



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

VIII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

VII Meeting



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Topic 7: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

Presented by Dr. Alberto Bissot, Jr. (Panamá) on behalf of the Chairmen of the Executive Committee meetings in 1954-1955, representing Paraguay, Panama, and the United States, respectively.

Delegates:

Pursuant to Article 8-C of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, I have the honor of submitting the Annual Report of the Executive Committee to the Directing Council for consideration.

The report covers the activities carried out from October 1954 to September of this year.

At the close of the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, the 24th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Santiago, Chile, on 22 October 1954, at which time two new Members, Colombia, and Paraguay, were elected to the Committee to replace Ecuador and Mexico, whose term of office had expired.

The principal topics discussed at that meeting were the following:

1. Measures to Facilitate Analysis of Budgets

With a view to facilitating the presentation and study of the budget, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau was requested to submit to the Executive Committee, at its next meeting, all available data concerning the proportionate distribution of funds administered by the Bureau for the various technical and administrative activities, in such manner that this analysis would show a comparison of the expenditures of the last four years with those proposed for future programs.

2. Measures Designed to Strengthen National Public Health Administration

Since this was a matter of special interest to all the countries, its discussion was postponed, it being recommended that the Director include this topic on the agenda of the VIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

3. Attendance of Zone Representatives at Meetings of the Executive Committee

After hearing the explanations and recommendations made by the Director of the Bureau and various delegates on the advisability of requiring the presence of the Zone Representatives at all meetings and on the need to effect economies, the Committee authorized the Director to decide which Zone Representatives should attend future meetings of the Executive Committee.

After expressing its appreciation to the authorities and to the people of Chile for their generosity and hospitality, the Committee closed its meeting, agreeing to meet again in the capital of Mexico from 25 April to 2 May 1955.

In a cordial atmosphere, the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Mexico's attractive University City, built on the site of an ancient and highly advanced Indian culture, this land having been covered for many centuries by the lava from a nearby volcano, forming the famous "Pedregal de San Angel." That meeting, over which we had the honor of presiding, was, in the opinion of persons widely experienced in public health matters, one of the most interesting and most fruitful of our meetings.

I shall touch briefly on the topics taken up at that meeting.

1. Proportionate Program Distribution of Budget Funds (1951-1954)

Pursuant to the recommendations made in Chile by the Pan American Sanitary Conference and the Executive Committee, the Director of the Bureau presented a new type of report that permits an easy comparison between the expenditures effected from 1952 to 1954 and the budget allotments for 1955 and 1956, with respect to the various financial sources in a given year, according to the various types of activities.

2. Method of Preparation of Budgets

The presentation of proposed budgets has always been the subject of active discussion.

The new form of presentation suggested by the Bureau was to present in a single document the proposed budgets of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas. The Committee recognized that the recommendations would permit the Bureau to effect new economies, since the number of hours spent in preparing the document would be decreased and the cost of printing and transportation, reduced.

3. Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor for 1954

The Financial Report of the Director was approved after having been discussed in detail, especially the section referring to the Working Capital Fund.

Both reports were approved by the Committee and referred to the Directing Council for study, and the Director and his associates were congratulated on the sound financial policies of the Bureau.

4. Status of Quota Contributions

The desire of various countries to pay their outstanding quota balances was made evident, thus underscoring the interest and confidence of all in the successful operation of the Bureau.

5. Utilization of Available Funds

This topic was also the subject of active debate, since, at the end of 1954, there was a surplus of \$273,593.75. It was finally agreed to establish a Building Reserve Fund of \$100,000, to install a new elevator at Headquarters at a cost of \$19,000, and to increase the allocation for the antimalaria campaign by \$54,593.75, with the request that the Directing Council authorize the Director to utilize part of the Building Reserve Fund in the event that additional funds should be required for the malaria eradication program.

6. Study on Public Information

Several countries expressed agreement on the need to give wider publicity to the work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, with a view to providing information especially to the general public of the Americas.

In order to determine specifically what these activities should be, the Committee referred the problem to the Director for study, with a view to taking up this topic at a future meeting.

7. Fellowship Stipends

In line with the discussion on this topic at the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference and following the recommendations made in Chile, the Director presented a report that clarified many of the questions that had been raised. The "Fellowship Program of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau" was received with great interest, inasmuch as it will serve as a guide both for the public health administrations and for the recipients of fellowships.

8. Production of Biologicals for Central America and Panama

In view of the interest of all of the countries in this area in the establishment of an "Institute of Biological Products for Central America and Panama," organized along the same lines as the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), it was recommended that the Director collaborate in the joint action of the governments interested in this matter.

9. Regionalization of Vaccine Production

This problem remained pending, since, before taking a decision, the Committee deemed it advisable to make a prior geographic study on the production of vaccines. It is also essential to be acquainted with the needs of each country and to recommend a vaccine-distribution policy.

10. Method of Work of the Directing Council

The recommendation that the Secretariat services be organized on the basis that the main committees would not be established and that all agenda topics would be discussed in plenary session, after receipt of a report of a working party, was not approved, as it limited simultaneous interpretation to Spanish and English. It was unanimously agreed that French and Portuguese be accorded equal standing with the other two languages and be used freely at PASO meetings.

11. Rules for Technical Discussions at Directing Council Meetings

These rules were deemed suitable and were referred, with some modifications, to the Directing Council for final approval.

12. Meetings of the Governing Bodies of PASO Held Away from Headquarters

As several delegates had not seen the document on this topic before leaving their countries and therefore had no specific instructions from their governments, discussion of this matter was postponed.

13. Emergency Revolving Fund

The Committee was informed as to how this fund had been used in the past year.

14. Technical Assistance

In this respect, the need was stressed for the Director of the Bureau to remind the governments of the importance that public health programs have within the total country program of Technical Assistance, since, if steps are not taken in due time, there is the danger that certain projects under way will not be adequately financed.

15. Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for 1956

A Working Party, composed of the Representatives of Colombia, Haiti, Paraguay, and the United States, was established to make a thorough study of this important document and, after examining the budget item by item, the Working Party recommended its approval.

The Executive Committee accordingly approved the Proposed Program and Budget and transmitted it to the Directing Council for final action.

This, in short, gentlemen, is an account of the work of the Executive Committee at its 25th Meeting.

This body resumed its work at the 26th Meeting on the 6th of this month here in Washington to settle pending matters and to prepare for this meeting of the Directing Council. It devoted special attention to the study of the WHO Proposed Program and Budget for the Americas, for 1957.

May I note that the Director and the entire staff of the Bureau collaborated to the fullest extent possible to make all these meetings a success.

To conclude, I should like publicly to express, in my own name and on behalf of the two other Chairmen, our sincere appreciation to our colleagues on the Executive Committee, whose experience, graciousness, understanding and interest in the work and in the solution of the public health problems of all the countries have permitted significant studies to be made and important decisions to be taken for the improvement of public health in the Region of the Americas.