

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



36th Meeting
San Juan, Puerto Rico
October 1958

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FINAL REPORT

The 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization was held at San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the Isla Verde Room of the Hotel San Juan Intercontinental on 3 October 1958, as convoked by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. At the single plenary session the following members of the Committee, observers, and officers of the Bureau were present:

Members present:

Dr. Bichat de Almeida Rodrigues	BRAZIL
Mr. Humberto Olivero	GUATEMALA
Dr. Carlos A. Javier	HONDURAS
Dr. Rodrigo Barahona Carrasco	
Dr. Carlos Díaz Coller	MEXICO
Dr. Julio Muñoz Puglisevich	PERU
Dr. Guillermo Arbona	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. Simon N. Wilson	
Dr. Daniel Orellana	VENEZUELA
Dr. Alejandro Príncipe	

Member and Secretary ex officio of the Committee:

Dr. Fred L. Soper	PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU
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Observers:

Dr. Abraham Horwitz	CHILE
Dr. Luis Patiño Camargo	COLOMBIA

Dr. Paul V. Ollé

FRANCE

Mr. Roger Dalichamp

Dr. Nicolaas H. Swellengrebel

KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS

Dr. Edwin van der Kuyp

Dr. Alberto Bissot, Jr.

PANAMA

Advisers to the Director:

Dr. Carlos L. González, Assistant Director

Dr. Myron E. Wegman, Secretary General

Dr. Gustavo Molina, Chief, Division of Public Health

Mr. Donald F. Simpson, Chief, Division of Administration

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Olivero (Guatemala), Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order and welcomed the Representatives of Brazil, Honduras, and the United States, elected by the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference to fill the vacancies created by the termination of the periods of office of Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua.

OFFICERS

In conformity with Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article 15 of the Constitution, Dr. Carlos Díaz Coller (Mexico) and Dr. Daniel Orellana (Venezuela) were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

AGENDA

The agenda appearing in Document CE36/1 was approved.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

During the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee, the following topics were discussed:

1. Expressions of Appreciation

The Provisional Chairman, Mr. Humberto Olivero (Guatemala) warmly thanked the Representatives of Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua for the valuable collaboration they rendered during their terms of office. He extended congratulations also to the Director-elect, Dr. Abraham Horwitz, and expressed the conviction that Dr. Horwitz' technical ability and knowledge would contribute much to the progress of the Organization's work. On behalf of the Executive Committee, and in the name of his own Government, he expressed gratitude to Dr. Soper for the magnificent and exemplary task he had accomplished as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Dr. Díaz Coller (Mexico) took the Chair.

Dr. de Almeida Rodrigues (Brazil), Dr. Javier (Honduras), and Dr. Arbona (United States) expressed their thanks for the honor bestowed on their countries through their election to membership on the Executive Committee. They expressed also the gratitude of their respective countries to Dr. Fred L. Soper for the work he had done, and extended greetings to Dr. Horwitz, the Director-elect.

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) informed the Committee of the receipt of a telegram designating Dr. Guillermo Arbona as the United States Representative on the Committee at this meeting and appointing Mr. Simon N. Wilson as adviser.

2. Matters Referred to the Executive Committee by the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference

(a) Inter-American Congresses of Public Health

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) announced that the Conference had instructed the Executive Committee to study, with the assistance of the Director, the procedures for holding the Inter-American Congresses of Public Health and had indicated certain points that the Committee should bear in mind when making that study.

Mr. Clivero (Guatemala) supported by Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) and Dr. Rodrigues (Brazil) proposed that the Director make a preliminary study of the matter and present it to the 37th Meeting of the Committee.

It was so agreed.

(b) Improvement of the Texts of the Basic Documents of the Pan American Sanitary Organization

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) reported that the Conference, in Resolution XXXIV, taking account of the report of the special committee appointed to study Article 53 of the Rules of Procedure, instructed the Executive Committee to undertake a thorough study of the Constitution of the Organization and the Rules of Procedure of the XV Conference, in order to prepare suggestions for improving their clarity and the equivalence of meaning between the English and the Spanish texts and suggested that the Executive Committee appoint a subcommittee to make the said study.

Dr. Muñoz (Peru) called attention to the fact that a preliminary detailed study of the Constitution was required, and although the appointment of the new Director would not interfere with that task, he believed that full supporting documents should be compiled and the necessary legal counsel obtained in advance. Dr. Bissot (Observer, Panama) expressed the same view. Mr. Wilson (United States) was of the opinion that appointments should be, not of individuals, but rather of countries, in order to make it easier to hold periodic meetings in Washington. He said that the Director might begin the preparation of texts to serve as a point of departure for the subcommittee's studies, utilizing, if necessary, the advice of the Department of Legal Affairs of the Pan American Union.

