



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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WORLD
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FORM OF PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET

In October 1972 the III Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas met in Santiago, Chile, to review the progress made under the Ten-year (1962-71) Health Plan of the Charter of Punta del Este and to plan health programs for the forthcoming decade within the context of an overall process of economic and social development. During the discussions, which led to resolutions defining health goals for the period 1971-80, the mutual relationship between health, welfare, and economic development was recognized. The Organization had earlier recognized this relationship when the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference adopted the General Program of Work of PAHO/WHO for 1973-77.

The plan for the decade and the five-year program of work have been considered and approved with program outlines very similar to each other. The concept underlying the outline has now become a standard in the planning and reporting processes of the Organization. Therefore, now seems the opportune time to review the classification of programs used in the annual program and budget of the Organization.

The outline used in the Ten-year Health Plan and in the five-year program of work divided health problems into two major groups: those designed to attack specific health problems, and those whose solution depends on the quantity, quality, and organization of resources and of methods and procedures. The problems in the former group were those related to health services and include maternal and child care, control of communicable and chronic diseases, and control of the environment. The remaining problems were considered together as those related to the development of the infrastructure. They encompassed problems related to national health systems, professional and auxiliary manpower, administration, planning, evaluation, information, legislation, research, and financing.

A concurrent review of health problems on a worldwide basis was made by the 24th World Health Assembly, which adopted a program of work for the period 1973-77. This program was drawn up in somewhat different terms from those used as guidelines in the Americas. Later events have led to the adoption of a new format for use by the World Health Organization in the presentation of its worldwide program and budget. In many respects this system would be suitable for use in the Americas, but it does not highlight several of the program areas identified in the planning guidelines used in the Americas as being of high priority concern.

Many programs now are conceived in the terms used at the III Special Meeting of Ministers of Health. That is, they make the distinction between services to people, and the underpinnings, or infrastructure, which make the delivery of the services possible.

Following these terms of reference, the Director might be authorized to study the feasibility of using two major groupings to present the operative portion of the program and budget of the Organization to the Governing Bodies. During his study he would bear in mind the form of presentation adopted by the World Health Assembly to assure the compatibility of the two formats.

A preliminary review of the categorization of major programs has led the Director to the hypothesis that the guidelines and recommendations of the III Special Meeting of Ministers of Health will probably lead to a useful presentation of programs to the Governing Bodies, since they are in use in other planning systems. This hypothesis would be tested as the study of alternative program classifications develops.

Assuming that provision of health services is a reasonable major grouping, the Director would arrange for the study of major subheadings within this category. These subheadings would include such programs as communicable and noncommunicable disease control, maternal and child health, nutrition, and control of the environment.

If the "services" category appears feasible, another major heading could be concerned with the development of the "infrastructure" required for the provision of health services. The "infrastructure" category would include the development of systems of administration, legislation, the planning process, collection of statistical data, management methods, and development of human resources and health manpower.

Development of human resources would be given careful study and special emphasis would be placed on development of educational institutions providing training in the health sciences. Whenever other activities might be of special significance or interest in the educational field, these could be identified, for example, the Regional Library of Medicine and the textbook program.

Investments in the promotion of research on priority problems would also be placed under the broad "infrastructure" heading.

The Director suggests to the Executive Committee that it might wish to authorize him to prepare a new format for the classification of programs for possible use in the presentation of future programs and budgets. This format could be presented to the 72nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in June 1974.

After the study is complete, the Director might present to the Executive Committee a plan to redesign the appropriation resolution to reflect the program to be carried out.