

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXI Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXIV Meeting



Santiago, Chile
October 1972

Provisional Agenda Item 26

CD21/16 (Eng.)
23 August 1972
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

The XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, in Resolution XIII, requested the Executive Committee to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports the Governments submit every four years to the Conference.

In compliance with that resolution, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau submitted to the 66th Meeting of the Executive Committee a document containing, first, a review of the origin of the reports the countries made to the Conference and, secondly, four alternative procedures for examination by the Executive Committee.

At that meeting the Executive Committee recommended to the Director that he continue the study and send the relevant document to the countries to obtain the opinions of the national health authorities.

In reply to the request of the Director, 16 countries gave their opinions on the best way of presenting the reports. Those opinions were summarized in Document CE68/7, attached. After full discussion of that document at its 68th Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XI, recommending to the Directing Council that it adopt a resolution along the following lines:

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having taken note of Document CE68/7 on country reports on health conditions, prepared by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; and

Bearing in mind the interest expressed by the countries in continuing to present to Pan American Sanitary Conferences a report on the progress achieved in the health field,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the countries to send to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau not less than 60 days before the date of the Meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference a report setting forth the most important developments in the health field in the past four years, with special emphasis on changes and innovations in the organization and administration of health services and on novel aspects of programs in operation which are of general interest.
2. To recommend to the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference that during the plenary sessions, the delegates limit their speeches to a statement of the most important points in the above-mentioned report or of any other information they consider to be of interest to the Conference, provided that the statement shall not exceed four double-spaced typewritten pages and the time for reading it shall not exceed 10 minutes. For the purposes of this presentation, delegates are to be entered previously on the list of speakers.
3. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to write to the health authorities of the countries not less than six months before the date of the meeting of the Conference reminding them of the terms of this resolution.



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee* CD21/16 (Eng.)
ANNEX

WORLD
HEALTH
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68th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
July 1972

Provisional Agenda Item 15

CE68/7 (Eng.)
24 May 1972
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

At its 66th Meeting, held in this city in July 1971, the Executive Committee took note of the report prepared by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau on the reports which the countries submit on their health conditions to the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

On that occasion the Members of the Executive Committee analyzed the different alternatives proposed and, after a full discussion, recommended that the opinions of governments should be consulted in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution which the Executive Committee could bring before the Directing Council and the Conference for adoption.

In a communication dated 6 August 1971, a copy of which is annexed, the Director of the PASB made the relevant consultation, transmitting a copy of Document CE66/12 to all Member and Participating Governments of the Organization.

To date replies have been received from the following 16 countries:

Argentina	Letter of 24 August 1971
Barbados	Letter of 28 September 1971
Brazil	Letter of 9 September 1971
Canada	Letter of 28 October 1971
Chile	Letter of 30 December 1971
Costa Rica	Letters of 21 and 30 August 1971
Cuba	Letter of 17 January 1972
Dominican Republic	Letter of 1 September 1971
El Salvador	Letter of 1 September 1971
Guatemala	Letters of 17 and 18 August and 1 and 9 September 1971
Guyana	Letter of 26 August 1971
Honduras	Letter of 10 August 1971

Mexico	Letter of 29 September 1971
Nicaragua	Letter of 24 August 1971
Panama	Letter of 13 September 1971
Venezuela	Letter of 7 September 1971

By and large, the communications from the governments acknowledge the value of the Pan American Sanitary Conferences and stress the importance of having countries submit reports on their health conditions and the progress achieved during the four-year period.

They do not therefore consider it advisable to discontinue the statements which the delegations of countries make to the Pan American Sanitary Conferences on their health conditions. This was suggested as possible Solution 1 in Document CE66/12.

Possible Solution 3, "To make a special study of one aspect of health administration at each Conference," was also considered unacceptable. It is rightly pointed out in most of the replies received that that might interfere with the Technical Discussions which are held as part of the regular program of the Conferences and Directing Councils.

The possible solution that received the widest acceptance was the fourth: "To have the Governments send to the Bureau a written report covering the period since the preceding Conference, dealing with administrative aspects of the health sector and the results obtained," but amended so as to recommend that special emphasis be placed on anything referring to "changes and innovations" in the administration and organization of the health services and on the new aspects of the projects in course of execution. This report, which should not be mandatory for the countries, would be sent in advance to the Bureau in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to interested delegations. The Conference could then decide on the desirability of publishing the reports submitted.

During the Conference, these reports would not be read out at the plenary sessions. Instead, delegates so desiring would duly put themselves down on the list of speakers and read out a summary, in which they would emphasize the most important events in the health sector which, because of their newness, international importance or other reasons, might be of interest to other countries or to the Organization.

The summaries would be in writing and would not exceed four double-spaced typewritten pages (maximum 10 to 15 minutes).

The Director therefore wishes to propose to the Executive Committee that it adopt the following proposed resolution:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having taken note of Document CE68/7, prepared by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; and

Bearing in mind the interest expressed by the countries in continuing to submit to the Pan American Sanitary Conferences reports on the progress achieved in the health field,

RESOLVES:

1. That countries so desiring shall send to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, at least 60 days before the date of the meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, a report in which they set forth the events of greatest importance for health which have occurred in the last four years. Special emphasis shall be laid on changes and innovations in the organization and administration of the health services, and prominence shall be given to novel aspects in the programs under way which are of general interest.
2. That during plenary sessions of the Conferences, the delegates previously entered on the list of speakers shall limit their statements to reading a summary of the above-mentioned report, which shall not exceed four double-spaced typewritten pages. The time for reading shall not exceed 10 to 15 minutes.
3. That the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall contact the health authorities of the countries at least six months before the date of the Conference and remind them of the terms of this resolution.