Finally, he suggested that representatives of countries that have large delegations to the OAS might be members of the subcommittee, so that there would always be persons available for the meetings.

Dr. Rodrigues (Brazil) also believed it wise to seek the legal counsel of the Pan American Union; and Mr. Oliviero (Guatemala) suggested that the Director should also seek counsel from other organizations, as the need arose.

Dr. Soper (Director, PASB) pointed out that the Organization is at one and the same time a specialized organization of the OAS and the regional organization of WHO for the Americas, and he therefore suggested that, in addition to OAS counsel, advice also be obtained from other juridical institutions or leading experts in international law.

In reply to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Wilson (United States) said that Brazil, Mexico, and the United States have legal experts on their delegations to the Organization of American States. He did not believe, however, that this should be the only factor taken into account in selecting the countries for membership on the subcommittee; the question of language, for instance, should also be considered with respect to the clarity of future texts. He agreed with Dr. Soper on the need for consulting not only specialists of the OAS, but also those of other organizations.

Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) proposed that the subcommittee be composed of representatives of Brazil, Mexico, and the United States, and his motion was approved.

On the basis of the foregoing, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION I

CE36 R1

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind the provisions of Resolution XXXIV of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate the Representatives of Brazil, Mexico and the United States as members of a subcommittee to study the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the XV Conference, in order to draft proposals: (a) To improve the clarity and the equivalence of meaning between the English and the Spanish texts of these basic documents; and (b) to the end that these texts will be more adequate for their own objectives.

2. To instruct the Director to request legal counsel from the Organization of American States, and from other institutions he deems suitable, for the preparation of a preliminary text both of the Constitution and of the Rules of Procedure, in the drafting of which the documents, minutes, and resolutions of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference on this matter shall be kept in mind.

3. To recommend that the aforesaid subcommittee meet prior to the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee, so as to be apprised of the preliminary text referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution.

(c) Proposed Procedure for the Nomination and Election of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) recalled that the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference had, in Resolution XXX, recommended to the Executive Committee the establishment of a working party that, with legal counsel, would make a study of the problems inherent in the election of the Director and, after consultation with the Member Governments, propose to the XIII Meeting of the Directing Council, a specific procedure to govern that election. Mr. Olivero (Guatemala), Dr. Muñoz (Peru), and Dr. Arbona (United States) agreed that the subcommittee appointed to make the study requested in Resolution XXXIV of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference should also examine the problems relating to the Director's election and propose the procedures that it deemed pertinent; and that it should make this study at the time decided upon by the Executive Committee.

It was so agreed.

(d) Proposed New Conditions of Employment

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) stated that paragraph 5 of Resolution ~~XXI~~ of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference authorized the Executive Committee to negotiate with the Executive Board of the World Health Organization for the implementation of the basic principles given in Document CSP15/12 Rev. 1, on conditions of employment.

The Chairman suggested that the Executive Committee take note of Resolution XXXI of the XV Conference, and of the authorization given therein to the Executive Committee.

It was so agreed.

(e) Topic for Technical Discussions during the XI Meeting of the Directing Council

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) brought up Resolution XI of the Conference which requests the Executive Committee to determine the aspects of the general topic "Water" and authorizes the Director to designate three experts (a sanitary engineer, a public health physician, and an economist) to present an introductory statement on the topic chosen.

Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) asked whether, in view of the broad scope of the topic, it would not be better to appoint the three experts first and have them select the specific aspects for study; or whether it would be preferable to decide first on the aspects for study and

then select the three experts accordingly. The Chairman said that the Director would find it difficult to appoint the three experts in advance, and that it would be preferable first to decide on the aspects that were to be studied. He recalled that the Delegate of Cuba, at the Conference, had proposed the general topic "Water as a Requisite for Health," and that the Conference had decided to limit it to more specific phases. Dr. de Almeida Rodrigues (Brazil) said that perhaps it might be better for the Committee not to attempt at this time to discuss the precise title of the topic or the designation of the experts, but rather leave the matter for consideration at its next meeting. Dr. Muñoz (Peru) stressed the fact that all the countries of the Americas are greatly interested in the problem of water, no less in the provision of water than in the problem of sewerage in the rural and urban environments. He suggested that the topic to be referred to the experts might be, precisely, that of water supply and sewage disposal systems in urban and rural communities in the Americas. Dr. Arbona (United States) pointed out that the three experts are to be one sanitary engineer, one public health physician, and one economist, and that these specialists could analyze all facets of the problem and deal also with the means of financing the plans they propose. Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) thought that the subject of water is so broad that any attempt to select a specific aspect of that problem now could give rise to a lengthy debate, and much more so if the problem of sewerage were added. Dr. Soper (Director, PASB) pointed out that Document CSP15/21, on Technical Discussions, had been prepared as the outcome of a meeting

