

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXXI Meeting

Washington, D.C.
September-October 1985

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
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XXXVII Meeting

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Provisional Agenda Item 7

CD31/5 (Eng.)
Corrigendum
17 September 1985
ENGLISH/SPANISH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Presented by Dr. Virgilio Macías Murillo, of Ecuador)

Corrigendum

Page 15, seventh paragraph, should read:

"There was general satisfaction with the support given by the Ministers of Agriculture, and it was made clear that Resolution XII of RIMSA IV would be implemented by the Veterinary Public Health Program. The role that CEPANZO should play as reference laboratory for food microbiology and detection of toxic residues was reiterated."

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CD31/5 (Eng.)
20 August 1985
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Presented by Dr. Virgilio Macías Murillo, of Ecuador)

According to paragraph C, Article 9, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, one of the functions of the Directing Council is to review the annual reports of the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Hence it falls to me to report to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council on the work done by the Committee during the last year.

94th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 94th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Headquarters building in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1984 with Dr. Abelardo Ramírez (Cuba), Chairman pro tempore, as Chairman.

The Representatives of Brazil, Colombia and Honduras, newly elected to the Executive Committee in replacement of the Dominican Republic, Panama and Uruguay, whose mandates had expired, took their seats on the Committee in this meeting. The honor of conducting the proceedings of the Executive Committee fell to myself as Chairman, assisted by Dr. Lyall Black (Canada), as Vice Chairman, and Dr. Amaury García Burgos (Colombia), as Rapporteur.

In this meeting only one session was held, which focused essentially on the filling of seats in the different bodies of the Executive Committee. These appointments were as follows:

1. Canada and Dominica were elected members of the Award Committee, PAHO Award for Administration, in place of the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, whose membership on the Committee had ended.

2. Honduras was elected a member of the Standing Committee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in place of Panama, whose membership on the Committee had expired.

3. Colombia was elected a member of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming.

4. Canada was elected a member of the Subcommittee on Women, Health and Development, in place of Panama, the outgoing member.

95th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

The 95th Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C., from 24 to 28 June 1985. It was attended by representatives of the nine Member Countries, that is, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras and the United States by America, and by observers from Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, France, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago, and from Spain, five intergovernmental organizations, and one inter-American nongovernmental organization.

A decisive factor in the success of the Meeting was the effective and tireless support of all the staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau under its Director, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo. This was the first meeting of a Governing Body of PAHO attended by Dr. Robert Knouss, who had just joined the staff of the PASB as the new Deputy Director.

Altogether 11 plenary sessions were held in five days of arduous labor, including two night sessions. Although it sat for only a few days, the Committee dealt satisfactorily with a sizeable body of work and gave all the time that was needed to the different items of the agenda so as to be fully acquainted with the problems and be able to report on them properly to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council. This reference to the care and depth with which the problems were studied is particularly true of the discussion of item 8, which was primarily the proposed program budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the biennium 1988-1989.

In the absence of the Rapporteur, Dr. Amaury García Burgos (Colombia), at the beginning of its first plenary session the Executive Committee elected Dr. Juan Roberto Menchaca Montano (Cuba) Rapporteur pro tempore, in compliance with Article 11 of its Rules of Procedure.

Item 2: The Agenda

For the sake of orderly presentation, I will report fully on the proceedings of the Executive Committee in the order of the topics on its Agenda (Document CE95/1, Rev. 2), which was adopted, pursuant to Article 5 of its Rules of Procedure, in the first plenary session.

Item 3: Representation of the Executive Committee at the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXVII of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

In compliance with Article 14 of its Rules of Procedure, in its first plenary session the Executive Committee elected Dr. Lyall Black (Canada) to join me in the honorable mission of representing the Executive Committee to this meeting of the Directing Council. Dr. Juan Jaramillo (Costa Rica) and Mrs. Jennifer Astaphan (Dominica), respectively, were elected as our alternates.

Item 4: Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions

The collection of quota contributions gave rise to an animated discussion in which Representatives of Members of the Committee and Observers from the Member Countries of PAHO participated. The Executive Committee devoted more than half of its first plenary session to this topic.

The most important aspects of this situation are that 80% of the arrears prior to 1985 are owed by just two countries, and that Brazil alone owes about US\$8 million of the \$10,400,000 outstanding.

In regard to the countries with the oldest arrears, it was noted that Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti and Nicaragua are making laudable efforts to pay despite severe financial difficulties. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Paraguay or the Dominican Republic.