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.

CABLE ADDRESS: OFSANPAN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PER/CONF/CL-17-71

TELEPHONE 223-4700

6 August 1971

Sir,

The XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C., last October, after hearing the country reports on health conditions presented by the Ministers and Delegates, suggested that a method or procedure should be sought enabling better use to be made of the valuable material they contain. To that end, ... it adopted Resolution XIII (attached), in which it requested the Executive Committee to study "in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports of the Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefits from the experience of each country."

In compliance with that Resolution, the Executive Committee ... at its 66th Meeting which has just ended, studied the attached document (CE66/12), which contains four alternative proposals for dealing with this question. They are the result of a careful review of the problem since it was first considered by the Governing Bodies of ... the Organization in 1950. Resolution XXII (attached) instructs us to ascertain the opinion of the Member Governments on this question. The replies will be compiled by the Secretariat and submitted to the 68th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

I shall therefore be grateful, Sir, if you would submit to us such suggestions as you consider most appropriate and advisable.

I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Horwitz
Director

... Attachments

XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference

RESOLUTION XIII

COUNTRY REPORTS ON
HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE XVIII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Convinced that the reports of the Governments of the Organization on health conditions and progress achieved in the intervals between one Conference and the next constitute useful records of experience; and

Considering that the reports of the Governments should be one of the most important items on the agenda of the Conference,

RESOLVES:

To request the Executive Committee to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country.

(Approved at the tenth plenary session,
8 October 1970)

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
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66th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
July 1971

Draft Agenda Item 17

CE66/12 (Eng.)
16 June 1971
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

The XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, in Resolution XIII, decided to "invite the Executive Committee to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports of the Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country."

Since 1947, when the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization came into force, the reports on health conditions which the Governments submit every four years to the Pan American Sanitary Conference have given rise to problems which have not yet been satisfactorily and finally solved. On the one hand, it is essential for the Governments to have an opportunity periodically to explain the policy followed, the measures adopted, and the results achieved in the health sector in their countries, and, on the other hand, it is difficult to achieve that purpose during the Pan American Sanitary Conferences, the duration of which does not as a rule exceed two weeks. The procedure sometimes adopted of reserving plenary sessions for the statements of the Ministers or Delegates, while simultaneously holding one or more committee meetings, has two serious shortcomings: first, Governments that only have one Delegate can be represented at only one of those meetings, and, secondly, Ministers and Heads of Delegations are unable to attend the plenary sessions when matters of particular interest to them are being discussed in committee. The result is that the main advantage to be obtained from the oral statements on health conditions, namely, a direct exchange of experience and a discussion of policies between Governments, is not achieved.

Statements of the Governments and Technical Discussions

At this juncture, it is advisable to consider the question from the constitutional standpoint. According to the Constitution in force, there

is no obligation on the Governments of the Americas to submit reports on health conditions in their countries to the Conference. There is only a precept, which has been invoked on some occasions, and Article 4-C of the Constitution, which stipulates: "The Conference shall serve as a forum for the interchange of information and ideas relating to the prevention of disease, the preservation, promotion, and restoration of mental and physical health, and the advancement of sociomedical measures and facilities for the prevention and treatment of physical and mental diseases in the Western Hemisphere." However, nothing is said about how the Conference is to serve as a forum. Rule 1 of the Rules for Technical Discussions, to the effect that "the Pan American Sanitary Conference . . . and the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization . . . shall meet in special session to hold technical discussions to deal with matters of regional interest relating to the activities of the Pan American Health Organization, or of the national public health administrations, the study of which may produce immediate and practical results," would appear to indicate that the Technical Discussions serve as the forum to which reference is made in the Constitution.

It therefore follows that the Technical Discussions and the statements on progress achieved in public health matters submitted to the Pan American Sanitary Conference are two separate activities. Furthermore, the Technical Discussions are held annually, whereas the above-mentioned statements are submitted every four years. However, as will be seen below, on certain occasions the two activities have been merged so that the Technical Discussions derived directly from the statements of the Governments, as occurred at the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The history of this question, which is summarized below, illustrates the complexity of the problem and the practical difficulties that have arisen.

Background

The statements of the Governments on the progress achieved in public health matters in the period between Conferences had its origin in the V International American Conference (Santiago, Chile, April 1923), that is to say, almost 25 years before the Constitution of the Organization came into force.

It was stipulated that at the Conferences of American States a committee on hygiene would be established and a general report "presented to the Conference upon progress made in the various countries since the preceding Conference, together with such recommendations as may be deemed desirable." It should be borne in mind that the Conferences in question were essentially political meetings designed to map out policy in all sectors of inter-American activity. In addition, the V Conference decided that Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health should be held in the intervals between Pan American Sanitary Conferences.

The Constitution of the World Health Organization, which was ratified in 1948, states in Chapter XIV that each Member shall report annually to the Organization on the action taken and the progress achieved in improving the health of its people, as well as on the action taken with respect to recommendations made to it by the Organization and with respect to conventions, agreements, and regulations.

For its part, the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization at its III Meeting, which was held in Lima, Peru in October 1949, advised Member States "to present a written report, preferably statistical, to each Pan American Sanitary Conference on the work accomplished between Conferences" (Resolution XV).

