

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXIX Meeting

Washington, D.C.  
September-October 1983

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXXV Meeting



INDEXED

16019

Provisional Agenda Item 8

CD29/5 (Eng.)  
25 August 1983  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Presented by Ms. Lea Guido of Nicaragua, Chairman of the Executive Committee)

Article 9.C of the Constitution of PAHO, on the functions of the Directing Council, provides that the Council is to review the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee. In order that this constitutional procedure may be accomplished, the following report is presented on the work done by the Executive Committee during the period between October 1982 and September 1983, in which it held its 89th and 90th Meetings.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN  
AND THE DIRECTOR OF PAHO

Immediately on my becoming the Chairman of the Executive Committee, a concrete program was established for communication, consultation and exchanges of ideas and views with the Office of the Director of PAHO as a practical means of keeping better informed on the problems presented by the Member Countries and the Director's proposed responses to them. It was also taken into consideration that the Proposed Program and Budget of PAHO for the biennium 1984-1985 should be prepared to reflect, on the one hand, a coordination of programs with the Seventh General Program of Work of WHO, to be set in motion in 1984, and, on the other hand, the incorporation into the structure of that program and budget of the conceptual basis of PAHO's new mission, consisting in the management of scientific knowledge, the mobilization and utilization of country and international resources, and contributing to the establishment of peace, understanding and solidarity among all peoples.

In this setting, the following activities were carried on. The first working meeting with the Director elect of PAHO, Dr. Guerra de Macedo, was held in Managua from 7 to 9 December 1982 to discuss the central points for construction of the program and budget for 1984-1985,

the lines of policy of the Organization's mission, and relations between WHO and PAHO. At PAHO/WHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., a second working meeting was held on 31 January and 1 February 1983 in which the Chairman was given the relevant information on the total amount of the budget for the biennium, and the significance of the 15.5 per cent increase for meeting the increase in costs and an inflation estimated at 14.4 per cent, which leaves only 1.1 per cent for the expansion of programs.

A third working meeting was held at Headquarters on 18, 19 and 20 April to review the entire program and budget for 1984-1985 drawn up by the Office of the Director and the format of its presentation, and to assess its compliance with the resolutions of the Governing Bodies.

The working approach maintained during the reporting period is, I feel, highly significant and salutary for the establishment of increasingly close ties between the Organization's Governing Bodies and its Direction. We look forward to continued work on these lines for the benefit of the Member Countries of the Pan American Health Organization.

#### 89th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 89th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 28 September 1982 in the Headquarters building in Washington, D.C. In the single session held, the Committee was joined by the Representatives of Argentina, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Uruguay, and by observers from Canada, Chile, Peru and Venezuela.

I had the signal honor of being elected Chairman, together with Mr. Luis Alberto Givogre, of Uruguay, who was elected Vice Chairman, and Mr. José Antonio Pagés Piñeiro, of Cuba, as Rapporteur. As always, we were assisted in our proceedings by Dr. Héctor R. Acuña, Secretary ex officio of the Committee and the outgoing Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The Committee took note of the resolutions of interest to it that had been adopted in the just concluded XXI Pan American Sanitary Conference, XXXIV Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas; designated Ecuador member of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration in substitution of Guyana, whose term as a member of the Executive Committee had expired; named Panama a member of the Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in substitution of Chile, which had ceased to be a member of the Committee; and designated Argentina and Jamaica members of the Subcommittee on Long-Term Planning and Programming in substitution of Chile and Mexico, whose terms of office on the Executive Committee had expired.

In its 89th Meeting the Executive Committee also approved a resolution confirming adoption of the text of Staff Rule 610.5, as presented by the Director (Document CE88/9), with effect as from 1 January 1982, thereby preserving the uniformity of conditions of employment in PASB and WHO.

#### 90th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 90th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Headquarters building in Washington, D.C., from 22 to 30 June 1983.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of all the countries members of the Committee, namely Argentina, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, United States of America, and Uruguay. Also present at the sessions were observers from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela, and for the Government of Spain.

Other observers represented the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR).

As in other years, the observers participated actively in the discussions and made a constructive contribution to the work of the Executive Committee.

