



XV Pan American Sanitary Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico
September-October, 1958

X Meeting Regional Committee



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Topic 9: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Presented by Mr. Humberto Olivero (Guatemala), Chairman of the 33rd, 34th, and 35th Meetings of the Executive Committee.

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Pursuant to Article 8-C of the Constitution, I have the honor of informing the Pan American Sanitary Conference of the activities of the Executive Committee during the period September 1957 to September 1958, in which the Committee held its 33rd, 34th, and 35th Meetings.

The 33rd Meeting was held in Washington on 26 September 1957. Dr. Carlos Díaz Coller and Dr. Daniel Orellana, Representatives of Mexico and Venezuela, the two new Member Governments elected to the Committee by the Directing Council, were seated at this meeting. The meeting was also attended by the following representatives: Dr. Mario V. Guzman Galarza (Bolivia), Dr. Félix Hurtado (Cuba), Mr. Humberto Olivero and Dr. Orlando Aguilar (Guatemala), and Dr. Manuel A. Sánchez Vigil (Nicaragua). The Representative of Peru, also a member of the Committee, was not present. The following attended as observers: Dr. Luis Patiño Camargo (Colombia), Dr. Alberto Aguilar Rivas (El Salvador), Dr. Paul V. Ollé (France), Dr. N. H. Swellengrebel (Netherlands), Dr. Alberto Bissot, Jr. (Panama), Sir Joseph Harkness (United Kingdom), and Mr. Howard B. Calderwood (United States of America).

At the 33rd Meeting, I had the honor of being elected Chairman of the Committee for the period covered by this report. Dr. Manuel A. Sánchez Vigil, Representative of Nicaragua, was elected Vice-Chairman.

The following representatives attended the 34th Meeting, held in Washington from 15 to 20 May 1958: Dr. Jorge Doria Medina (Bolivia), Dr. Félix Hurtado (Cuba), Mr. Humberto Olivero (Guatemala), Dr. Carlos Díaz Coller (Mexico); Dr. Manuel A. Sánchez Vigil (Nicaragua), Dr. Jorge Estrella Ruiz (Peru), and Dr. Alejandro Príncipe (Venezuela). Mr. G. van Vloten (Netherlands) and Mr. Howard B. Calderwood, Dr. Arthur S. Osborne, Mr. Charles Sommer, and Mr. Simon N. Wilson (United States of America) attended the meeting as observers.

The 35th Meeting, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 17 and 18 September 1958, was attended by Dr. Félix Hurtado (Cuba), Mr. Humberto Olivero (Guatemala), Dr. Carlos Díaz Coller (Mexico), Dr. Manuel A. Sánchez Vigil (Nicaragua and Dr. Daniel Orellana and Dr. Alejandro Príncipe (Venezuela). The Representatives of Bolivia and Peru were not present. The following attended as observers: Dr. Paul V. Ollé (France), Dr. N. H. Swellengrebel and Dr. Edwin van der Kuyp (Netherlands), Dr. Alberto Bissot, Jr. (Panama), Dr. Horace P. S. Gillette and Dr. F. R. S. Kellett (United Kingdom), and Mr. Charles Sommers and Mr. Simon N. Wilson (United States).

Dr. Myron E. Wegman, Secretary General of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary of the 33rd Meeting. Dr. Fred L. Soper, Director of the Bureau, served as Secretary of the 34th and 35th Meetings, in accordance with the amendment to Article 6 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure approved at the 34th Meeting.

The 33rd and 34rd Meetings were also attended by officers of the World Health Organization; Dr. M. G. Candau, Director-General of WHO, was present at the 34th Meeting. Mr. O. H. Salzman, Jr., represented the Organization of American States at the latter meeting.

At the three meetings over which I had the honor of presiding a study was made of matters of the utmost importance to the Organization, not only with respect to the content and orientation of its program within the guidelines set by the Directing Council but also to the adoption of methods of work to ensure maximum efficiency in the development of its activities. All members of the Committee gave their valuable cooperation in the study of matters that arose during the year.

The main topics studied by the Committee were the following:

Proposed Program and Budget for 1959

Pursuant to Article 12-C of the PASO Constitution, it is the function of the Executive Committee to prepare the proposed budget, with the cooperation of the Director. This is undoubtedly the Committee's foremost task, one that requires study not only of the health needs of the Hemisphere but also of the financial and technical resources available to meet those needs.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, for 1959, a budget for PASO in the amount of \$3,300,000, representing an increase of \$300,000 over that approved for the preceding year.