Accordingly, the agendas of subsequent Pan American Sanitary Conferences, from the XIII held in 1950 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to the XVIII held last year in Washington, D.C., have included an item "Country Reports of Member Governments on Health Conditions and Progress Achieved in the Period Between Pan American Sanitary Conferences."

The statements made by the countries to the Conferences have been dealt with in from three to five complete plenary sessions, although the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference, held in 1958 in Puerto Rico, limited statements to not more than ten minutes.

At the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, held in Santiago, Chile in 1954, those statements constituted the Technical Discussions, but this practice was not followed in subsequent Conferences. The statistical information requested has been used for preparing the quadrennial report on "Health Conditions in the Americas."

The efforts made to limit the oral statements of delegates to aspects of general interest has not been successful. The ten minute time limit allowed for statements was never favorably accepted and in practice was never complied with. On the other hand, it must be recognized that ten minutes is not sufficient time for even a general account of the progress and results achieved in the health sector, as was seen at the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, when the time allowed for the statements of Delegates was limited to ten minutes.

Possible Solutions

It should be borne in mind, that, at the present time, two reports containing the most important information on health in the Americas are published every four years. One is the World Health Situation, published by WHO, which contains a chapter on the countries of the Americas, and the other is Health Conditions in the Americas, prepared by PASB, which provides a statistical analysis of the main health and health-related problems.

The unnecessary duplication of these two publications and the statements to the Conference should be avoided, and these should be organized in such a way as to provide information conducive to more and better assistance by the Organization to the countries of the Americas in improving the health of their people.

In conclusion, a number of possible solutions are available:

1. To discontinue the statements of Delegates to the Pan American Sanitary Conferences on the progress and results achieved in the period between Conferences.
2. To continue the present procedure but limit the time allowed for the statements of Delegates to 15 minutes, in which case two-and-a-half plenary sessions would be needed.
3. To make a special study of one aspect of health administration at each Conference. The topic would be chosen by the Directing Council, and the Bureau would prepare a background document to be discussed during one plenary session only.
4. To have the Governments send to the Bureau a written report covering the period since the preceding Conference, dealing with administrative aspects of the health sector and the results obtained, thereby preventing duplication of the national statistical data which are submitted for publication in the volume dealing with health conditions in the Americas. These reports would be collected, edited, and published in the Scientific Publication series.

The sole purpose of this paper and of the suggestions it contains is to provide the Executive Committee with the necessary background information for complying with the instructions of the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

III MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

XV. PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCES OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

WHEREAS:

The Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization has recommended that the Directing Council express its views on the realization of future Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health; and

The present constitutional structure of the Pan American Sanitary Organization provides for a supreme organ of government, the Pan American Sanitary Conference, which is convened every four years and serves as a clearing-house for the exchange of information and ideas concerning the prevention of diseases and the preservation, promotion, and restitution of physical and mental health, and further provides for annual meetings of its Directing Council,

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, to be held in 1950, that it express a conclusive opinion on the advisability of abolishing the periodical meetings of the National Directors of Health, in order to avoid useless duplication of effort on the part of the Member States; and
2. To advise the Member States to present, at each Pan American Sanitary Conference, a written report, preferably of statistical nature, on the work accomplished between Conferences.

(6-13 October 1949)

RESOLUTION XXIV

SUMMARY OF REPORTS OF THE MEMBER STATES FOR 1954-1957

THE XIV PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

CONSIDERING:

That the "Summary of Reports of the Member States 1950-1953," prepared by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is a valuable document for providing knowledge of the health problems of the Americas and for coordinating health programs, inasmuch as it contains statistical data on population, births, deaths, cases of communicable diseases, personnel and organization of health services, and description of programs; and

That it is evident that the data in these reports are not strictly comparable, because of differences in definitions and procedures followed by the various countries,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Member States:

- (a) Immediately begin the improvement of these statistical data, in accordance with the recommendations of international organizations; and
- (b) Agree to increase the statistical information that their reports to the next Pan American Sanitary Conference should contain, and decide upon the procedures for obtaining such information and the methods for ensuring international comparability, with the active cooperation of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and through seminars and other activities for the exchange of ideas and procedures.

(7-22 October 1954)

RESOLUTION XXXVII

SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

THE XV PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Considering that the Summary of Four-Year Reports on Health Conditions in the Americas, prepared for this Conference, represents an obvious advance in providing data for the planning of national and international public health programs;

Considering that, for the preparation of a report of the same nature to be presented at the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference, it will be very useful to have available, from all the countries, the most complete information possible, which would include the greatest number of data concerning vital and public health statistics; and

Considering that the Eleventh World Health Assembly, in Resolution WHA11.38 has invited the Member Governments to present reports on the period 1957-1960, in order to prepare its second report on the world health situation,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Member Countries that they take the necessary measures to have their reports on health conditions, which they will prepare for the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference, include complete information in the various fields of statistics.
2. Likewise to recommend to the Member Countries that they improve the information presented, with a view to making it possible to determine what the problems are and to know what resources are available - factors essential for the most effective planning of national and international health programs.
3. To request the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to collaborate by providing technical services to aid the countries in obtaining the statistical information that they will have to prepare for the four-year report to be presented to the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference and for the second report of the WHO on the world situation.