with a group of consultants, who recommended that the "technical, financial, and administrative aspects of water supply" be chosen as a topic for Technical Discussions.

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) said that experience has shown that difficulties arise when a topic is selected in mid-year because, before the designated expert can write his report, it is necessary to do much preliminary work, such as visiting certain countries, consulting with specialists and local authorities, writing the report, having it translated, and distributing it to the Member Governments and to specialists. In his opinion, therefore, it would be best to select the topic now.

Mr. Olivero (Guatemala), whose opinion as a sanitary engineer was requested by the Chairman, said that it would be well to limit the topic to the problem of water supply in urban communities since, under present conditions, the basic problem of water supply in Latin America lies in the over-populated sections. If priorities are to be established, it is here that environmental sanitation activities will be of the greatest benefit.

Dr. Ollé (Observer, France) believed that, because of the vast scope of the problem of water, the Director would meet with unnecessary difficulties if the decision on the specific aspects to be studied were left to him. He therefore thought it advisable to decide on the topic now, and thus limit the scope of the work to be assigned to the experts.

The Chairman believed that, on the basis of the comments made, the consensus was that the topic should be confined to the administrative, technical, and financial aspects of water supply in the urban environment in the Americas.

Dr. Javier (Honduras) said that frequently, as happens in his country, it is difficult to define precisely what is meant by urban areas, for at times the term applies more to administrative divisions, or to political considerations, than to demographic considerations. In each instance, therefore, it is the country concerned that should decide which are, or are not, urban sectors of its population. Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) agreed with the proposal summarized by the Chairman, saying that the Technical Discussions in 1960 should, without a doubt, deal with the problem of rural water supply.

The following resolution was then unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION II

CE36.R2

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind Resolution XL of the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference,

RESOLVES:

That the Technical Discussions to take place at the XI Meeting of the Directing Council will deal with the technical, financial, and administrative aspects of water supply in the urban environment in the Americas.

(f) Amendments to Articles 15 and 12-C of the Constitution

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) called the Committee's attention to the fact that the Conference had approved two amendments to the Constitution that relate to the Executive Committee. In Resolution XXVII, the Conference amended Article 15 to read as follows:

"The Executive Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. The election shall take place each year at the first meeting of the Executive Committee following the election of its new members." Resolution XXVIII amended Article 12-C to read as follows: "To consider and submit to the Conference or to the Council the proposed program and budget prepared by the Director, with such recommendations as it deems advisable."

The Chairman proposed that the Committee take note of the aforesaid resolutions of the Conference.

It was so agreed.

(g) Draft Resolutions Submitted by the Delegate of Peru and Referred by the Conference to the Executive Committee

Dr. Muñoz (Peru) recalled that the Conference had approved in principle, at its final plenary session, the draft resolutions contained in Documents CSP15/77, CSP15/78, and CSP15/79, relating, respectively, to the "Health Charter of Puerto Rico," the problem of water supply, and the problem of tuberculosis. The Conference referred the proposals to the Executive Committee so that it might study and adapt them according to the possibility of implementing them. The purpose of the proposed charter, he explained, was to establish the basic problems of public health in the Americas and the possibility of solving them, as well as to stimulate action by the governments and

the public. The purpose of the other proposals is to reiterate interest in two problems of the utmost importance. He said that Puerto Rico's name should be associated with the proposed Charter, as an expression of thanks for the hospitality extended to the Conference.

Dr. Arbona (United States) suggested that, because of the importance of such a document, it should be given detailed study, something that could not be done at the brief meeting of the Committee, and he proposed that the study be deferred to the 37th Meeting of the Committee. He made it clear that Puerto Rico would not reject the honor of having its name associated with the Charter. Dr. Rodrigues (Brazil) supported the proposal of the Representative of the United States, a view also shared by Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) and by the Chairman, as Representative of Mexico. Dr. Muñoz (Peru) was in agreement with the opinions expressed, and was willing for the proposal to be referred to the 37th Meeting of the Committee for consideration.

