

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XII Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XII Meeting



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Topic 30: SECONDMENT OF STAFF FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

(Topic proposed by the Representative of Colombia)

At the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Washington, D.C., from 25 to 29 April 1960, emphasis was placed on the desirability of the Pan American Health Organization's making use, for determinate periods, of the collaboration of technical personnel belonging to the national public health services. This would provide, in large measure, a solution to the difficult problems faced today in the contracting of international personnel.

However, there are many obstacles to the application of this procedure. One is, as the Director of the PASB indicated to the Executive Committee, "the feeling of insecurity that an officer experiences in contemplating what his situation will be when he returns to his country." The reason for this is that in many cases national officers who accept temporary employment with an international organization lose their posts in the national career services and even their accumulated pension rights.

The Representative of Colombia pointed out at the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee that, to resolve this situation, it is important that the countries adopt legislation providing that national officers temporarily rendering service in international organizations do not lose their rights in their own countries.

Today, the Representative of Colombia has the pleasure of informing the Directing Council that in his country the pertinent legislation has now been promulgated, by means of the Organic Decree for the Civil Service and Administrative Career Service, dated 18 July 1960. Articles 80, 81, 85, 87, 90, 93 and 94 of the Decree appear in the annex of this document.

Believing it to be of the utmost importance that the countries which have not yet done so adopt the measures necessary for solving the problem to which this document refers, the Representative of Colombia has the honor of submitting for the consideration of the Directing Council the following draft resolution:

Draft Resolution

The Directing Council,

Taking into account the difficulties at present encountered in the contracting of personnel for international public health work, and specifically in the secondment of staff from the public health services of the various countries;

Having taken note of the legislative measures adopted by the Republic of Colombia for the solution of this problem; and

Considering it urgently necessary that those countries which have not yet done so adopt provisions toward the same ends,

RESOLVES:

To request the Member Governments to introduce into their legislation the provisions necessary for the protection of the rights that have been acquired in their respective national services by officers who may be seconded to international public health organizations.

SECONDMENT OF STAFF FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Measures adopted by the Republic of Colombia and contained in the Organic Decree for the Civil Service and Administrative Career Service, No. 1732, dated 18 July 1960.

ARTICLE 80. The term "commission" shall be used to refer to the situation of a career officer who is temporarily filling a public post different from that which he occupies in the administrative service or is pursuing studies authorized by the administration. Except in the latter case, the commission shall be conferred with the authorization of the Chief of the Administrative Agency of the Civil Service.

No officer may be obliged to accept employment on commission except in urgent cases, when all that shall be required is the approval of the Committee on Recruitment, Promotion, and Discipline.

ARTICLE 81. A career officer may not be commissioned until he has completed one year of service in his regular post, except in cases of commission for work abroad or for the pursuit of studies.

ARTICLE 85. Two types of commission shall exist: the short-term commission, which shall be conferred for a period not exceeding six months; and the long-term commission, which may be conferred for periods up to two years.

The instrument by means of which an employee is appointed to a commission shall state whether the commission is for a short or a long term.

ARTICLE 87. An officer on long-term commission shall retain the rights and obligations established in Articles 91, 93, and 94 of the present Decree for officers on extended leave.

When this is completed, the officer may be either reassigned to his classification or post, or permanently assigned to the classification or post in which he has functioned during his commission, provided he meets the necessary requirements for it.

ARTICLE 90. A career officer who becomes ill, whether the illness is service-connected or not, or who is completely incapacitated for a temporary but prolonged period, shall have the right to extended leave in the manner established for other public employees.

ARTICLE 93. An officer making use of extended leave shall retain his rights of promotion under the conditions indicated in Articles 65 and 66 of the present Decree.

For purposes of the preceding clause, in assessing the merits of the absent officer special consideration shall be given to the time prior to the leave, in accordance with the regulations.

ARTICLE 94. The period of extended leave shall be computed as one of active service for purposes of the retirement pension.