

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Topic 14: NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION AND TITLES OF ITS SENIOR OFFICERS

A. Use of the Term "Health" instead of "Sanitary" in the Name of the Organization

The term "sanitary" in the history of the Pan American Sanitary Organization dates from the period 1902, when the principal functions of international health related to international sanitary regulations. Today, the Organization's objective covers the broad concept of health as stated in Article 1 of the Constitution: "to promote and coordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people."

Because of its restricted meaning in present-day usage, the word "sanitary" does not describe fully or accurately these basic purposes, and the experience of recent years has shown that its continued use in the name of Pan American Sanitary Organization represents an obstacle to disseminating information to the public on the work of the Organization. In many instances, the nature and activities of Pan American Sanitary Organization are misunderstood or incorrectly identified because of confusion deriving from its designation as a "sanitary" organization.

To avoid this confusion, and to promote a better understanding of the Organization's work, the Executive Committee may wish to consider the advisability of recommending that the word "health" be substituted for "sanitary" in the name of the Pan American Sanitary Organization. This change in no way affects the historic name of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau as set forth in the Pan American Sanitary Code of 1924, a treaty ratified by all the American republics. Adopting the term "health" for the Organization while retaining "sanitary" for the Bureau would, in fact, avoid the confusion that now arises from the very similarity of the names Pan American Sanitary Organization and Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

After considering the foregoing, the Executive Committee may wish to present to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference a recommendation along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind that the term "sanitary" in the name of the Pan American Sanitary Organization does not describe fully or accurately the character of the Organization or its functions in the broad field of health, as established in Article 1 of the Constitution;

Considering that the substitution of the word "health" for "sanitary" in the name of the Organization, in the four official languages (in English, Pan American Health Organization; in French, Organisation panaméricaine de la Santé; in Portuguese, Organização Pan-Americana da Saúde; and in Spanish, Organización Panamericana de la Salud), would correct this situation and, by promoting a better understanding of the Organization's activities, would gain greater support on the part of the general public; and

Considering the provisions of Article 25 of the Constitution,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference that it consider the following amendment to the Constitution of the Organization:

Replace the name "Pan American Sanitary Organization" by "Pan American Health Organization" in Articles 1, 2-A, 3, 19^B, and 21-A.

(The present and proposed texts of the articles in question appear in Annex I)

B. Titles of Senior Officers of the Organization

The Constitution of the Organization provides for both a Director and a Secretary General of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. This is confusing since in other international organizations such as the Organization of American States and the United Nations, the Secretary General exercises functions equivalent to those of the Director in the Bureau, both as chief administrative officer and as legal representative of the respective organization.

To avoid the confusion that arises from using both titles and to facilitate public and professional understanding of the status and functions of the senior officers of the Organization, the Executive Committee may wish to consider presenting to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference possible changes in the titles. The following alternatives are possible:

1. That the title Secretary General be used to designate the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof, in which case the officers designated under the Constitution as Assistant Director and Secretary General would have the titles of Deputy Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, respectively, or;

2. That the title Secretary General be eliminated, in which case the title Director would be used to designate the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof, and the officers designated under the Constitution as Assistant Director and Secretary General would have the titles of Deputy Director and Assistant Director, respectively.

The Executive Committee may wish to consider a resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind that, in the Organization of American States and in the United Nations, the title of Secretary General is used to designate the officer who, as chief administrative officer and legal representative of the respective organization, exercises functions equivalent to those exercised by the Director in the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;

Considering that the present titles of the senior officers of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau are ambiguous and do not reflect accurately the functions and activities of those officers;

Considering the advisability of adopting generally-accepted titles that will be self-descriptive insofar as the responsibilities of the particular post are concerned; and

Considering the provisions of Article 25 of the Constitution,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference that it consider the following amendments to the Constitution of the Organization:

(Alternative 1)

- a. Revise the text of Article 4-E to read: "The Conference shall elect the Secretary General of the Pan American Health Organization by a two-thirds vote of the countries represented and with the right to vote. The Secretary General shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof. In case of resignation, incapacity, or death of the Secretary General between meetings of the Conference, the Directing Council shall elect a Secretary General who shall act ad interim."
- b. Revise the text of Article 18-A to read: "The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be directed by the Secretary General designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph E. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General shall assume his duties until the next meeting of the Council."
- c. Replace the title "Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau" (or "Director") by "Secretary General," in Articles 4-B, 7-A, 7-C, 7-D, 8-B, 8-C, 9-D, 10-B, 10-C, 12-A, 12-C 14-A, 18-C, 19-B, 20, 22, and 24-A.
- d. Revise the text of the first two sentences of Article 18-B to read: "There shall be a Deputy Secretary General and an Assistant Secretary General appointed by the Secretary General with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Secretary General shall also appoint all personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau."