(Approved at the fifteenth plenary session,
3 October 1958)

RESOLUTION IX

SUMMARY OF FOUR-YEAR REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE AMERICAS

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Considering that the Summaries of Four-Year Reports on Health Conditions in the Americas presented to the XIV, XV and XVI Pan American Sanitary Conferences provide an important record of progress in the Americas and contribute comparative data for the planning and evaluation of national and international programs; and

Considering that the planning of long-range programs requires basic data of many types, which should be as complete and comparable as possible and available for all areas of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Governments of the Organization take the necessary steps to expand and strengthen their programs for the collection, publication, and utilization of vital and health statistics that will serve as a basis for the formulation, execution, and evaluation of national health programs.
2. To encourage the prompt, accurate, and complete reporting of data on morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases, for immediate use in the planning, execution, and evaluation of programs for the control or eradication of such diseases.
3. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to continue to stress the importance of the annual publication of statistics on morbidity and mortality due to notifiable diseases, so that current evaluation may be made of the progress of control or eradication programs on a local, national, and international basis.
4. To recommend that each national health authority establish, or strengthen, its statistics department so that it will function at the appropriate level, respond to the needs, and fulfill the responsibilities recommended in the Pan American Sanitary Code and by the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference.
5. To encourage the Governments of the Organization to support education and training programs in statistics for professional, technical, and auxiliary personnel, so that rapid progress may be made in obtaining basic data and utilizing them effectively.

6. To recommend to the Director that the Organization continue to give high priority to the improvement of the quality and coverage of vital and health statistics, so that throughout the Americas adequate systems of collection and utilization may be developed during the next decade.

7. To recommend that the Bureau continue the publication of the Summaries of Four-Year Reports on Health Conditions in the Americas, and that increased efforts be made at all levels to improve the quality of the data submitted on human resources, health and hospital services, and other facilities.

(Approved at the ninth plenary session,
2 September 1962)

RESOLUTION XXXIX

REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION
ON PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE XVII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Mindful that the reports of the Governments of the Organization on public health conditions and the progress achieved during the interval between two consecutive Conferences contain valuable data and results of experiences; and

Considering that it would be in the interest of the Governments to use the Conference as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas about important aspects of the health conditions in their respective countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To invite the Governments to transmit to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, at least four months before the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, their reports on public health conditions and progress achieved in this field for the years 1966-1969.
2. To request the Director of the Bureau to make a comparative study of the reports and select those aspects he considers to be of the foremost importance for health in the Americas.
3. To instruct the Director to inform the Governments of the selection he has made and to invite them to make special reference to them when they make their oral presentations at the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

(Approved at the thirteenth plenary session,
7 October 1966)

RESOLUTION XI

REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
ORGANIZATION ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE XVIII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having considered the reports of the Governments of the Organization on health conditions and the progress achieved during the interval between the XVII and XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conferences, presented in accordance with Resolution XV adopted at the III Meeting of the Directing Council; and

Mindful that these reports contain extremely valuable data on important aspects of the health conditions in the countries concerned and reflect the results of diversified experience,

RESOLVES:

To thank the Governments for their reports on the health progress achieved during the period 1966-1970.

(Approved at the eighth plenary session,
6 October 1970)

RESOLUTION XIII

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE XVIII PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Convinced that the reports of the Governments of the Organization on health conditions and progress achieved in the intervals between one Conference and the next constitute useful records of experience; and

Considering that the reports of the Governments should be one of the most important items on the agenda of the Conference,

RESOLVES:

To request the Executive Committee to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country.

(Approved at the tenth plenary session,
8 October 1970)

66th Meeting of the Executive Committee

RESOLUTION XXII

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having considered the report of the Director of the Bureau (Document CE66/12) on the statements that the Governments make to the Pan American Sanitary Conference on health conditions,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Director of the Bureau on this agenda item (Document CE66/12).
2. To recommend to the Director that he ascertain the opinion of the national health authorities on the best way of making use of the statements the countries make to the Pan American Sanitary Conference on health conditions and to report to the 68th Meeting of the Executive Committee on the opinions received.

(Approved at the seventeenth plenary session,
16 July 1971)

(TRANSLATION)

Ministry of Social Welfare
Office of the Secretary of State
for Public Health

BUENOS AIRES, 24 August 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A.

I have the honor to refer to your Note PER/CONF/CL-17-71, dated 6 August 1971, addressed to the Undersecretary for Public Health of Argentina.

On his behalf and with reference to Resolution XIII, "Country Reports on Health Conditions," concerning which you invite opinions and suggestions on the best way of making use of the statement on health conditions made by countries to the Pan American Sanitary Conference, I have to inform you as follows:

1. Consideration of the background to the subject on which views are sought clearly indicates that it is important to provide an opportunity for countries periodically to speak about their health conditions in connection with their policy, measures adopted, and results achieved.

It is considered to be in the general interest that the presentation of this report by Delegations during the Pan American Sanitary Conference should be retained.

2. The quadrennial publication "Health Conditions in the Americas," issued by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is a valuable document with up-to-date information on the subject, which now includes interesting health statistics and indices. I believe that this publication should be continued and suggest that it should be supplemented on the basis of the relevant information

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specifically provided by the countries, with chapters on each country setting forth aspects of health policy, measures adopted, and results achieved during the period in question.

