



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



38th SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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STRATEGY FOR INCREASING THE RATE OF COLLECTION OF QUOTA ASSESSMENTS

1. The 44th Directing Council expressed its concern with regard to the rate of collection of quota assessments. In Resolutions CD44.R2, Collection of Quota Contributions, and CD44.R3, Review of the Authorized Level of the Working Capital Fund, the Directing Council requested that the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau continue to monitor and report on the status of the collection of quota contributions, including the status of approved deferred payment plans. The Director is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that total quota collections (current and arrears) for the 2002-2003 biennium exceeded total collections during the last three biennia. However, at the request of the Member States during the last meeting of the Directing Council, the Director is reporting on the progress of new initiatives to further support efforts to optimize the rate of quota collection.

2. Since the Directing Council, the Director has sent letters to all Member States concerning the discussions and resolutions reached at that meeting, emphasizing the concern regarding the status of collection of assessed contributions and reiterating the Organization's need to have Member States meet their financial commitments to the Organization in a timely manner. In addition, the Secretariat has been in direct contact with those Member States with deferred payment plans to ensure compliance with their commitment under the plans. All Member States with approved deferred payment plans are in material compliance with their plans at this time.

3. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the knowledge and transparency of quota assessment and reporting to its Member States, the Secretariat is in the final stages of implementing a system which will provide access to the most current quota payment details and balances on both the PAHO Intranet and Internet. This will enable ad hoc discussions with government officials and allow both government officials and PAHO

staff to review the status of collection of assessed contributions for PAHO and the Centers at any time.

4. In continuing efforts to meet PAHO's commitment to Governing Body resolutions regarding quotas, the Director requested recommendations from all PAHO/WHO Representatives and Center Directors regarding strategies to increase the rate of collection of Member States' quota assessments. The responses, which were creative and comprehensive, were elaborated upon and consolidated into one general document of guidelines for increasing the rate of receipt of assessed contributions, which was reviewed by senior management for implementation. The most pertinent recommendations that will generate an immediate effect include:

Acceptance of Local Currency in Payment of Quota Assessments

5. The United Nations and several of its specialized agencies, including WHO, currently follow this practice of accepting local currency in payment of quota assessments. PAHO Financial Regulation VI. Assessed Contributions currently states that contributions shall be assessed and paid in United States dollars. The Secretariat has drafted an amendment to allow for the payment of contributions in local currency. The amended regulation will be presented to the 134th Session of the Executive Committee and, subsequently, to the 45th Directing Council for approval. Upon approval, the Member States will be informed of the availability of this modality of payment.

Encouragement of Installment Payments throughout the Financial Period

6. The Secretariat has noted the commitment and success of certain Member States in making periodic payments under an informal installment plan. This, combined with the ability to make payments in local currency, could facilitate incremental increases to the amounts remitted by Member States in difficult and fluid budgetary circumstances.

Encouragement of Quota Discussions at Every Level and Opportunity

7. Ensuring the prompt and full payment of Member States' assessed contributions constitutes an integral part of the responsibilities of PAHO/WHO Representatives and senior management. Therefore, prior to duty travel, senior managers should obtain briefing documents on the status of the respective Member State's assessments and take every opportunity to discuss this with government officials. Upon completion of duty travel, managers should include in their formal travel report the discussions held, results, and any follow-up actions required.

Action by the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

8. The Subcommittee is invited to provide suggestions and comments with regard to the proposed strategies or additional steps that the Secretariat might wish to consider.

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