It was so agreed.

With regard to the draft resolutions on tuberculosis and water supply, Dr. Muñoz (Peru) believed that the Committee should discuss them at the present meeting so as to show the peoples of the Americas that the Conference took great interest in these two serious health problems. Just as the Conference had given intensive study to malaria, so should it single out tuberculosis and water supply as problems of the utmost importance, thereby giving assurance to peoples of the organization's concern with those problems.

Dr. Soper (Director, PASB) pointed out that, under the terms of Article 13.1 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference, the Council, and the Committee may not take decisions involving expenditures unless they have received a report from the Director on the administrative and financial implications of the proposal. He indicated that the proposals of the Delegate of Peru would entail large expenditures for the early studies of the plan as well as for the proposed pilot projects. He recalled that the XIII Conference had decided that no such proposals could be approved until a study had been made of the expenditures they involved and until the corresponding budget appropriations had been made. He pointed out that, for the malaria eradication program, a complicated process had been necessary. In 1950 and 1954 the Bureau had prepared detailed report on the subject, and the topic was included on the agenda of both Conferences, and the Governments had had the opportunity to study it. This procedure apparently had not been followed exactly with respect to the proposals of the Delegate of Peru, which had not appeared on the Conference agenda, and were presented at the last minute. He pointed out the interest that the Bureau has taken in problems of water supply and environmental sanitation in general, as well as in the problem of tuberculosis.

Dr. Muñoz (Peru) said that, in view of the Chairman's statements, he would agree to a modification of the operative clauses the draft resolutions he had proposed. Dr. Príncipe (Venezuela) shared this view. Dr. Arbona (United States) and Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) said that the formulation of the plans proposed by the Delegate of Peru would

imply large expenditures and that it might therefore be preferable to leave the study of the two proposals to the 37th Meeting. Dr. Muñoz (Peru) opposed this view, stating that there could be no indifference to problems as serious as those of tuberculosis -- one of the principal causes of death in the Americas -- and of water supply. Dr. Bissot (Observer, Panama) stressed the fact that, while the two topics proposed by Peru were of great interest and had been matters of concern to the Bureau, there is no legal way in which the resolutions, if approved, could appear as resolutions of the Conference rather than of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Soper (Director, PASB) said that there was an important point of procedure involved. Under the terms of Article 7-D of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Director to propose an agenda for the Conference, which may modify it and add topics thereto. In the case of the proposals of the Delegate of Peru, however, the established procedure had not been followed; they had been presented without having first been submitted to the governments or to the Conference. It would be ill-advised to give the impression that the Conference had approved two proposals of such importance without having studied them thoroughly, or referred them to any of its committees, and when the texts had not even been distributed previously.

The Chairman proposed that the study of the two proposals in question be postponed until the 37th Meeting of the Committee. Dr. Muñoz (Peru) insisted, however, that the discussion continue, owing to the

importance of the problems with which his proposals dealt. He found it strange that, in the discussion of the topic "Report on the Organization and Work of INCAP," the Conference had approved two resolutions without objection from the Director, even though both involved expenditures. Dr. Soper (Director, PASB) explained in this connection that the Organization's program and budget includes programs on nutrition that make it possible to comply with the resolutions on this topic, since the expansion of activities in the nutrition field had been foreseen. Those resolutions were natural outgrowths of the topic itself. He again stressed the fact that the Bureau has given much attention to the problems of tuberculosis and water supply, but what was under discussion was not the importance of these problems, on which all were agreed, but rather a question of procedure.

Dr. Arbona (United States) proposed that the two draft resolutions be modified to eliminate the parts that entailed expenditures. Dr. Muñoz (Peru) accepted that suggestion. As a result, the following resolutions were unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION III

CE36 R3

The Executive Committee,

Considering that the mortality and morbidity rates of tuberculosis are high in a number of countries in the Americas;

Considering that the progress of therapeutics permits the suitable control and early treatment of cases and the prevention of the spread of the disease among contacts;

Considering that the Expert Committee of the World Health Organization has drawn up definite recommendations for planning large-scale experiments that will make possible the proper evaluation of the results; and

Taking into account that it is the duty of the Organization to deal with health problems that are common to various countries and in which promising results can be obtained,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm that tuberculosis is one of the primary unsolved health problems in many countries of the Americas.

2. To instruct the Director to report to a future meeting of the Directing Council on the financial outlay that would be required to formulate a continental plan to combat tuberculosis.