Taking into account the higher costs resulting from the decrease in the purchasing power of money, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Conference study the possibility of increasing the budget in a

proportion that will compensate for such a decrease. On the other hand, the Committee decided to present Official Document No. 21 to the Conference, for information, so that it would have available the background material on the subject.

The discussion on the budget gave rise to a proposed constitutional amendment, to which reference is made later in this report.

Proposed Program and Budget of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for 1960

The Committee, at its 35th Meeting, studied the above proposed program and budget, which amounted to \$1,687,400, exclusive of the amount of \$33,410 estimated for organizational meetings. Of this amount, \$1,223,000 are related to field activities. The Committee approved the proposed program and budget and agreed to present it to the XV Conference with the recommendation that it approve its transmittal to the WHO Director-General so that he may take it into consideration when preparing the budget of the World Health Organization for 1960.

Provisional Draft of the Proposed Program and Budget of PASO for 1960

At the same meeting the Committee approved this provisional draft to serve as the basis for the preparation of the 1960 proposed program and budget of PASO, which will be submitted to the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration and to the XI Meeting of the Directing Council in 1959 for final approval. The provisional draft proposes a budget in the amount of \$4,100,000, and the Committee agreed to recommend that the Conference take note of the said draft.

Method of Presentation of Budget

At the 34th Meeting, the Committee studied the proposal of the Director to modify the presentation of some of the object-of-expenditure items listed in all project activities in Part III of the budget document, and to revise the first two columnar headings in the "Summary of Programs by Major Expense" tables. These changes, which do not affect the fundamental principles in the presentation of the budget as recommended by the governing bodies, would permit the grouping of the several allowance and statutory-travel items and the resulting segregation of "Duty Travel." This would permit a better review of projects by the governing bodies and result it is hoped, in some reduction in the size and cost of the budget document. The Committee approved these changes, to be made effective with the presentation of the 1960 budget of the Organization.

Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor
for 1957

These reports were examined at the 34th Meeting of the Committee, which resolved to take note thereof and transmit them to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations

A. Report of the Subcommittee

The Executive Committee, at its 34th Meeting, took note of the report of the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations with respect to repairs made in the headquarters buildings and those proposed.

B. Membership of the Subcommittee

At its 33rd Meeting, the Executive Committee suggested the advisability of designating new members to the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations, inasmuch as two of its members, the Dominican Republic and the United States, were no longer on the Executive Committee. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to postpone this topic until the 34th Meeting. At that meeting, the Committee, after studying the matter from very different points of view, agreed to designate the Representatives of Mexico and Venezuela, along with the Representative of Guatemala, to serve as members of the Subcommittee, and expressed its appreciation to the Representatives of the Dominican Republic and the United States for the valuable services they rendered to the Subcommittee.

Emergency Revolving Fund

The Executive Committee, at its 34th Meeting, resolved to take note of the report presented by the Director on the use of the Emergency Revolving Fund.

Conditions of Employment and Amendments to the Staff Rules

At the 34th Meeting, The Executive Committee studied with interest the document presented by the Director on new conditions of employment. The Committee resolved to recommend to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference that it approve the document presented by the Director as a statement of basic principles to guide the development of an improved system of personnel administration; and to recommend to the Conference that it authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate with the Executive Board of the World Health Organization for the acceptance of these principles and their implementation through the adoption of revised Staff Rules and Regulations based thereon.

At the same meeting, the Committee resolved to confirm the amendments to the Staff Rules proposed by the Director of the PASB to conform to similar amendments to the Staff Rules of the World Health Organization that had already entered into effect.

A similar resolution was adopted at the 35th Meeting, confirming some changes made by the Director in the Staff Rules to facilitate the interpretation of the rules that implemented recommendations of the United Nations Salary Review Committee, as well as to adapt certain aspects of the Staff Rules of PASB to those of WHO.

Amendments to the PASO Constitution

At its 34th Meeting the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the XV Conference several amendments to the Constitution.

One of those refers to the use of the word "Health" instead of "Sanitary" in the name of the Organization. The new proposal, affecting Articles 1, 2-A, 3, 19-B, and 21-A, would more accurately reflect the functions of the Organization in the broad field of health, and would thereby promote better understanding of its activities by the public in general.