3. Accordingly, having given some thought to the problem as a whole, including the necessarily limited duration of the Conference and, given the size of its agenda, the time available for considering specifically the individual health situation of each country, we believe that the following procedure should be adopted:

- (a) On the occasion of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, and as much in advance as may have to be specifically determined, each country should report to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau on its health policy, measures adopted and results achieved in that sector during the four-year period in question, in addition to the data now supplied for the preparation of the scientific publication "Health Conditions in the Americas."
- (b) During the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Delegations should present a conceptual summary of aspects relevant to their countries' health policy and to the administrative aspects in this sector, with reference to developments and results achieved in the period since the preceding Conference, the time for presentation being limited to 10 minutes per Delegation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Victorio V. Olguin
Director

NOTE No. 285-2/9/71

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AFFAIRS
Defensa 192 - 3rd Floor
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Nº 17/T1

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,

Barbados

28th September, 1971.

Dear Dr. Horwitz,

I am directed to refer to your letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6th August, 1971 addressed to the Prime Minister and to say that the fourth proposal set out in the document CE66/12 appears to us to be the most suitable - i.e. the submission of a written report covering the period since the preceding Conference. In this respect we think that it would be helpful if some guidelines could be given concerning the structure and format of the report.

With renewed assurances of our highest regards.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. Burton.

.....
Permanent Secretary.

Dr. A. Horwitz,
Director PAHO/WHO,
525 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20037,
U.S.A.

(TRANSLATION)

Ministry of Health

Rio de Janeiro, 9 September 1971

Sir,

In reply to your letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August 1971 concerning Resolution XIII of the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference and Resolution XXI of the 66th Meeting of the Executive Committee on the reports on health conditions in the countries to be submitted to the quadrennial conferences, which asked for our opinion on the four possible alternatives suggested, I wish to inform you that this Ministry is of the opinion that alternative No. 4 should be adopted, and to make the following suggestions:

(a) that a uniform format be adopted for all countries, it being understood, however, that each government may deal as fully as it deems best with each of its items; and

(b) that if a government submits a lengthy report, it should be accompanied by a summary emphasizing the most important points, which can be read in not more than 15 minutes.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Francisco de Paula da Rocha Lagoa

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 Twenty-third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A.

DEPARTMENT OF
NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE



MINISTÈRE DE LA
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH
SOUS-MINISTRE DE LA SANTÉ
OTTAWA

October 28, 1971.

Dr. Abraham Horwitz,
Director,
Pan American Health Organization,
525 - 23rd Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20037,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Horwitz:

I refer to your letter dated August 6, 1971 addressed to the Honourable John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare, your reference PER/CONF/CL-17-71, with the attached document CE66/12 and Resolution XXII of the Executive Committee, Pan American Health Organization, relating to the subject of "Country Reports on Health Conditions" at Pan American Sanitary Conferences. I note your request that I submit my views as recommended in the Resolution and as I anticipate more active participation by Canada in this important area in the future, I am pleased to offer the following observations.

May I first extend my congratulations on the concise, but none the less explicit presentation contained in the above referenced document and in particular the possible solutions which have been suggested. My further remarks will deal directly with these and I shall take them in the order presented.

Turning first to solution one, I would find it difficult to support the proposal without eliminating all possible alternatives. While the points presented, from the constitutional standpoint, do not as your report states make the submission of formal country reports obligatory, it would appear that the intent of the resolution of the 1949 meeting of the Directing Council is clear as to its general purpose, that being the presentation of a written report at successive Pan American Sanitary Conferences. Subsequently, developments to which you later refer, i.e., the two reports, the first published by W.H.O. on the World Health Situation, and the second prepared by P.A.S.B. on

Health Conditions in the Americas appear to have almost obviated the emphasis as expressed in the Directing Council Resolution of 1949 on the statistical content of these reports.

One might further recall that the Conference is "the supreme governing authority of the Organization" and as such is attended, as for instance the most recent meeting in 1970, by a large proportion of Ministers of Health or their equivalents from the member countries, leading more than two-thirds of all delegations according to our count. Accordingly, one would regard this as a very important occasion in the quadrennial cycle of the Organization and as such a move to abandon the opportunity for some form of a statement by the Head of a member delegation would, I believe, tend to detract from the high quality and importance attached to these meetings.

Continuing with the consideration of solution number two, while undoubtedly the extension of the time limit allowed for statements from 10 to 15 minutes would relieve the pressure so far as individual interventions are concerned, in my view this would constitute simply a mechanical adjustment rather than attempting to find a solution to the major problem, i.e., the presentation of reports without unnecessary duplication of other records and a means of meeting the constitutional provision that the Conference should serve as a forum for the interchange of information and ideas.

While solution three does offer certain attractive features in the context of the above reference to the constitutional intent for the activities of the Conference, this proposal would appear to have a limiting element and perhaps a rather narrowing restriction. This is especially evident when one looks at the wide range in the development of health administrations and programs throughout the Americas, some aspects of which may be of interest to certain members but of limited concern to others. Further, though probably remotely so, there appears in principle at least the possibility of duplication of what has become an accepted feature of the Conference and Directing Council meetings: the Technical Discussions.

While undoubtedly the subjects of the Conference topics as in proposal 4 and the Technical Discussions at the same meeting would be chosen with care to avoid this situation, I would simply draw attention to the problem as one to be borne in mind when considering this matter in its totality. That

the adoption of a special Conference topic might result in the elimination of the Technical Discussions at the meeting would appear to be undesirable and not in conformity with the previously expressed wishes of the Member Governments.