The speakers in this discussion expressed concern over the fact that arrears amount to almost 24% of the assessments for 1984 and are almost equivalent to the contributions for a whole year.

There was also reference to the understanding that was needed for debtor countries in the throes of dire economic crisis and of the difficulties of making payments in dollars.

The outcome of the discussion was Resolution I, approved in the fourth plenary session, in which the Executive Committee took note of the information received, thanked the Member Governments that had already made payments and urged the others to make theirs when due, and requested the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that the voting restrictions contained in Article 6.B of the PAHO Constitution be strictly applied to Member Governments who by the time of the opening of that Meeting have not discussed again with the Secretariat their possibilities for meeting their payment commitments and the manner of doing so.

Item 5: Interim Financial Report of the Director for 1984

At its first plenary session the Secretariat made a long and detailed presentation of the financial transactions of PAHO between 1 January and 31 December 1984 and the financial statements of the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), and the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF), and the extent to which program support costs had been applied to extrabudgetary-funded projects initiated in 1984.

In reply to questions from the participants, the Secretariat said that:

Money committed on the Organization's books but not spent at the end of 12 months following the close of the financial period in which it had been committed was channeled into "miscellaneous income."

In its procurements for account of the countries the Organization collects a service charge of only 3%, while the smaller countries benefit by reduction of up to 50% on international prices.

In making these procurements for account of its Member Countries, PAHO does not incur additional expense because it would have to maintain a procurement operation anyway to supply its own needs.

Arrears in the collection of quota contributions for the English-speaking Centers in the Caribbean do not reflect any lack of interest on the part of the Governments, but only the countries' current economic difficulties.

Charging the miscellaneous income account to supply program deficits that could be covered if all Member Countries paid their assessments on time appears to favor those who do not pay them against those who are up to date in their payments, for the miscellaneous income could be used to reduce the assessments of all the countries to the regular budget, although not by a very significant amount.

INCAP has passed through a severe economic crisis, but is beginning to recover.

The decline in use of the EPI Fund is transitory, and the trend for 1986 is toward higher investments.

The result of this interesting discussion was the approval in the fourth plenary session of Resolution II transmitting the Interim Financial Report of the Director for the Year 1984 to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council, expressing the Executive Committee's concern over the possible impact of the delayed payment of quota assessments, and congratulating the Director on having maintained the Organization in a sound financial position.

Item 6: Report of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

Mr. Neil Boyer (United States of America), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, reviewed the work done by the Subcommittee.

The chief point that came out in the discussion was that it had become quite clear that a small body such as the Subcommittee could be useful in assisting the Executive Committee to arrive at its decisions and make its recommendations to the Directing Council. This was particularly true of consideration of the proposed biennial budget, in which changes were made as a consequence of the Subcommittee's study.

It was announced that the Subcommittee's functions would be better defined in draft rules of procedure to be submitted to it in its next meeting.

The Committee did not find it necessary to adopt any resolution on this topic.

Item 7: Regional Program Budget Policy

In presenting this topic, Mr. Schneider, of the Secretariat, indicated that Document CE95/24, ADD. I, was the first draft of a regional program budget policy which would serve as the contribution of the Americas to the world effort to optimize the use of the Organization's resources.

The discussion reviewed the recent inception of this matter at the initiative of WHO. The speakers said that the 12 guidelines proposed for the program budget appeared reasonable. They also dwelt on the difficulties imposed on PAHO's optimal use of resources by the intervention of the Executive Board of WHO, inasmuch as about three quarters of those resources do not come from the World Health Organization but from PAHO. It was stressed that results must be evaluated from the outside, and it became manifest that a decentralization process was at work, with PAHO as the pioneer of all the Regions. Other comments underscored the enormous importance of technical cooperation among developing countries on the strength of a shared motivation, based on complementarity, reciprocity and mutual benefit, to articulate the needs and capabilities of the different countries.

One source of concern noted by participants was a possible rise in overhead costs.

The Director answered many questions of the representatives and observers and supplied details on the preparation of the document in the short time following the close of the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly and the meeting of the Global Program Committee. He explained that the document contained nothing entirely new and had to be regarded in the general context of the policy of the countries in the Region and PAHO.

The Director said that a policy would have to be framed that was explicit enough to provide guidance and flexible enough to be adjusted to the real needs of the countries, and he noted that those principles had already been applied in the preparation of the budget for the biennium 1986-1987. He was concerned by the lack of precision in the ordering of priorities in the Organization which, he pointed out, should not have goals of its own, but embrace those of the countries.

