



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

IX Meeting

Antigua Guatemala
September 1956

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

VIII Meeting



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Topic 8: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Presented by Dr. Jorge Jiménez Gandica (Colombia), Chairman of the 27th, 28th, and 29th Meetings of the Executive Committee

Pursuant to Article 8-C of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of the Executive Committee on the activities carried out during the period September 1955 to September 1956, in which the Committee held its 27th, 28th, and 29th Meetings.

The 27th Meeting was held on 21 September 1955 in Washington, at the close of the VIII Meeting of the Directing Council, to deal with pending matters and study certain programs to be carried out during the year. The Representatives of Bolivia, Cuba, and Nicaragua, the three new Member Governments elected to the Committee by the Council, were seated at this meeting.

The 28th Meeting, held in Washington from 5 to 13 June 1956, was attended by the representatives of all seven members -- Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and the United States -- and by observers from France, the Netherlands, and Panama.

The 29th Meeting, held in Antigua Guatemala on 11, 12, and 13 September 1956, was attended by the Representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the United States, and by observers from France, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The Committee designated as Secretary of its 28th and 29th Meetings the Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, who on 1 February 1956 had been provisionally entrusted by the Director with the duties of Secretary General of the Bureau, an action that was approved in a special resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at the 29th Meeting.

The three meetings of the Committee, over which I had the honor to preside, were most successful and fruitful. The interest and wholehearted collaboration of all the members, with their thorough knowledge of the problems discussed, enabled the Committee to deal in detail not only with all topics on its agenda but with related issues that gave a broad view of the public health situation throughout the Americas.

Some of the principal activities of the Committee during the year were the following:

Proposed Program and Budget - 1957

The Committee's foremost task during the year was the preparation, in cooperation with the Director, of the proposed program and budget of the Organization for consideration by the Directing Council. For 1957 the Committee recommended a budget for PASO of \$2,400,000, representing an increase of \$200,000 over that of the preceding year, with assessments on Member States amounting to \$2,300,000. Before approving the over-all figure, the Committee examined in detail in plenary session the budget estimates and proposed increases, program by program, keeping also in mind the amount of the 1957 WHO regional budget for the Americas as approved by the World Health Assembly. The date of the 28th Meeting, in fact, had been set later in the year than customary, so that the Committee could be apprised of the final budget figure for the Region, as approved at the Ninth World Health Assembly.

In studying the proposed increases for 1957 designed to meet some of the additional needs of the Member Governments and provide a few new services required in the public health field, the Committee gave special attention to the programs related to poliomyelitis, diarrheal diseases, the Zoonoses Center, and yellow fever studies. Great stress was laid on malaria eradication, and among other activities singled out were the fellowship program, the program against leprosy, and the increasing attention being given to a number of other programs, such as that on preventive dentistry and the program of technical publications of the Bureau.

In approving the 1957 proposed program and budget, the Committee instructed the Director to present it for consideration by the Directing Council in a single document containing also the 1958 proposals for the WHO Region of the Americas and the provisional draft of the 1958 proposals for PASO, the latter two for presentation to the 29th Meeting of the Committee before their transmittal to the IX Meeting of the Council.

In connection with the budget studies, the Committee discussed at length the problems created by the fact that the funds available to the Organization for health work in the Americas are received from so many different sources. The Committee, therefore, resolved to include on the

agenda of the IX Meeting of the Council a topic that would permit an over-all study of these problems, under the general title "Financial Resources of the Pan American Sanitary Organization", and designated one of its members, Dr. Félix Hurtado, as rapporteur to prepare a statement to be brought to the attention of the Member Governments at that meeting.

Proposed Program and Budget of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for 1958

The Committee, at its 29th Meeting, studied the above proposed program and budget. This budget amounts to a total of \$1,567,980, which includes the sum of \$215,670 for supplementary activities in the event that certain Member Countries of the WHO that are presently inactive, resume active participation in the work of that organization. The Committee agreed to approve the above-mentioned proposed program and budget for transmittal to the Directing Council, and to request the Council to authorize its transmittal to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, so that he may take it into consideration when preparing the WHO budget for 1958.

The Committee also agreed to endorse and to recommend that the Directing Council approve, for subsequent submittal to the Technical Assistance Board, the regional projects to be financed in 1957 and/or 1958 by the United Nations Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, as shown in Official Documents No. 17 of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

Provisional Draft of the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Sanitary Organization for 1958

At the 29th Meeting the Committee studied and approved the above provisional draft to serve as the basis for the preparation of the 1958 proposed program and budget of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, which will be submitted to the 31st Meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration and to the X Meeting of the Directing Council in 1957 for final approval. The provisional draft proposes a budget in the amount of \$3,000,000, representing an increase of \$600,000 over the budget estimates for 1957. The Committee agreed to propose that the Directing Council take note thereof.

Malaria Eradication

In the course of the 28th Meeting, the Committee had the opportunity to hear a report on the status of the antimalaria campaign in the Americas, presented by the chief of the Bureau's Coordination Office of the Malaria Eradication Program (COMEP).

