



XXII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

XXXVIII REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 1986

Provisional Agenda Item 7.2

CSP22/7 (Eng.)
16 July 1986
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND PRIVILEGES FOR STATES REQUESTING AND OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS IN THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In consequence of the request presented by the Government of Portugal in June 1985 for observer status in the Pan American Health Organization and considering that the provisions established by the Directing Council in 1981 (Resolution CD28.R27) to govern this situation are very limiting and restrictive in respect of requests such as that of Portugal, in its 95th Meeting (June 1985) the Executive Committee instructed the Director to draw up new requirements and procedures to govern the granting to countries of observer status in PAHO.

In compliance with the foregoing, the Director submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration in its 97th Meeting (June 1986) the requested analysis (Document CE97/7, annexed), on the basis of which the Committee adopted Resolution XIV, as follows:

THE 97th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Taking account of the interest expressed by the Government of Portugal in establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and in obtaining observer status in the Organization;

Having regard to Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, which establishes the criteria for the granting of observer status in PAHO to non-American States having no territory in the Americas;

Considering that these criteria are extremely limiting and restrictive in respect of requests such as that of the Portuguese Government;

Cognizant of the very close historical and sociocultural ties that bind the Portuguese nation to the American Hemisphere; and

Having seen the report presented by the Director (Document CE97/7) establishing new requirements and procedures to govern the granting to countries of observer status in PAHO,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference the approval of a resolution along the following lines:

THE XXII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Taking account of the interest expressed by the Government of Portugal in establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and in obtaining observer status in the Organization;

Having regard to Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, which establishes the criteria for the granting of observer status in PAHO to non-American States having no territory in the Americas;

Considering that these criteria are extremely limiting and restrictive in respect of requests such as that of the Portuguese Government;

Cognizant of the very close historical and sociocultural ties that bind the Portuguese nation to the American Hemisphere; and

Having seen the report presented by the Director (Document CE97/7) establishing new requirements and procedures to govern the granting to countries of observer status in PAHO,

RESOLVES:

1. To rescind Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

2. To approve the following requirements, procedures and privileges for States requesting and obtaining observer status in PAHO:

A. Prerequisites

- a) The requesting State must have historical and cultural ties to the Region of the Americas;
- b) The requesting State must show interest in participating in and contributing to inter-American institutions;

- c) The requesting State must make a technical or financial contribution to PAHO's technical cooperation programs.

B. Processing Steps

- a) The requesting State must present its request at least 60 days in advance of the date set for the meeting of the Executive Committee to which it is to be presented, stating the reasons on which the request is based, as provided in paragraphs a), b) and c), above;
- b) The Executive Committee will consider the request in relation to the provisions of paragraphs a), b) and c), above, and make an appropriate recommendation to the Conference or Directing Council;
- c) The Conference or Directing Council, as appropriate, will decide whether the requesting State is to be granted observer status in PAHO.

C. Privileges

Countries granted observer status in PAHO shall enjoy the privileges of:

- a) Attending public sessions of the Governing Bodies and public sessions of the committees and working groups of those Governing Bodies, the costs of such attendance to be borne by the observer country;
- b) Participating, by leave of the Chairman, in the discussions of the Governing Bodies, but without the right to vote. They may not, however, make proposals of substance or procedural motions or requests, raise points of order, or impugn the decisions of the Chairman;
- c) Receiving documents prepared for the Governing Bodies and other technical and scientific publications of interest to the observer country;
- d) Establishing technical and financial cooperation relations with the Organization through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



97th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1986

Provisional Agenda Item 6.2

CE97/7 (Eng.)
25 April 1986
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REQUEST OF PORTUGAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In June 1985 the Government of Portugal presented a request for observer status in PAHO and, at the request of the Executive Committee, a special delegation from that country made a presentation to the 96th Meeting of the Committee in support of its request.

Because the provisions established by Resolution CD28.R27 (October 1981) governing this situation are restrictive and exclusory in cases such as the request of Portugal, the Executive Committee requested the Director to frame new criteria and procedures.

Accordingly, the Director submits for the approval of the Executive Committee new draft procedures and criteria that could be followed in considering requests such as the one presented by Portugal as well as a proposed resolution for its consideration.

REQUEST OF PORTUGAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In its 95th Meeting (June 1985) the Executive Committee received, and held preliminary discussions on, a request by the Government of Portugal for observer status in the Organization (Annex I). At that time the Executive Committee decided to postpone consideration of the matter pending the receipt of more complete information on the basis for the request.

To provide this information, the Government of Portugal sent a special delegation to the 96th Meeting of the Executive Committee in order to state its reasons in an oral presentation on 28 September 1985 (Annex II). Among other points made by him, the Representative of Portugal stressed considerations of sentiment and international comity and a desire to come yet closer to the countries of the Americas, to which his country is bound by historical ties and sociocultural affinity, and others of an essentially technical nature concerning cooperation, which could be mutually beneficial.