In regard to the rise in overheads, the Director was convinced that effectiveness would be improved thereby, and that, in the long run, these costs would go down.

The outcome of the discussion was Resolution XI, approved in the eighth plenary session. In it the Executive Committee declares its overall support for the general approach and specific concepts contained in the stated policy and recommends that the Director revise the document in response to the comments made in the discussion and present the new text to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council.

Item 8: Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1986-1987
Provisional Draft of the Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1988-1989
Provisional Draft of the Program Budget of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for the Biennium 1988-1989

Review of the budgets of the Pan American Health Organization is one of the primary constitutional functions of the Executive Committee. In keeping with the importance of this function, in its 95th Meeting the Executive Committee devoted a long and detailed discussion to the subject. Mr. Milam, of the PASB, explained in full details the format, makeup and content of Official Document 199, presenting the figures for the biennium 1984-1985 (for comparison purposes), those proposed for the biennium 1986-1987, and the projections for 1988-1989.

The Director made an interesting statement on the budget presented, which was designed particularly to address four major challenges in 1986-1987: first, the need to improve the management strategies to optimize the use of resources; second, the need to find a way to integrate health into the general development effort; third, integration of the technological process into health; and, lastly, to bring the Governments into close partnership with the Organization, not only through its Governing Bodies but in the countries themselves, in real acceptance of the commitments they make in their collective decisions.

He cited, as priorities, activities in the area of the infrastructure of health services, maternal and child care, chronic diseases and the elderly, and Central America, the Caribbean and the Andean region as the subregions in greatest need. Nor can the development of administrative methods in the Bureau be omitted from this order of priorities.

The Director noted that the proposed increase in the overall budget was, at a mere 8.2%, the smallest increase in the Organization's history, and was equivalent to a real reduction of almost 1%.

He voiced concern over the current acute economic crisis and the hope that the incipient signs of economic recovery in the United States of America would be confirmed and spread so that Latin America and the Caribbean might also accomplish the almost impossible task of managing their debts, eliminating their fiscal deficits, and controlling inflation without making the already bad conditions of life of their populations even worse.

He also expressed concern over current political tensions and a desire to use health as a means to promote peace.

As Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming Mr. Neil Boyer (United States of America) referred to a review of the budget that the Subcommittee had made at its meeting in March. He said that the Subcommittee had been pleased to note an overall budget increase of only 8.2%, an absence of program growth in the regular budget, and an estimate of cost increases at 9.1%. The Subcommittee had also welcomed the provision of US\$4,800,000 in Miscellaneous Income.

The Subcommittee had considered acceptable the reduction of US\$220,000 in the Regular Funds from WHO because the initial allocation had been high. Even with that reduction the Director had been able to present a program budget with a 0.9% reduction in the general program and real program growth of 4.1% in the countries.

He was also gratified to see that the comments made by the Subcommittee in the course of its review had been taken into account and that extensive revisions had been made in Official Document 199. In the discussion that ensued on the subject, the speakers emphasized, among other things, the advantages of the loose-leaf format, which would make it possible for the Governments to exert real influence on the preparation of budgets. There was special praise for the quality of the introduction to Official Document 199, and the point was made that more extrabudgetary funds could be obtained if the Member Governments were to increase their capacity to absorb them.

Commentary on the budget as a whole having been exhausted, the Executive Committee viewed the five chapters of the Classified List of Programs. An interesting dialogue ensued in which the Secretariat

clarified doubts, answered questions and responded to comments by the different speakers on the specific subjects as they arose. All the programs, including those of the countries, were carefully reviewed, and the salient conclusions of this thorough study were taken down by the Rapporteur and embodied in Resolution VI, which the Executive Committee approved unanimously in its sixth plenary session. This resolution thanks the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming for its preliminary review of the proposed program budget, expresses appreciation to the Director for its presentation and for his efforts to restrain overall budget increases and increase the country programs. It also asks the Director to continue to refine the budget document in light of the recommendations made during the discussion and, lastly, recommends to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it approve the proposed program budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the biennium 1986-1987 with an effective working budget of US\$112,484,000, by adopting the corresponding appropriation and assessment resolutions presented in Official Document 199.

Item 9: Amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Mr. Barahona, of the PASB, presented this topic and explained that it concerned a number of modifications proposed for the purpose of maintaining uniformity between PASB Staff Rules and those of WHO, as the Director was requested to do in Resolution XXIX of the 59th Meeting of the Executive Committee in 1968.