All the representatives stressed the need for keeping constantly before the governments the fact that the problems and programs of malaria eradication are of basic importance from the viewpoint of both health and economics and are deserving of their fullest financial support. All were gratified to note that the presentation of malaria eradication reports at PASO meetings has become an activity of the Executive Committee, and note was taken of the preparations made by the Bureau for the reports at the IX Meeting of the Council.

In connection with the Bureau's malaria eradication programs, the Committee, in a special resolution, recommended that the Council authorize the Director to utilize as much of the Building Reserve Fund as might be required, in the event that additional funds should be necessary for the intensification of the malaria eradication program.

Conditions of Employment of Regular and Project Personnel and Other Personnel Matters

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Directing Council, the Committee gave special attention to the conditions of employment of regular and project personnel in PASB/WHO. At its 27th Meeting the Committee confirmed, as a temporary measure, the change made by the Director in the Staff Rules to remedy the situation of dual entitlements for regular staff serving on projects, and designated the Representative of the United States, Dr. Frederick J. Brady, as rapporteur to study the question. The latter's report was discussed at the 28th Meeting, together with the statement submitted by the Director, and the Committee adopted a special resolution setting forth its recommendations, requesting that the Director continue his efforts to resolve the situation permanently and take the necessary steps to reach an agreement with the Director-General of WHO in order to achieve more uniform and favorable conditions of employment for personnel of the two organizations in the Region of the Americas.

The Director submitted to the 29th Meeting a report on the above matter, setting forth the recommendations of the WHO and the PASB. The Committee decided to forward the complete document on the subject to the IX Meeting of the Directing Council.

The Committee, at the 29th Meeting, decided to instruct the Director to undertake a comprehensive study of the conditions of employment, working conditions, compensation, etc., of the personnel of the Bureau, apart from the conditions existing in other international organizations.

Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council

At the request of the Directing Council, the Director of the Bureau obtained, from the Director of International Law of the Organization of American States, a legal opinion on certain provisions of the Council's

Rules of Procedure. After a detailed study of this opinion, the Executive Committee, at its 28th Meeting, set forth its views in a resolution, recommending to the Council a special interpretation of the Rules relating to a quorum and to the vote required for the adoption of a resolution, as well as amendments to Articles 8 and 10 of the Rules.

Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee

The Committee, at its 29th Meeting, agreed to modify Article 3 of its Rules of Procedure, concerning the annual election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Relations between the PASO and the WHO

At the same meeting a special committee was appointed to study, together with the Director of the Bureau, the present state of the relations between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization.

This committee held its first meeting, electing Dr. Félix Hurtado to act as Chairman, and began the study as recommended.

Technical Discussions

The Executive Committee took note of Resolution XXIV of the VIII Meeting of the Directing Council, expressing its satisfaction at the success of the Technical Discussions as part of the official business of the Council. It also recommended that henceforth the date of the Technical Discussions be set to fall approximately midway in the course of the Council meeting, so that there will be maximum attendance.

Financial Matters

At its 28th Meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the Director's reports on the status of the collection of quota contributions and on the use of the Emergency Revolving Fund. It approved for transmittal to the Directing Council the Director's financial report and the report of the External Auditor, noting the Auditor's conclusion that the administration of the Bureau and the safeguarding of the funds have been satisfactory and that the financial position of PASB is sound.

The Committee also concurred in, and recommended that the Council approve, the Director's recommendations on the transfer of the available funds from the year 1955 to the Building Reserve Fund and to a special account for the purpose of meeting the expenses of architectural plans for the construction of a new headquarters building.

Meetings of the Governing Bodies in Guatemala

The Committee expressed its agreement with the arrangements made for the meetings in Guatemala and learned with pleasure that the Government of Guatemala had fulfilled its obligations completely in this connection, and that the Preparatory Commission established for this purpose, presided over by the Minister of Public Health and Welfare, Dr. Carlos Soza Barillas, had provided various facilities and services that complete and improve those originally planned.

By virtue of the authorization given to the Executive Committee by the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Committee elected the Representative of Colombia, Dr. Gabriel Velázquez Palau, Minister of Public Health of that country, to reply at the inaugural session to the address of His Excellency The President of the Republic of Guatemala, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, on behalf of the representatives to the IX Meeting of the Directing Council, VIII Meeting of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization.

Draft Agenda of the IX Meeting of the Directing Council

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft agenda of the IX Meeting of the Directing Council at its 28th and 29th Meeting, and approved it in the form it was submitted to the Council for consideration.

The resolutions adopted at the 29th Meeting appear in the Final Report of that meeting, which has been distributed together with the documents of the IX Meeting of the Directing Council.

Finally, I should like to express on behalf of Dr. Sánchez Vigil, Vice-Chairman of these meetings, and in my own name, our appreciation to the members of the Committee for the honor bestowed on us and for the valuable collaboration they have given, which greatly facilitated the work of the Executive Committee during the period covered by this report.