

# XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference

## XVIII Regional Committee Meeting



Washington, D. C., U.S.A.  
September-October 1966

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Provisional Agenda Item 4

CSP17/21 (Eng.)  
18 August 1966  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

A. Amendments proposed by the Government of the United States of America

The Director has the honor to report to the Pan American Sanitary Conference that on 15 July he received the following communication from the Government of the United States of America:



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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JUL 15 1966

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director  
Pan American Health Organization  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Horwitz:

At its 52nd Session the Executive Committee approved the report of the Working Party on the organization, structure and place of meetings of the governing bodies of the Pan American Health Organization, and transmitted it to the Directing Council (Resolution VIII). The Directing Council, at its 16th Session, in Resolutions 22-25 gave effect to the recommendations contained in the Working Party's Report with respect to the organization and place of meetings of the governing bodies. Among the other recommendations was the adoption of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference which had been proposed by the United States Government. The Directing Council took no action with respect to these proposals presumably because it is the Pan American Sanitary Conference itself which has authority to adopt its Rules of Procedure (Article VIII of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization).

The United States Government, therefore, in accordance with provisions of Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, requests the Director to include on the provisional agenda of the forthcoming Conference the proposed amendments to its Rules of Procedure which are contained in Document CE 52/13, Annex I, an appendix to Document CD 16/22, 12 August 1965.

Very sincerely yours,

William J. Stibravy  
Director  
Office of International  
Economic and Social Affairs

The proposed amendments referred to in this communication appear in the letter reproduced below and were incorporated at an earlier date in Document CE52/13, Annex 1.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1963

Dear Dr. Horwitz:

In reply to your letter of November 9, 1962 to the Secretary of State in regard to a study of pertinent rules and regulations with a view to simplifying the organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and clarifying its rules of procedure, I have the honor to submit on behalf of the United States Government the following observations:

With respect to clarification of the rules of procedure, I would invite your attention to a few imperfections and anomalies in the following rules which, it seems to us, should be corrected:

Rule 8 - The qualifying words "whenever possible" apply to the provisional agenda as well as to documentation. The provisional agenda should be made available to governments at least 30 days before the Conference; 60 days would be even better.

Rule 13 - This Rule or Rule 28 should be amended since the former limits the terms of reference of plenary sessions to matters of general interest and action on reports of committees. According to Rule 28, the establishment of committees is optional.

Rule 15 - Since all Delegations participating in the Conference have the right to vote, even if limited, in the case of certain Delegations, the phrase "with the right to vote" in this rule, which applies to the establishment of a quorum, is superfluous.

Rule 20 - Authorizing the President, or a Vice President while presiding, to appoint another member of his Delegation to act as the Delegate of his Government in plenary sessions implies that (1) only Chiefs of Delegation may be elected President and (2) that only Chiefs of Delegation may speak in plenary sessions. This is contrary to

established

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director,  
Pan American Health Organization,  
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established practices and an unnecessary restriction on the representation of governments.

Rule 22 - This rule does not take account of meetings of the Conference held at headquarters, which are provided for in Rule 2. The equivalent to this rule in the Rules in effect before their revision at the 16th Conference was applicable to last year's meeting of the Conference.

Rule 28 - (See Rule 13).

Rule 43 - If votes are equally divided, the motion, strictly speaking, should be regarded as "not adopted," not as "rejected." The requirement of a majority for a decision would apply to the rejection as well as to the adoption of a motion.

Rule 54 - The words "take account of" would be more accurate than "in conformity with." Article 52 of the WHO Constitution provides for the appointment of a Regional Director by the Executive Board of WHO in agreement with the Regional Committee, not for nomination by the Regional Committee.

Rule 46 - In 1961 when the revised text of the rules of the Directing Council were considered, the United States suggested the inclusion of language in this rule which would prohibit the use of a secret ballot when votes were taken on budgetary matters. It did not press for this amendment when it was pointed out that the use of the secret ballot in these instances would be contrary to established practice. Since rules have been introduced into the revised text to bring them into conformity with established practices (Rule 36, for example), Rule 46 might be amended for the same purpose.

As to simplification of the organization of the Conference and at the same time achieving a reduction in its costs, we would suggest for your consideration that the practice of establishing two main committees be abandoned or, if this does not appear to be desirable, that the two committees be scheduled to meet at different times. In this connection, it might be noted that the establishment of committees is optional under Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure.

It would appear to be possible to conduct all of the business of the Conference in plenary sessions, and if deemed advisable, in order to expedite the work of the Conference, to set up ad hoc committees or

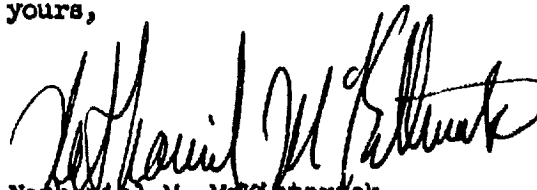
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working parties on particular questions. In addition to the reduction in cost of the Conference which would be realized, such an arrangement would have the further advantage of permitting those Members which are represented by a single delegate to be represented at all meetings.

At the 16th Conference most of the business was transacted either in the Committee on Technical Matters or in joint meetings of the two main committees. The Committee on Administrative, Financial and Legal Matters completed its agenda in a few hours. All the meetings, except the meeting of the Committee on Administrative, Financial and Legal Matters, which occurred at the same time as a meeting of the Committee on Technical Matters, could have been held in one room. Since arrangements had been made which would allow the two main committees to meet simultaneously, the result was that one room and the IBM equipment in that room were not utilized for the greater part of the session. Moreover, several interpreters were not required for the purpose for which they were employed except at the time of the meeting of the Committee on Administrative, Financial and Legal Matters.

