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SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER GOVERNMENT FROM THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS ENTITLED TO DESIGNATE A PERSON TO SERVE ON THE JOINT COORDINATING BOARD OF THE UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES (TDR)

The Special Program is a global program of international technical cooperation initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank. It has two interdependent objectives: to develop new tools for the prevention and control of tropical diseases, and to strengthen the research capabilities of the affected countries.

The diseases included in the Program are malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis (including onchocerciasis), African and South American trypanosomiasis, leprosy and leishmaniasis.

The Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) is the top management body of the Program. Its membership consists of 30 members selected as follows (extracted from the TDR Memorandum of Understanding; see Annex II):

1. Twelve government representatives selected by the contributors to the Special Program Resources.

2. Three members designated by the JCB itself from among the remaining Cooperating Parties.

3. The three agencies which comprise the Standing Committee. This Committee is made up by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organization.

4. Twelve governments selected by the WHO Regional Committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Program, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Special Program.

Under paragraph 4, which corresponds to item 2.2.2 of the TDR Memorandum of Understanding, one vacancy will occur in the American Region when the term of office of the Government of Brazil expires on 31 December 1991. Under the same paragraph, the Government of Nicaragua is a member until 31 December 1992.

Therefore, the Regional Committee for the Americas must appoint or reappoint one Member Country to the TDR Joint Coordinating Board for a three-year term commencing 1 January 1992. The Government of Canada is a JCB member until 31 December 1992 and the Government of the United States of America is a member until 31 December 1993, both under paragraph 1, which corresponds to item 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Summaries of the scientific and technical basis of the Special Program and the functions, composition and operation of the Joint Coordinating Board are attached as Annexes I and II.

Annexes

UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND  
TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES

Scientific and Technical Summary for the Memorandum of  
Understanding on the Administrative and  
Technical Structures

1. Despite the remarkable advances in medical science over recent decades, parasitic diseases still affect or threaten more than a thousand million people in the tropical countries, taking a heavy toll in human lives and gravely impeding economic development. Furthermore, rather than coming under control, in many regions some of these diseases are increasing in both prevalence and severity.

2. These diseases, burden of the tropics, are borne by the very people least equipped to control disease--the populations of the developing countries. Not only is development impeded by disease, but some of the development projects, such as man-made lakes and irrigation schemes designed to improve conditions have in fact altered the ecology and aggravated major public health problems, such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

3. In addition, technical problems have significantly reduced the effectiveness of some disease control programs. A prime example is the increasing resistance of anopheline mosquitoes to chemical control, the mainstay of the majority of malaria control programs. In some areas, such insecticide resistance in the vector is combined with chloroquine-resistant strains of the malaria parasite in man, further increasing the severity of the problem.

4. To stimulate and coordinate goal-oriented research leading to the development and application of new and improved tools for control of these diseases, the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases has been planned and initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the assistance and co-sponsorship of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank (the Bank).

This Program's two principal objectives can be summarized as:

- Research and development for better tools to control tropical diseases, and
- Training and strengthening of institutions to increase the research capability of tropical countries.

5. Criteria for selection of the diseases--malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trypanosomiasis (both African sleeping sickness and the American form called Chagas' disease), leishmaniasis and leprosy--included:

- the impact of the disease as a public health problem;
- the absence of satisfactory methods for control of the disease in prevailing circumstances of the tropical countries;
- the presence of research opportunities leading to improved control methods.

Since several major problems requiring research apply to most or all of the six diseases, the Special Program includes components on epidemiology and operational research, vector control, socioeconomic and biomedical research.

6. Each component of the Special Program is developed under the guidance and with the participation of multidisciplinary groups of scientists organized into a number of Scientific Working Groups, each with clearly defined research goals.

7. Intimately related to this search for new tools is the equally important and interdependent objective: the development of manpower and the strengthening of research institutions in the endemic countries of the tropics.

8. To these ends, institution strengthening activities focus upon the creation of a network of collaborating centers in tropical countries. These centers will become focal points for strengthening the research capabilities of the affected countries and will also be the sites for training activities.

9. The Special Program is concerned to ensure that the full spectrum of technologists and scientists is trained to carry out the required research in accordance with the decisions and needs of the countries involved. Thus, while the Special Program is especially concerned with training leaders in research, it is not neglecting the training of supporting workers in the laboratory, the clinic and the field.

10. The Special Program must be looked upon as a long-term effort of twenty years or more. It is hoped, however, that within the next five years some of the new tools will be ready for extensive trials within the national health services of those countries needing them.

FROM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
AND TECHNICAL STRUCTURES OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES

THE JOINT COORDINATING BOARD (JCB)

Functions

The JCB is the most important administrative body of the Special Program. For the purpose of coordinating the interests and responsibilities of the parties cooperating in the Special Program, it shall have the following functions:

- Review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Special Program. For this purpose it will keep itself informed of all aspects of the development of the Special Program, and consider reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Standing Committee, the Executing Agency, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Approve the proposed plan of action and budget for the coming financial period, prepared by the Executing Agency and reviewed by the Standing Committee.
- Review the proposals of the Standing Committee and approve arrangements for the financing of the Special Program in that period.
- Review proposed longer-term plans of action and their financial implications. Review the annual financial statements submitted by the Executing Agency, as well as the audit report thereon, submitted by the External Auditor of the Executing Agency.
- Review periodic reports which evaluate the progress of the Special Program towards the achievement of its objectives.
- Endorse the proposals of the Executing Agency and the Standing Committee for STAC membership.
- Consider such other matters relating to the Special Program as may be referred to it by any Cooperating Party.

Composition

a) Members

The JCB shall consist of 30 members from among the Cooperating Parties as follows:

- 2.2.1 Twelve government representatives selected by the contributors to the Special Program Resources.
- 2.2.2 Twelve government representatives selected by the WHO Regional Committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Program, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Special Program.
- 2.2.3 Three members, designated by the JCB itself, from among the remaining Cooperating Parties.
- 2.2.4 The three agencies which comprise the Standing Committee.

Members of the JCB shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed.

b) Observers

Other Cooperating Parties may, at their request, be represented as observers upon approval by the JCB.

Operation

- The JCB shall meet in annual session, and in extraordinary session if required, and with the agreement of the majority of its members.

The JCB shall elect each year from among its members a Chairman who shall:

- convene and preside over meetings of the JCB; and
- undertake such additional duties as may be assigned to him by the JCB.
- The Executing Agency shall provide the Secretariat and arrange for supporting services and facilities as may be required by the JCB.
- Subject to such other special arrangements as may be decided upon by the JCB, members of the JCB shall make their own arrangements to cover the expenses incurred in attending sessions of the JCB. Observers shall attend meetings of the JCB at their own expense. Other expenses of the JCB shall be borne by the Special Program Resources.