



## XXII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

## XXXVIII REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 1986

Provisional Agenda Item 7.3

CSP22/8 (Eng.)

28 July 1986

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

## REQUEST OF PORTUGAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In its 95th Meeting (June 1985) the Executive Committee took note of and held a preliminary discussion on the request of the Government of Portugal of June 1985 for observer status in the Organization (Annex I). At that time the Executive Committee decided to defer consideration of the matter until it received more complete information on the basis for the request.

To provide this information, the Government of Portugal sent a special delegation to the 96th Meeting of the Executive Committee in order to state its reasons in an oral presentation (28 September 1985). Among other points made, the Representative of Portugal stressed considerations of sentiment and international comity and a desire to come yet closer to the countries of the Americas, to which his country is bound by historical ties and sociocultural affinities, and others of an essentially technical nature concerning cooperation, which could be mutually beneficial (Annex II).

The outcome of the discussion of the matter was that, to facilitate the granting of observer status to countries in such special situations as that of Portugal, which has also expressed interest in participating in the Organization's activities more broadly than envisaged in Resolution XVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (September 1981), in its 97th Meeting (June 1986), in light of the study presented by the Director of the Bureau, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution (CE97.R14) recommending to the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference the approval of new criteria and requirements for the granting of observer status to countries having no territory in the Region (Document CSP22/7).

Moreover, since Portugal fully met the aforementioned requirements and had presented its request more than one year before, the Executive Committee considered it appropriate to expedite the processing of that request, and to that end approved the following resolution recommending to the Conference that it approve the request and grant observer status to Portugal:

THE 97th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having in mind that in June 1985 the Government of Portugal presented a request for observer status in the Pan American Health Organization;

Considering that Portugal fully meets the conditions precedent established in Resolution XIV of the 97th Meeting of the Executive Committee; and

Bearing in mind that the participation of Portugal in the Organization would make a very positive contribution to the common health effort of the peoples of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome with satisfaction the request of the Government of Portugal.
2. To recommend to the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference the approval of a resolution along the following lines:

THE XXII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having in mind that in June 1985 the Government of Portugal presented a request for observer status in the Pan American Health Organization;

Considering that Portugal fully meets the conditions precedent established by the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Resolution \_\_\_\_); and

Having seen Resolution XV of the 97th Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. As an exception in this case, to waive the requirements established in subparagraph a), paragraph 2.B of Resolution \_\_\_\_ of the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference.
2. To welcome with satisfaction the request of the Government of Portugal, and to grant it observer status in the Pan American Health Organization.
3. To recommend to the Director that he promote technical cooperation between Portugal and the countries of the Americas.
4. To request the Director to transmit the present decision to the Government of Portugal and to the Member Governments of the Organization.

ANNEX I



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
*Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the*  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

525 TWENTY-THIRD STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.  
(TRANSLATION)

CABLE ADDRESS OFSANPAN

TELEPHONE 861-3200

IN REPLY REFER TO ACO/090/85

June 20, 1985

Sir:

I have received your recent letter conveying your Government's intention of establishing arrangements for direct cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and requesting that we authorize the admission of Portugal as an observer to the meetings of our Governing Bodies.

I welcome with great satisfaction the intention expressed by the Government of Portugal of collaborating directly with PAHO, and I hope that the necessary arrangements for doing this will be shortly established.

As for your request that Portugal be admitted as an observer to the meetings of our Governing Bodies, I refer you to operative paragraph 2 of Resolution CD28.R27 (copy attached), which states the requirements for the granting of the status of "Observer Country" in the following terms:

"To permit any such Member State to attend as an observer, with the right to speak but without the right to vote, at a public session of a Governing Body of PAHO during the deliberation of any matter of particular concern and unique relevance to that State, including a matter involving a financial or technical contribution to PAHO by that State, under conditions to be established by the Chairman of the meeting, upon the determination in advance by the Director of PASB after consultation with the Director-General of WHO that special circumstances exist which justify this participation, provided that the costs of participation are covered by the State concerned."