The Meeting began on 22 June 1983, and its first action was to elect Dr. Armando López Scavino (Uruguay) Vice Chairman pro tempore in the absence of the Vice Chairman, Mr. Luis Givogre (Uruguay).

The Agenda (Item 2) was adopted unanimously in the first session.

Item 3 of the Agenda, Report of the Director on Changes in the Structure of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, provoked a lively discussion in which the new Director's ideas on how to adjust the administrative and functional structure of PASB, tie it in to the Plan of Action, and make it more responsive to the needs of the countries were presented. The Representatives and Observers took the floor many times. It may be said in conclusion that the Director regards the administrative structure not as the solution to the problems but as a working tool with the flexibility to adapt to changing situations without ever losing sight of the suggestions of the Governing Bodies. All the Representatives of Member Governments and Observers announced their intention of cooperating fully with the new Administration.

Item 4 of the Agenda, Study of the Functions of the Area Offices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was the subject of a lucid presentation by Dr. Acha in the second plenary session. The study went back to the establishment of the Area Offices in 1951, and covered the Offices of Areas I, II, III, IV and VI, that is, those of Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru and Argentina, but not that of Area V, which is in effect a Country Representative's Office covering only Brazil, or the Caribbean Program Coordination Office, which serves six countries to which no other representatives have been sent. It became apparent in the discussion that all Members favored elimination of the Area Offices as from 1 January 1984, and their replacement with Country Representatives' Offices, which would require a revision and negotiation of other basic agreements with the current host countries of Area Offices. This view was embodied in Resolution I, approved in the seventh plenary session. It recommends to the Directing Council that that action be taken.

The Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions (Item 5 of the Agenda) was the subject of a brief discussion in which accounts were given of the difficulties confronting some countries that were behind in their contributions, and the efforts they were making to settle their arrears. In its seventh plenary session the Executive Committee approved Resolution II urging the Governments to pay their quotas as early as possible in the year they are due so that the financial burden of the Organization's program could be spread fairly among all the Members.

In connection with the Interim Financial Report of the Director for 1982 (Item 6 of the Agenda), which refers only to transactions in the first year of the 1982-1983 biennium, the Secretariat gave detailed explanations of a variety of questions raised by the representatives on such matters as exchange losses caused by the strengthening of the dollar, and the possibilities of using the probable surplus of Miscellaneous Income at the close of 1983 to reduce the contributions of the countries.

It was concluded that the Organization was in satisfactory financial condition. In consequence, in its seventh plenary session the Executive Committee approved Resolution III taking note of the Report and transmitting it to the Directing Council.

The study of the Distribution of the Financial Resources of PAHO (Item 7 of the Agenda) had been carried out in compliance with a mandate issued in Resolution XVII of the 88th Meeting of the Executive Committee and reiterated in Resolution XIV of the XXI Pan American Sanitary Conference. The study supplied all manner of details, such as the historical background, the legal aspects, a comparison with the policies of other international agencies, and the host of variables which it had been endeavored to take<sup>a</sup> into account in order to rationalize the allocation of those funds, such as, for example, population, gross national product, infant mortality, and the absorptive capacity of the countries, which would also be balanced with other more subjective criteria.

The study comes to the conclusion that infant mortality and population are proper factors to consider in determining authorized levels in the allocation of budgetary funds.

The ensuing debate brought out the difficulty and complexity of the problem of distributing these funds because, as the Director himself pointed out, it is in practice impossible to capture in mathematical parameters the real-life social situations in which problems arise and to which the funds are to be applied.

The outcome, Resolution IV, approved in the seventh plenary session, in which the Executive Committee recommends that the Directing Council urge the Director to take into account the recommendations contained in the study when drawing up the country programs for the 1986-1987 biennium, and to reexamine this question periodically in the light of the different and changing circumstances within the Region; the Director is also asked to report on the impact of this study on the distribution of the resources contained in the budget.

On this subject, the Observer for Peru noted that PAHO should collaborate with the countries in the organization and strengthening of mechanisms for coordinating the administration of external cooperation.

Consideration of the Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1984-1985 (Item 8 of the Agenda) is unquestionably one of the Executive Committee's most important functions. In its 90th Meeting the Executive Committee gave the entire fourth, fifth and sixth plenary sessions, and part of the seventh, to the discussion of this item.

