. The Executive Committee studied at great length the Report prepared by the Director in implementation of Resolution XIX of the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council. It recognized that efforts had constantly been made to coordinate the assistance plans and programs of the Organization with the activities of other agencies of the Inter-American system promoting economic and social development activities in the Continent. It also took note of the proposals for the planning and evaluation of the work of the Organization and requested that they be sent to Governments for study by the competent authorities with a view to such suggestions as they might see fit to make. It further requested the Directing Council to urge the countries to furnish the necessary collaboration in implementing the proposed planning procedure, and to instruct the Director to submit a progress report to the 64th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Purchase of Property near the Headquarters Building. The Executive Committee approved the purchase of a piece of property near the Headquarters building, in view of the financial advantages of the purchase, which does not involve budgetary expenditure or call for financial authorization. It recommended that the use of the new premises be studied by the Governing Bodies of the Organization.

Use of the Resources of the World Food Program for Health Programs. The Executive Committee noted that the countries of the Continent have not made the fullest use in their health programs of the resources available from the World Food Program, and it approved the efforts being made by the Organization to promote increased use of the resources in question by countries to supplement their own health programs. It also urged the Directing Council to encourage countries to work out with the help of the Organization, technically sound programs for making better use of these valuable resources.

Objectives, Functions and Financing of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama. The Executive Committee recognized that the nutritional problems affecting the inhabitants of the countries of the Region call for the intensification and amplification of the training and specialized consultation services in nutrition, and increased research

in this field. It expressed its full appreciation to the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama for its services both to Central America and to the rest of the Continent, and it recommended that the Organization provide INCAP with any assistance it may need for the reorganization of its structure and the reorientation of its programs with a view to expanding its excellent services still further. It also recommended that the Director continue to seek funds to increase the resources of the Institute to enable it to supplement and extend its programs for training, consultation and research in nutrition.

In addition to the above items, on which it was felt desirable to make fairly lengthy comments, the Executive Committee discussed a large number of other topics of interest to the Organization, such as:

1. Date of the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council, XXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas (Resolution II);
2. Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions (Resolution VI);
3. Health Legislation (Resolution XV);
4. Amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Resolution XVI);
5. Salaries of the Deputy-Director and Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Resolution XVII);
6. Transfer of Funds from Part V to Other Parts of the PAHO Regular Budget for 1969 (Resolution XVIII);
7. PAHO Award for Administration (Resolution XX);
8. Within-Country Fellowships (Resolution XXIII);
9. Special Fund for Health Promotion (Resolution XXIV);
10. 62nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization (Resolution XXVI).



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(Submitted by Dr. Orontes Avilés, Representative of Nicaragua, Chairman of the 60th, 61st, and 62nd Meetings of the Executive Committee)

The 62nd Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Washington, D. C. on 26 and 27 September 1969. The following Representatives attended the Meeting: Argentina: Victorio V. Olguín; Brazil: Dr. Murillo B. Belchior; Colombia: Dr. David Bersh Escobar; Costa Rica: Dr. Manuel Angel Cortés Vargas, Prof. Joaquín F. Vargas Méndez (Alternate); Mexico: Dr. Pedro Daniel Martínez, Dr. Ignacio Avila Cisneros (Alternate); Nicaragua: Dr. Orontes Avilés, Dr. Alejandro Robleto Pérez (Alternate); Trinidad and Tobago: Dr. Mervyn U. Henry; United States of America: Dr. Benjamin D. Blood, Dr. S. Paul Ehrlich, Jr. (Alternate); Uruguay: Dr. Abelardo Sáenz Sanguinetti. Observers were also present from the following countries: France: Dr. Raymond G. Hyronimus; Jamaica: Dr. Samuel Street; Peru: Dr. David Tejada-de-Rivero.

The only item on the Agenda of the Meeting was the Preliminary Draft of the Program and Budget Estimates of the Pan American Health Organization for 1971 and the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates of the World Health Organization for the same year.

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, gave a detailed account of the program it was planned to carry out in 1971 together with a careful analysis of existing problems and of the necessary resources for meeting the requests of the countries. Then Mr. Clarence Moore (Acting Chief of Administration, PASB) described the budget cycle, the final stage of which was the document under discussion (Official Document No. 92). He explained the composition of the budget document.

The Chairman decided that it was necessary to set up a Working Party to study how best to discuss the Budget estimates bearing in mind the limited time available and the fact that the 61st Meeting was the last opportunity the Committee would have to review the budget estimates of the World Health Organization for 1971. The Working Party, which consisted of Dr. Benjamin Blood (United States of America and Dr. Victorio Olguín (Argentina), was also attended by other members of the Committee, and reported that it would be advisable to begin with a general discussion of the two budget estimates, to be followed by a detailed examination, the focus being placed on sources of funds as far as possible.

The recommendation of the Working Party was approved by the Committee, which then took under consideration the pertinent working document, Official Document No. 92. The Representative of the United States submitted a draft resolution recommending to the Directing Council that it provisionally establish the Program and Budget Estimates for 1971 at a level not exceeding US\$15,099,800, and increase of 9 per cent over the level of the 1970 Program and Budget Estimates approved by the 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee. The Chairman decided that the draft resolution should be reproduced and circulated to the Members of the Committee, for which purpose the session was suspended.

When the session resumed, the Representative of the United States agreed to accept an amendment raising the percentage increase in the 1971 Budget Estimates to 10 per cent over that approved by the Executive Committee for 1970. The draft resolution so amended was approved and is included in the Final Report of the 62nd Meeting of the Executive Committee.

At the third session, the Chairman submitted the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for 1971 and the Rapporteur read out a draft resolution recommending to the XIX Meeting of the Directing Council that it approve the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates appearing in Official Document No. 92 and that it request the Director to Express to the Director General of the World Health Organization its wish that the malaria program in the Americas not be placed in jeopardy because of lack of funds and requesting him to maintain the allotment that the WHO had made for that program without reducing its contributions to other regional programs.

Several Members of the Committee made valuable suggestions on the second part of the draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur and finally the resolution was approved in the form appearing in the Final Report of the Executive Committee (Resolution II).

The Committee next made a general examination of some of the programs of the Organization, in particular those relating to zoonoses and foot-and-mouth disease, rural health services, and emphasized the need to pay more attention and assign more resources to the improvement of the well-being of the rural areas of Latin America.

It also emphasized that it was necessary, when reviewing the proposed program and budget estimates for the Organization, to bear in mind the fundamental purposes of the Organization as well as the policies laid down by the Governing Bodies and the Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas.

The 62nd Meeting of the Executive Committee ended with the signature of the Final Report at 1:00 p.m. on 27 September 1969.

I have thus completed the task entrusted to me by the Executive Committee, to the Members of which I express my thanks for the honor they have paid me in permitting me to represent them.

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