Finally, with respect to solution number 4, while the proposed reports would undoubtedly form a useful compendium of activities in the Member Governments, I find again a possibility of duplication of effort, particularly in the case of material prepared for publication in the W.H.O. Reports on the World Health Situation, unless the scope of the Conference reports is rigidly regulated. With the pressure of routine work in all Ministries of Health, I suspect there would be a strong tendency simply to restate the contents of the report to WHO as well as, perhaps, the statistical material in the PAHO document "Health Conditions in the Americas" thus adding little, if anything, of a novel nature in the broader picture so far as the Conference is concerned.

Having expressed myself somewhat in opposition to each of the four solutions, I would not wish to be entirely negative and fail to offer something of a constructive nature in the further study of this question. I would, therefore, suggest a further variation which might meet the expressed wishes of the XVII Pan American Sanitary Conference and minimize prolonged interventions at future Conferences.

I propose for consideration a part of solution 4, i.e., "a written report covering the period since the preceding Conference dealing with administrative aspects of the health sector and the results obtained", and place maximum emphasis on the administrative content especially as it relates to organizational changes, innovations in the health services, new aspects of continuing projects, etc. This would be submitted, as proposed, in advance of the Conference, but would be introduced and referred to briefly at the time of the meeting. Such statements would, by agreement, be limited to five minutes' duration by each representative thus meeting the expressed wishes of the earlier Conference, providing useful material for publication and effecting a saving of valuable time. Should time permit, there might even be considered a "question and answer" period at some later stage of the proceedings.

I trust these thoughts which I have set down in brief will provide a useful base for further study of this important question by the Executive Committee and at the 68th Session our representative will be prepared to develop these points further if such should be desired.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurice LeClair". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Maurice LeClair, M.D.

(TRANSLATION)

Office of International Affairs
No. 3426

Subject: Submission of Governments
to the Pan American Sanitary
Conferences

Number: 2286

Santiago, 30 December 1971

I refer to the note from the Director of the Bureau, Dr. Abraham Horwitz (PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August 1971), addressed to the Minister of Public Health concerning the reports of Governments to the Pan American Sanitary Conferences.

We wish to make the following comments on this matter.

1. The time at present allowed to each Delegation (10 minutes) for presenting its report to the Conferences is, in fact, so short that it is impossible even to state the health policies of Governments. The practice followed at the last Conference, at which the President strictly applied the prescribed time-limit, is regrettable.
2. We take the view that each Delegation should be allowed no less than 20 minutes, in which case three or four plenary sessions would probably be required.
3. The proposal to make a special study of a topic of health administration at each Conference would only duplicate the Technical Discussions, and we doubt the usefulness of such a step.
4. The Quadrennial Report of the Director presented at each Conference on the basis of the information supplied by Governments is an extremely useful document.

Dr. Alejandro Sotelo
PAHO/WHO Representative
in Chile

(BY HAND)

Its disadvantage lies in the fact that at the present time, when such rapid changes are occurring in the health conditions of Member Countries, this information lags somewhat behind.

Thus, the Quadrennial Report of the Director for the period 1966-1969, presented at the 1970 Conference, actually contains information from very few countries in the year 1969.

Generally speaking, the tables of vital statistics go up to only 1968, and often up to only 1967.

Again, the Report shows how the Organization sees the health picture of the Hemisphere, which is very useful for Governments, but usually it does not present their views.

5. For all the foregoing reasons, we venture to offer two alternative solutions:

- (a) The present procedure for presenting the reports of Governments to the Conference should be retained, each Delegation being allowed 20 minutes for its presentation.
- (b) The presentation of reports of Governments should be limited to the most outstanding events that have occurred in the health sector in their countries and to events of direct relevance to that sector. Such presentations should not be discussed by each Delegation at the Conference but should be distributed to the various participating delegations or, alternatively, disseminated in the PAHO series of technical publications, provided that this is not too costly.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Bogoslav Juricic T.
Chief, Office of International Affairs

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

No. 4187-DM

San José, 21 August 1971
"150 Years of Independence"

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 - 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August, referring to Resolution XIII in which the Executive Committee is requested "to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation, and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country."

In this connection, I wish to inform you that this Ministry will shortly send you the suggestions which it considers appropriate.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. José Luis Orlich
Minister

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

No. 4302-DM

San José, 30 August 1971
"150 Years of Independence"

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 - 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A

Sir,

I refer once again to your letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August. After reading the annexed documents which refer to the desire of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to receive from Governments suggestions as to the method of utilizing the reports presented every four years by member countries, I wish to make the following suggestion.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau should be asked to prepare a standard form with the most important data which, in its opinion, are of the greatest interest to the country concerned; moreover, the data in the reports from the different countries should be comparable. Once the form is prepared, it should be submitted to Governments for their consideration.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. José Luis Orlich
Minister

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Havana, 17 January 1972
"Year of Socialist Emulation"

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director
Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Sir,

Pursuant to the recommendation of the PAHO Executive Committee in Resolution XIII of its 66th Meeting, you requested our opinion on the best way of making use of the submissions of countries to the Pan American Sanitary Conferences on their health conditions and on the need to find ways and means of enabling better use to be made of the valuable material submitted by Member Countries.

We have carefully studied document CE66/12, which you sent, and which sets forth four proposed possible solutions to this problem. Our view is as follows.

We consider that the Governments should send to the Organization a written report on the period following the last Conference, describing developments in the health sector and the successes achieved. These reports should subsequently be collected by the Organization for publication and distribution to Member Countries.