In consequence of the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly in late 1984, 20 points of post adjustment had to be consolidated into the net base salary of PASB staff members. This change implies no increase or decrease in salaries. The same is true of the so-called ungraded posts, that is, the salaries of the Director, the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director. It is an established practice in PAHO that the Executive Committee fixes the salary of the Deputy Director in keeping with that of other Regional Directors of WHO, and that of the Assistant Director at US\$1,000 less a year.

Another change was the establishment of a pecuniary incentive approved by the International Civil Service Commission for official stations where living conditions are particularly difficult. Thus, two levels are established, one of US\$1,800 a year for staff without dependants and another of US\$3,600 for staff with them, and at official stations where conditions are even more difficult, the two figures are US\$2,400 and US\$4,800, respectively.

On the same agenda topic the Chairman of the PASB Staff Association read Document CE95/10, ADD. I, setting forth the views of that Association on terminations for disciplinary reasons, the establishment of ad hoc boards of appeal, pension rights, and delays in the application of post adjustments. In the discussion that followed,

some speakers complained that the representative of the staff had read out in full a long document that the members of the Executive Committee had had time to study, and expressed disagreement with some of the requests of the staff.

The Director gave explanations of the defense machinery available to staff members subject to disciplinary action.

Finally, the Executive Committee unanimously approved Resolution III confirming the amendments to the Staff Rules submitted by the Director, and Resolution IV establishing the salaries of the Deputy Director and Assistant Director, and recommending to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it establish the net salary of the Director at US\$65,320 (dependency rate) or at US\$58,918 (single rate) per annum.

Item 10: PAHO Award for Administration

Dr. Black (Canada), as Chairman of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration, reported on the review made of the five candidatures presented and the Committee's decision to make the Award for 1985 to Dr. Elizabeth Quamina, of Trinidad and Tobago, for her outstanding work in health planning, administration and human resource development.

Several speakers commended the choice and the fact that the Award had gone to a woman. In the same session the Executive Committee approved Resolution V noting the choice and resolving to transmit the report of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Administration to the XXIII Meeting of the Directing Council. Under the same topic the Director announced that Dr. Stewart Portner, the eminent health administrator and generous founder of the Award, was gravely ill. The Members unanimously decided to pay Dr. Portner a tribute of gratitude which was expressed in Resolution VII, approved by the Executive Committee in its sixth plenary session. It requested the Director to convey to Dr. Stuart Portner the gratitude of the Executive Committee and its wishes for his recovery.

Item 11: Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO

Dr. Contreras (Costa Rica), as Chairman of the Standing Subcommittee for Relations with Nongovernmental Organizations, presented the Subcommittee's Report.

Concerning the Inter-American Council of Psychiatric Associations (CIAP), there was a discussion in which proofs were requested of progress toward the establishment of true collaboration on the part of the CIAP. Finally, the Committee concluded that, since the mandatory triennial review of nongovernmental organizations would be made in 1986, the CIAP should be given until next year to take positive steps towards collaboration.

The Executive Committee approved Resolution XVIII authorizing continued working relations between the Inter-American Council of Psychiatric Associations and PAHO, but only until the 97th Meeting of the Executive Committee reviews, in June 1986, the progress made in activating the relationship, and requesting the Director to urge the CIAP to enter into real collaboration in the field of mental health in the framework of the Strategies for Health for All by the Year 2000.

The Executive Committee also approved Resolution XIX authorizing the establishment of official working relations with the Caribbean Association of Public Health Education (ALAESp).

Item 12: Resolutions of the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly of Interest to the Executive Committee

The Director informed the Executive Committee on the proceedings of the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly, which had recently been held in Geneva and at which WHO's biennial budget had been approved with no votes against and only six abstentions; he listed and reviewed the resolutions that in his view were of most direct concern to PAHO.

In the discussion that ensued it was brought out, among other things, that in compliance with the provisions of Resolution WHA38.12 the Director will aim to apportion at least 40% of all vacancies arising, including those financed with PAHO funds, on a geographical basis by favoring countries insufficiently represented on the staff rolls.

He added that the figure of 30% to which that resolution raises the proportion of all professional and higher-graded posts to be held by women has already been exceeded in PAHO Headquarters.

It was also mentioned that the Country Representatives should provide the appropriate officials, persons and institutions with the most complete information possible on the resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the other Governing Bodies.

It was noted that constant contact must be maintained with the countries in order to help those with contributions in arrears to pay off these obligations.