The outcome of the discussion of the matter was that, to facilitate the granting of observer status to countries in such special situations as that of Portugal, which has also expressed interest in participating in the Organization's activities more broadly than envisaged in Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (September 1981), the Executive Committee requested the Director to work out a procedure for revising the rules laid down in that resolution, which established the criteria now in effect for the granting of observer status to countries outside the Region.

In compliance with the foregoing, and with regard to PAHO as an autonomous, specialized inter-American agency, the Director submits for consideration by the Executive Committee the following requirements and procedures that could govern the granting by PAHO of observer status to countries outside the Region and having no territory in the Americas:

1. Prerequisites

- a) The requesting State must have historical and cultural ties to the Region of the Americas;
- b) The requesting State must show interest in participating in and contributing to inter-American institutions;
- c) The requesting State must make a technical or financial contribution to the technical cooperation programs of PAHO.

2. The following procedure is suggested:

- a) The requesting State would file its request at least 60 days in advance of the date set for the meeting of the Executive Committee to which it is to be presented, stating the reasons on which the request is based, as provided in paragraphs a), b) and c), above;
- b) The Executive Committee would consider the request in relation to the provisions of paragraphs a), b) and c), above, and make an appropriate recommendation to the Conference or Directing Council;
- c) The Conference or Directing Council, as appropriate, would decide whether the requesting State was to be granted observer status in PAHO.

3. Countries granted observer status in PAHO would enjoy the privileges of:

- a) Attending public sessions of the Governing Bodies and of public sessions of the committees and working groups of those Governing Bodies, the costs of such attendance to be borne by the observer country;
- b) Participating, by leave of the Chairman, in the discussions of the Governing Bodies, but without the right to vote; they could not, however, make proposals of substance, raise points of order, or impugn the decisions of the Chairman;
- c) Receiving documents prepared for the Governing Bodies and other technical and scientific publications of interest to the observer country;
- d) Establishing technical and financial cooperation relations with the Organization through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

If they meet with the Executive Committee's approval, these requirements could be embodied in a proposed resolution such as the following:

Proposed Resolution

REQUEST OF PORTUGAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

THE 97th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Taking account of the interest expressed by the Government of Portugal in establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and in obtaining observer status in the Organization;

Having regard to Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, which establishes the criteria for the granting of observer status in PAHO to non-American States having no territory in the Americas;

Considering that these criteria are extremely limiting and restrictive in respect of requests such as that of the Portuguese Government;

Cognizant of the very close historical and sociocultural ties that bind the Portuguese nation to the American Hemisphere; and

Having seen the report presented by the Director (Document CE97/7) establishing new requirements and procedures to govern the granting to countries of observer status in PAHO,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference the approval of a resolution along the following lines:

THE XXII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Taking account of the interest expressed by the Government of Portugal in establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and in obtaining observer status in the Organization;

Having regard to Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, which establishes the criteria for the granting of observer status in PAHO to non-American States having no territory in the Americas;

Considering that these criteria are extremely limiting and restrictive in respect of requests such as that of the Portuguese Government;

Cognizant of the very close historical and sociocultural ties that bind the Portuguese nation to the American Hemisphere; and

Having seen the report presented by the Director (Document CE97/7) establishing new requirements and procedures to govern the granting to countries of observer status in PAHO,

RESOLVES:

1. To rescind Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

2. To approve the following requirements, procedures and privileges for States requesting and obtaining observer status in PAHO:

A. Prerequisites

- a) The requesting State must have historical and cultural ties to the Region of the Americas;
- b) The requesting State must show interest in participating in and contributing to inter-American institutions;
- c) The requesting State must make a technical or financial contribution to PAHO's technical cooperation programs.

B. Processing Steps

- a) The requesting State must present its request at least 60 days in advance of the date set for the meeting of the Executive Committee to which it is to be presented, stating the reasons on which the request is based as provided in paragraphs a), b) and c), above;
- b) The Executive Committee will consider the request in relation to the provisions of paragraphs a), b) and c), above, and make an appropriate recommendation to the Conference or Directing Council;

- c) The Conference or Directing Council, as appropriate, will decide whether the requesting State is to be granted observer status in PAHO.

