

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
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76th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
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Provisional Agenda Item 13

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FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Background

This subject was discussed in some depth during the course of the 74th Meeting of the Executive Committee in July 1975. The discussions resulted in a recommendation from the Committee to the Directing Council to expand and improve the representation of the Committee before the Council. Thus, three representatives of the Committee were designated to attend the XXIII Meeting of the Council. In Resolution XXVIII, the Council welcomed the additional representatives designated by the Committee and accepted the functions entrusted to them by the Committee.

In the same resolution, the Council made additional suggestions to the Executive Committee concerning the Committee's functions. These were embodied in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of Resolution XXVIII, and read as follows:

3. To urge the Executive Committee, as part of its constitutional functions, to seek concrete ways of participating more fully with the Director and his staff in analyzing the main sectors of policy, programs and aspects of special importance such as those relating to health coverage and services, malaria eradication, nutrition and environmental health, including new approaches.
4. To urge the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article 14-D of the Constitution, to undertake on its own initiative and with the cooperation of the Director and his staff, such studies and evaluations as it deems necessary to improve the work of the Organization.
5. To encourage the Director to take advantage of the expertise and experience available in Executive Committees, not only during the regular meetings, but throughout the year, as is done by the Director-General and the Executive Board of WHO.

Paragraph 6 of the same resolution also asks the Committee to report to the Directing Council as appropriate on the activities suggested in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.

Action to be Taken at the Initiative of the Director

With respect to paragraph 5 of Resolution XXVIII of the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council, it will be noted that its effect is to urge the Director to make greater use of Executive Committee delegates in the period between meetings of the Executive Committee. In this connection, the Director wishes to inform the Committee that he is in full agreement with the Council and has taken positive action to provide for consultation during the coming year with delegates representing members of the Committee. The Director has asked senior Headquarters and field staff to bring to his attention problems and issues on which it would seem desirable to seek the advice and assistance of persons representing their Governments on the Executive Committee.

Action to be Taken at the Initiative of the Executive Committee

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Resolution XXVIII of the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council are directed to the attention of the Executive Committee and contemplate that the Committee will undertake these actions at its own initiative. The Director and his staff are ready to facilitate the work of the Committee at the Committee's convenience.

In order to assist it in its work, the Director suggests two specific activities which he believes the Committee may wish to consider undertaking:

1. The newly created Headquarters Program Committee has prepared a statement of the PAHO Technical Assistance Program. With some revisions, this statement has been published in the Director's Proposed Program and Budget for 1977 (Official Document 141). This succinct statement must be reviewed and brought up to date each year in the light of the changing needs of the countries and the decisions of the Governing Bodies.

The Executive Committee may wish to consider naming two or three representatives who could meet in Headquarters during the last quarter of the current year to collaborate with the Headquarters Program Committee and the Director in preparing a revision of the statement for 1977.

2. The Committee may wish to designate two or three representatives who, with assistance from a selected staff group, might review a group of regional and multicountry projects in a designated field. This designated field could be malaria eradication, communicable diseases in general, local health service systems, or some other. The projects might be reviewed, analyzed and evaluated from the point of view of applicability, suitability, and contribution to country or regional program objectives. This evaluation might be planned to take place during the early months of 1977.