

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
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ORGANIZATION

XXVIII Meeting

Washington, D.C.
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WORLD
HEALTH
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XXXIII Meeting



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Thursday, 1 October 1981, at 4:30 p.m.
Jueves, 1 de octubre de 1981, a las 4:30 p.m.

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE CLOSING SESSION
ACTA RESUMIDA PROVISIONAL DE LA SESION DE CLAUSURA

President:
Presidente:

Dr. Lyall M. Black

Canada

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Note: These summary records are provisional. Representatives are requested to notify Document Services (Room 207) of any changes they wish to have made in the text. The edited records will be published in the Proceedings of the Meeting.

Nota: Esta acta resumida es provisional. Se ruega a los señores Representantes tengan a bien comunicar al Servicio de Documentos (Oficina 207) las modificaciones que deseen ver introducidas en el texto. Los textos definitivos se publicarán en las Actas de la Reunión.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.
Se abre la sesión a las 4:35 p.m.

PRESENTATION AND SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL REPORT
PRESENTACION Y FIRMA DEL INFORME FINAL

The RAPPORTEUR drew attention to the various sections of the Final Report.

The PRESIDENT, in the absence of any comments or objections, declared the report approved.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, Dr. Lyall M. Black, and the Secretary ex officio of the Meeting, Dr. Héctor R. Acuña, then signed the Final Report.

Seguidamente firman el Informe Final el Vice Presidente de la XXVIII Reunión del Consejo Directivo, Dr. Lyall M. Black, en ausencia del Presidente, y el Secretario ex officio de la Reunión Dr. Héctor R. Acuña.

CLOSING REMARKS
PALABRAS DE CLAUSURA

Dr. VIOLAKI-PARASKEVA (President of the Thirty-fourth World Health Assembly) said that the Director's invitation to her, in her capacity as President of the World Health Assembly, to attend the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council as an Observer had given her a valuable opportunity of following its stimulating and constructive discussions and of becoming better acquainted with the problems of the Region. She had been particularly impressed by the presentation of the documents, which had greatly facilitated the work of the participants. Among those documents, the Annual Report of the Director for 1980 covered all the topics and

analyzed the successes and failures of the year in a spirit of realism. The guiding theme in all Regions of WHO was health for all by the year 2000, reflecting the crucial importance of health promotion and protection for the individual now and in the future. Within that objective was grouped a whole range of health problems. Despite technological advances in the field of genetic engineering, electronic medical equipment, organ transplants and so forth, people were still suffering and dying from diseases that could be easily prevented by health education or treated by simple therapeutic and preventive methods.

The global strategy of health for all by the year 2000, adopted in Resolution WHA34.36, had become the Organization's main theme, and the items discussed at all levels tended towards that target. Its meaning was none other than the realization of WHO's constitutional objective: the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. The question that arose was whether a global strategy was a viable concept. She believed that it was. The strategy was based on the concept of the development of the health systems infrastructure, starting with primary health care for health promotion and the early detection, prevention and treatment of disease, including rehabilitation. It was applicable to all countries, both developed and developing.

Much remained to be done to meet the target. Even in the case of preventable diseases, programs were behind schedule. The Director in his report had noted in the section on communicable diseases and the Expanded Program on Immunization that, of the 80 million children born in the developing world each year, about 5 million died of the common contagious

childhood diseases, largely because less than 10 per cent of them were protected by immunization. Although immunization had been one of the priorities of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, few countries had shown any progress in controlling diseases preventable by vaccination as the Plan neared its end.

On reading the message sent by Dr. Mahler, Director-General of WHO, on the occasion of the opening of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, she had been particularly struck by the paragraphs relating to the Plan of Action for the immediate implementation of the strategy. The plan was described there as a mere skeleton. Although PAHO had taken a further step forward by preparing a more detailed Regional Plan of Action, that too was still a lifeless document. It was for the Member Governments and their peoples to bring those plans to life and give them flesh and blood, and it was WHO's duty to help them to do so. She believed that with WHO's assistance they were ready for the struggle, but they must first decide what they expected from WHO in order to attain the goal. There were a number of areas in which WHO could play an important role. It could help countries to develop the managerial process and methodology for national health promotion. It could engage in direct and realistic dialogue with individual countries to ascertain their needs and the assistance they required for the implementation of national strategies so as to harmonize them with the regional and global strategy. It could facilitate technical cooperation among Member States and act as an international clearinghouse for valid technical information

and see that it was properly disseminated. It could help countries to avoid the clash between primary health care and high technology in medicine, and it could help to familiarize them with procedures for monitoring and evaluation.

