

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XIV Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



XV Meeting

Washington, D. C.  
September 1963

Agenda Item 13

CD14/42 (Eng.)  
26 September 1963  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

TASK FORCE ON HEALTH AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION A.4  
OF THE CHARTER OF PUNTA DEL ESTE (FINAL REPORT)

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ENTRUSTED WITH THE EXAMINATION  
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON HEALTH  
AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL

The Working Party established by the Directing Council to examine the recommendations of the Task Force on Health at the Ministerial Level met on the morning of Saturday, 21 September 1963, at the Colonial Room of the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C.

The following members of the Working Party were present: Mr. Rivera (Costa Rica), Mr. Calderwood and Dr. Vintinner (United States of America), Dr. Wedderburn (Jamaica), Dr. Luna (Mexico), Dr. Prieto (Paraguay), Mr. van Agt (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Dr. Comissiong (Trinidad and Tobago).

Dr. Horwitz (Director, PASB), Dr. Cutler (Deputy Director, PASB) and Dr. Sutter (Assistant Director, PASB) attended the meeting.

Dr. Limaverde and Dr. Bichat Rodrigues (Brazil) were also present.

The Working Party elected Dr. Prieto Chairman and Dr. Wedderburn Rapporteur.

The Working Party made a thorough review of the recommendations of the Meeting of the Task Force on Health at the Ministerial Level held in Washington, D. C. in April 1963. In the course of the discussion, in addition to general observations, certain specific observations were made concerning some of the recommendations.

It was pointed out in particular that health problems did not recognize national frontiers and for that reason a continental approach was necessary in dealing with them. Emphasis was likewise laid on the fact that in health matters there was no single formula of universal application for the solution of problems, so that in each case local circumstances had to be taken into account and due flexibility had to be exercised in making the necessary adaptations. With respect to planning, modifications might be necessary in view of the administrative structures of a country, both as concerned the functions and powers of the planning boards and their place in the administrative framework.

A detailed examination was made of the implications of the recommendation on the Latin American common market for biological products. It was clearly brought out that it in no way implied that the preparation of such products was to be solely a Government concern but that such activities were open to private enterprise. It was pointed out, however, that, in some instances, especially in small countries, such activities were not possible since neither private enterprise nor the Government was in a position to dedicate the necessary capital to them.

\* The Working Party also examined the great importance the Task Force had given to the creation of a rural welfare fund and the provision of water services to rural communities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants.

The desirability of giving priority in the investment of funds for health work, and especially in research, to programs that would be of benefit to broad sectors of the population was stressed.

In health work there had to be constant awareness of the aggregate of existing problems, and measures aimed at the discovery of new formulas for dealing with them should not hamper the continuing study of ways of improving available methods and procedures.

\* With respect to malaria the Task Force stressed the urgent necessity of the Governments having at their disposal all the technical and administrative measures required to achieve eradication of the disease; in the matter of technical measures it was stated that the activities should include DDT spraying, mass treatment, and sanitary engineering works.

Finally the Working Party agreed to submit the following resolution to the Directing Council.

Draft Resolution

ON THE TASK FORCE ON HEALTH AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the Report prepared by the Working Party entrusted with the examination of the recommendations of the meeting of the Task Force on Health at the Ministerial Level held in April 1963; and

Considering that the recommendations of the Task Force reflect a continental approach to health that coincides with the goals and objectives expressed and developed in the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization and through its program and budget,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept as a statement of general policy of the Pan American Health Organization the recommendations of the Task Force on Health at the Ministerial Level.

\* 2. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to implement without delay the resolution on the rural health program for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas, in accordance with Document CD14/23.

\* 3. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to take the necessary steps to interest the Governments in complying with the recommendations on malaria eradication made by the Task Force on Health at the Ministerial Level.

4. To authorize the Director to take into consideration in the implementation of the 1964 Program and Budget the recommendations contained in the report of the Task Force both on a regional and national basis and in accordance with the stated program priorities of the Organization and its financial resources.

5. To instruct the Director to take the above-mentioned recommendations into consideration in the forward planning for the Program and Budget for 1965 and onwards.

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\* The addition of these paragraphs was proposed by the Representative of Argentina at the eleventh plenary session.