The Budget was examined in its entirety and from different points of view, and presentations of the different aspects by the Secretariat alternated with periods of questioning by the Representatives and Observers of the Governments and answers by Dr. Guerra de Macedo and his associates.

First, the Director gave a general introduction of the Program Budget, followed by Mr. Milam, who discussed the format of the Budget, and Dr. Acha and Dr. Ochoa, who talked about the different programs. A discussion was then opened on the details of the budget country by country, of the Regional Programs established at Headquarters, and of the Regional Programs established in the field, on aspects of the CPS Programs and Area Offices, and on matters relating to the program of the Centers.

The Director then made several presentations in connection with the Technical and Administrative Direction, the Governing Bodies, the Increase to Assets, the Program Budget by Organizational Structure and based on the structure of the Plan of Action, post analysis, sources of funds, and abbreviations.

Those present asked many questions, and the discussion was lengthy and interesting. There was appreciation for the loose-leaf format of the budget document, which made it easier to make changes before it was presented to the Directing Council by simply replacing a few sheets without having to republish the entire volume. On the score of such adjustments, it was urged that it should be possible for any real changes in the program budget proposed by the Executive Committee in its examination of that document to be incorporated in it before it is presented to the Directing Council. On this point the Director cited as an example the possibility of having another \$2 million in Miscellaneous Income by September.

Finally, Resolution VIII was approved in the ninth plenary session. The Representative of the United States of America had previously proposed deletion of the recommendation of a specific total amount (operative paragraph 2), but his motion failed to have the support of the other members of the Committee. Thus, Resolution VIII recommends to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council that it approve the Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1984-1985 with an Effective Working Budget of \$104,320,000, and that this appropriation be financed by assessments to Member and Participating Countries and by \$4,800,000 in Miscellaneous Income. The Director is urged to continue refining the proposals contained in Official Document 187, taking into account the recommendations of the Executive Committee before they are presented to the Directing Council.

The Report of the Subcommittee on the Governor Shepherd Building (Item 9 of the Agenda) was discussed by the Executive Committee in closed session at the beginning of the eleventh plenary. The Executive Committee expressed agreement with the recommendation that the Secretariat pursue the negotiations for development of the Governor Shepherd site.

Item 10 of the Agenda, Amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was presented by Mr. Barahona, Acting Chief of Administration, in the seventh plenary session. The Staff Association also made a presentation of its views on this matter. All participating speakers firmly supported the proposed amendments, and in the same session the Executive Committee approved Resolution V making for uniformity of conditions of employment of PASB and WHO staff by confirming the amendments proposed by the Director, introducing an end-of-service grant with effect from 1 July 1983, and authorizing the Director to make the necessary changes in Staff Rule 1230.2, with effect from 1 January 1984, in the event that the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council eliminates the Area Offices as recommended in Resolution I of the 90th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Item 11 of the Agenda, Dates of the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXV Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, generated a brief discussion in which the speakers accepted the dates proposed by the Secretariat, but insisted that every effort should be made to shorten the meetings of the Governing Bodies. These two views were reflected in Resolution IX approved in the ninth plenary session, and in which the Executive Committee authorizes the Director to convoke the XXIX Meeting from 26 September to 7 October 1983 and urges the Directing Council to seek suitable ways of shortening the meetings.

The Provisional Agenda of the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXV Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas (Item 12 of the Agenda) was approved by the Executive Committee in its seventh plenary session through Resolution VI, after the addition of an item on The Role of Nursing Personnel in Primary Health Care, proposed by the Observer for Canada.

In relation to Item 13 of the Agenda, Representation of the Executive Committee at the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXV Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, the Committee appointed Dr. Oscar González Carrizo (Argentina) to assist the Chairman in reporting to the Directing Council on the work done by the Committee during the year. Drs. Carmen Bowen-Wright (Jamaica) and Fidel Endara Cedeño (Ecuador) were elected as alternate representatives.