- e. Add the following sentence at the beginning of Article 17:
"The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is the General Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization."

(Alternative 2)

- a. Revise the text of Article 4-E to read: "The Conference shall elect the Director of the Pan American Health Organization by a two-thirds vote of the countries represented and with the right to vote. The Director shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof. In case of resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director between meetings of the Conference, the Directing Council shall elect a Director who shall act ad interim."
- b. Revise the text of Article 18-A to read: "The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be headed by the Director designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph E. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director, the Deputy Director shall assume his duties until the next meeting of the Council."
- c. Eliminate the words "of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau" (or "of the Bureau") after the title "Director" in Articles 4-B, 8-B, 8-C, 9-D, 10-B, 10-C, 12-A, 12-C, 14-A, 18-C, 20, and 24-A.
- d. Revise the first sentence of Article 18-B to read: "There shall be a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director appointed by the Director with the approval of the Executive Committee."
- e. Add the following sentence at the beginning of Article 17:
"The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is the General Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization."

(The present and proposed texts of the articles in question appear in Annex II.)

Annex Related to Use of the term "Health"
instead of "Sanitary" in the name of
the Organization

Present Text

Article 1:

The fundamental purposes of the Pan American Sanitary Organization shall be to promote and coordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people.

Article 2-A:

The Pan American Sanitary Organization is at present composed of the twenty-one American republics. All self-governing nations of the Western Hemisphere are entitled to membership in the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

Article 3:

The Pan American Sanitary Organization shall comprise:

1. The Pan American Sanitary Conference (hereinafter called the Conference);
2. The Directing Council (hereinafter called the Council);

Proposed Text

Article 1:

The fundamental purposes of the Pan American Health Organization shall be to promote and coordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people.

Article 2-A:

The Pan American Health Organization is at present composed of the twenty-one American republics. All self-governing nations of the Western Hemisphere are entitled to membership in the Pan American Health Organization.

Article 3:

The Pan American Health Organization shall comprise:

1. The Pan American Sanitary Conference (hereinafter called the Conference);
2. The Directing Council (hereinafter called the Council);

Present Text

3. The Executive Committee of the Directing Council (hereinafter called the Executive Committee); and
4. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 19-B:

(At the end of the first sentences, replace the name "Pan American Sanitary Organization" by "Pan American Health Organization.")

Article 21-A:

The Pan American Sanitary Organization shall be financed by contributions from Member Governments.

Proposed text

3. The Executive Committee of the Directing Council (hereinafter called the Executive Committee); and
4. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 19-B:

Article 21-A:

The Pan American Health Organization shall be financed by contributions from Member Governments.

Annex Related to Titles of Senior Officers of
the Organization

Present Text

Proposed Text

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Article 4-B:

The Conference shall determine the general policies of the Organization, including financial policy, and shall instruct, as deemed proper, the Directing Council, the Executive Committee and the Director of the Bureau with respect to any matter within the scope of the Organization.

Article 4-E;

The Conference shall elect the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau by a two-thirds vote of the countries represented and with the right to vote. In case of resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director between meetings of the Conference, the Directing Council shall elect a Director who shall act ad interim.

Article 7-A:

The Conference shall normally meet once in four years in the country determined by its immediately preceding meeting, on a date fixed by the host government after consultation with the Director. No two successive meetings of the Conference shall be held in the same country.

Article 4-B:

The Conference shall determine the general policies of the Organization, including financial policy, and shall instruct, as deemed proper, the Directing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretary General with respect to any matter within the scope of the Organization.

Article 4-E:

The Conference shall elect the Secretary General of the Pan American Health Organization by a two-thirds vote of the countries represented and with the right to vote. The Secretary General shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof. In case of resignation, incapacity, or death of the Secretary General between meetings of the Conference, the Directing Council shall elect a Secretary General who shall act ad interim.

Article 7-A:

The Conference shall normally meet once in four years in the country determined by its immediately preceding meeting, on a date fixed by the host government after consultation with the Secretary General. No two successive meetings of the Conference shall be held in the same country.

