

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XVII Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XIX Meeting



Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago  
October 1967

Item 38 of the Agenda

CD17/55 (Eng.)  
24 November 1967  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

\*PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 15-A OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

(Item proposed by the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua)

When the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization was signed in Buenos Aires on 2 October 1947, the Organization was composed of 21 American Republics. At that time, the number of Member Governments on the Executive Committee was fixed at seven, that is, one third of the total number of Members of the Organization.

In 1951, the Directing Council decided that certain Members of the World Health Organization, the seat of whose Government was not in the Western Hemisphere, could participate in it. Certain rights including the right to vote under certain specified circumstances were granted to France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The Organization was then composed of 21 Member Governments and 3 Participating Governments, but the membership of the Executive Committee was not changed.

Jamaica joined the Organization in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago in 1963, and at this Meeting we have had the honor of admitting Barbados and Guyana. In the very near future we are likely to receive further applications for membership.

Thus the ratio 7:21, that is, seven Members of the Executive Committee representing 21 American Republics or one third, became 7:24 and now is 7:28, that is seven Members of the Executive Committee representing the 28 Governments of the Organization, or one fourth.

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\*Distributed at the Council Meeting as Document WP/35

It would therefore be advisable, in the opinion of the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua, to increase the number of Member Governments in the Executive Committee. If the present ratio is to be kept, it would be enough to increase the membership to eight. However, the work of a collective body is hampered if it is composed of an even number of members since tie votes may occur and, in such cases, our Rules of Procedure do not provide for any solution other than regarding a motion as not adopted or a candidate as not elected (Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee).

The Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua therefore wish to submit the following proposed amendment to Article 15-A of the Constitution:

"Article 15. Composition:

A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of nine Member Governments of the Organization elected by the Conference or the Council for overlapping periods of three years. Each of the elected Member Governments shall be entitled to designate one Representative to the Executive Committee. Each Representative may be accompanied by one or more alternates and advisers. A Member Government shall not be eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee until one year has elapsed since the expiration of its term of office."

The Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua would also like to submit the following proposed transitional article:

"Transitional article. On the entry into force of the amendment to Article 15-A the vacancies on the Executive Committee will be filled and two additional Members will be elected to bring the membership to nine. At subsequent elections a sufficient number of vacancies will be filled to keep the membership of the Executive Committee at nine Member Governments of the Organization and, if necessary, the terms of office of the Governments elected will be adjusted, provided that in no instance will a Government be entitled to be a Member of the Executive Committee for more than three successive years."

The Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua are given to understand that this proposal meets the provisions of Article 28 of the Constitution. in that the submission of this proposal constitutes a communication to the Member Governments, without prejudice to the Director of the Bureau, transmitting it to them and to its inclusion in the draft agenda of the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council. Furthermore, the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua are of the opinion that this matter should be considered by the 59th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

We, therefore, have the honor to propose to the Directing Council for its consideration and approval the following draft resolution:

"THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua have submitted a proposed amendment to Article 15-A of the Constitution that would increase to nine the number of Member Governments forming the Executive Committee, and that they have also submitted a transitional provision which would facilitate the entry into force of the proposed Article 15-A;

Considering that the proposal made is to be considered communicated to the Member Governments for the purpose of Article 28 of the Constitution; and

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 14-D of the Constitution,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to transmit to the Member Governments of the Organization the proposed amendment to Article 15-A and the transitional provision submitted by the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua which read as follows:

'Article 15. Composition

A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of nine Member Governments of the Organization elected by the Conference or the Council for overlapping periods of three years. Each of the elected Member Governments shall be entitled to designate one Representative to the Executive Committee. Each Representative may be accompanied by one or more alternates and advisers. A Member Government shall not be eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee until one year has elapsed since the expiration of its term of office.'

'Transitional article. On the entry into force of the amendment to Article 15-A the vacancies on the Executive Committee will be filled and two additional Members will be elected to bring the membership to nine. At subsequent elections a sufficient number of vacancies will be filled to keep the membership of the Executive Committee at nine Member

Governments of the Organization and, if necessary, the terms of office of the Governments elected will be adjusted, provided that in no instance will a Government be entitled to be a Member of the Executive Committee for more than three successive years.'

2. To recommend to the 59th Meeting of the Executive Committee that it consider the proposed amendment to the Constitution submitted by the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua, paying special attention to the adaptation to the new composition of the Executive Committee.

3. To instruct the Director to include the following item in the draft agenda of the XVIII Meeting of the Directing Council:

Amendment to Article 15-A of the Constitution

(Proposed by the Governments of Brazil and Nicaragua)"

We should like to express the hope that this proposed amendment to the Constitution will be approved by the Directing Council in due course.