Another of the amendments concerns the titles of senior officers of the Organization. Those used at present are ambiguous and do not reflect accurately the functions and activities of those officers. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend to the Conference the study of various amendments to articles of the Constitution. Should these be approved, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau would hereafter have the title of Director of the Pan American Health Organization; and the titles of the two senior officers next in rank to the Director would be Deputy Director and Assistant Director, respectively (in Spanish "Subdirector" and "Subdirector Adjunto"). In addition to these amendments affecting Articles 4-E, 18-A, 4-B, 8-B, 8-C, 9-D, 10-B, 10-C, 12-A, 12-C, 14-A, 18-C, 20, 24-A, and 18-B, a proposal was made that the following sentence be added at the beginning of Article 17: "The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is the General Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization."

Another amendment was proposed for the purpose of adapting Article 15 of the Constitution to the procedure approved by the Executive Committee at its 29th Meeting, whereby the term of office of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman extends for the period between two meetings of the Directing Council.

Article 12-C of the Constitution, which refers to the functions of the Executive Committee, states that the latter is to "prepare with the cooperation of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau a proposed budget for consideration by the Council." In view of the

fact that the said article limits the Director's functions in the presentation of the budget to cooperation with the Executive Committee, and taking into account the advisability that he be enabled, for his part, to present the proposed budget that he deems most appropriate in each instance, the Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Conference that it amend Article 12-C as follows: "To consider and submit to the Conference or to the Council the proposed program and budget prepared by the Director, with such recommendations as it deems advisable." In the event this recommendation is approved, a corresponding change would have to be made in the Financial Regulations of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee

At its 34th Meeting, the Executive Committee, after studying the comments and suggestions made by the Department of International Law of the Pan American Union with respect to amendments that it would be advisable to introduce in the Committee's Rules of Procedure, resolved to amend Articles 1, 6, 10, 12, 13, 17, 26, 28, and 32 of those Rules.

Technical Discussions

At its 33rd Meeting, the Executive Committee selected for the Technical Discussions at the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference the topic "The Prevention of Accidents in Childhood," deeming this to be a subject of great importance requiring greater study in the Americas. It was also agreed to prepare draft rules for the Technical Discussions; these draft rules were studied at the 34th Meeting, and it was resolved to submit them to the XV Conference for consideration.

Arrangements for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference

The Executive Committee studied, at its 34th Meeting, the preliminary draft agenda prepared by the Director for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference. The text was unanimously approved with certain changes and additions, as it appears in Document CSP15/1, Rev. 2. The Director was authorized to add any new topics proposed by the Member Governments and by organizations entitled to propose topics.

The Committee took note of the arrangements made for organizing the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, and expressed its appreciation to the Government of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Organizing Committee for their cooperation in the arrangements for the Conference.

The arrangements for the XV Conference were completed at the 35th Meeting, which examined matters pertaining to the proposed Rules of Procedure, the proposed program of sessions, the rules for Technical Discussions, the designation of the chief of delegation to

reply to the addresses at the inaugural session, and the election of the Provisional President and the President of the Conference. As regards the last point, the Executive Committee, bearing in mind the valuable contribution of Dr. Guillermo Arbona as Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and as Executive Chairman of the Organizing Committee which cooperated with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in the preparations for the XV Conference, agreed unanimously and by acclamation to propose to the Conference that he be elected President.

Appointment of Assistant Director of the Bureau

Pursuant to Article 17-B of the Constitution, it is incumbent on the Executive Committee to approve the appointment of the Assistant Director of the Bureau, on the proposal of the Director. During 1958 Dr. Carlos Luis González who had resigned from the Bureau to occupy a high position in his country, was again proposed by the Director to occupy the post of Assistant Director, a proposal that received the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of the members of the Committee.

In presenting to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference this brief summary of the activities of the Executive Committee during the past year, I have attempted to express and interpret as closely as possible the principal resolutions and decisions of the Committee. I am proud to state that, although there were differences of opinion in certain cases, this only indicates the earnestness and interest with which the Committee performed the task entrusted to it.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee for having elected me Chairman and for so competently and enthusiastically facilitating my task. I wish also to express my thanks for the collaboration and assistance received at all times from the Director and staff of the Bureau, which contributed to making the work of this governing body profitable, I trust, for the development of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the improvement of health conditions in the Americas.