In making the Selection of the Topic for the Technical Discussions to be Held in 1985 during the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXVII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas (Item 14 of the Agenda) during its eighth plenary session, the Executive Committee was unanimous in its choice of the topic "Worker's Health." Accordingly, in the ninth plenary session the Committee approved Resolution X recommending to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council that it select this topic if the Executive Committee's proposal under Item 18 of the Agenda to hold Technical Discussions only in even years, in which there are no proposed biennial budgets to be approved, is not approved.

The matter of the PAHO Award for Administration, 1983 (Item 15 of the Agenda) was considered by the Executive Committee in its tenth plenary session. Seven candidates had been presented by the Governments of five countries. The Award Committee, PAHO Award for Administration, 1983, consisted of Drs. Oscar González Carrizo (Argentina), Eduardo Rodríguez (Ecuador), and Amiro Pérez Mera (Dominican Republic), who served as Chairman. The Award Committee bestowed the Award on Dr. Arnaldo Tejeiro Hernández, of Cuba, for the contribution to and social impact of his work on his country's National Health Service, as stated for the benefit of the Directing Council in Resolution XVI, approved in the eleventh plenary session.

The Review of the List of Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO, Item 16 of the Agenda, was addressed by the Executive Committee in its tenth plenary session. The topic was presented by Dr. Castellón, of Nicaragua, as Chairman of the Standing Subcommittee charged with that review. As proposed by the Standing Subcommittee, the Executive Committee resolved in the same session to confirm relations with the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR), the Latin American Federation of Hospitals, the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA), and the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools (FEPAFEM); to continue relations with the Inter-American Council of Psychiatric Associations on a provisional basis; and to suspend relations with the Pan American Medical Confederation, and approved Resolution XII to that effect.

The Preliminary Report on the Situation in the Region of the Americas in Regard to the Strategies of Health for All by the Year 2000 (Item 17 of the Agenda) noted that this was a preliminary evaluation, which would have to be adjusted in the light of the discussions and comments of the Executive Committee for presentation to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council.

In Resolution XI, approved at the tenth plenary session, the Executive Committee decided to take note of the preliminary report and to request the Director to transmit it to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council.

In the discussion of the Study on the Holding of Technical Discussions during Meetings of the Directing Council and the Pan American Sanitary Conference (Item 18 of the Agenda), there was emphasis on the need to shorten the meetings of the Governing Bodies, and particularly to enable them to give as much attention as possible to the study and approval of the budgets. It was also agreed that the Technical Discussions should be improved and shortened.

The outcome of these discussions was the approval in the eleventh plenary session of Resolution XIV, in which the Executive Committee requests the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council to decide that no Technical Discussions are to be held during meetings in which proposed biennial budgets are to be discussed, that Technical Discussions are to open with a statement on the chosen topic prepared by a group of experts of established standing, and that they are to be limited to the working hours of the Saturday of the first week of the meeting.

The Report of the Special Subcommittee on Women in Health and Development (Item 19 of the Agenda), whose members were Dr. Carmen Bowen-Wright, of Jamaica, and Dr. Paulino Castellon, of Nicaragua, and which met on 20 and 21 July, was presented by Ms. Gladys de Lam (Panama),



as the Chairman of the Subcommittee. The Report presented information from the countries on progress made, the strengthening of institutional capabilities, the participation of PAHO in regional and interregional activities in regard to women, publications and contacts with other organizations, and fellowships awarded to women. To the seven recommendations in the report the Chairman added another: that the Subcommittee meet again upon conclusion of the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council.

In the course of the discussion it became clear that little progress had been made, and hopes were expressed for more substantial results from the Administration of the new Director, and that the Directing Council would consider this matter closely in its XXIX Meeting. It also became clear that all the Organization's resources should be mobilized on behalf of women in health and development, but not through appropriations to any specific program, which would be no less discriminatory.

In the same session, the eighth, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution VII requesting the Directing Council's approval for a series of measures on behalf of women at the country level and in the Bureau itself.