In the course of the Meeting, the item on women in health and development had been very actively discussed. There could be no doubt that the health and development of women were vital to family happiness and national progress. Women by their nature were the nucleus of the family and the keystone of health education. Plans for women's health and development must be comprehensive and dynamic so that women's role could be changed both within and outside the family and in order to bring about socioeconomic changes in society. Only with equal rights and partnership for men and women, and only by improving the physical and mental health of all people in each Region, would it be possible to attain the goal. Clearly, the Five-Year Regional Plan of action on women must be integrated into the Plan of Action to provide health for all by the year 2000.

Another important item also discussed at length had been the plan for the implementation of the regional strategies. The Plan was a flexible set of guidelines that provided a framework for the adjustment of national health plans in the light of national and regional strategies, as well as constituting the contribution of the Region of the Americas to WHO's Seventh General Program of Work. It must not be forgotten that the effective development of community participation would be an essential factor in attaining the goal.

She was confident that, by working together in peace and harmony with a real spirit of cooperation and coordination, and with the help of WHO, it would be possible to implement the decisions and resolutions that had been adopted. Important decisions had been taken at the XXVIII Meeting and would have an impact well beyond the Region.

In conclusion, she paid a tribute to the Director and staff of PASB, and to the President of the Council for his skill and patience in conducting the debates, and wished all the participants a safe and happy return to their homes.

The PRESIDENT said that the credit for successfully completing the agenda of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council must go to the Representatives, and to the excellent support they had received from the Secretariat.

A number of steps had been taken of great importance to the Region. Probably the most significant subjects debated had been the Plan of Action for the implementation of the Region's strategies for health for all by the year 2000, and the Regional Plan of Action for Women in Health and Development. Those two important documents provided a firm foundation for the development of plans for health for all. The generous offer of fellowships for advanced health studies made by the Observer for Spain on his Government's behalf had been most welcome. Two new Members, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, had joined the Organization. The Directing Council had approved the PAHO Regular Budget for the biennium 1982-1983 and provided guidelines for the preparation of

the budget for 1984-1985. Many other important decisions had been taken, too numerous to mention.

In conclusion, he thanked the Council for the honor accorded to Canada by the awarding of the PAHO Award for Administration to Professor Burns Roth. As one of his former students, he received great pleasure from that recognition of Professor Roth's work.

El Dr. ACUÑA (Director) empieza diciendo que la Dra. Violaki-Paraskeva le ha traído como regalo un busto de Higeia, la diosa de la salud, y esto es muy significativo, pues precisamente en la actual Reunión se ha aprobado el Plan Quinquenal Regional de Acción sobre la Mujer en la Salud y el Desarrollo.

Para la Secretaría ha sido de gran satisfacción ver que, en base a las estrategias regionales aprobadas el año pasado, acaba de aprobarse el Plan de Acción y, evidentemente, está dispuesta a ponerlo en práctica.

Respecto del proyecto de programa y presupuesto, es de suma importancia que haya sido aprobado, sobre todo al ser un presupuesto de transición con miras a las actividades encaminadas a conseguir la salud para todos en el año 2000.

El orador recuerda que la Secretaría de la OPS es un reflejo de los Gobiernos Miembros, no solo en un sentido propio, puesto que depende de las contribuciones de éstos, sino también en sentido figurado, pues si la Organización se ha desarrollado ampliamente ello se debe tanto a la calidad de su personal como a los grandes progresos conseguidos en materia de salud en todos los países de las Américas. Es decir, los éxitos y los fracasos repercuten en ambos sentidos.

La Dra. Violaki-Paraskeva ha dicho que el Informe Anual tiene un contenido realista. El mérito de ello recae en los Gobiernos Miembros, que han enviado la información pertinente sobre la evaluación del Plan de Salud para las Américas correspondiente al pasado decenio. Con esos datos, unidos a las estrategias y al Plan de Acción, se podrán alcanzar objetivos de gran alcance.

En la actualidad, las previsiones de los especialistas financieros y políticos son más bien pesimistas. La Organización ha pasado en los últimos años por situaciones difíciles (crisis del petróleo, inflación, catástrofes naturales, etc.) y, sin embargo, todas las resoluciones aprobadas en la Reunión están impregnadas de optimismo, porque están basadas en el convencimiento profundo de que las acciones previstas van a tener éxito.

Para terminar, el Director agradece, en nombre de la Secretaría, las observaciones de los Representantes y los Observadores y felicita al Presidente por la forma dinámica y ecuánime con que ha dirigido los debates.

The Vice President declared closed the XXVIII Meeting of the
Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization,
XXXIII Meeting of the Regional Committee of the
World Health Organization for the Americas.
El Vicepresidente declara clausurada la XXVIII Reunión del