Article 4-B:

The Conference shall determine the general policies of the Organization, including financial policy, and shall instruct, as deemed proper, the Directing Council, the Executive Committee and the Director with respect to any matter within the scope of the Organization.

Article 4-E:

The Conference shall elect the Director of the Pan American Health Organization by a two-thirds vote of the countries represented and with the right to vote. The Director shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization and the legal representative thereof. In case of resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director between meetings of the Conference, the Directing Council shall elect a Director who shall act ad interim.

Article 7-A:

(No modification.)

Present Text

Proposed Text

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Article 7-C:

At least three months prior to the convening of the Conference, the Director shall submit to the participating Governments a comprehensive report on the progress of the Organization since the last meeting of the Conference.

Article 7-D:

The agenda for the meeting of the Conference shall be prepared by the Director and approved in advance by the Executive Committee. The Conference may adopt additions to or modifications of the agenda in accordance with its own rules of procedure.

Article 8-B:

Whenever the post of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau becomes vacant, the Council shall elect an ad interim Director in accordance with Article 4, paragraph E.

Article 8-C:

The Council shall review the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 7-C:

At least three months prior to the convening of the Conference, the Secretary General shall submit to the participating Governments a comprehensive report on the progress of the Organization since the last meeting of the Conference.

Article 7-D:

The agenda for the meeting of the Conference shall be prepared by the Secretary General and approved in advance by the Executive Committee. The Conference may adopt additions to or modifications of the agenda in accordance with its own rules of procedure.

Article 8-B:

Whenever the post of the Secretary General becomes vacant, the Council shall elect an ad interim Secretary General in accordance with Article 4, paragraph E.

Article 8-C:

The Council shall review the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Secretary General.

Article 7-C:

(No modification.)

Article 7-D:

(No modification.)

Article 8-B:

Whenever the post of the Director becomes vacant, the Council shall elect an ad interim Director in accordance with Article 4, paragraph E.

Article 8-C:

The Council shall review the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Director.

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Article 9-D:

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be an ex officio member of the Council without the right to vote.

Article 9-D:

The Secretary General shall be an ex officio member of the Council without the right to vote.

Article 9-D:

The Director shall be an ex officio member of the Council without the right to vote.

Article 10-B:

The agenda for the meeting of the Council shall be prepared in advance by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and approved by the Executive Committee. Additions or modifications of the agenda may be adopted by the Council in accordance with its own rules of procedure.

Article 10-B:

The agenda for the meeting of the Council shall be prepared in advance by the Secretary General and approved by the Executive Committee. Additions to or modifications of the agenda may be adopted by the Council in accordance with its own rules of procedure.

Article 10-B:

The agenda for the meeting of the Council shall be prepared in advance by the Director and approved by the Executive Committee. Additions to or modifications of the agenda may be adopted by the Council in accordance with its own rules of procedure.

Article 10-C:

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall inform the World Health Organization or its Interim Commission of the agenda to be discussed at the meetings of the Council. Representatives of the World Health Organization are entitled to participate, without vote, in the meetings of the Council.

Article 10-C:

The Secretary General shall inform the World Health Organization of the agenda to be discussed at the meetings of the Council. Representatives of the World Health Organization are entitled to participate, without vote, in the meetings of the Council.

Article 10-C:

The Director shall inform the World Health Organization of the agenda to be discussed at the meetings of the Council. Representatives of the World Health Organization are entitled to participate, without vote, in the meetings of the Council.

Article 12-A:

To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to convoke meetings of the Council.

Article 12-A:

To authorize the Secretary General to convoke meetings of the Council.

Article 12-A:

To authorize the Director to convoke meetings of the Council.

Article 12-C:

To prepare with the cooperation of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau a proposed budget for consideration by the Council.

Article 12-C:

To prepare with the cooperation of the Secretary General a proposed budget for consideration by the Council.

Article 12-C:

To prepare with the cooperation of the Director a proposed budget for consideration by the Council.

Present Text

Proposed Text

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Article 14-A:

The Executive Committee shall meet with due advance notice at least every six months or whenever a meeting is called by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, or upon request of at least three Member Governments. One of these meetings may be held at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Council.

Article 14-A:

The Executive Committee shall meet with due advance notice at least every six months or whenever a meeting is called by the Secretary General, or upon request of at least three Member Governments. One of these meetings may be held at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Council.

Article 14-A:

The Executive Committee shall meet with due advance notice at least every six months or whenever a meeting is called by the Director, or upon request of at least three Member Governments. One of these meetings may be held at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Council.

