



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

X Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



IX Meeting

Washington, D. C.
September 1957

CD10/28 (Eng.)
14 September 1957
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 8: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Presented by Dr. Félix Hurtado (Cuba), Chairman of the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Meetings of the Executive Committee.

Pursuant to Article 8-C of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, I have the honor to submit the annual report on the activities of the Executive Committee during the period September 1956 to September 1957, in which the Committee held its 30th, 31st, and 32nd Meetings.

The 30th Meeting was held on 27 September 1956 at Antigua Guatemala, at the close of the IX Meeting of the Directing Council. The Representatives of Guatemala and Perú, the two new Member Governments elected to the Committee, were seated at this meeting. All members of the Committee were present, with the exception of the Representatives of Bolivia and Colombia.

The 31st Meeting, held in Washington from 12 to 19 June 1957, was attended by the Representatives of Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Perú, and by observers for Argentina, France, the Netherlands, the United States, and the Organization of American States.

The 32nd Meeting, held in Washington from 10 to 12 September 1957, was attended by all members of the Committee.

Pursuant to Resolution X of the 29th Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau served as Secretary of the 30th Meeting. At the 31st and 32nd Meetings, this function was performed by the Secretary General of the Bureau.

At the three meetings over which I had the honor to preside, in accordance with Resolution I of the 29th Meeting of the Committee, detailed studies were made of many matters of importance to the activities of the Organization, and it is my opinion that these meetings were most fruitful.

All members of the Committee collaborated effectively in examining at length the problems brought up for discussion, as well as the over-all activities of the Organization.

The following are the principal topics examined by the Committee:

Proposed Program and Budget for 1958

The Committee's foremost task during the year was, as is customary, the preparation, in cooperation with the Director of the Bureau, of the proposed program and budget of the Organization, which was submitted to the Directing Council for consideration.

For 1958 the Committee recommended for PASO a budget of \$3,191,520, representing an increase of \$791,520 over that of the preceding year, with assessments on Member States amounting to \$3,100,000. The Committee examined in detail the budget estimates and the proposed increases, totaling \$191,520 over the provisional draft budget presented to the IX Meeting of the Directing Council in September 1956. This rise is due to increased operating costs in the PASB and to increased staff and field requirements.

In approving the 1958 proposed program and budget, the Committee instructed the Director to present it to the Directing Council in a single document which would contain also the 1959 proposals for the WHO Region of the Americas and the provisional draft of the 1959 proposals for PASO, the latter two for presentation to the 32nd Meeting of the Executive Committee for review before their transmittal to the X Meeting of the Directing Council.

The Committee also approved a change in the form of presentation of the budget documents, with a view to establishing a clearer distinction between operations financed with funds of the regular PASO budget and other funds administered by PASB, and those financed with WHO and Technical Assistance funds.

During the budget discussions, the Committee was informed that the Inter-American Committee of Presidential Representatives, at its meeting in May 1957, drew up recommendations on nutrition programs and on programs for malaria eradication and for intensification of the control and eradication of communicable diseases of social significance, but it did not specifically recommend the appropriation of funds for these activities, which means that the PASO will have to depend on its own funds for the execution of these activities.

Proposed Program and Budget of the WHO for the Region of the Americas for 1959

The Committee, at its 32nd Meeting, examined the above proposed program and budget, amounting to a total of \$1,599,364. The tentative ceiling set for this Region by the WHO Director-General for 1959 is \$1,602,412, of which \$1,145,000 relates to field activities. The Committee approved this proposed program and budget for transmittal to the Directing Council, recommending that the Council authorize its transmittal to the WHO Director-General, so that he may take it into consideration when preparing the WHO budget for 1959.

Provisional Draft of the Program and Budget of PASO for 1959

At the same meeting the Committee, after a detailed study, approved the above provisional draft to serve as the basis for the preparation of the 1959 proposed program and budget of PASO, which will be submitted to the 34th Meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration and to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference for final approval. The provisional draft proposes a budget in the amount of \$4,000,000, representing an increase of \$808,480 over the budget for 1958. The Committee agreed to propose that the Directing Council take note of the said draft.

Expanded Program of Technical Assistance

The Committee, at its 31st Meeting, studied the problems arising from the new Technical Assistance system under which it is the governments themselves that distribute the total TA funds they receive among the various branches of their public administration. In this matter, the Committee recommended that the Directing Council invite the Member Governments 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 coming from that body 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.

Malaria Eradication

In the course of the 31st Meeting, the Committee had the opportunity to hear a report on the status of the malaria eradication campaign in the Americas, presented by the Chief of the Bureau's Malaria Eradication Office.

