



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

X Meeting

Washington, D. C.
September 1957

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

IX MEETING



CD10/13 (Eng.)
24 July 1957
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Topic 32: EXPANDED PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Resolution XVII of the 31st Meeting of the Executive Committee of PASO

The Executive Committee, at its 31st Meeting, discussed the problems encountered by the public health services in a number of countries as a result of the country program planning system established by UN-ECOSOC at its Eighteenth Session, July 1954, under which governments are responsible for determining, within a country planning target figure, the proportion of Technical Assistance funds for projects in which each UN specialized agency is cooperating.

On this topic, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XVII for consideration by the Directing Council, as follows:

"The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Inter-American Committee of Presidential Representatives has listed among the main problems of the Hemisphere those relating to public health, so that it is therefore to be hoped that the governments will give special attention to public health programs by providing the funds needed to carry them out;

Considering the fact that the Directing Council adopted at its VII Meeting Resolution XVI, in which it is stated that "it is considered advantageous for the public health programs for the Americas to be concentrated in the American agency created especially for that purpose, namely, the Pan American Sanitary Organization, which also acts as a regional organization of the World Health Organization"; and

Considering that the Directing Council, at its IX Meeting, approved a broad resolution on Technical Assistance in relation to public health activities, making reference to policies and methods that should be reaffirmed,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the X Meeting of the Directing Council that it invite the Member Governments of the Organization to give suitable instructions to their representatives in the United Nations with a view to promoting an adequate revision of the decisions of ECOSOC relating to the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, in order that the contributions therefrom for public health programs in the Americas may be made through the Pan American Sanitary Organization in its dual capacity as inter-American specialized organization of the Organization of American States and regional organization of the World Health Organization for the Western Hemisphere."

B. Local Costs under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance

The Director-General of the World Health Organization has requested that this topic be brought to the attention of the Regional Committees of the WHO.

In connection with this question, the WHO Executive Board at its Nineteenth Session adopted Resolution EB19.R48, once more reiterating its view that the requirement under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance that governments contribute to the local subsistence costs of international personnel engaged on Technical Assistance projects should be removed, and requested the Director-General again to convey its opinion, and that of the World Health Assembly, to the Technical Assistance Board and the Technical Assistance Committee. The Tenth World Health Assembly, in Resolution WHA10.19, concurred in the Executive Board's views.

In accordance with the decisions of the Board and the Assembly, the Director-General conveyed their opinion to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who reported thereon to the Technical Assistance Committee. A number of members of the Technical Assistance Committee, at the meetings of that Committee held in Geneva in June/July 1957 (Twenty-fourth Session of ECOSOC), displayed considerable interest in the proposal of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly that the Technical Assistance Program no longer requires Member Governments to contribute toward local costs of international staff. The Committee decided to postpone a decision on the matter, pending further study, until its session in the summer of 1958.

In order to prepare for the Technical Assistance Committee discussions in 1958, ministries of health should be aware of the fact that for the first time there may be a possibility of the Technical Assistance Committee's accepting the position that the World Health Organization has for some years adopted on the question of local subsistence costs. For that reason, this subject is being considered at each of the Regional Committee meetings, so that their attitudes on the subject may be conveyed to the members of the Technical Assistance Committee from each Region.

The Regional Committee may wish to consider the adoption of a resolution urging the governments in the Region represented on the Technical Assistance Committee to see that their representatives to the 1958 summer session of the Technical Assistance Committee are fully aware of the position of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly and, if possible, that they support that position in the Technical Assistance Committee.

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ADDENDUM I
9 September 1957
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Topic 32: EXPANDED PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

System of Allocation of Funds under the Expanded Program
of Technical Assistance

With regard to the country program planning system of the United Nations Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, to which reference is made in Part A of Document CD10/13 (Resolution XVII of the 31st Meeting of the Executive Committee), the Director-General of the World Health Organization has requested that the following information be brought to the attention of the Regional Committee:

1. Introduction

By Resolution 542B, II (XVIII)^{1/}, of 29 July 1954, the Economic and Social Council instituted the procedure for the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance which has come to be known as "country programming". As a part of that procedure "country target figures, including agency sub-totals for each of the participating organizations^{2/}, derived from their activities during the preceding year, shall be communicated to the respective governments. Governments shall, however, be at liberty to present their requests without being bound by these sub-totals."

The proposal was made by one of the participating organizations to the summer 1956 session of the Technical Assistance Committee that this part of the country programming procedure should be revised to eliminate the provision of information on agency sub-totals to governments, but TAC did not take action on that proposal.

2. Study to be conducted by TAB

The same proposal was then made by the same agency to the Technical Assistance Board at its 39th session in July 1957. The Technical Assistance Board took the following decision:

^{1/} Reproduced in Off. Rec. 60, page 85
^{2/} Underscoring supplied

"After an exchange of views on the experience with the programming procedures, it was agreed that the Technical Assistance Board Secretariat would send a questionnaire to the Technical Assistance Board Field Representatives with a view to collecting information on the way in which the country programming procedure adopted by the Board was operating and on problems arising in this connection. The participating Organizations would, if they so wished, follow a similar course with their Field Representatives. The results of these inquiries would be used for further consideration of the planning procedure for future years, including the question of the use of sub-totals within the country target amounts."

It is expected that the Resident Representatives of TAB will be approaching the Technical Assistance program coordinating authorities in each country to obtain their comments on the country programming procedures, particularly the agency sub-totals. It is felt that the Regional Committee should consider the matter, since agency sub-totals for WHO are initially derived from projects which have been requested by the countries, and discussed between the health ministries and the Regional Director.