



XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference

XVIII Regional Committee Meeting



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ASSESSMENT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM OF UNDER-NUTRITION IN CHILDREN

Item proposed by the Government of Chile

Despite the general awareness of the magnitude of the problem of under-nutrition in children, few countries have been able to assess its true prevalence, especially in rural areas and shanty towns. The lack of this information is limiting the possibilities of obtaining, and of justifying quantitatively, the necessary sums required for combating this chronic scourge of our countries.

Groups of technicians and experts in this field, in which the Organization has taken an effective part, have already indicated simple and adequate means for carrying out mass studies to determine this prevalence. There is a need for systematic and properly planned studies in many regions and countries of the Continent, such as those for other problems affecting children.

The Government of Chile, being aware of the importance of such assessment, but recognizing that investigations on this scale must be carried out on a comparable basis in different countries, and that such studies call for special funds, submits to the Conference the following

RESOLUTION:

To congratulate the Organization on its active participation in studies on the prevalence of under-nutrition in children, on its own activities, and on its participation in those of other agencies and organizations interested in the problem;

To request the Director of the Bureau to convene, by such means as he deems appropriate, a group of experts to plan surveys of the prevalence of under-nutrition in children, including the funds required;

To request the Director that, within the possibilities of the Organization, he meets the requests of Member Countries for technical and financial assistance in carrying out investigations of this type.