



XX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

XXX REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1978

Provisional Agenda Item 39

CSP20/24 (Eng.)

8 August 1978

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

OBSERVERS FROM SUBREGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. HIPOLITO UNANUE AGREEMENT

On 16 February 1978, Dr. Alfredo Lynch C., Executive Secretary of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, requested the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to examine the possibility of allowing the Agreement to designate an observer to attend the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization. In his reply to Dr. Lynch, the Director stated that such a decision was the prerogative of the Governing Bodies of the Organization. He therefore submitted the request to the 80th Meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration. (The texts of this correspondence appear in Annex I.)

In considering the request of the Executive Secretary of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, it should be borne in mind that there are other similar subregional organizations, such as the Conference of Ministers of Health of Central America and Panama and that of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean area; the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the River Plate Basin; CARICOM; and the Cartagena Agreement.

Furthermore, it should be noted that representatives of other intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system attend the World Health Assembly as observers; for example, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, the International Committee for Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the International Civil Protection Organization, the Economic Cooperation and Development Organization, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Bureau of the Colombo Plan for Technical Cooperation, and the International Office of Epizootics.

Finally, a further point to be taken into consideration is that PAHO/WHO has recognized the importance of subregional organizations in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) in the health sector, and has been increasing its cooperation with them in the area of both technical cooperation and secretariat support.

After considering the request of the Executive Secretary of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, the Executive Committee, at its 80th Meeting, adopted the following Resolution XXVIII:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having been informed of the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement that it be permitted to appoint a representative as Observer to the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Organization; and

Considering that, pursuant to Article 26, Chapter VII, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, it is for the Conference or the Directing Council to take decisions on requests of that nature,

RESOLVES:

1. To transmit to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, together with the comments made during the discussion in the Committee.
2. To recommend to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference that it give favorable consideration to the request of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement.

In compliance with that resolution, that part of the Summary Records of the 16th plenary session of the 80th Meeting of the Executive Committee containing the observations mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution is attached (Annex II).

Annexes

CSP20/24 (Eng.)
ANNEX I

CORRESPONDENCE

(TRANSLATION)

Lima, 16 February 1978

Ref.: HU-83-78

Dr. Hector R. Acuña
Director
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Acuña:

As you know, PAHO/WHO and the Hipólito Unanue Agreement have entered into a cooperation and support agreement "for the purpose of implementing those aspects of the resolutions of the meetings of Ministers of Health of the countries of the Andean Area that such decisions so require."

In order fully to achieve that purpose, it is clearly necessary to coordinate specified joint activities as much as possible and such coordination presupposes timely knowledge of the plans and programs of the two organizations and the advisability of periodic contact.

It is for these reasons that I am requesting you to consider the possibility of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement accrediting an observer to attend the meetings of the Governing Bodies of PAHO and such other meetings as you deem important for strengthening this cooperation.

Accept, sir, the expression of my highest consideration.

(signed)

Dr. Alfredo Lynch C.
Executive Director
Hipólito Unanue Agreement

(TRANSLATION)

LO-49/2

3 March 1978

Dear Dr. Lynch:

I refer to your letter HU-83-78 of 16 February 1978 in which you request consideration of the possibility of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement accrediting an observer to attend the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization as well as meetings of similar importance.

Since such a decision is the prerogative of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, I wish to inform you that I shall transmit your request to the Executive Committee of PAHO, whose next meeting will be held from 26 June to 7 July 1978.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Héctor R. Acuña
Director

Dr. Alfredo Lynch C.
Executive Secretary
Hipólito Unanue Agreement
P.O. Box 5170
Lima, Peru

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SIXTEENTH PLENARY SESSION, 80th MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Observers from Subregional Governmental Organizations

The Rapporteur read out the following proposed resolution:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having been informed of the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement that it be permitted to appoint a representative as Observer to the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Organization; and

Considering that, pursuant to Article 25, Chapter VII, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, it is for the Conference or the Directing Council to take decisions on requests of that nature,

RESOLVES:

To transmit to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement so that it may consider it, together with the comments made during the discussion in the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN submitted the proposed resolution to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Dr. VALLADARES (Venezuela) proposed that the operative part of the proposed resolution should read as follows: "1. To transmit to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, together with the observations made during the discussion in the Committee. 2. To recommend to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference that it grant the Hipólito Unanue Agreement and such subregional governmental organizations as request it the right to send a representative to the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Organization in the capacity of an observer." The purpose of the second paragraph was to inform other subregional organizations of the possibility of requesting that right.

Dr. ACUNA (Director) said that, in accordance with Article 26 of the Constitution, such decisions were the prerogative of the Conference or the Directing Council. Accordingly, he suggested that the recommendations be formulated in more general terms, to the effect, perhaps, that other requests be favorably considered.

Dr. VALLADARES (Venezuela) explained that his proposal was based on the assumption that the organizations would make such a request, in which case it recommended that their request be granted.