Dr. António Manuel Maldonado Gonelha  
Minister of Health of Portugal  
Avenida Joao Crisostomo No. 9  
1000 Lisboa, Portugal

Moreover, as provided in operative paragraph 1 of the same Resolution, Portugal may attend, without the right to speak or vote, any public sessions of the Governing Bodies of PAHO.

The intention stated by your Government is, in my view, severely restricted by the content of that Resolution, which prompts me to submit for consideration by our Governing Bodies a fresh proposal to facilitate the granting of the status of Observer Country on terms and conditions less restrictive than those currently in effect.

It will be my pleasure to keep you informed on developments in this matter, and I avail myself of the occasion to reiterate to you the expressions of my highest esteem and consideration.

/s/Carlyle Guerra de Macedo  
Director

(TRANSLATION)

Ministry of Health

His Excellency  
Dr. Carlyle G. Macedo, Director  
WHO Regional Office for the Americas  
Pan American Sanitary Bureau  
525, 23rd Street, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037  
U S A

Dear Sir:

In consideration of the principles upheld by the World Health Organization in the area of the promotion and protection of health both in its Headquarters and in the several Regional Offices, and bearing in mind the aims of health policy in Portugal, the Government of my Country attaches highest importance to the establishment of arrangements for direct cooperation with your Regional Office.

We deem it most helpful and appropriate to this purpose that your Regional Office authorize the admission of Portugal to observer status in PAHO, which would, under the relevant provisions, not only enable us to participate in meetings we regard as useful to our shared purposes, but also give us access to the documents distributed for them.

I look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you on this request and avail myself of the occasion to present to Your Excellency my most attentive regards.

/s/António Manuel Maldonado Gonelha  
Minister of Health of Portugal

XXVIII Meeting of PAHO Directing Council  
XXXIII Meeting of WHO Regional Committee

## RESOLUTION XXVII

### **Criteria for Granting Observer Status to Nonregional Governments**

*The Directing Council,*

Bearing in mind the interest expressed at the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council in a review of the methods of receiving observers from non-American States having no territories within the Americas at meetings of the Governing Bodies of PAHO;

Having reviewed the study on this subject prepared by the Director (Document CD28/31); and

Having studied the procedures established by the World Health Organization to be followed regarding observers at meetings of the WHO Executive Board and at meetings of WHO Regional Committees,

*Resolves:*

To adopt the following policies regarding non-American Member States of the World Health Organization having no territories within the Americas:

1. To welcome any such Member State to attend, without the right to speak or vote, any public sessions of the Governing Bodies of PAHO.
2. To permit any such Member State to attend as an observer, with the right to speak but without the right to vote, at a public session of a Governing Body of PAHO during the deliberation of any matter of particular concern and unique relevance to that State, including a matter involving a financial or technical contribution to PAHO by that State, under conditions to be established by the Chairman of the meeting, upon the determination in advance by the Director of PASB after consultation with the Director-General of WHO that special circumstances exist which justify this participation, provided that the costs of participation are covered by the State concerned.
3. To apply these policies and procedures to any such Member State which may apply hereafter for observer status to meetings of the Governing Bodies.

*(Approved at the fourteenth plenary session,  
30 September 1981)*



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
*Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the*  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

525 TWENTY-THIRD STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.  
(TRANSLATION)

CABLE ADDRESS OFSANPAN

TELEPHONE 861-3200

IN REPLY REFER TO ACO/104/85

July 12, 1985

Sir:

As I advised you in my letter of 20 June, the Executive Committee of our Organization, in its recently concluded 95th Meeting, took note of the interest expressed by your Government in the granting to Portugal of Observer status in the meetings of our Governing Bodies.

The Executive Committee decided by consensus to postpone the consideration of your request till its next meeting in order to give your Government time to present more concrete information on the aspects of collaboration that are of interest to Portugal. It was also decided that it would be advisable for a representative of your Government to be present in that meeting in order to make a presentation on Portugal's request.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at our Headquarters in Washington, D.C., immediately following the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, which is convened to sit from 23 September to 2 October 1985. Because of the possibility of the Directing Council's concluding its proceedings ahead of schedule, I am unable to give you the exact date of the meeting in which the Executive Committee will consider Portugal's request, but I think it may take place between 28 September and 2 October.