Article 17:

The duties and functions of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be those specified in the Pan American Sanitary Code, and those which are assigned in the future by the Conference or the Council in fulfillment of the purposes expressed in Article 1 of this Constitution.

Article 17:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is the General Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization. The duties and functions of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be those specified in the Pan American Sanitary Code, and those which are assigned in the future by the Conference or the Council in fulfillment of the purposes expressed in Article 1 of this Constitution.

Article 17:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau is the General Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization. The duties and functions of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be those specified in the Pan American Sanitary Code, and those which are assigned in the future by the Conference or the Council in fulfillment of the purposes expressed in Article 1 of this Constitution.

Article 18-A:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall have a Director designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph E. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director, the Assistant Director shall assume his duties until the next meeting of the Council.

Article 18-A:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be directed by the Secretary General designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph E. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General shall assume his duties until the next meeting of the Council.

Article 18-A:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be headed by the Director designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph E. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director, the Deputy Director shall assume his duties until the next meeting of the Council.

Alternative 1Alternative 2

Article 18-B:

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall have an Assistant Director and a Secretary General appointed by the Director with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Director shall also appoint all other personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. All appointments shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Council. These Rules and Regulations shall specify the conditions governing the selection of personnel competent to carry out the duties entrusted to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Whenever possible, the widest geographic distribution shall be followed in regard to the recruiting of the personnel.

Article 18-C:

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall create in the central office and its branches, such sections as are deemed necessary in order to carry out the program of health activities authorized by the Organization.

Article 19-B:

In the performance of their duties, the Director and all personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall not seek nor receive instructions from any government or from any authority external to the Pan American Sanitary Organization. They shall refrain from any action which is incompatible with their position as International Officers. Each Member Government on its part, shall undertake to respect the exclusively international character of the Director and the personnel and shall not seek to influence them.

Article 18-B:

There shall be a Deputy Secretary General and an Assistant Secretary General appointed by the Secretary General with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Secretary General shall also appoint all personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. All appointments shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Council. These Rules and Regulations shall specify the conditions governing the selection of personnel competent to carry out the duties entrusted to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Whenever possible, the widest geographic distribution shall be followed in regard to the recruiting of the personnel.

Article 18-C:

The Secretary General shall create in the central office and its branches, such sections as are deemed necessary in order to carry out the program of health activities authorized by the Organization.

Article 19-B:

In the performance of their duties, the Secretary General and all personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall not seek nor receive instructions from any government or from any authority external to the Pan American Health Organization. They shall refrain from any action which is incompatible with their position as International Officers. Each Member Government on its part, shall undertake to respect the exclusively international character of the Secretary General and the personnel and shall not seek to influence them.

Article 18-B:

There shall be a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director appointed by the Director with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Director shall also appoint all personnel of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. All appointments shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Council. These Rules and Regulations shall specify the conditions governing the selection of personnel competent to carry out the duties entrusted to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Whenever possible, the widest geographic distribution shall be followed in regard to the recruiting of the personnel.

Article 18-C:

The Director shall create in the central office and its branches, such sections as are deemed necessary in order to carry out the program of health activities authorized by the Organization.

Article 19-B:

(No modification in titles of senior officers.)

Present Text

Proposed Text

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Article 20:

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau may appoint such permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference or the Council, as well as such non-permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference, by the Council, or by the Executive Committee.

Article 22:

The Council, the Executive Committee, or the Director may accept and administer donations and bequests made to the Organization provided that any conditions attached to such donations or bequests are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Organization.

Article 24-A:

The Director of the Bureau shall prepare periodic revisions of the Pan American Sanitary Code in accordance with general needs and policies determined by the Conference or the Council.

Article 20:

The Secretary General may appoint such permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference or the Council, as well as such non-permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference, by the Council, or by the Executive Committee.

Article 22:

The Council, the Executive Committee, or the Secretary General may accept and administer donations and bequests made to the Organization provided that any conditions attached to such donations or bequests are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Organization.

Article 24-A:

The Secretary General shall prepare periodic revisions of the Pan American Sanitary Code in accordance with general needs and policies determined by the Conference or the Council.

Article 20:

The Director may appoint such permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference or the Council, as well as such non-permanent technical commissions as are authorized by the Conference, by the Council, or by the Executive Committee.

Article 22:

(No modification.)

Article 24-A:

The Director shall prepare periodic revisions of the Pan American Sanitary Code in accordance with general needs and policies determined by the Conference or the Council.