



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXI Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXIV Meeting



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Agenda Item 29

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN FRONTIER ZONES

(Item proposed by the Government of Argentina)

One of the most important health problems that exists in the Americas is that of the diseases, particularly of a communicable nature, which develop in bioecological regions spanning the frontiers between two or more countries.

The control or eradication of a considerable number of diseases calls for synchronized, coordinated measures, implemented and financed simultaneously by the countries involved, in order to achieve concrete objectives at a smaller cost.

Diseases recognize no frontiers and are not stopped by boundary marks. At present, frontier sanitary agreements can be classified into the following categories: some are carried out, others partly so, others exist only on paper pending better times, and in most cases they do not exist at all.

This meeting has entered into a commitment to develop certain activities and attain certain goals, and to do so within the next ten years, but emphasis needs to be laid on the development of coordinated activities in regions with common health and development interests which pertain to two or more countries. Accordingly the nations of America propose:

1. To request the assistance of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in ensuring that countries which have common health problems on their frontiers are invited to study them jointly and develop co-ordinated activities, the necessary financial assistance for their control being, where possible, provided, or the programs being financed jointly by the interested parties.

2. That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau endeavour to establish machinery for financing or self-financing depending on the type of disease or problem, in accordance with the agreements subscribed to by the countries which are affected and which so request.

3. That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau suggest to the Ministries of Health that, through the Bureau, they urge upon their respective Governments the establishment of groups within the health sector whose specific function will be to give priority care of this kind in their respective frontier regions.

4. With the implementation of these suggestions it might be possible for a start to be made on solving not only health problems, but also the socio-economic and cultural problems which affect human population groups, generally left uncared for, by promoting a true ecological balance in the areas concerned.

An understanding among the countries based on solidarity, fraternity and mutual respect, with HEALTH as the common denominator, would open up encouraging prospects for more secure relationships of friendship and understanding among the people of America.

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