RESOLUTION IV

CE36 R4

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind that one of the problems common to the various countries of the Americas is the deficiency in systems of water-supply and sewage-disposal;

Considering that this problem represents a real hazard to health, as reflected in the high morbidity and mortality rates of many diseases; and

Taking into account that the Organization should seek a solution of problems that are common to various countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm that water-supply and sewage-disposal systems are essential to the progress of health in the Americas.

2. To instruct the Director to report to a future meeting of the Directing Council on the financial outlay that would be required to formulate a continental plan of water supply and sewage disposal.

3. Date of the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee

The Chairman suggested that, as on other occasions, the Director convoke the 37th Meeting of the Committee on a date preceding the World Health Assembly to be held in 1959, so that the Committee members who are to participate in the Assembly may attend the Committee meeting before their trip. Mr. Olivero (Guatemala) recalled that on previous occasions, except in 1958, the Committee had met after the World Health Assembly, and asked the Secretary what advantages there would be in selecting another date.

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) stated in reply that it was his understanding that the Twelfth World Health Assembly in 1959 will open on 12 May 1959. He said that the advantage of holding the Committee meetings after the Assembly is that the Executive Committee members would be apprised of any decisions of the Assembly of interest to the Committee. On the other hand, this arrangement would leave the Secretariat little time for preparing and distributing the documents for the subsequent meeting of the Directing Council. The Secretariat therefore considers it preferable that, if possible, the Committee meet before the World Health Assembly.

The Chairman proposed that the 37th Meeting of the Committee be convoke to meet from Monday to Saturday of the week preceding the opening of the next World Health Assembly.

It was so agreed.

4. Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations

The Chairman pointed out that the Director's negotiations with the United States Government regarding the acquisition of a site for the headquarters building are to be continued, and that it might therefore be advisable for the Representative of the United States to be a member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations, at present composed of the Representatives of Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela. Mr. Olivero (Guatemala) recalled that the Executive Committee, at its 34th Meeting, had deemed it advisable that the Subcommittee be composed of countries that are members of the Executive Committee, and for that reason had designated Mexico and Venezuela as Subcommittee members, to replace the Dominican Republic and the United States, countries that at the time were not members of the Executive Committee. He asked whether, legally speaking, the membership of the subcommittee could be increased.

Dr. González (Assistant Director, PASB) read Resolution V of the VI Meeting of the Directing Council, which provided that the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations would be composed of three members.

Dr. Orellana (Venezuela) stressed the importance of United States representation on the Subcommittee, at the present stage of the negotiations in question, and he offered to relinquish his place on the Subcommittee so that it might be occupied by the Representative of the United States. Mr. Olivero (Guatemala) also pointed out the desirability

of having the United States be a member of the Subcommittee. Mr. Wilson (United States) thanked the Representatives of Venezuela and Guatemala for their attitude, but stated that his Delegation is greatly interested in having both those countries continue on the Subcommittee, which could, in any event, consult at any time with the Representative of the United States. His country, he said, will continue to cooperate with the Bureau in the matter of the site for the headquarters building, regardless of whether it is a member of the Subcommittee.

The Chairman recalled that Guatemala is the country that has served the longest on the Subcommittee, having been a member ever since the Subcommittee was established, whereas Mexico and Venezuela were elected to membership in 1958. He proposed, therefore, that Guatemala be replaced by the United States on the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations.

The following resolution was then approved:

RESOLUTION V

CE36.R5

The Executive Committee,

Bearing in mind the advisability that the Representative of the United States be a member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations, in view of the negotiations under way between the United States Government and the Director regarding the acquisition of a site for a permanent headquarters building for the Bureau; and

Considering that the Representative of Guatemala has formed part of the Subcommittee since its establishment, and that its other members, the Representatives of Mexico and Venezuela, were elected to the Subcommittee in 1958,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate as members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations the Representatives of Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela.

2. To thank the Representative of Guatemala for the valuable services rendered to the Subcommittee since its establishment.

5. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairman thanked the Members and the Observers for their cooperation. He said that, as there was not sufficient time for a session of the Drafting Committee, the Final Report would be sent in draft form to the members of the Committee, if they agreed to this procedure, so that they might make their observations on the text. He requested the members to send those observations to the Secretariat at the earliest possible date.

It was so agreed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Chairman of the Committee and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretary ex officio, have signed the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE at San Juan, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, this third day of October, 1958. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Member Governments.

Chairman of the Executive Committee
Representative of Mexico

Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Secretary ex officio of the
Executive Committee