

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XX Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXIII Meeting



Washington, D.C.
September-October 1971

Provisional Agenda Item 38

CD20/25 (Eng.)
31 August 1971
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH

This year saw the end of a decade since the signature of the Charter of Punta del Este, which has been a powerful incentive for the countries of the Americas to increase their efforts to accelerate economic and social development.

Resolution A.2 of the Charter of Punta del Este established the major health goals which the Ministers of Health of the Americas discussed at the meeting held in Washington, D.C., in April 1963, and which served as a basis both for the policy of the Pan American Health Organization and for its programs during the decade.

While many of the health goals originally established at Punta del Este have been fully achieved, others have been achieved only in part. It therefore now seems an appropriate time for an appraisal of the progress made and the difficulties encountered during the period, and for the establishment for the next decade of health goals, that take into account the changes that have occurred in the countries and the advances they have made.

At its 66th Meeting, the Executive Committee approved Resolution XXI (Annex I) which requested that the Director "urge upon the Ministers of Health of the Continent the desirability of revising and updating the health goals for the decade 1971-1980 in the light of past experience," and in accordance "with the economic and social development of the Continent."

In compliance with that Resolution, the Director sent the Ministers of Health the attached letter in July, requesting their opinion on the desirability of holding a further Meeting of Ministers next year to draw up plans for action in the health field in the next decade.

Annexes

66TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION XXI

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Considering that ten years have elapsed since the promulgation of the Charter of Punta del Este which established the goals to be achieved by the health sector in the decade 1961-1970;

Bearing in mind that those goals have been a valuable stimulus to the health activities undertaken by the Governments of the Americas, in the implementation of the program of work prepared by the First Meeting of Ministers of Health; and

Taking into account that the influence of health activities on the economic and social development of the Americas is undeniable but that the initial goals need to be revised,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Director that he urge upon the Ministers of Health of the Continent, the desirability of revising and updating the health goals for the decade 1971-1980 in the light of past experience.
2. To recommend to the Directing Council that it give favorable consideration to the convening of a meeting of Ministers of Health for the purpose of considering and proposing new health goals consonant with the economic and social development of the Continent.

(Approved at the seventeenth plenary session,
16 July 1971)



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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CABLE ADDRESS: OFSANPAN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PER/CONF/CL-16-71

TELEPHONE 223-4700

27 July 1971

Sir,

The period assigned to the Ten-year Public Health Program of the Charter of Punta del Este, contained in Resolution A.2 of that document, will end in August of this year. Our Organization is preparing the fourth evaluation of that program on the basis of information furnished by the Governments of the Continent. We are convinced that the study of this information will show that, taking into account various indicators, substantial progress has been made, although all the goals agreed upon have not been achieved.

The question therefore arises whether the Governments should devote themselves in this decade to completing the unfinished task or should review the whole program in the light of the experience gained. This review would go far beyond direct indices of mortality and morbidity and might include the establishment of new objectives for existing problems and the incorporation of others that have emerged in the last ten years and for which science and technology has provided effective approaches.

The Executive Committee at its 66th Meeting dealt with this important question and made its views known in Resolution XXI, a copy of which I attach.

Resolution XXI recommends that the goals for the decade 1971-1980 be reviewed and brought up to date and that new goals consonant with the economic and social development of the Continent be proposed. This would be done at a special meeting of Ministers of Health, which might be organized like the other two meetings held in the decade now ending. The Directing Council, at its XX Meeting, which will begin at the Headquarters on 27 September 1971, will make a decision on this matter, whose importance need not be emphasized.

Please accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Horwitz,
Director