Perhaps the highlight of the discussion, however, was the issue raised by Resolution WHA38.14, in which the World Health Assembly recognized the need to increase the number of Members from the Western Pacific Region represented on the Executive Board from three to four and requested the Director-General to propose for consideration by the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly draft amendments to the Constitution in order to increase the membership of the Executive Board from 31 to 32. The issue is the need for a population criterion for determining the representation of the Regions. The view was expressed that, in this case, what had to be done was not to revise the representation of one

region alone, but of all of them together, inasmuch as Asia, the Western Pacific and the Americas are underrepresented on the Executive Board of WHO.

No resolution was approved directly on the subject of Agenda Item 12, but the subject of the representation of the Americas on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization was again touched upon in the fifth plenary session, and a proposed resolution on this matter was approved in the tenth plenary session with a number of amendments. This is Resolution XV, by which the Executive Committee decided to recommend to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it adopt a resolution to convey to the Director-General of WHO the concern of the Member States in the Region over the underrepresentation of the Americas on the Executive Board of WHO and the further change in proportional representation that would result from the increase in membership on the Board proposed in Resolution WHA38.14; suggest to the Director-General the advisability of undertaking a study of the global criteria that are to govern the representation of the different Regions on the Executive Board, for presentation to the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly; and express the wish that the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly reconsider the intentions of Resolution WHA38.14 in light of the conclusions of that study.

Item 13: Women, Health and Development

The topic of women, health and development was presented by Dr. Alvarez Gutiérrez, Assistant Director of the PASB, who reviewed the background of the issue and announced that the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health and Development, consisting of the representatives of Canada, Cuba and Ecuador, had met on 21 June to review the progress of the program and report on gains at the close of the United Nations Decade for Women and in the last year of the Five-Year Plan of Action on Women, Health and Development.

The Subcommittee's report was presented by Ms. Repetto, of Ecuador. Annexed to this document was a proposed resolution that gave rise to a discussion that ranged widely over the measures taken by the Pan American Health Organization and its Member Countries during the Decade. A study presented by the Secretariat on the incidence of cervical cancer in the Americas was also commended.

The Director made some general comments, notably on the gravity of the problems of millions and millions of women in the Region who have no access to university instruction, and pay the price of the discrimination that still exists. He also referred to the important part played by women as mothers, educators, and vehicles for the transmission of rules, customs, prejudices and values of a culture that in Latin America is male-dominated.

At the end of the discussion the Executive Committee approved Resolution VIII recommending to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it approve a resolution urging the Governments to renew their commitment to promote the goals of the Program on Women, Health and Development; to recognize the actual and potential contributions of women to the health sector and to development in general by integrating women into all levels of health planning, organization and delivery of health care; and to strengthen the Focal Points to stimulate action and monitor progress. It also recommends to the Directing Council that it ask the Director to give full support to the Regional Program on Women, Health and Development; to develop regional forward-looking strategies; and to convene the Special Committee on Women, Health and Development once a year to monitor progress and promote activities in this area.

Item 14: Health of Adults

Speaking for the PASB, Dr. Litvak presented to the Executive Committee the topic of Health of Adults and recalled that this had been an initiative of the Executive Committee in its 92nd Meeting, proposed by the Representative of Uruguay.

The study presented indicated that the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean is witnessing a major surge of population, accelerated urbanization, a sharp drop in fertility and a lengthening of life expectancy, all of which tends to augment the importance of the Health of Adults Program. This Program, he said, also covers chronic diseases, mental health, health of the elderly, blindness prevention, accident prevention, and health of the disabled. The purpose of the Program is to collaborate with the Member Governments in the formulation of appropriate policies in these areas.

In the discussion it was noted that more resources would have to be provided for these programs because health problems are shifting toward the adult and the elderly and the need is arising to give more years to the life and more life to the years of populations. There was also much emphasis on the need for this Program, for adult health was being neglected.

Some members pointed to the need for periodic medical examinations at intervals specifically determined for each age group; the problem of integrating adult health programs into the health infrastructure and the possibility of doing this through primary care services; the risk factors deriving from behavior, such as excessive drinking, smoking, obesity, etc.; and the advisability of channeling education efforts toward prevention in children in whom bad habits have not yet become ingrained.

