



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



19th Meeting  
Washington, D.C.  
April 1953

CEL9/14 (Eng.)  
1 April 1953  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 19: METHOD OF WORK OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

Background

The Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council provide (Article 23) that:

"the Directing Council shall establish at each meeting a General Committee and such main committees as it may consider necessary".

Article 26 of the Rules further provides that:

"each Member shall be entitled to be represented on each main committee".

At its recent meetings, the Directing Council has established two main committees, the first to study matters relating to the program and budget of the Organization, and the second to study administrative, financial, and legal matters.

At the last two meetings of the Council the committees have not functioned in the normal manner planned owing to the fact that a large number of delegations consisted of only one Representative.

At the V Meeting (Washington, D. C., 1951) ten of the delegations had only one member, and for this reason the General Committee decided to refer ten important topics of the agenda directly to the full Council, including the topic on proposed programs and budgets, which was to have been given preliminary study in Committee I, and the topic on revision of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, which was to have been examined by Committee II.

Similar difficulties were encountered at the VI Meeting of the Council (Havana, 1952), where twelve of the delegations consisted of only one Representative. Attention was called to this situation by the Representative of El Salvador, who, as Chairman of Committee I, pointed out that "the number of delegations consisting of more than one Representative was very small, so that there was danger that it might become difficult to

obtain a quorum when the two Committees met at the same time", adding that this fact "should be emphasized and called to the attention of the Representatives, so that the work might go smoothly."

These difficulties were also recognized by the Representative of the United States, who, as Chairman of Committee II, asked if "in order to facilitate the discussion, the two Committees could not meet as a Committee of the Whole, which, not being subject to parliamentary restrictions, could accomplish its work more easily", a suggestion which, three days after the opening of the meeting, led to the assignment of Topics 24 and 28 to the full Council.

When reporting to the General Committee on the status of work, the Chairman of Committee II again called attention to this problem, stating that Committee II had two topics left for consideration, namely, numbers 16 and 27 relating to revision of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and to the Additional Protocol to the Pan American Sanitary Code, and that "in view of the difficulties thus far encountered by Committee II in assembling a quorum, he thought that it would be preferable to assign these topics to the full Council and so avoid a repetition of the discussion."

#### Proposal

In view of the foregoing, the Director wishes to know the opinion of the Executive Committee on the question of eliminating, at the next meeting of the Directing Council, secretariat services for two committees that in reality have been unable to function in the manner planned.

In practice, a method of work whereby all topics of the agenda are submitted directly to the Council in plenary session, the committees being dispensed with, would result in an increase in the number of plenary sessions but would not necessarily increase the number of days of the meeting. Moreover, this method would make it possible to effect the following economies in organizing the next meeting of the Council:

#### Simultaneous Interpreting Service

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 3 interpreters at \$30.00 per day . . . . .   | \$ 1,260.00 |
| 1 IBM equipment operator at \$16.00 per day. . . . .  | 224.00      |
| 1 operator for sound-recording equipment<br>at \$12.00 per day . . . . .  | 168.00      |
| Rental, transportation, and installation of IBM<br>equipment for simultaneous interpreting in one<br>committee room . . . . . | 1,000.00    |

Précis-Writing and Translating Service

|   |    |        |
|---|----|--------|
| 3 précis writers at \$18.00 per day . . . . .       | \$ | 756.00 |
| 2 translators at \$18.00 per day . . . . .          |    | 504.00 |
| 2 stenographer-typists at \$15.00 per day . . . . . |    | 420.00 |

Stencilling, Reproduction, and Distribution of Documents

|   |    |               |
|---|----|---------------|
| 3 typists at \$11.00 per day . . . . .                      |    | 462.00        |
| 2 mimeograph operators at \$10.00 per day . . . . .         |    | 280.00        |
| 3 collators at \$8.00 per day . . . . .                     |    | 336.00        |
| 1 documents distribution clerk at \$10.00 per day . . . . . |    | <u>140.00</u> |
| Total . . . . .   | \$ | 5,550.00      |

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Rules of Procedure, the establishment of the main committees of the Directing Council is optional and it would therefore be unnecessary to change the existing Rules if it were decided that the Council should examine all topics of the agenda in plenary session.

On the other hand, the Rules of Procedure place no restriction on the establishment of working parties, and these could be of great assistance to the Council, especially for the study of financial and budgetary matters, and would eliminate the need to organize interpreting, précis-writing, and translating services as numerous as those required for the work of a main committee.

Should the Executive Committee be in agreement with the foregoing, the Director, will organize the Secretariat services of the next meeting of the Council with the understanding that two main committees will not be established and that the Council will discuss each topic of the agenda in plenary session, after receiving the report of a working party in cases where it is deemed necessary to establish such working parties.