C. Privileges

Countries granted observer status in PAHO shall enjoy the privileges of:

- a) Attending public sessions of the Governing Bodies; and public sessions of the committees and working groups of those Governing Bodies, the costs of such attendance to be borne by the observer country;
- b) Participating, by leave of the Chairman, in the discussions of the Governing Bodies, but without the right to vote. They may not, however, make proposals of substance or procedural motions or requests, raise points of order, or impugn the decisions of the Chairman;
- c) Receiving documents prepared for the Governing Bodies and other technical and scientific publications of interest to the observer country;
- d) Establishing technical and financial cooperation relations with the Organization through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

ANNEX I

(TRANSLATION)

Ministry of Health

His Excellency
Dr. Carlyle G. Macedo, Director
WHO Regional Office for the Americas
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
525, 23rd Street, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037
U S A

Dear Sir:

In consideration of the principles upheld by the World Health Organization in the area of the promotion and protection of health both in its Headquarters and in the several Regional Offices, and bearing in mind the aims of health policy in Portugal, the Government of my Country attaches highest importance to the establishment of arrangements for direct cooperation with your Regional Office.

We deem it most helpful and appropriate to this purpose that your Regional Office authorize the admission of Portugal to observer status in PAHO, which would, under the relevant provisions, not only enable us to participate in meetings we regard as useful to our shared purposes, but also give us access to the documents distributed for them.

I look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you on this request and avail myself of the occasion to present to Your Excellency my most attentive regards.

/s/António Manuel Maldonado Gonetla
Minister of Health of Portugal



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

525 TWENTY-THIRD STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.
(TRANSLATION)

CABLE ADDRESS OFSANPAN

IN REPLY REFER TO ACO/090/85

TELEPHONE 861-3200

June 20, 1985

Sir:

I have received your recent letter conveying your Government's intention of establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and requesting that we authorize the admission of Portugal as an observer to the meetings of our Governing Bodies.

I welcome with great satisfaction the intention expressed by the Government of Portugal of collaborating directly with PAHO, and I hope that the necessary arrangements for doing this will be shortly established.

As for your request that Portugal be admitted as an observer to the meetings of our Governing Bodies, I refer you to operative paragraph 2 of Resolution CD28.R27 (copy attached), which states the requirements for the granting of the status of "Observer Country" in the following terms:

"To permit any such Member State to attend as an observer, with the right to speak but without the right to vote, at a public session of a Governing Body of PAHO during the deliberation of any matter of particular concern and unique relevance to that State, including a matter involving a financial or technical contribution to PAHO by that State, under conditions to be established by the Chairman of the meeting, upon the determination in advance by the Director of PASB after consultation with the Director-General of WHO that special circumstances exist which justify this participation, provided that the costs of participation are covered by the State concerned."

Dr. António Manuel Maldonado Gonelha
Minister of Health of Portugal
Avenida Joao Crisostomo No. 9
1000 Lisboa, Portugal

Moreover, as provided in operative paragraph 1 of the same Resolution, Portugal may attend, without the right to speak or vote, any public sessions of the Governing Bodies of PAHO.

The intention stated by your Government is, in my view, severely restricted by the content of that Resolution, which prompts me to submit for consideration by our Governing Bodies a fresh proposal to facilitate the granting of the status of Observer Country on terms and conditions less restrictive than those currently in effect.

It will be my pleasure to keep you informed on developments in this matter, and I avail myself of the occasion to reiterate to you the expressions of my highest esteem and consideration.

/s/Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Director

RESOLUTION XXVII

**Criteria for Granting Observer Status to
Nonregional Governments**

The Directing Council,

Bearing in mind the interest expressed at the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council in a review of the methods of receiving observers from non-American States having no territories within the Americas at meetings of the Governing Bodies of PAHO;

Having reviewed the study on this subject prepared by the Director (Document CD28/31); and

Having studied the procedures established by the World Health Organization to be followed regarding observers at meetings of the WHO Executive Board and at meetings of WHO Regional Committees,

Resolves:

To adopt the following policies regarding non-American Member States of the World Health Organization having no territories within the Americas:

1. To welcome any such Member State to attend, without the right to speak or vote, any public sessions of the Governing Bodies of PAHO.
2. To permit any such Member State to attend as an observer, with the right to speak but without the right to vote, at a public session of a Governing Body of PAHO during the deliberation of any matter of particular concern and unique relevance to that State, including a matter involving a financial or technical contribution to PAHO by that State, under conditions to be established by the Chairman of the meeting, upon the determination in advance by the Director of PASB after consultation with the Director-General of WHO that special circumstances exist which justify this participation, provided that the costs of participation are covered by the State concerned.
3. To apply these policies and procedures to any such Member State which may apply hereafter for observer status to meetings of the Governing Bodies.

*(Approved at the fourteenth plenary session,
30 September 1981)*



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

525 TWENTY-THIRD STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.
(TRANSLATION)

CABLE ADDRESS. OFSANPAN

TELEPHONE 861-3200

IN REPLY REFER TO: ACO/104/85

July 12, 1985

Sir:

As I advised you in my letter of 20 June, the Executive Committee of our Organization, in its recently concluded 95th Meeting, took note of the interest expressed by your Government in the granting to Portugal of Observer status in the meetings of our Governing Bodies.

