



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



86th Meeting  
Washington, D.C.  
June-July 1981

Provisional Agenda Item 16

CE86/22 (Eng.)  
30 April 1981  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND TO THE RULES FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE AND OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

During the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council (Washington, D.C., September-October 1980) questions were raised by some representatives concerning the interpretation of certain rules of procedure on voting.

Comments were also made regarding the time consuming method now in effect for the selection of the topic for the Technical Discussions at meetings of the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

As indicated at the time, the Director of the Bureau has undertaken a review of those sections of the Rules of Procedure of the three Governing Bodies of the Organization that specifically refer to voting in plenary session and also of that part of the Rules for Technical Discussions having to do with the selection of the topic for future Technical Discussions.

The four annexes to this document contain the proposed amendments, drafted after an analysis of the various parliamentary rules, that would best provide an opportunity for avoiding possible lengthy procedural debates that could distract the attention and time of the participants from the more important and substantive issues of the agenda.

The proposed amendments are intended to more clearly define the scope of the present rules on voting, and also to give uniformity to the present three sets of Rules of Procedure of the Governing Bodies.

Annex I contains the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, which are submitted for consideration and approval of the Committee.

Annex II contains the amendments proposed to the Rules for Technical Discussions at meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and of the Directing Council. The Executive Committee is requested to consider them and to make whatever comments it deems necessary to the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (September-October 1981), where they will be discussed.

Annexes III and IV contain the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council and of the Pan American Sanitary Conference. As in the case of the Rules for Technical Discussions (Annex II), the Executive Committee is requested to make any comments deemed necessary to the next meetings of the Directing Council and of the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Annexes

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>Rule 29</u> Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative votes of the majority of the representatives present and voting except where the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure otherwise provide. If the votes are equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as not adopted or the candidate as not elected.	<u>Rule 29</u> Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative votes of the majority of the representatives present and voting except where the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure otherwise provide. If the votes are equally divided, <u>on a matter other than an election, the motion shall be regarded as not adopted.</u> <u>or</u> the candidate as not elected.	Amended to indicate that a motion will not necessarily be rejected if the votes are equally divided in the case of an election for two or more elective places, as provided for under the present Rule 33.
	<u>Rule 34</u> <u>In an election each representative, unless it abstains, shall vote for that number of candidates equal to the number of elective places to be filled. Any ballot paper on which there are more or fewer names than there are elective places to be filled, or on which the name of any candidate appears more than once, or which are illegible or signed or have revealed the identity of the voter, shall be considered null and void.</u>	New. It formalizes and explains the practice that has been followed by PAHO and WHO.

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If the proposed new Rule 34 is approved then the present Rules 34 to 40 would be renumbered 35 to 41.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE AND OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

<u>Present</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
PART III		
SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS		
<u>Rule 7</u>	<u>Rule 7</u>	
The Technical Discussions shall deal with only one subject, which shall be selected at the meeting of the Conference or the Directing Council preceding by two years that at which the Technical Discussions are to be held. The Governments and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be entitled to suggest subjects either prior to those meetings or in the course of them. The Bureau shall inform the Governments of the Organization of the subjects proposed. Both the Conference and the Council shall be entitled to delegate the selection of subjects to the Executive Committee.	The Technical Discussions shall deal with only one subject, which shall be selected at a meeting of the Conference or the Directing Council preceding by two years that of the Conference or the Directing Council at which the Technical Discussions are to be held. <u>The selection shall be based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.</u> The Governments and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be entitled to suggest subjects prior to <u>those meetings</u> or in the course of <u>[them] the meeting of the Executive Committee in which the recommendation to the Conference or the Directing Council will be made.</u> The Bureau shall <u>inform the Governments of the Organization of the subjects proposed/ recommended by the Executive Committee.</u> Both the Conference and the Council shall be entitled to delegate the selection of subjects to the Executive Committee.	Amended in order to delegate to the Executive Committee the task of considering the various subjects proposed and to recommend only one of them to the Conference or Directing Council.  It is felt that this would reduce the time now employed by the Council or the Conference in reaching a decision as to what subject to select and which among other actions it entails the appointment of a working party, soliciting proposed subjects, meeting to hear proponents, vote by secret ballot, etc.

Rule 8

The subjects proposed shall be submitted to a working group appointed by the President of the Conference or the Council, as the case may be, which shall be responsible for hearing the proponents and preparing a list of not more than three subjects for submission to the appropriate plenary session.

Delete. See Article 7 above whereby it is proposed that the Executive Committee recommended only one subject

PART IV

DESIGNATION AND DUTIES OF THE EXPERTS

Rule 9

The Conference or the Council, as the case may be, shall select as the subject for the Technical Discussions that which receives the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Governments present and voting in plenary session. Voting shall be by ballot. If none of the subjects receives the required majority, a second vote shall be taken on the two subjects that obtain the highest number of votes, except that if two of the subjects obtain the same number of votes, and that number is smaller than that obtained by the third subject. In that event, another vote shall be taken. If, on the second vote, none of the subjects obtains the required majority, a further vote shall be taken and the subject that obtains the highest number of votes shall be selected.