During the Conference, each delegation should make a short statement summing up the main points in its report which may be of use to the participants.

Although we appreciate the difficulties deriving from the need to limit the time so as to cover the program of Conferences, we believe that, because of the importance of this subject, we must recommend to those responsible for conducting and directing the debates and discussions of the Representatives of the countries that they exercise sufficient flexibility in the interest of achieving the main purpose of these debates, which is to contribute useful experiences that will provide the Organization and

the Governments with sufficient information for improving the health conditions of our peoples. It would defeat this purpose if the statements were to be of inferior quality or were to be cut short or allowed to continue too long.

I look forward to receiving information from you on the decisions reached in this matter.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)

Dr. Heliodoro Martínez Junco
Minister

(TRANSLATION)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

* * *

"YEAR OF SPORTS AND POPULAR CULTURE"

DSE 14081

Santo Domingo, D. N.
1 September 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Through: Dr. José R. Quiñones T.
PAHO/WHO Representative

Sir,

With reference to your communication PER/CONF/CL-17-71 concerning the more effective utilization of the country reports on health conditions, I would venture to say that these documents could be of greater value both for the Organization and for the countries if their contents were related to, or summarized, the information and areas of analysis of the quadrennial projections which the countries prepare and revise annually in collaboration with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. These reports would then form part of the dynamic process of programming the assistance which PAHO/WHO provides to the Governments.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Francisco Manuel Tezanos
Secretary of State for Public Health
and Social Welfare

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WELFARE
REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

San Salvador, 1 September 1971

Subject: In reference to the report
on health conditions

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 - 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20037
U.S.A

Sir,

I refer to your note PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August, in which you enclosed a copy of Resolution XIII (Country Reports on Health Conditions), and other annexes. The resolution states that a study is requested of ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit.

As is common knowledge, this matter was discussed at several Conferences and no satisfactory conclusion was reached.

Actually it is always a tedious business to listen morning and afternoon to the reports of 23 countries and territories and, since an article of the Bureau's Statutes is involved, I think, that among the possible solutions offered, consideration should be given to the fourth (in Document CE66/12), namely, "To have the Governments send to the Bureau a written report covering the period since the preceding Conference, dealing with administrative aspects of the health sector and the results obtained, thereby preventing duplication of the national statistical data which are submitted for publication in the column dealing with health conditions in the Americas. These reports will be collected, edited, and published in the Scientific Publication series."

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Victor Manuel Esquivel
Minister of Public Health
and Social Welfare

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, 17 August 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20037

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note and annexes, under reference PER/CONF/CL-17-71, of 6 August, in which you refer to Resolution XIII of the Executive Committee requesting the opinion of Member Countries on the best method of utilizing the submissions made by countries to the Pan American Sanitary Conference on their health conditions.

I wish to inform you that the contents of your note and annexes are now being forwarded to the department concerned.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Lic. Daniel Barrera de Evian
First Deputy Director for Treaties
and International Organizations

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WELFARE
GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, 18 August 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
525 Twenty-third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note No. PER/CONF/CL-17-71 in which, pursuant to Resolution XIII of the Executive Committee, you transmitted Document CE66/12 which sets forth four possible solutions to the problem of finding ways and means of improving the utilization of the material in the reports submitted by the Ministers and Delegates on health conditions in their countries.

In this connection I wish to inform you that, in the opinion of this Ministry, No. 2 is the solution which should be adopted, namely, that the present procedure should be continued but the time allowed for statements should be limited to 15 minutes per Delegate. The time thus allowed would enable each country to present succinctly and explicitly the most important achievements in the health sector during the previous year.

The Delegates could submit detailed information on the health conditions in their countries in writing to the Secretariat of the Conference for subsequent dissemination in full in the manner prescribed in the relevant regulations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. José Trinidad Ucles
Minister of Public Health
and Social Welfare

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, 9 September 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20037

Sir,

With reference to your note PER/CONF/CL-17-71, dated 6 August 1971, I have the honor to transmit herewith a photocopy of Note No. 7328, dated 1 September, addressed to this Ministry by Dr. Antonio Recinos M., Vice-Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare, which expresses the opinion of that Ministry on the best way of utilizing the submissions on health conditions made by countries to the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Lic. Daniel Barrera de Evian
First Deputy Director for Treaties
and International Organizations

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WELFARE
GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, 1 September 1971

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 19754, dated 17 August, relating to the note and annexes, under reference PER/CONF/CL-17-71, from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau concerning Resolution XIII of the Executive Committee. In this connection I wish to inform you that the opinion of this Ministry is as follows.

Of the possible solutions proposed, the second should be adopted, namely, that the present procedure should be continued but the time allowed for statements should be limited to 15 minutes per Delegation. The time thus allowed would enable each country to present succinctly and explicitly the most important achievements in the health sector during the previous year, and the Delegates could submit detailed information on the health conditions in their countries in writing to the Secretariat of the Conference for subsequent dissemination in full in the manner prescribed in the relevant regulations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Antonio Recinos M.
Vice-Minister of Public Health
and Social Welfare

The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Eng. Alfredo Obiols Gómez

(BY HAND)



200/1/11¹¹

Ministry of Health.
Brickdam, Georgetown 11
P. O. Box 157
Guyana

26th August, 1971

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of the 6th August, 1971, I am pleased to let you know that I am in full agreement with Conclusion 2, Document CE 66/12, which was taken at the 66th Meeting of the Executive Committee in compliance with Resolution XIII of the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference held in October 1970.