The Executive Committee decided by consensus to postpone the consideration of your request till its next meeting in order to give your Government time to present more concrete information on the aspects of collaboration that are of interest to Portugal. It was also decided that it would be advisable for a representative of your Government to be present in that meeting in order to make a presentation on Portugal's request.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at our Headquarters in Washington, D.C., immediately following the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, which is convened to sit from 23 September to 2 October 1985. Because of the possibility of the Directing Council's concluding its proceedings ahead of schedule, I am unable to give you the exact date of the meeting in which the Executive Committee will consider Portugal's request, but I think it may take place between 28 September and 2 October.

I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate the expressions of my high esteem and consideration.

/s/Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Director

Dr. António Manuel Maldonado Gonelha
Minister of Health of Portugal
Avenida Joao Crisostomo No. 9
1000 Lisboa, Portugal

(TRANSLATION)

EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL
WASHINGTON

27 September 1985

Sir:

In reply to your kind letter of 12 July addressed to his Excellency the Minister of Health of Portugal, I reiterate the request of my country for the granting of Observer status to the Pan American Health Organization.

I append a copy of a communication prepared by Dr. Luís Magao, General Director of the Department of Health Studies and Planning in the Ministry of Health, which refers to the reasons for the Portuguese request.

In the hope that my country, whose historical bonds to the Americas are so strong, will be admitted during the present meeting of the Executive Committee to the status of observer in PAHO, I beg you to accept, Sir, the expression of my high consideration.

/s/Leonardo Mathias
Ambassador of Portugal

His Excellency
Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Director
Pan American Health Organization
525 Twenty-third Street
Washington, D.C.

ANNEX II

28 September 1985

Embassy of Portugal
Washington

MR. PRESIDENT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

For reasons of state that could not have been foreseen, the Minister of Health of Portugal, to his great regret, has found at the last minute that he is unable to attend this meeting of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to which he had hoped to explain the interest of our country in being admitted to Observer status in the Regional Committee for the Americas of the World Health Organization.

It has therefore fallen to me to explain to you the principal reasons for this request of Portugal to be granted the status of Observer Country in PAHO.

The desire of Portugal to join the Pan American Health Organization with the status of an Observer Country is grounded in a variety of factors: one of them, an emotional and sociocultural desire for international comity, for our country, through its Government and Health Ministry, wants to be more closely linked to the countries of the Americas; and others of a practical nature, based on essentially technical considerations, for Portugal is convinced that PAHO support would be highly effective in helping it pursue its current health programs, specifically in the area of primary health care.

I must tell you that one of Portugal's purposes in requesting admission to PAHO with Observer status is to learn from all the countries in the American Hemisphere lessons that it can apply in its own health programs.

However, I must also stress our desire to provide any collaboration that Portugal can offer, and which we believe may be of use to PAHO. Very helpful in this will be our community of language with Brazil, the easy understanding we enjoy with the other American countries, and other historical reasons and sociocultural affinities.

Portugal is at present in a state of dynamic change and is pursuing programs with one single objective--health--to be achieved both through the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. And it is not out of place to mention that in Portugal as in many countries the problem of prevention is bound up with that of the communicable diseases, nutrition and, necessarily, food.

However, there are other problems we will have to address in the future, and specifically entities that figure prominently in the morbidity and mortality of the countries in the Hemisphere, such as cancer, the cardiovascular diseases, accidents, etc.

Broadly speaking, the health situation in Portugal in recent years may be characterized as follows:

- the institutionalization and reinforcement of primary health care;
- development of the cooperation that has been established between Portugal and WHO;
- my country's wish to contribute to the implementation of some programs of cooperation with other member countries of that world organization, and specifically with Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Moreover, health in Portugal is approaching European levels, as can be easily seen from several statistical indicators, such as our demographic structure, mortality (general, infant, neonatal, and maternal), specific mortality, life expectancy at birth, the coverage of the country by health centers and hospitals, medical house calls, numbers of physicians and nursing personnel, etc.

I would also like to underscore that, since the restoration of democracy in Portugal, the last years have seen a sharp increase in public-sector expenditures for health, which have risen from 1.9% of GNP in 1973 to 4% in 1985.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the gratitude of the Portuguese Government for the mark of deference it will represent for our country to be admitted as an Observer to the proceedings of this Regional Committee of WHO, and to extend to its illustrious Director, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, my appreciation for the efforts he is making to this end; and I take the liberty of reaffirming to you the readiness and desire of the units of the Ministry of Health of Portugal for fruitful cooperation with the countries of the Region of the Americas in addressing our many health problems.

Thank you.