

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXIV Meeting

México, D.F.  
September-October 1976

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXVIII Meeting



INDEXED

Provisional Agenda Item 17

CD24/7 (Eng.)  
31 July 1976  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STUDY OF THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Background

The XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference (1974) adopted Resolution XLIV, which reads as follows:

THE XIX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Considering it desirable to study ways of ensuring that the Technical Discussions produce the best results for the Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To ask the Director of the Bureau to include this subject among the topics to be discussed at the 74th Meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. To instruct the Executive Committee to study all aspects of the Technical Discussions, particularly those relating to the procedures used in conducting them, and to report thereon to the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council, XXVII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, with a view to a decision being taken on the matter.

The request for the study grew out of a rather general feeling among the Delegates to the Conference that the Technical Discussions were not as stimulating nor as productive of ideas as they might be. There was particular concern over the small number of delegates participating in the Discussions, which was taken as an indication of their failure to meet their full potential.

At its 74th Meeting in June 1975, the Executive Committee studied the matter with considerable care. In Resolution XLI, the Committee essentially made two recommendations to the Directing Council:

1. It recommended that the Technical Discussions be continued at future sessions of the Conference and of the Council; and
2. It recommended to the Council that it adopt a series of proposed amendments to the Rules for Technical Discussions. The amendments proposed would have provided for selection of the topic for the Technical Discussions two years in advance, for the selection to be made by the Director, in consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, for appointment of the moderator one year in advance by the Executive Committee, and for other less significant changes.

#### Action of the Directing Council

The Directing Council at its XXIII Meeting discussed the Executive Committee's recommendations in detail. The Council accepted the Committee's recommendation to continue the Technical Discussions at future meetings of the Council and the Conference. It declined, however, to amend the Rules for Technical Discussions, as recommended by the Committee, and remanded the issue of rule changes to the Executive Committee for further study. Resolution XXVII of the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council reads as follows:

#### THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having studied Document CD23/16 and its Annex I on the Study of the Technical Discussions carried out by the Executive Committee; and

Agreeing with the Executive Committee that the Technical Discussions have an intrinsic and significant value in the development of the programs of the Organization,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To continue to hold the Technical Discussions at each meeting of the Conference or the Council, as has been the practice up to the present.
2. To note with satisfaction the study and the documents of the Executive Committee and the recommendations contained therein.
3. To instruct the Executive Committee to continue to study the matter thoroughly, with due regard to the observations made at the present Meeting.

A careful perusal of the summary record of the discussion on this topic in the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council reveals the following repeatedly expressed views:

1. Many Members of the Council expressed their satisfaction with the way in which the Technical Discussions were conducted at the XXIII Meeting of the Council. This was cited as evidence that the Discussions could be satisfying to the Delegates under existing rules and procedures. Indeed, the Director had decided to prepare for the Discussions in such a way as to maximize discussion by delegates and to restrict formal presentations to the minimum.
2. Several delegates felt that the Council should retain the function of selecting the topics for the Technical Discussions.
3. Many delegates stated quite strongly that they do desire the material prepared earlier than it has been available in the past, in order to provide more time for study and preparation for the Discussions.

#### Further Action by the Executive Committee

In response to Resolution XXVII of the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council, the Committee studied the issue further at its 76th Meeting. The Committee considered that no further action on the question of continuation of the Technical Discussions was necessary. The Council had already decided, in Resolution XXVII to continue to hold Technical Discussions at future meetings of both the Conference and the Council.

The Director proposes to follow the same preparation procedure for future Technical Discussions as was used for the Discussions at the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council. Those Discussions appeared to meet with the approval of the Delegates. No changes in the Rules for Technical Discussions appear to be necessary in order to continue this method of preparation.

In response to strongly expressed views on the part of Delegates to the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution X, which proposes to the Council a simple change in the Rules for Technical Discussions. The change would provide for selection of the topic for the Technical Discussions two years in advance. This would provide time for documentation to be made available to Governments much earlier than under the present practice.

Annexed to this document is the text of the resolution proposed to the Directing Council by the Committee. If the Council adopts the proposed resolution, it would be necessary, at the current session, for the Council to select a topic for the Technical Discussions to be held during the Directing Council meeting in 1977 and another for the Discussions to be held at the Conference in 1978.

Should the Directing Council adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee to amend Rule 7 of the Rules for Technical Discussions, Rule 7 would read as follows (material to be deleted, in brackets [ ]; material to be added, underlined):

Rule 7. The Technical Discussions shall deal with only one subject, which shall be selected [each year] at the meeting of the Conference or the Directing Council preceding by two years that at which the Technical Discussions are to be held. The Governments and the Director of the American Sanitary Bureau shall be entitled to suggest subjects either prior to those meetings or in the course of them. The Bureau shall inform the Governments of the Organization of the subjects proposed. Both the Conference and the Council shall be entitled to delegate the selection of subjects to the Executive Committee.

Annex



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

76th Meeting

WORKING PARTY OF  
THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



76th Meeting

## RESOLUTION X

### STUDY OF THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having further studied the Rules for Technical Discussions, as requested by the Directing Council at its XXIII Meeting;

Having considered the discussion that took place on this topic at the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council; and

Believing that the topics for Technical Discussions should be selected two years in advance,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Directing Council that it adopt the following resolution:

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having studied the report of the Executive Committee recommending an amendment to the Rules for Technical Discussions,

RESOLVES:

1. To amend Rule 7 of the Rules for Technical Discussions by deleting the words "each year" in the second line and inserting the words "by two years" immediately following the word "preceding" in the third line.
2. To select the topic for the Technical Discussions to be held at the XXV Meeting of the Directing Council in 1977 and the topic for the Discussions to be held at the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1978.

(Approved at the ninth plenary session,  
25 June 1976)