The Executive Committee approved Resolution XII recommending to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it urge the Member Governments to incorporate activities for the health care of adults into their general care services; that it recommend to the Member Governments

that they bend themselves to the achievement of primary prevention in relation to lifestyles, harmful habits, and exposure to environmental pollutants; and that it encourage them to share their experiences in this field. It is also suggested that the Director give attention to the strategy of prevention and that he impart new dynamism to the programs and continue the efforts needed to obtain extrabudgetary funds.

Item 15: Actions Taken in Regard to the Elimination and Functions of the Area Offices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

The presentation for the Secretariat was made by Mr. Tracy, Chief of Administration, who reviewed the background of the topics starting with the decision of the XXIX Meeting of the Directing Council to eliminate the Area Offices effective 1 January 1984.

He said it had been possible to eliminate 26 posts from the PAHO/WHO Regular Budget, and that the role of the Country Representatives had been expanded to enable them to support national programs and priorities. He also reported on the assignment of former advisers to intercountry programs and on negotiations for new basic agreements with Argentina and Peru and the amendment of existing agreements with Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela.

In the discussion of this topic it emerged that no major problems had been encountered in eliminating the Area Offices, and that technical cooperation with the countries had improved. It was pointed out that this elimination of bureaucracy would release resources for health programs.

The Director explained that the intent was that, where there were Area Offices, the Governments would contribute to covering the local operating costs of the Country Representatives. He realized, however, that some countries were being hindered from doing so by economic and administrative difficulties. He also gave some details on negotiations in progress and hoped the day would come when PAHO's resources would not be measured by the number of people hired by it but by the human, institutional, scientific, technical, political and moral resources available in the countries themselves that could be mobilized for service to all. The conclusions of this discussion were embodied in Resolution XIII, adopted by the Executive Committee in its tenth plenary session. It recommends to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council the adoption of a resolution requesting the Director to continue negotiations with the Governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela to finalize new Basic Agreements for the establishment of Country Representatives' Offices, similar to those already in effect; that he continue negotiations with the Member Governments for contributions toward the operating costs of Country Offices; that he continue negotiations with the Governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela on the future status of the PAHO-owned buildings currently

occupied by the Country Representatives' Offices; that he ensure the faithful performance by the Organization's Country Representatives of their mission in the development of the cooperation programs; that he continue evaluating the need for and use of resources and ensure that those resources are put to the best possible use; and that he report to the Executive Committee in 1986 on the progress of his negotiations. Finally, the resolution also recommends that the Governments be urged to cooperate with the Director in the implementation of all those measures.

Item 16: Expanded Program on Immunization in the Americas

Dr. de Quadros (PASB) reviewed the history of the EPI since its inception and gave very encouraging figures on the immunization coverages and disease incidence reductions achieved.

In 1984, four years behind schedule, the Region attained the goal of the Ten-Year Health Plan.

On 14 May 1985, he said, the Director had announced the proposal for eradication of the indigenous transmission of wild polio virus by 1990 and the establishment of an extensive surveillance system. He closed with the statement that attainment of the goal of eradicating polio would further the goals of the EPI and implement the priorities set in the Organization's Budget by developing the health infrastructure, the research program, technical cooperation among developing countries, maternal and child health activities, and priority measures in Central America and Panama and in the Andean and Caribbean subregions.

The discussion that ensued gave expression particularly to the interest of the participants in the great enterprise being undertaken; despite an awareness of the difficulties ahead, the general mood was optimistic, and not only on eradication of the transmission of wild polio virus, but also on the secondary benefits that would also accrue.

The Representative of United States of America offered the support of his country's health centers and recalled that polio was paralyzing fewer children than were being killed by measles, which disease he felt could also be eradicated.

The Representative of Cuba attached particular importance to the need for strict surveillance; he shared the general optimism and also the view that measles could be gradually eradicated.

The Representative of Brazil noted that "national vaccination days" could be of very important help, and advocated that vaccinations against other diseases whose eradication was not yet in sight be routinely entrusted to health care services.

The Representative of Colombia cited encouraging figures on the vaccination coverage achieved in his country, and drew attention to the contribution that could be made in those cases by the mass media.

In its reply to the speakers in the discussion, the Bureau said that, with the strategy of simultaneous administration of the two vaccines, when polio is eradicated in 1990, measles will have been so reduced that it will not be unrealistic to expect its eradication to follow shortly thereafter.

The Executive Committee approved Resolution XIV proposing approval by the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of a resolution reaffirming its full commitment to attainment of the overall goals of the EPI by 1990; accepting the Proposal for Action for eradication of the indigenous transmission of wild polio virus by 1990; urging the Governments to take a series of steps in support of those objectives; requesting the Director to seek the additional support of multilateral, bilateral and nongovernmental agencies for those goals, and to report on progress in this matter to the 97th Meeting of the Executive Committee and the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1986.