In computing votes, only ballots which specify one of the three subjects proposed shall be taken into consideration. Ballots which specify other subjects, or two or three of the subjects proposed, shall be null and void.

If Rule 8 is deleted then the present Rules 8 to 24 would be renumbered 7 to 23.

Rule 8

The Conference or the Council, as the case may be, shall select~~as~~ the subject for the Technical Discussions ~~that~~ which receives~~es~~ by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Governments present and voting in plenary session. ~~V~~oting shall be by ballot. If none of the subjects receives the required majority, a second vote shall be taken on the two subjects that obtain the highest number of votes, except ~~that~~ if two of the subjects obtain the same number of votes, and that number is smaller than that obtained by the third subject. In that event, another vote shall be taken. If, on the second vote, none of the subjects obtains the required majority, a further vote shall be taken and the subject that obtains the highest number of votes shall be selected.

In computing votes, only ballots which specify one of the three subjects proposed shall be taken into consideration. Ballots which specify other subjects, or two or three of the subjects proposed, shall be null and void.

Renumbered and amended in order to permit voting in the same manner as with any other business before the Council or the Conference. Voting by ballot is much more time consuming than voting by show of hands.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

Present

Proposed

Remarks

PART VIII - VOTING IN PLENARY SESSIONS

Rule 43

For the purpose of these Rules, "Governments present and voting" means Governments casting an affirmative or negative vote; or, in an election, a vote for a person or a Government eligible in accordance with the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure. In computing a majority, any fraction shall be counted as a whole number.

Rule 43

For the purpose of these Rules, "Governments present and voting" means Governments casting a valid affirmative or negative vote; or in an election, a valid vote for a person or a Government eligible in accordance with the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure. Governments abstaining from voting or who cast blank ballots or invalid votes are considered as not voting. In computing a majority, any fraction shall be counted as a whole number.

Amended to clarify the impact of abstaining and to make it uniform with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee.

Rule 44

Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure provide otherwise. If the votes are equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 44

Motions shall be considered adopted when they have received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure provide otherwise. If the votes are equally divided on a matter other than an election, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Amended to indicate that a motion will not necessarily be rejected if the votes are equally divided in the case of an election for two or more elective places as provided for under Rule 50.

Rule 52

In an election each Government, unless it abstains, shall vote for that number of candidates equal to the number of elective places to be filled, Any ballot paper on which there are more or fewer names than there are elective places to be filled, or on which the name of any candidate appears more than once, or which are illegible or signed or have revealed the identity of the voter, shall be considered null and void.

New. It formalizes and explains the practice that has been followed by PAHO and WHO.

If the proposed new Rule 52 is approved then the present Rules 52 to 62 would be renumbered 53 to 63.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

Present

Proposed

Remarks

Rule 45

For the purpose of these Rules "Governments present and voting" means Governments casting an affirmative or negative vote; or, in an election, a vote for a person or a Government eligible in accordance with the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure. For the purpose of these Rules, "majority" means any number of votes greater than half the votes cast by the Governments present and voting or, in the case of the election of the Director, any number of votes greater than half the number of the Governments of the Organization. In computing a majority, any faction shall be counted as a whole number.

Rule 46

A motion shall be considered adopted when it has received the affirmative vote of the majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure otherwise provide. If the votes are equally divided, the motion shall again be put to a vote without further debate and if the votes are again divided, the motion will be regarded as not adopted.

PART VIII - VOTING IN PLENARY SESSIONS

Rule 45

For the purpose of these Rules, "Governments present and voting" means Governments casting a valid affirmative or negative vote; or in an election, a valid vote for a person or a Government eligible in accordance with the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure. For the purpose of these Rules, "majority" means any number of votes greater than half the votes cast by the Governments present and voting or, in the case of the election of the Director, any number of votes greater than half the number of the Governments of the Organization. Governments abstaining from voting or who cast blank ballots or invalid votes are considered as not voting. In computing a majority, any fraction shall be counted as a whole number.

Rule 46

A motion shall be considered adopted when it has received the affirmative vote of the majority of the Governments present and voting, except when the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure otherwise provide. If the votes are equally divided on a matter other than an election the motion shall again be put to a vote without further debate and, if the votes are again divided, the motion will be regarded as not adopted.

Amended to clarify the impact of abstaining in those cases where only a majority of the votes cast is required.

Amended to indicate that a motion will not necessarily be rejected if the votes are equally divided in the case of an election for two or more elective places, as provided for under Rule 52.

It has also been amended to indicate that in matter other than an election motions will be rejected at the first case of a tie instead of after the second. This will make it conform to the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council and of the Executive Committee.

Present

Proposed

Remarks

Rule 53

In an election each Government, unless it abstains, shall vote for that number of candidates equal to the number of elective places to be filled. Any ballot paper on which there are more or fewer names than there are elective places to be filled, or on which the name of any candidate appears more than once, or which are illegible or signed or have revealed the identity of the voter, shall be considered null and void.

New. It formalizes and explains the practice that has been followed by PAHO and WHO.

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If the proposed new Rule 53 is approved then the present Rules 53 to 65 would be renumbered 54 to 66.