

*executive committee of
the directing council*

*working party of
the regional committee*



**PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**



**WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

116th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1995

Provisional Agenda Item 4.2

CE116/9 (Eng.)
1 May 1995
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REVIEW OF THE LIST OF INTER-AMERICAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO

1. Introduction

The Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO, composed of the Representatives of Argentina, Belize, and Bolivia, will meet during the course of the 116th Meeting of the Executive Committee to review the issues presented in this document, and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee for its consideration and transmittal to the Directing Council at its XXXVIII Meeting in September 1995.

2. Review of Inter-American NGOs in Official Relations with PAHO

During the review of nine Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO during the 113th Meeting of the Executive Committee (June 1994), Resolution CE113.R18 (see Annex A) recommended that three NGOs be offered an extension of 90 days to respond to the evaluation questionnaire. The results would enable the Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO to recommend whether to continue or suspend relations.

Of the three NGOs which the 113th Meeting of the Executive Committee instructed the 116th Meeting of the Executive Committee to act upon, two submitted the appropriate information: the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Public Health Education (ALAESPE) and the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA). The Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR) did not respond.

The Executive Committee is asked to take a decision on the continuation of official relations with each of these NGOs after considering the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

3. Requests from Other Inter-American NGOs for Establishment of Official Relations with PAHO

During 1994, eight NGOs corresponded with PAHO concerning possible admission into official relations with PAHO. Of these organizations, only one, the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS), submitted all the necessary information.

The request of AIDIS was communicated to all Member States for review and comment. Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba), and Nicaragua responded in support of the admission of AIDIS into official relations with PAHO.

The Executive Committee is asked to take a decision on the establishment of official relations with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) after considering the recommendation of the Subcommittee.

4. Review of the Criteria Governing PAHO-NGO Official Relations

Resolution CE113.R18 also recommended that the criteria for the establishment and maintenance of official relations between PAHO and inter-American NGOs be reviewed.

In this regard, the principles and procedures for official relations between PAHO and inter-American NGOs which are outlined in Resolution CSP20.R20 (1978) (see Annex B) were examined. Three areas would seem to benefit from modifications:

4.1 *NGOs Already in Official Relations with WHO*

At present, the criteria established by PAHO does not permit a simple process by which to review and approve official relations with an NGO which already has official relations with WHO. As a result, the process is duplicated and acts as a disincentive.

4.2 *Evaluation Period for Reviewing NGO Official Relations*

The three-year evaluation of each NGO in official relations with PAHO called for in the criteria does not permit sufficient time for joint planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of collaborative activities, particularly in broader areas such as the

environment and health sector reform, where the benefits of PAHO-NGO relations are only apparent over a longer time period.

4.3 *Rotation of the Standing Subcommittee Members*

Paragraph 1.4 of Resolution CSP20.R20 states that "*The Executive Committee of PAHO will appoint a standing subcommittee composed of three members, one of whom will be rotated each year to ensure the continuity of the subcommittee's functions.*" In reality, the terms of the members expire simultaneously with the end of their official term on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is asked to review the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the proposed modifications to the criteria and to transmit them to the Directing Council for its decision.

Annexes



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE DIRECTING COUNCIL**

**PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

**WORKING PARTY OF
THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

**WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**



RESOLUTION

**CE116/9 (Eng.)
Annex A**

XVIII

REVIEW OF INTER-AMERICAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO

THE 113th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having studied the report presented by the Standing Subcommittee of the Executive Committee charged with reviewing the list of nongovernmental organizations in official relations with PAHO; and

Mindful of the provisions of paragraph 1.9 of Resolution XX of the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend the updating of the current criteria regarding the establishment and maintenance of official relations between PAHO and inter-American NGOs and to that end, to request the Director to prepare a proposal to be submitted for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its meeting in June 1995, and subsequently transmitted to the XXXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council for approval.
2. To continue relations with the Latin American Federation of Hospitals, the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools, the Latin American Union against Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the Inter-American College of Radiology, the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, and the Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals until the new criteria are approved.
3. To request the three NGOs in official relations with PAHO that did not submit their information on time to do so within 90 days, to enable the Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO to recommend whether to continue or suspend relations.

4. To request the Director:

- (a) To continue developing dynamic working relations with inter-American NGOs of interest to the Organization in areas which fall within the program priorities that the Governing Bodies have adopted for PAHO;**
- (b) To assess the relevance of the relationship with inter-American NGOs working officially with PAHO, encouraging more participation and collaboration;**
- (c) To continue fostering relationships between the Member Governments and NGOs in health;**
- (d) To encourage NGOs to provide their technical cooperation within the framework of national health policies and with the awareness of the pertinent country authorities.**

*(Adopted at the eighth plenary session,
30 June 1994)*

XX Pan American Sanitary Conference
XXX Meeting of the WHO Regional Committee

Resolution XX

**Mechanisms for the Establishment of Official Relations between
PAHO and Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations**

The XX Pan American Sanitary Conference,

Recalling that the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference adopted Resolution XXVIII setting forth the criteria that the Pan American Health Organization was to observe when establishing official relations with inter-American nongovernmental organizations;

Considering that it is necessary to establish procedures for applying the criteria set forth in the above-mentioned Resolution XXVIII;

Recognizing the need to establish the privileges that an official relationship with PAHO confers on nongovernmental organizations;

Having considered the proposed procedures and privileges contained in Document CE80/14 presented by the Director to the Executive Committee at its 80th Meeting; and

Having taken note of Resolution XX of the 80th Meeting of the Executive Committee,

Resolves:

1. To adopt the following procedures for the establishment by the Pan American Health Organization of official relations with inter-American nongovernmental organizations:

1.1 An inter-American nongovernmental organization may, of its own accord or by invitation, request official recognition and the establishment of working relations in areas of mutual interest.

1.2 To this end, the inter-American nongovernmental organization must submit with its application the following supporting documentation:

1.2.1 Certified copies of its charter and by-laws.

1.2.2 Certified copies of the charters and by-laws of its affiliates in the Hemisphere.

1.2.3 An authenticated copy of the proceedings in which the governing body was elected and of the authorization of the assembly to establish relations with PAHO.

1.2.4 A copy of the most recent periodic report on its activities.

1.3 The letter of application will be circulated to all the Member Governments and their views obtained within a term of 60 days.

1.4 The Executive Committee of PAHO will appoint a standing subcommittee composed of three members, one of whom will be rotated each year to ensure the continuity of the subcommittee's functions.

1.4.1 The Director of PASB will forward to the standing subcommittee the applications for recognition and supporting documents received from inter-American nongovernmental organizations.

1.4.2 If the documentation received is not sufficiently complete or satisfactory, the Director will also inform the subcommittee of the steps that have been taken.

1.4.3 The Committee will review and analyze the documentation presented in detail. If a question arises, it may request the appearance of an authorized representative of the inter-American nongovernmental organization to clarify any matters relating to the applications.

1.5 When the applications received have been properly reviewed, the standing subcommittee will make its recommendations to the Executive Committee on the recognition and the establishment of official working relations with the applying inter-American nongovernmental organization.

In certain cases, the standing subcommittee may recommend that consideration of an application be postponed and that the Director be requested to contact the applying organization in order to determine the areas of common interest and the mutual benefits that would accrue from cooperation between the two organizations.

1.6 Once it has considered the standing subcommittee's recommendations, the Executive Committee will decide whether or not to authorize relations with a given organization.

1.7. Every year the Chairman of the Executive Committee will convey the decisions taken to the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

1.8 The Director of PASB will inform each organization of the Executive Committee's decision on its application. If the decision is favorable, he will indicate the privileges conferred by the establishment of official relations.

1.9 Every three years the Executive Committee, acting through the standing subcommittee, will review the list of inter-American nongovernmental organizations with which PAHO has official working relations and decide whether they should be continued or suspended.

2. To establish that the status of official relations with PAHO shall confer on an inter-American nongovernmental organization the following privileges:

2.1 The right to appoint an observer to participate, without the right to vote, in the regular meetings of the Governing Bodies of PAHO, and in conferences and seminars conducted under the authority of PAHO.

When matters of particular interest to the organization are discussed at these meetings, its observer may, at the request of the Chairman of the meeting or in the Chairman's acceding to a request from it, make a statement presenting its views.

2.2 Active participation in the Technical Discussions that take place in connection with the meetings of the Directing Council or the Conference.

2.3 Access to nonconfidential documentation related to matters of interest to it.

2.4 Collaboration, when requested by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, in the programming of joint activities in health matters of common interest.

2.5 The right to submit a memorandum to the Director of PASB on programs going forward in areas of common interest; the Director will determine the nature and scope of its circulation. In the event of a memorandum being submitted which, in the view of the Director, should be placed on the agenda of the Directing Council, the memorandum will be put before the Executive Committee for possible inclusion on the agenda of the Council.

*(Approved at the thirteenth plenary session,
3 October 1978)*