Item 17: Report on the IV Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health

Dr. Fernandes (PASB) gave a detailed account of the IV Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health. He said that the members had approved and supported the proposed program budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers for 1986-1987, prepared by the Secretariat as part of the general technical programming of PAHO's Veterinary Public Health Program.

There was general agreement in the Committee on the importance of Resolution XII, approved by RIMSA IV, for strengthening PAHO's cooperation in the field of food protection, the protection and sanitary control of foods being of fundamental importance.

Some speakers referred to the usefulness of holding workshops and seminars immediately prior to the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius.

There was general satisfaction with the support given by the Ministers of Agriculture, and it was made clear that Resolution XII of RIMSA IV would be implemented through CEPANZO.

The conclusions of this discussion were embodied in Resolution XVI, approved by the Executive Committee and recommending to the Directing Council the approval of a resolution thanking the Government of Argentina for its support in the acquisition and outfitting of CEPANZO's new headquarters; thanking the Ministers of Agriculture for their financial support to the technical cooperation provided by CEPANZO; supporting the Director's efforts to mobilize contributions from the

agricultural sector to CEPANZO; recommending that the Bureau draw up a regional plan of action for the protection of foods; requesting that workshops, short courses and seminars continue to be held in connection with the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius; recommending to the Governments that they establish veterinary public health services; and requesting the Director to devise, under the regional technical cooperation program, mechanisms for greater linkage between the health and agricultural sectors.

Item 18: Dates of the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXVII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 12.A and 14.A of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization and at the proposal of the Director, in its 95th Meeting the Executive Committee approved Resolution IX authorizing the Director to convoke the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXVII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, to be held at the Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C., from 23 September to 2 October 1985.

Item 19: Provisional Agenda of the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXVII Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

The Secretary recalled the applicable provisions of Article 12.C of the Constitution of PAHO and Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, and, following a brief discussion, it was decided to approved the provisional agenda prepared by the Director with the addition of two topics proposed by Brazil, one on Hepatitis B and the other on the Control and Eradication of Aedes aegypti. This decision was embodied in Resolution X, which was approved by the Executive Committee in its seventh plenary session.

Item 20: International Program on Chemical Safety

Mr. Davila (PASB) reported at length on the background to this matter and the measures taken, including the preparation of a medium-term plan covering the regional activities under the International Program on Chemical Safety worked out by WHO. He also reported on many seminars, workshops and information events conducted by ECO and CEPIS for training and information purposes.

In the discussion that ensued the representatives promised their support to the Program and the collaboration of their governments on an intersectoral basis and not only through their Health Ministries.

In regard to the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, reference was made to the advisability of pursuing the activities in connection with chemical safety through the Institute of Environmental Health of Saint Lucia.

At the close of this discussion, the Executive Committee concluded that it need approve no resolution at this time.

Item 21: Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Programs

The topic was presented by Dr. Solis (PASB), who gave an account of the joint activities carried on by the countries and the Organization to implement the provisions of Resolution VIII on the "Basis for the Definition of the Organization's Action Policy with Respect to Population Matters," approved by the Directing Council in its XXX Meeting (1984). He explained that some activities had already been started before the period covered by the report, that which had been done so far being no more than an effort in the aspects of highest priority in the area, and that everything relating to health, population and family planning was brought together in the Maternal and Child Health Program.

He also reported on, among other things, cooperation with the WHO Special Program of Research, Development and Training in Human Reproduction and with several specialized agencies. He added that the availability of extrabudgetary funds had been increased.

In the discussion on the topic, participants expressed the concern of their Governments about the ethical aspects of technological advances in connection with fertility; underscored the advisability of linking family planning and maternal and child health; noted the advisability of warning of the dangers of the use of tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy; and gave considerable prominence to the problem of unwanted pregnancy in adolescence.

Some speakers noted that maternal and child health was the best indicator of attainment of the goal of health for all by the year 2000, and that many new programs for maternal and child health and family planning were still needed in the Caribbean countries.

Dr. Solis summed up the discussion by urging the humanist character of family planning in the Americas and in collaboration with UNICEF and the UNFPA and other organizations.

Finally, the Director said that, despite the increase in available extrabudgetary funds, only 12 of the countries in the Region had presented requests for cooperation in this area. He insisted that the Governments must be encouraged to develop these programs more.