The Committee also studied a general plan proposed by the Director for PASO's participation in the malaria eradication campaign during the

period 1957-1965, and recommended that the Council approve that plan. According to estimates made by the Bureau, the total effort in the continent-wide malaria eradication campaign will cost \$144,406,370. An amount of \$40,039,997, is estimated for the total international portion of the hemisphere-wide campaign, or 27.7 per cent of the entire estimated cost. Of this latter figure, the UNICEF Executive Board has approved, in principle, contributions of \$14,234,047 and it is anticipated that this body will contribute an additional \$5,534,853.

The Executive Committee also expressed its gratitude to the Governments of the Dominican Republic, the United States, and Venezuela for their contributions to the PASO Special Malaria Eradication Fund, and it accepted the Director's suggestion that in future the Bureau prepare a special document on the utilization of this Special Fund, to appear each year as an annex to the PASO program and budget.

Conditions of Employment and Other Personnel Matters

At its 30th and 31st Meetings, the Executive Committee confirmed a series of amendments to the Staff Rules, as presented by the Director. Among them were several important changes that had been approved by the United Nations General Assembly and by the WHO Executive Board, whose effect was to equalize conditions of employment of regular and project staff, but which created certain differences between the conditions of employment of the headquarters staff and the field personnel. With respect to this matter, the Director presented to the 32nd Meeting of the Executive Committee a detailed report together with a statement of basic principles for the development of better conditions of employment for international public health personnel. The Committee agreed to forward the document to the Directing Council for information and study and to recommend that it authorize the Director of the Bureau to negotiate with the Director-General of the WHO for the acceptance of the statement of principles that may be approved by the Directing Council and for the implementation of those principles through the adoption of revised Staff Regulations and Rules based thereon.

The Committee also took note, at its 31st Meeting, of the progress report on the study of salaries and other compensations offered to public health workers in the Americas, a study that was entrusted to the Director by the IX Meeting of the Directing Council.

Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee

At its 31st Meeting, the Committee amended Article 30 of its Rules of Procedure for the purpose of reducing the costs of its meetings. This change consisted in eliminating the précis minutes of plenary sessions of

the Committee and preparing instead an expanded Final Report containing, in addition to the preamble, a brief summary of the working document and of the discussion held on each topic, together with the resolution adopted thereon. This system was put into practice at the last two Committee meetings, with satisfactory results.

Financial and Administrative Matters

At its 31st Meeting, the Committee examined the reports of the Director on the Emergency Revolving Fund and the Working Capital Fund, and recommended to the Directing Council that the level of the Working Capital Fund be established at 60 per cent of the approved budgets of the Organization for 1957 and subsequent years, and that the Director of the Bureau be authorized to meet the necessary increases by the transfer of surplus funds that may result in 1957 and subsequent fiscal years. The Committee also authorized a transfer of credits between parts of the 1957 PASO budget, and took note of the report presented by the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations. It also introduced certain amendments in the Financial Regulations of the PASB, made possible by the better administrative control over outstanding commitments of the Organization.

Finally, the Committee approved the transmittal of the financial report of the Director and the report of the External Auditor to the Directing Council, recommending to Member Governments that quotas in arrears be paid in the immediate future and that the quotas for 1957 be paid during this year.

Tenth Anniversary of the Constitution of PASO

Considering the fact that this is the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, the Committee, at its 31st Meeting, resolved to hold a formal session to commemorate this event. Addresses will be delivered by the Director of the Bureau, a representative of the OAS, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and the Director-General of WHO has also been invited to speak at the ceremony.

Draft Agenda of the X Meeting of the Directing Council

At its 31st Meeting, the Committee examined and approved the draft agenda of the X Meeting of the Directing Council, which was submitted to that body for consideration.

Other Matters

In the course of these three meetings the Committee examined, in addition to the topics mentioned, certain other matters on which resolutions were adopted. Among them were those relating to the fellowship

program, the report on the registration of drugs and related problems, and the Pan American Zoonoses Center.

In conclusion, I should like to express my most sincere appreciation to the members of the Committee for the honor bestowed on me and for the constant and valuable collaboration they have given, which has enabled the Committee to perform its work effectively during the year in which I have had the honor to preside over its deliberations.

I wish also to express special acknowledgment of the efficient way in which all the personnel of the Bureau have contributed to the Committee's work -- from the Director and the senior officers to the other members of the staff, including stenographers, typists, and simultaneous interpreters.