



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

VII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

V Meeting



Washington, D. C.
9-22 October 1953

CD7/16 (Eng.)
2 September 1953
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Topic 12: REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Director-General of the World Health Organization by virtue of Resolution WHA6.44 of the Sixth World Health Assembly, requests that the Regional Committee of the Americas study and comment on the two proposals contained in Resolution EB11.R50 of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Board. Briefly, the two proposals contained therein concern (a) reimbursement of travelling expenses of representatives of Member States and Associate Members to sessions of regional committees, and (b) sessions of regional committees at Regional Headquarters.

The resolutions are as follows:

Sixth World Health Assembly

"WHA6.44

The Sixth World Health Assembly

- I. 1. REAFFIRMS the principles which prompted the establishment of regionalization;
2. FINDS that they have been justified in practice;
3. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the development of the organizational structure and functioning of the regional offices;
4. REQUESTS the Executive Board periodically to review and report on the progress and problems of regionalization;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to provide, through the staff at headquarters, guidance to the regional offices on specific programmes, assistance in long-term planning, and control and coordination of regional programmes to ensure that they conform to the principles and policies established by the Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Director-General;

6. RECOMMENDS the interchange of staff of the Secretariat among regions and between headquarters and regions;
7. NOTES that variations in constitution, objectives and organization produce wide differences in the nature and extent of decentralization in the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies, and that such differences often impede effective co-operation in field programmes;
8. REQUESTS the Director-General to bring this problem to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to provide the utmost co-operation in finding a solution; and
9. EXPRESSES its belief that the undoubted advantages of regionalization can be fully achieved only by continued mutual confidence and co-operation among all those to whom the Constitution and the Health Assembly have delegated responsibility and authority.

"II. Realizing the difficulties of foreseeing at this time the amounts of budgetary contributions and the financial state of the Organization in 1955,

In view of the fact that the authorization of the payment of travel expenses by WHO for members of regional committees would not go into effect until 1955, according to Part II of the resolution proposed by the Executive Board (EB11.R50),

DECIDES to invite regional committees to study and comment on this proposal and to postpone its consideration until the Seventh World Health Assembly, and further

"III. DECIDES that Part III of the proposed resolution, on the question of holding sessions of regional committees at regional headquarters, shall also be referred for comment to the regional committees and further considered at the Seventh World Health Assembly."

Parts II and III of the resolution of the Eleventh Executive Board are as follows:

"EB11.R50

"II. The Executive Board,

Noting that the geographical pattern of certain regions imposes heavy costs on some Member States and Associate Members in sending representatives to meetings of the regional committees,

1. RESCINDS its previous decisions to the effect that the reimbursement of the transportation expenses of representatives of Member States attending the second and subsequent meetings of regional committees shall not be authorized;^{35/} and
2. RECOMMENDS to the Sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Executive Board on regionalization;

Noting that the heavy costs entailed in sending representatives to attend meetings of regional committees tend to deter Member States and Associate Members from sending such representatives, and

Considering that it is most important and desirable that all Member States and Associate Members be enabled to participate in such meetings,

1. AUTHORIZES the reimbursement of each Member State and each Associate Member for the actual travelling expenses of one representative to not more than one session a year of the regional committee, the maximum reimbursement to be restricted to the equivalent of first class return accommodation by recognized public transport via an approved route from the seat of the central administration of the Member State or Associate Member to the place of the meeting, and not to include the payment of subsistence, except where this is included as an integral part of the regular posted schedule for first-class accommodation for recognized public transport;
2. DECIDES that this authorization shall become effective in 1955;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to include in his annual budget estimates, beginning with the year 1955, appropriate provision under the appropriation section for regional committees to cover such expenditures.

"III. The Executive Board,

Considering the increased expenditure entailed by holding sessions of regional committees elsewhere than at regional headquarters,

RECOMMENDS to the Sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixth World Health Assembly,

Noting that the holding of sessions of regional committees at centres other than the regional headquarters entails increased costs to the Organization;

Considering the desirability of limiting such costs wherever possible,

1. INVITES the co-operation of regional committees to this end; and
2. SUGGESTS that regional committees give consideration to the possibility of holding sessions at regional headquarters every alternate year."

The holding of sessions of the Regional Committee at Regional Headquarters every alternate year has been the established practice in the Region; therefore, Part III of Resolution EB11.R50 has already been complied with.

The comments of the Regional Committee are requested on Part II of the resolution of the Executive Board (EB11.R50), so that they may be transmitted for the consideration of the Seventh World Health Assembly.

For the information of the Regional Committee, the following cost estimates are presented. The cities indicated were chosen for costing because of their geographic location. In the case of a Regional Committee Meeting in Washington, D. C., the estimated cost is \$10,022; should it be held in Bogotá, Colombia, or Buenos Aires, Argentina, the costs would be \$7,343 or \$14,402, respectively.

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

VII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

V Meeting



Washington, D. C.
9-22 October 1953

CD7/16 (Eng.)
ADDENDUM I
8 October 1953
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 12: REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee at its 20th Meeting adopted the following resolution (Document CE20/12, Rev. 1, page 15) with regard to this item on the agenda:

Resolution VI

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

HAVING EXAMINED Documents CE20/3 and CD7/16 on the question of the reimbursement of travel expenses of representatives to the meetings of the Regional Committees,

RESOLVES:

To transmit to the Directing Council Document CD7/16 and the information submitted by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau on this matter.

The information referred to in Resolution VI appears in the Provisional Précis minutes of the Second Plenary session of the 20th Meeting of the Executive Committee (Document CE20/10, page 11) and reads as follows:

"Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) said that he had received information from Dr. Candau, Director-General of the World Health Organization, on reimbursement of travelling expenses of Representatives to Regional Committee meetings. He added that Dr. Candau reported that the Regional Committees of Europe, Africa, and the Western Pacific have voted against the proposal. The Regional Committee of Southeast Asia voted for the measure, provided that it did not mean any reduction in the project program. It is evident that the amounts allocated to the reimbursement of travelling expenses cannot be used for programs. This information was given in response to the request at yesterday's session for additional data on the opinions expressed by other regional organizations."