Alternatively, in the event it is considered desirable to continue the practice of establishing two main committees, it is suggested that their meetings be scheduled for different times so that both committees might be accommodated in the same room.

Sincerely yours,



Nathaniel M. McKitterick  
Director  
Office of International  
Economic and Social Affairs

B. Proposed amendments consequential to the new Article 7 of the Constitution

At its XVI Meeting the Directing Council approved Resolution XXIV containing two amendments of the Constitution which have a direct bearing on Rules 1, 2, 3 and 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

These amendments deal with the place for holding the conference which henceforward will be the Headquarters of the Organization, except when the Conference itself or the Directing Council otherwise decides. The provisions of paragraphs A and B of Article 7 of the Constitution now read as follows:

Article 7. Meetings

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.

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.

The Director would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that, in order to adjust Rules 1, 2, 3 and 22 of the Rules of Procedure to the new Article 7 of the Constitution, it would be advisable to amend them as follows or in a similar way:

Present text

Rule 1. The Director of the Bureau shall convoke the Conference to meet at the time and place determined in conformity with Article 7, paragraph A, of the Constitution. Notices of convocation shall be sent not less than six months before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting to all Governments, and to organizations entitled to be represented at the Conference.

Rule 2. If for any reason the Conference cannot be held in the country chosen, the meeting shall take place at the Headquarters of the Bureau.

Rule 3. The inaugural plenary session shall be held at the place set by the Host Government in consultation with the Director of the Bureau.

Proposed text

Rule 1. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall convoke the Conference to meet at the time and place determined in conformity with Article 7 of the Constitution. Notices of convocation shall be sent not less than 3 months before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting to all Governments and to organizations entitled to be represented at the Conference.

Rule 2. If, whenever the provisions of Article 7, paragraph B of the Constitution, apply, the Conference cannot for any reason be held in the country chosen, the meeting shall take place at the Headquarters of the Organization.

Rule 3. Whenever the Conference meets elsewhere than at the Headquarters of the Organization, the inaugural plenary session shall be held at the place set by the Host Government in consultation with the Director of the Bureau.



Present text

Rule 22. In the event that, at the opening of the Conference, neither the President nor either of the Vice-Presidents elected at the preceding Conference is present, the President of the immediately preceding meeting of the Council or, in his absence, the head of the delegation of the Host Country, shall preside.

Proposed text

Rule 22. In the event that, at the opening of the Conference, neither the President nor either of the Vice-Presidents elected at the preceding Conference is present, the President of the immediately preceding meeting of the Council or, in his absence, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall preside. If the Chairman of the Executive Committee is not present, the presiding officer for the inaugural session shall, whenever the meeting is held at the Headquarters, be chosen by lot from among the heads of delegation, and whenever the Conference is held elsewhere than at Headquarters, the presiding officer at the inaugural session shall be the head of the delegation of the Host Country.



# XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference

## XVIII Regional Committee Meeting



Washington, D. C., U.S.A.  
September-October 1966

Provisional Agenda Item 4

CSP17/21 (Eng.)  
ADDENDUM I  
24 September 1966  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

The Director has the honor to transmit to the XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference the following letter received from the Government of the United States of America.

"September 21, 1966

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director  
Pan American Health Organization  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Horwitz:

In a letter of July 15, 1966, the United States Government requested you to place in the agenda of the forthcoming Pan American Sanitary Conference an item on amendments to the Rules of Procedure. This request, you will recall, was made in the light of action taken by the Executive Committee in its 52nd session in regard to amending the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

I am submitting herewith revised texts of several provisions of the Rules, which you may wish to circulate as an addendum.

Very sincerely yours,

Otis E. Mulliken  
Acting Director  
Office of International  
Economic and Social Affairs"

Present text

Rule 8. The provisional agenda and all available documents relating thereto shall, whenever possible, be sent to the Governments, and to organizations entitled to representation, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Copies of these documents shall be forwarded to national health authorities.

Rule 13. The plenary sessions shall be devoted to matters of general interest and to the discussion and approval of the reports of the various committees.

Rule 20. The President or a Vice-President while presiding shall not vote nor participate in debates but may appoint another member of his delegation to act as the delegate of his Government in plenary sessions, except when he is the sole delegate of his country, in which case he may vote.

Proposed text

Rule 8. The provisional agenda shall be sent to the Governments and to organizations entitled to representation at least sixty days prior to the meeting. Documents relating to the provisional agenda shall, whenever possible, be sent to Governments, with copies to national health authorities, at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Rule 13. The plenary sessions shall be devoted to matters of general interest and to discussion and approval of the reports of any committee which may be established by the Conference.

Rule 20. The President or a Vice-President while presiding shall not vote nor participate in debates unless he is the sole delegate of his country.

Present text

Rule 43. Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure provide otherwise. If the votes are equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 46. In addition to the cases expressly provided for elsewhere in these Rules, the Conference may vote on any matter by secret ballot if it has previously so decided by a majority of the delegations present and voting.

Rule 54. Acting as Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, and in conformity with Articles 49 and 52 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Conference shall submit to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization the name of the person so elected, for appointment as Regional Director.

Proposed text

Rule 43. Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative vote of the majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure provide otherwise. If the votes are equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as not adopted.

Rule 46. In addition to the cases expressly provided for elsewhere in these Rules, the Conference may vote on any matter, except budgetary matters, by a secret ballot if it has previously so decided by a majority of the delegations present and voting.

Rule 54. Acting as Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, and taking account of Articles 49 and 52 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Conference shall submit to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization the name of the person so elected, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 53, for appointment as Regional Director.