

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXIII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



XXVII Meeting

Washington, D.C.
Septiembre-October 1975

Provisional Agenda Item 7

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Submitted by Dr. Roberto Pereda Chávez (Cuba), Chairman of the Executive Committee)

I have the honor of submitting to the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council a report on the 73rd and 74th Meetings of the Executive Committee.

The 73rd Meeting was held in Washington, D.C., at the Headquarters of the Organization, on 10 October 1974. The Representatives of Bolivia, Jamaica, and the United States of America, the three new Members elected by the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference on the expiry of the terms of office of Barbados, Canada, and El Salvador, attended the meeting. The Committee elected its new officers, as follows:

Chairman:	Dr. Roberto Pereda Chávez	Cuba
Vice-Chairman	Mr. Basil B. Powell	Jamaica
Rapporteur:	Dr. Luis D. Marcial	Mexico

Pursuant to its short agenda, the Committee studied the resolutions of the Conference of interest to it. Bolivia was elected a member of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration. It was decided to postpone consideration of the item relating to the functions of the Executive Committee until the 74th Meeting, as a new Director of PASB had been elected by the Conference.

The 74th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held from 23 June through 2 July 1975, also at the Headquarters of the Organization. It was attended by the Representatives of all the Members of the Committee, i.e., Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States of America. The Government of France was represented by an Observer. Each Member Country on the Committee sent one or more Representatives, which made for both complete and interesting discussions and sound and useful decisions.

The Officers were the following:

Chairman:	Dr. Roberto Pereda Chávez	Cuba
Vice-Chairman <u>pro tempore</u> :	Dr. Kenneth A. McNeill	Jamaica
Rapporteur:	Dr. Luis D. Marcial	Mexico
Secretary <u>ex officio</u> :	Dr. Héctor R. Acuña	Director, PASB

The Committee held 15 plenary sessions and a closing session. It adopted 41 resolutions, a record number. Many of these resolutions will be submitted to this Directing Council for action or information.

The items on the Agenda gave rise to lengthy discussions marked by penetrating analyses, enthusiasm and, on occasion, heated debate. The decisions and recommendations of the Committee constitute very useful pointers for the Governing Bodies in charting the policy to be followed by the Director and the Secretariat, for the benefit of the Member Governments and the people they must serve.

Foremost among the items dealt with was an in-depth analysis of the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates for 1976, to which nine sessions of the Meeting were devoted. The Executive Committee prepared a resolution, recommending that the Directing Council approve the draft presented. Mr. Chairman, when this important item is dealt with at the meeting, I shall be very pleased to summarize the main features of the discussions of the Committee on the Program and Budget as a whole and on each of its chapters.

Another major item of discussion was that on the functions of the Executive Committee. Echoing opinions expressed at earlier meetings of the Governing Bodies, the new Director suggested that the Committee play a more active and dynamic role in interpreting the views and recommendations of its meetings to the Directing Council or the Conference.

As a result of its deliberations, the Committee adopted Resolution XL, the text of which appears in Document CD23/15 in the volume of documents distributed to each Representative. As a result of that decision, the representation of the Executive Committee to this XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council has been strengthened; the Chairman of the Executive Committee was designated to represent the Committee at this meeting, together with two other representatives.

The Committee also approved a number of other resolutions of considerable importance which I shall only mention in this report, leaving my comments on them for the time when they are discussed by the Council. They deal with epidemiologic surveillance, enteric diseases, malaria, meningitis, the immunization programs, and public health laboratories. These resolutions call attention to general and specific problems and recommend that certain actions be taken both by the governments and the Director and the Bureau.

Also of fundamental importance are the recommendations on total health coverage, International Women's Year, development of human resources, maintenance of health care facilities, chronic non-communicable diseases, and the execution of the Program of PAHO.

The Committee examined in some detail the work of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, as part of its periodic review of the activities of the several Centers included in the Organization's program.

Last but by no means least, a thorough and spirited debate took place on a series of proposed amendments to the Staff Rules, in particular those dealing with the rights and benefits of General Service staff recruited from outside the local area. This complicated question, the result for the most part of earlier procedural errors, gave rise to a prolonged discussion and the adoption of Resolution XXXVII which approved the proposal of the Director to grant international benefits to General Service staff recruited earlier or in the future outside the local area. With respect to this subject and others with which this meeting of the Directing Council will deal, we shall be pleased to explain, whenever necessary and with the permission of the Chairman, the positions taken and the views expressed at its most recent by the Executive Committee.