Dr. CHARLES (Bahamas) supported the suggestion made by the Representative of Venezuela concerning operative paragraph 2 and believed that it reflected the sense of the discussions of the previous day.

Dr. DUENAS (Colombia) was of the opinion that the Executive Committee should reserve the right to study such requests on a case by case basis and requested Dr. Valladares to reconsider the addition to the second paragraph of the operative part.

Dr. VALLADARES (Venezuela) emphasized that the purpose of his amendment was to inform subregional organizations of their right to ask permission to send an observer to the meetings of the Governing Bodies of PAHO.

Dr. GUZMAN (Observer, Chile) recalled that, during the discussion, the expenses which the attendance of observers would entail for the Organization had been mentioned. He agreed that the possibility of sending observers should be offered to other organizations that requested it but that that should not be done indiscriminately. He therefore associated himself with the observation of the Representative of Colombia.

Dr. CORRAL (Ecuador) did not believe that the presence of an observer from a subregional organization was going to entail substantial expenses. He did not agree with the observation of the Representative of Colombia because, when the matter had been discussed, the sense of the Committee was favorable to granting the request made. Consequently, he supported the proposal of the Representative of Venezuela.

Dr. ACUNA (Director) said that it was the function of the Executive Committee to examine each request received and to make a recommendation on it to the Conference, which would decide whether or not to accept it. Clearly, the members of the Committee were not opposed to recognizing any subregional organization at that time, but he believed that the impression should not be left that it had made an in-depth study of the matter and that there would be no objections or need in the future to examine any such request. If what was involved was to inform subregional intergovernmental organizations of the recommendation of the Executive Committee with respect to the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, a paragraph might be added to the operative part of the proposed resolution requesting the Director to inform the other organizations or to invite them to be represented by observers.

Dr. BICA (Brazil) said that he was in full agreement with the view expressed by the Representative of Colombia, especially in the light of the explanation given by the Director that each case should be treated individually.

Mr. BLACKETT (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the Executive Committee had been asked to consider a request from a particular organization and the proposed resolution should be limited to that request.

Dr. GUZMAN (Observer, Chile) explained that at no time had he wished to question the appropriateness of supporting the request of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement. In his opinion, a paragraph could be added to the operative part stating that the present authorization did not exclude the possibility of requests from other subregional organizations being considered.

Dr. DUENAS (Colombia) said that, when the Representative of Venezuela had spoken about the request of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, he had mentioned the outstanding work being done by that Agreement. When making a request perhaps other similar organizations could also submit a report on the work they had done, and that would help stimulate the other agencies.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking in his capacity as Representative of Paraguay, supported the proposal of the Representative of Brazil that subregional organizations should be encouraged to send representatives to the meetings, but he believed that the Committee should study the requests on a case by case basis.

Dr. BICA (Brazil) explained that he had only proposed that each case should be treated individually.

Dr. VALLADARES (Venezuela) said that, if it was decided that the proposed resolution should refer solely to the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, it should be entitled "Observer from the Hipólito Unanue Agreement," instead of "Observers from Subregional Governmental Organizations." It was very difficult to deny representation to subregional governmental organizations, and he therefore maintained the proposal he had made.

Dr. BICA (Brazil) agreed with the Representative of Venezuela that the admission of observers from other subregional governmental organizations was not being denied, because they had not requested such admission. If such a request were made and it were denied, then the Executive Committee would have to take a definite position.

The CHAIRMAN submitted the proposal of Dr. Valladares on the change in the title of the proposed resolution to the Committee for consideration.

Decisión: The proposed amendment was approved by six votes in favor, and three against.

The CHAIRMAN submitted to a vote the text of the amendment to the first operative paragraph proposed by the Representative of Venezuela, which read as follows: "To transmit to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference the request presented by the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, together with the observations made during the discussion in the Committee."

Decision: The proposed amendment was unanimously approved.

The CHAIRMAN submitted to a vote the text of the amendment to operative paragraph 2 proposed by the Representative of Venezuela, which read as follows: "To recommend to the XX Pan American Conference that it grant the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, and such subregional governmental organizations as request it, the right to send a representative as an observer to the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Organization."

Decision: The proposed amendment was rejected by five votes against, three in favor, and one abstention.

Dr. BICA (Brazil) noted that his proposal had already been approved and he had no other specific proposal to make.

Dr. ACUNA (Director) suggested that paragraph 2 of the operative part read as follows: "To recommend to the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference that it give favorable consideration to the request of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement.

Mr. CAREAU (Canada) supported the text proposed by the Director.

Dr. VALLADARES (Venezuela) also expressed agreement with the Director's suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN submitted to a vote the amendment supported by the Representatives of Canada and Venezuela.

Decision: The proposed amendment was unanimously approved.

The CHAIRMAN submitted to a vote the complete text of the proposed resolution.

Decision: The proposed resolution was unanimously approved.