I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate the expressions of my high esteem and consideration.

/s/Carlyle Guerra de Macedo  
Director

Dr. António Manuel Maldonado Gonelha  
Minister of Health of Portugal  
Avenida Joao Crisostomo No. 9  
1000 Lisboa, Portugal



(TRANSLATION)

EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL  
WASHINGTON

27 September 1985

Sir:

In reply to your kind letter of 12 July addressed to his Excellency the Minister of Health of Portugal, I reiterate the request of my country for the granting of Observer status to the Pan American Health Organization.

I append a copy of a communication prepared by Dr. Luís Magao, General Director of the Department of Health Studies and Planning in the Ministry of Health, which refers to the reasons for the Portuguese request.

In the hope that my country, whose historical bonds to the Americas are so strong, will be admitted during the present meeting of the Executive Committee to the status of observer in PAHO, I beg you to accept, Sir, the expression of my high consideration.

/s/Leonardo Mathias  
Ambassador of Portugal

His Excellency  
Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo  
Director  
Pan American Health Organization  
525 Twenty-third Street  
Washington, D.C.

CSP22/8 (Eng.)

ANNEX II

28 September 1986

Embassy of Portugal  
Washington

MR. PRESIDENT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

For reasons of state that could not have been foreseen, the Minister of Health of Portugal, to his great regret, has found at the last minute that he is unable to attend this meeting of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to which he had hoped to explain the interest of our country in being admitted to Observer status in the Regional Committee for the Americas of the World Health Organization.

It has therefore fallen to me to explain to you the principal reasons for this request of Portugal to be granted the status of Observer Country in PAHO.

The desire of Portugal to join the Pan American Health Organization with the status of an Observer Country is grounded in a variety of factors: one of them, an emotional and sociocultural desire for international comity, for our country, through its Government and Health Ministry, wants to be more closely linked to the countries of the Americas; and others of a practical nature, based on essentially technical considerations, for Portugal is convinced that PAHO support would be highly effective in helping it pursue its current health programs, specifically in the area of primary health care.

I must tell you that one of Portugal's purposes in requesting admission to PAHO with Observer status is to learn from all the countries in the American Hemisphere lessons that it can apply in its own health programs.

However, I must also stress our desire to provide any collaboration that Portugal can offer, and which we believe may be of use to PAHO. Very helpful in this will be our community of language with Brazil, the easy understanding we enjoy with the other American countries, and other historical reasons and sociocultural affinities.

Portugal is at present in a state of dynamic change and is pursuing programs with one single objective--health--to be achieved both through the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. And it is not out of place to mention that in Portugal as in many countries the problem of prevention is bound up with that of the communicable diseases, nutrition and, necessarily, food.

However, there are other problems we will have to address in the future, and specifically entities that figure prominently in the morbidity and mortality of the countries in the Hemisphere, such as cancer, the cardiovascular diseases, accidents, etc.

Broadly speaking, the health situation in Portugal in recent years may be characterized as follows:

- the institutionalization and reinforcement of primary health care;
- development of the cooperation that has been established between Portugal and WHO;
- my country's wish to contribute to the implementation of some programs of cooperation with other member countries of that world organization, and specifically with Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Moreover, health in Portugal is approaching European levels, as can be easily seen from several statistical indicators, such as our demographic structure, mortality (general, infant, neonatal, and maternal), specific mortality, life expectancy at birth, the coverage of the country by health centers and hospitals, medical house calls, numbers of physicians and nursing personnel, etc.

I would also like to underscore that, since the restoration of democracy in Portugal, the last years have seen a sharp increase in public-sector expenditures for health, which have risen from 1.9% of GNP in 1973 to 4% in 1985.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the gratitude of the Portuguese Government for the mark of deference it will represent for our country to be admitted as an Observer to the proceedings of this Regional Committee of WHO, and to extend to its illustrious Director, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, my appreciation for the efforts he is making to this end; and I take the liberty of reaffirming to you the readiness and desire of the units of the Ministry of Health of Portugal for fruitful cooperation with the countries of the Region of the Americas in addressing our many health problems.

Thank you.