On Item 20 of the Agenda, the Expanded Program on Immunization in the Americas, the EPI was seen as an essential element in the strategy for attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000. Perhaps the best summary of the discussions on the subject is a careful reading of Resolution XIII approved by the Executive Committee in its eleventh plenary session, for the proposals made therein to the Directing Council reflect the salient aspects of the matters that were discussed, and on which there was consensus. Also worth noting is the importance attached in the Executive Committee to the problems of capitalizing the EPI Revolving Fund and the hopes pinned on the efforts that the Director may make to secure that capitalization. During the discussions the possibility was also suggested of using currencies other than the dollar, but it was agreed to discuss this point more generally on another occasion, since funds for the EPI were scarce. For the same reason, it was felt that the wish of some speakers that the scope of the EPI be extended to include essential drugs as well was not practical.

The Report on the III Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (Item 21 of the Agenda) was considered at the tenth plenary session. This Meeting had been held at PAHO Headquarters from 11 to 14 April 1983 in compliance with Resolution XIX approved by the Directing Council in its XVII Meeting, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) and the Pan American Zoonoses Center (CEPANZO) for 1984-1985.

In its presentation of the subject the Secretariat recalled that PAHO's Veterinary Public Health Program, based on the Plan of Action for implementation of the Regional Strategies of Health for All by the Year 2000, covered the zoonoses, foot-and-mouth disease, food safety, laboratory animal medicine, education and training in veterinary public health, the contributions of veterinary medicine to environmental quality, and the support of veterinary public health to human health services.

In that III Meeting, the Ministers of Agriculture and their representatives had considered and supported the Organization's program.

In the discussion of the topic the members of the Executive Committee learned that the study on the possible transfer of PANAFTOSA to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) had been completed and would be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA and subsequently to the Directing Council for consideration. The Secretariat announced that the study envisaged four possible solutions: 1) that the Center remain within PAHO, 2) that the Center be transferred to IICA, 3) that it remain as a special Center within IICA, or 4) that it belong to PAHO but under an agreement with IICA.

The consensus was that the work of the two Centers was of fundamental importance, in view of which in the eleventh plenary session the Executive Committee approved Resolution XV taking note of the report, commending the Ministers of Agriculture of the Region for the support given to the Centers, and thanking the Governments of Argentina and Brazil for their contributions to improve the facilities of the two Centers.

The Committee also heard a statement by the Observer for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Dr. Francisco Morillo de Andrade, who reported on the readiness of the Institute to collaborate with PAHO in areas of mutual interest, such as human and animal health, food hygiene, human nutrition, and the use of chemicals in agriculture. He also referred to the recently completed study on the future of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, which would be submitted to the Executive Committee of IICA for consideration.

In its presentation of Item 22 of the Agenda, Proposals for Attainment of the Goal of Effective Blood Transfusion Services by 1990, the Secretariat recalled that the XXI Pan American Sanitary Conference had decided in Resolution XXIX to establish as a goal the achievement of effective blood transfusion services in all countries of the Region by 1990.

To contribute toward the fulfillment of that mandate, the Director had convened a Consultative Meeting of Experts at the end of February 1983. The experts felt this goal was realistic, and recommended a number

of measures for attaining it. There was an interesting discussion of a proposed resolution presented in the report of the experts who had participated in the Consultative Meeting, with emphasis on the real possibilities of financing the measures to be taken and on the ethical aspects of blood transfusion. Finally, in the twelfth plenary session, the Executive Committee approved Resolution XVIII noting the recommendations of the Consultative Meeting, with amendments of the proposed language.

All speakers on Item 23, Reports of the Member Governments of the Organization on Health Conditions and Progress during the Interval between Pan American Sanitary Conferences, were agreed that the duration of meetings of the Governing Bodies should be kept to a minimum. The ideas presented were embodied in Resolution XIX, approved by the Executive Committee in its twelfth plenary session. This resolution recommends that the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council suggest to the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference that it request the Governments to present their reports on health conditions in writing on not more than six double-spaced typewritten pages, for inclusion in extenso in the verbatim records of the Conference; to decide that delegations may take the floor for not longer than 10 minutes if they register in advance with the Officers of the meeting, and that delegates wishing to do so may distribute their own printed matter to those present at the Conference. Similar provisions are proposed to shorten the duration of meetings of the Directing Council as well. The Director is requested to establish an automatic mechanism to enable the Officers of the meetings to control the time allowed to each speaker.

