

ORGANIZACIÓN SANITARIA PANAMERICANA  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

Washington, D. C.  
August 24, 1949

CD3.L-9

THIRD MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL  
- REGIONAL COMMITTEE, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION -

LIMA, PERU  
October 6-12, 1949

TOPIC XII. PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCES OF NATIONAL  
DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

BACKGROUND

At the Second Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, held in Mexico City, during October 1948, the Delegations of Panama and Peru submitted a draft resolution in regard to this subject, based on which, the Directing Council, in Item 10, Chapter II of its Final Act, adopted the following

"RESOLUTION:

10. To direct the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization that it take up immediately a study of the objectives of future Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health so that these may be devoted to study in toto and in situ of the progress achieved in the field of public health in the country where the respective meeting is held.

This study should take into account the desirability of holding simultaneous annual meetings of National Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, and should be communicated to the national health authorities six months before the next meeting, for its consideration and incorporation, if approved, as a resolution of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization."

This matter, having been submitted to the Executive Committee at its Sixth Meeting held in Mexico City, October 1948, the following resolution was agreed upon:

"THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, upon consideration of Title II, Paragraph 10, of the Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Directing Council,

RESOLVES:

1. To place the study relating to the Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health on the agenda of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee.

2. To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to request, at least six months in advance of the Third Meeting of the Directing Council, the opinion of the national health authorities concerning the advisability of holding simultaneous annual meetings of the National Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

In compliance with the provisions in paragraph two, above, the following despatch was sent to the Member Governments of the Organization, in order that their Delegates to the III Meeting of the Directing Council might take with them the necessary instructions from their respective Governments so that they might be able to discuss and make final decision on the various opinions which have been expressed on this subject:

"Dear Mr. Minister:

July 18, 1949.

In compliance with a Resolution approved at the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, held in Mexico in October, 1948, I invite your attention to the matter of holding, annually, simultaneous meetings of the National Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

In regard to this matter, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution at its Seventh Meeting, held in Washington, D. C. in May, 1949:

"WHEREAS:

There are differences of opinion regarding the procedure for organizing the periodic meetings of the Directors of Health;

The Pan American Sanitary Organization provides at present other opportunities for frequent contact among the heads of the Departments of Health in the different countries;

These meetings or "conferences" have been held pursuant to a recommendation of an inter-American conference, which has not been modified by any subsequent Pan American Conference; and

The Executive Committee, in its last Meeting, instructed the Director of the Bureau to consult with the Member Governments on the advisability of holding simultaneous annual meetings of the Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

To entrust the study of this matter to the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization at its Third Meeting, with the suggestion that it be submitted for final decision to the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, scheduled to meet next year in Guatemala City."

Inasmuch as this matter will be included in the Agenda for the Third Meeting of the Directing Council, to be held next October, it is suggested that the representative of the United States be informed of the opinion of your Government regarding those Meetings, in order that he may be able to present it in the discussion.

SUMMARY

The answers received from the various countries did not specify the opinion of the Governments in this regard, and the

Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau merely includes the above data as a working document for the Directing Council.

Fred L. Soper  
Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau