



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Topic 13: ANNUAL REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: RECOMMENDATIONS ON FORM AND CONTENT TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY AND COMPARABILITY

Background

The Constitution of the World Health Organization provides:

"Article 61

"Each Member shall report annually to the Organization on the action taken and progress achieved in improving the health of its people."

"Article 62

"Each Member shall report annually on the action taken with respect to recommendations made to it by the Organization and with respect to conventions, agreements and regulations."

In Resolution VII adopted by the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, Member Governments are requested:

"a) To report every two years to the Bureau on the action taken and progress achieved in improving the health of their peoples;

"b) To report annually on the action taken with respect to recommendations made to them by the Organization, and with respect to conventions and agreements."

Both the World Health Organization and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau consider that transmission by Member States of the annual reports published by their health administrations meet the obligations enumerated above.

Rule 5(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, however, requires the Director-General of WHO to include in his annual report "a summary analysis of annual reports from Members under Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution."

It was in this connection that the Executive Board of WHO adopted a resolution (EB7.R71) recommending that "the regional organizations use their influence to obtain information from the Members of the regions, in the form of uniform or comparable annual reports and statements suitable for incorporation in the records of WHO."

Taking note of this recommendation, the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization at its V Meeting, acting as Regional Committee for the Americas, adopted Resolution XXXVII under which the Executive Committee is to prepare "a model Annual Report that will make it possible to compile easily and uniformly the information contained in the Annual Reports, attempting to make the model questionnaire basic and concise."

Subsequently, the Executive Board of WHO at its Ninth Session (21 January-4 February 1952) gave further consideration to the above subject with a view to deciding the manner and extent to which WHO should devote its resources to the collection, analysis and utilization of Annual Reports from Member States. After studying the matter, the Executive Board adopted Resolution EB9.R105 based on which, the Fifth World Health Assembly adopted the following Resolution (A5/R/39):

"The Fifth World Health Assembly

"DECIDES that Rule 5(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly shall be amended by the deletion of the words "including a summary analysis of annual reports from Members under Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution."

Proposed Resolution

After consideration of the resolutions of the Executive Board and the Fifth World Health Assembly, and bearing in mind Resolution XXXVII adopted by the Directing Council at its V Meeting, the Executive Committee may wish to recommend to the Directing Council the adoption of a resolution along the following lines:

The Directing Council, acting as Regional Committee of the World Health Organization for the Americas :

1. Notes the resolutions of the Ninth Executive Board and Fifth World Health Assembly with regard to Annual Reports from Member States under articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

2. Considers that the annual reports of Member States will fulfill their obligation both under articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization and under Resolution VII of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

3. Invites and urges Member States to request and utilize the consulting services of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in reviewing the form and content of their annual reports.

4. Requests the Director to use the information contained in such reports in answering inquiries from Member States.

5. Requests the Executive Committee to consider further the form of annual reports from Member States in order to improve their usefulness to the Organization and to the Member States themselves.