

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (A2/99)

The Second World Health Assembly

Having regard to Articles 8 and 47 of the Constitution; and

Having regard to paragraph 4 of the Resolution of the First World Health Assembly concerning the rights and obligations of Associate Members;¹ and

Having regard to the reports of the Executive Board at its second and third session;² and

Having regard to a statement concerning the Pan American Sanitary Organization (See Annex 1)

RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- I For the purposes of Article 47 of the Constitution, States Members in a Region shall be deemed to be those States Members having their seat of Government within the Region.
- II Those States Members not having their seat of government within the Region, which (a) either by reason of their Constitution consider certain territories or groups of territories in the Region as part of their national territory, or (b) are responsible for the conduct of the international relations of territories or groups of territories within the Region, shall participate as Members of the Regional Committee, in which case they shall have all the rights, privileges and obligations of Member States in the Region, but with only one vote for all the territories or groups of territories in the Region, as defined in (a) and (b) above.
- III (i) Territories or groups of territories in the Region which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations, whether Associate Members or otherwise, may participate in Regional Committees, in accordance with Articles 8 and 47 of the Constitution.
(ii) Associate Members shall have all rights and obligations in the Regional Organizations, with the exception that they will have no vote in plenary meetings of the Regional Committee, nor in sub-divisions dealing with finance or constitutional matters.
(iii) Representatives of Associate Members should be qualified by

¹ *Off. Rec. World Health Org.* 13, 337.

² *Ibid.* 14, 26, 54; 17.17.

their technical competence in the field of health and should be chosen from the native population in accordance with Article 8 of the Constitution.

- (iv) In the case of territories not responsible for the conduct of their international relations and not Associate Members, the rights and obligations in (ii) above shall apply subject to consultation between the States Members in a region as defined in I above and the Members or other authority having responsibility for the international relations of these territories.
- (v) In recommending any additional appropriation under Article 50 (f) of the Constitution, the Regional Committee shall take account of the difference in status between States Members on the one hand and Associate Members and other territories or groups of territories not responsible for the conduct of their international relations, on the other.

IV In view of the statement made by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Organization (Annex 1) and of the fact that integration between PASO and WHO is still in process, the application of the above recommendation in the American Region shall await the completion of these negotiations for such integration.

V The Executive Board should keep under review the implementation of these decisions and submit to the Fifth World Health Assembly at the latest, a report thereon in order that that Assembly might determine what, if any, modifications might be required in the above decisions in the light of experience.

*(Tenth Plenary Meeting
30 June 1949 A2/VR/10)*

ANNEX 1

STATEMENTS CONCERNING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Statement by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Organization

The Agreement between the World Health Organization and the Pan American Sanitary Organization, the terms of which were approved by the First World Health Assembly, has been signed on 24 May 1949, by the Director-General and by the Director of PASO and will come into force upon approval by the Second World Health Assembly. Article 2 of this Agreement provides that the Pan American Sanitary Conference, through the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, shall serve as the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Western Hemisphere.

The Directing Council of the PASO is duly constituted under the American Sanitary Code (Treaty Havana 1924) and the Constitution

of the PASO (Buenos Aires 1947). Action by the Council itself or by the Pan American Sanitary Conference is required to alter its membership.

Such action has been taken by the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Caracas 1947) in the case of Canada, which was specifically recognized as a member of future Pan American Sanitary Conferences.

The Directing Council of the PASO opened membership to all self-governing nations of the Western Hemisphere (Constitution, Buenos Aires 1947).

Similar action would be required before other nations, not members of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, could exercise full rights in the Directing Council.