Item 24 of the Agenda, Evaluation of the Pan American Centers: Latin American Center for Educational Technology in Health (CLATES), was presented to the eleventh plenary session of the Executive Committee. The object of consideration was the report on the evaluation of that Center, which operates in Rio de Janeiro in close coordination with its Brazilian counterpart, the Unit for Educational Technology in Health (NUTES). The Secretariat presented a detailed historical review of the Center, which has had a multiplier effect not only in Brazil, with the establishment of NUTES, but throughout the Hemisphere, where 23 other centers have been set up in several countries. The report asks whether NUTES should be left to function alone, and the international resources of CLATES reallocated. Accordingly, in the twelfth plenary session it was agreed to recommend (in Resolution XX) that the Directing Council terminate CLATES on 31 December 1983 while continuing the support being provided to NUTES and to activities for educational technology in the Region.

The document prepared by the Secretariat on Item 25 of the Agenda, Infant and Young Child Nutrition and Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, was a summary of information furnished by the countries on measures taken in connection with the recommendations of the World Health Assembly on this important subject. Though much has been done in this field, much remains to be done in more than a few countries.

In the discussion that arose, many aspects of the problem were considered and the receptiveness of manufacturers of infant foods to this concern was brought out.

In the twelfth plenary session the Committee approved Resolution XXI recommending to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council, among other things, that it urge the Governments to give full support to implementation of the measures advocated by a joint WHO/UNICEF meeting on breastfeeding, appropriate weaning practices, and appropriate marketing and distribution of breast-milk substitutes. The Directing Council should also give attention to the need for laws and regulations to apply the International Code, and promote the involvement of all interested socioeconomic sectors. In addition, the Directing Council should request the Director to assist the Governments in the design, implementation and evaluation of national programs and in the implementation of the International Code through legislation, and also that he support national studies of these matters in the countries and strengthen coordination with other international and bilateral agencies for the mobilization of financial and technical resources in support of programs of the countries.

At the end of the eleventh plenary session the Executive Committee heard a presentation by Dr. Ehrlich on Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly of Interest to the Executive Committee (Item 26 of the Agenda). No decision was required on this topic, and the Executive Committee merely took note of them.

The Executive Committee's first order of business in the twelfth and last plenary session was Item 27 of the Agenda, Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Pan American Health Organization. The only purpose was to harmonize current PAHO provisions with those of the Financial Regulations of WHO in regard to the availability of appropriations. The Executive Committee was asked to approve proposed amendments to the Financial Rules and to recommend to the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council that it approve corresponding amendments to the Financial Regulations.

The Committee accepted these proposals in Resolution XVII, approved following a brief discussion.

Under the last item of the Agenda, Other Matters, the Representative of Ecuador, Dr. Fidel Endara Cedeño, presented a proposed resolution in tribute to the memory of Simón Bolívar on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth. This proposal was adopted unanimously as Resolution XXII.

There was then a highly interesting discussion of the possibility of conducting a study to find a solution to the problems of the accumulation of national currencies in the Organization and to the difficulties many countries experience in making payments to PAHO in dollars.

The Director explained that, under the current provisions of the Bureau's Administrative Manual, the current practice of paying the salaries of staff members away from Headquarters entirely in United States dollars could be changed by establishing that at least 30 per cent of those salaries was to be paid in the currency of the duty station. However, the quota assessments of the Member Countries would have to go on being paid in dollars. This practice did not require the authority of the Directing Council and could be approved by the Executive Committee itself.

The consensus was that the matter be restudied and that the Executive Committee take it up again in its meeting, that is, the one to be held immediately following the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council.

The Director noted also that this procedure would net the Organization the local currency equivalent of about \$3 or \$4 million. The Administration would need three or four months to complete the requisite steps.

Before closing its deliberations in the twelfth plenary session the Executive Committee approved Resolution XXIII thanking the new Director, Dr. Guerra de Macedo, and the entire Secretariat for the manner in which it had presented the topics considered in the Meeting, voicing support for the Director in his new endeavors, and putting on record its appreciation to Ms. Lea Guido, of Nicaragua, for the manner in which she had presided over the proceedings of the Meeting. The closing session was held on 13 June 1983 in an atmosphere of cordiality and hopeful confidence in the efforts of the new Director, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.