



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION
VI MEETING

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
IV MEETING



*Havana, Cuba
15-24 September 1952*

CD6/76 (Eng.)
23 September 1952
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY DR. FELIX HURTADO, OBSERVER FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRICS ASSOCIATION AND THE PAN
AMERICAN MEDICAL CONFEDERATION, REGARDING THE DISCUS-
SION ON THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY CODE

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen:

I should like first to express my thanks for the invitation to take part in the discussions of this distinguished body.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Additional Protocol to the Pan American Sanitary Code under discussion today, it would be well to recall the original proposal concerning this question, going back to the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in Ciudad Trujillo in 1950. You will remember that it was learned from the report of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, that a draft document had been prepared by a committee of experts in Geneva, which included, among other recommendations, the abrogation of the Pan American Sanitary Code. You will remember, too, that it was the Delegation of Cuba that called attention to this outrageous action, recommending that the Conference instruct the Director of the Bureau to inform Geneva that the Pan American Sanitary Organization would oppose such an attempt to abrogate the Code.

The delegations of American nations at the IV World Health Assembly formed a united front in defense of the Pan American Sanitary Code and, by employing parliamentary strategy, we succeeded in preventing the adoption of the original motion and in securing the categorical declaration appearing in the International [Sanitary] Regulations, to the effect that "The Pan American Sanitary Code remains in force...." We were, of course, the first to support the technical changes made and in this respect we had the special collaboration of Dr. Fred L. Söper Director of the Bureau, and of another distinguished official of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Bica, a specialist in this matter.

Later, in Washington, we advocated the desirability and necessity of an additional protocol, because the Pan American Sanitary Code adopted in Havana is a closed instrument, which failed to include a flexible clause that would facilitate the adoption of the necessary amendments, especially in such changeable factors as epidemiological questions. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the Code is, at the same time, an inter-American political instrument having the character of an international treaty ratified by all the American countries. Cuba was the depositary of the instruments of ratification.

The alarm expressed by some Representatives with regard to the last part of the text of the proposed additional protocol is unjustified; it is simply the formal fulfillment of the precepts established in the Charter of the Organization of American States. Since the Charter of this Organization entered into force, the Pan American Union has been the Central Office where all instruments relating to agreements among the countries of America should be deposited; in other words, it is the notary for our international agreements.

Finally, Gentlemen, I would feel great satisfaction at seeing at this Meeting of the Directing Council a repetition of the situation that occurred at the last Meeting in Washington, where, by an overwhelming majority, the Representatives of the Governments agreed to present the Additional Protocol we have before us today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman; thank you Gentlemen.