Yours faithfully,

(Hamilton Green)
Minister

Dr. Abraham Horwitz,
Director, Pan American Health Organisation,
525, Twenty-third Street, N.10.,
Washington, D.C. 20037,
U.S.A.

c.c. Dr. Sumedha Khanna,
PAHO/WHO Country Representative, Guyana,
Ministry of Health,
Georgetown, Guyana.

(TRANSLATION)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 10 August 1971

Communication No. 1398-71

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that on 6 August 1971 I received your letter under reference PER/CONF/CL-17-71, in which you inform me that the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference adopted Resolution XIII in which the Executive Committee is requested to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country.

I wish to thank you for your important letter and avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Gilberto Osorio Contreras
Minister

(TRANSLATION)

PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Washington, D.C.

No. 1889
File 499.26

29 September 1971

Sir,

I refer to your note PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August, which you addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, concerning Resolution XIII, adopted at the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference held at Washington, D.C. in October 1970, whereby it was decided to request the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization to study, in collaboration with the technical staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in consultation with the Governments, ways and means of facilitating the formulation, presentation and discussion of the reports of Governments so that the other Members of the Organization may derive the greatest possible benefit from the experience of each country.

In this connection, the competent Mexican authorities, after studying the four possible solutions set forth in Document CE66/12, approved by the Executive Committee at its 66th Meeting, have selected the second solution mentioned in that document, which is summed up as follows:

To continue the present procedure but limit the time allowed for the statements of Delegates to 15 minutes, in which case two-and-a-half plenary sessions would be needed.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Rafael de la Colina
Ambassador

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C.

(TRANSLATION)

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Managua

24 August 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your note PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August 1971 concerning the reports of the Ministers and Delegates on health conditions in their countries.

In our opinion, Solution No. 2 on page 4 of Document CE66/12 of 14 June 1971, should be adopted. We would also suggest that the Bureau should issue a publication similar to Scientific Publication No. 207 entitled "Health Conditions in the Americas." Whether this document should be issued once a year or every four years should be a matter for discussion.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Dr. Francisco Urcuyo Maliaño
Vice-President of the Republic
Minister of Public Health

(TRANSLATION)

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Ministry of Health
General Health Administration

2490/DM/DS/71
13 September 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau
525 Twenty-third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
U.S.A.

Sir,

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of letter PER/CONF/CL-17-71 relating to the need expressed by the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference to find a method or procedure enabling better use to be made of the valuable information or material presented by the delegates of the different countries as part of their respective reports on health conditions.

With respect to the four alternative solutions to this problem you mentioned, we agree that the present situation should be maintained and that each delegate should be allowed not more than 15 minutes in which to present his report. Nevertheless, this does not preclude the adoption of the 3rd or 4th alternative, that is, that at each conference a special study should be made of one aspect of health administration and that the governments should also send to the Organization a written report covering the period since the preceding conference and dealing with administrative aspects of the health sector, its trend and results, and so avoid a duplication of the monthly statistical data transmitted for publication in the report on health conditions in the Americas.

Accept, Sir, the renewed expression of my highest consideration.

(signed)
José Renán Esquivel (Dr.)
Minister of Health

(TRANSLATION)

REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND
SOCIAL WELFARE

SI-1477-71

Caracas, 7 September 1971

Dr. Abraham Horwitz
Director
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
525 - 23rd Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
USA

Sir,

With reference to your communication PER/CONF/CL-17-71 of 6 August 1971, I enclose herewith the suggestions of our Government concerning the reports on health conditions of the Member Countries in the corresponding four-year period which are sent to the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
J. J. Mayz Lyon
Minister of Health
and Social Welfare

Annex

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS AT THE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

Suggestions from the
Government of Venezuela

1. Governments could report to the Pan American Sanitary Conference on health conditions in their countries by either or both of the following procedures:
 - (a) Oral statements at plenary sessions of the Conference.
 - (b) Written reports for distribution during the Conference.
2. Both the oral statements at the Conference and the written reports should be optional, i.e., not compulsory, for the countries. This point should therefore be made clear in the invitations sent to countries.
3. Oral statements should be limited to the most important facts which, because of their novelty, international importance or other reasons, may be of real interest to other countries or to the Organization itself.
4. These statements should exclude routine statistics because these will be found, on the same occasion, in the quadrennial publication on "Health Conditions in the Americas" which is distributed at each Conference.
5. Oral statements should be limited to 10 minutes (four double-spaced typewritten pages, letter size).
6. The time limit should be rigorously applied by means of an illuminated or sound signal.
7. A deadline should be set for representatives to put themselves on the list of speakers for such statements. The deadline should be very short and, after it has elapsed, no further names should be accepted.
8. Statements should be in writing and should be shown at the time the speaker's name is put on the list to ensure that they are in conformity with point 5 above.
9. Oral statements may be distributed to the participants after delivery and should be published in the records of the Conference.

10. Written reports, which should not be subject to any limit as regards their content or length, should not be read out at the Conference but should be available in sufficient copies for distribution to the participants. These reports should not be published by the Organization.

11. Oral statements and written reports of countries on their health conditions should not be open for discussion at the Conference.

12. The rules finally adopted in this matter should be made known to the countries sufficiently in advance, should be distributed in writing at the first session of the Conference and, in addition, should be handed to speakers when they put their names on the list.

Caracas, August 1971