

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXIII Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



XXVII Meeting

Washington, D.C.  
September-October 1975

CD23/30 (Eng.)  
3 October 1975  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE LENGTH  
OF DIRECTING COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Working Group to study the possibility of reducing the length of Directing Council meetings met on 30 September and 1 October 1975, at 6:00 p.m.

The membership of the Group was as follows: Dr. Pedro R. Yañez (Argentina), Dr. Hermán Weinstok W. (Costa Rica), Dr. Lenín Sáenz J. (Costa Rica), Dr. José Otero M. (Cuba), Dr. S. Paul Ehrlich, Jr. (United States of America), and Dr. Rogelio Valladares (Venezuela). Dr. Hermán Weinstok W. was elected Chairman.

The Group considered and discussed the following points proposed by its members as a basis for reducing the length of the Council meetings:

1. Delegation of a greater degree of responsibility and more functions to the Executive Committee, particularly as regards the study of the budget, to enable each of the nine Members of the Executive Committee, with knowledge of the budgets of specific countries, to make a more concrete contribution with regard to those budgets.
2. The Executive Committee study some of the items normally submitted to the Council.
3. Limitation of the number of agenda items.
4. Establishment of two main committees working simultaneously, along the lines of the Pan American Sanitary Conference.
5. Holding the Technical Discussions on Saturday.
6. Holding the Technical Discussions at the same time as the sessions of the Council, in which case the countries would undertake to designate technical experts specifically to take part in them.
7. Working documents and comments on them to be very concise; presentations to be expanded at the specific request of the Delegates.

8. Establishment of working groups for the specific study of certain subjects with membership automatically provided by the countries in strictly alphabetical order.
9. The number of hours of sessions of the Council be not less than eight per day.
10. Sessions of the Council be programmed as follows:  
  
Thursday: Inauguration and procedural or statutory activities  
  
Friday: Technical Discussions  
  
Saturday and Sunday: Free  
  
Monday to Friday: Working sessions  
  
Saturday: Closure
11. The working documents be duly studied well in advance, to obviate unnecessary interventions.

The Group points out that although various possibilities were considered in regard to the Technical Discussions, it is aware that the Directing Council intends to examine the pertinent rules and take a decision on them.

After full discussion and lengthy examination of the suggestions made, the Group reached the conclusion that making specific recommendations would necessitate a thorough study of the way in which they would affect the constitutional and statutory provisions in force. In addition, the financial implications for PAHO of some of the measures proposed would need to be carefully studied.

The Group felt that in the short time available for studying the possible legal, statutory and financial implications of the measures proposed, it could not afford to make any recommendation at the moment, but that the Executive Committee would be in a position at its meeting in 1976 to look into these matters and propose solutions based on a working document prepared by the Director of the Bureau.

The Working Group therefore respectfully begs to submit the attached resolution to the Council for its consideration.

It would, nevertheless, like to acknowledge the excellent cooperation of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and those of its Members present in the Council, and to state that their contribution was most valuable in connection with the study and approval of the budget and helped to reduce very substantially the time ordinarily spent in such deliberations.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

(Submitted by the Working Group to study the possibility of reducing the length of Meetings of the Directing Council)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Working Group set up to study the possibility of reducing the length of meetings of the Directing Council; and

Bearing in mind the possible implications--constitutional, statutory, and financial--of the measures considered by the Working Group,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Director to prepare a study of the constitutional, statutory, and financial implications of each of the measures suggested by the Working Group for shortening the number of days of Directing Council sessions and any others that are deemed appropriate, and to include the topic in the program of the 76th Meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. To instruct the Executive Committee to examine this matter and submit its final recommendations to the next meeting of the Directing Council.