The outcome of this discussion was Resolution XVII in which the Executive Committee recommends to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council the text of a resolution for promoting the implementation of the mandates in the resolution on the definition of the Organization's action policy on population matters so that the Director might continue supporting these activities and report back to the Directing Council in 1988.

Item 22: Report on the Progress of Implementation of the Organization's Essential Drug Program

Dr. Fefer (PASB) presented the Organization's Essential Drug Program. Recalling that, in the wake of the Technical Discussions on "Policies for the Production and Marketing of Essential Drugs" in its XXIX Meeting in 1983, the Directing Council had approved Resolution XXX to establish a technical cooperation program on essential drugs at the regional, subregional and national levels, and he explained that the purpose of the program was to ensure a supply of effective and safe drugs at reasonable costs for all population sectors.

In addition, extensive details were given on the formulation of policies, development of quality control systems, the promotion of production, personnel training, tripartite projects with the UNDP and the countries, exchange of information, joint drug procurement, and assistance from the AID and other national administrations.

Dr. Lauridsen, Chief of this program in WHO, being present at the Meeting, announced that a Conference of Experts on the Rational Use of Drugs would be held from 25 to 29 November 1985 at Nairobi, Kenya, the participants to be 100 experts acting in their individual capacity. The Director-General of WHO would present a complete report to the World Health Assembly in May 1986.

It was brought out in the discussion that the problem of the prices and availability of essential drugs was decisive for the proper functioning of any primary health care system; that cooperation among countries was essential to find solutions; that prices on the international market had undergone such a spectacular decline that caution had to be exercised in advising small countries that might start producing essential drugs, as the result could be to make these products more expensive for them, and that it was of utmost importance to support the establishment of a network of quality assurance laboratories.

The Director noted that this was a very complex matter, the market in Latin America and the Caribbean representing a turnover of some US\$5,000 million a year, which was surrounded by an intricate web of economic and political interests. Nevertheless, he felt that all, including the private enterprises, could be persuaded to cooperate.

In relation to drug purchases for account of the Governments, he cited one product that was sold at as many as 14 different prices, and voiced concern over the fact that countries in severe difficulties have to pay for deliveries of a substance as ordinary as water, a principal ingredient of syrups and injections.

He also referred to the revolving funds coming into use in the Caribbean and in Central America and Panama. There was initially some \$2 million for the Central American fund that would only be used for five drugs.

He also calculated that PAHO would make purchases for account of its Member Governments to a value of \$20 or \$30 million in the next five years.

The salient points of this discussion are embodied in Resolution XXI, approved by the Executive Committee and proposed for approval by the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council.

Item 23: Health Priorities in Central America and Panama

In presenting this subject, Dr. Teruel (PASB) recalled first and foremost the commitment undertaken by the Governments and the Organization to implement Resolution XXVII approved by the Directing Council in its XXX Meeting.

The plan is based on a quite simple theoretical concept based on programming efforts. There are seven general priority areas identified by the Health Ministries of Central America and Panama: health services, human resources, essential drugs, tropical diseases, food and nutrition, a special area of immediate measures for infant survival, and water and sanitation. For these seven areas there are some 40 intercountry subregional projects, and each of them comprises 256 specific national projects. The activities schedule spans a period of five years.

In speaking of this program, the Director referred to the need to dream with one's feet on the ground so as to confront seemingly insurmountable problems. He remembered that the first time he had met with Health Ministers of Central America and Panama, in April 1983, they had spoken of mobilizing, in a joint effort of Governments, institutions, and peoples, the then seemingly outlandish sum of \$150 million. Back at Headquarters, however, in October 1983, this figure became \$600 million and, finally, at their meeting in Guatemala City in August 1984 the Ministers approved preliminary documentation citing a figure of \$2,000 million. This amount does not appear all that large; dividing it by the population of Central America and Panama, net of those who have already permanent access to sources for the satisfaction of their essential needs, gives a figure of \$14 per person per year.

For the Director, however, what was important was not these figures, but making health the prime concern of the entire development process, using health as a source of understanding, cooperation, peace, justice and liberty.

However, he was aware of the existing difficulties and cited, among others, the fact that political declarations were following each other at a faster pace than technical accomplishments, and even than administrative processes. These declarations, he said, have to be converted into facts.

In the course of the discussion it was noted that the precarious health situation of this Subregion is a problem that affects the Region as a whole, and hence that all the countries, without a single exception, should participate in the plan and support it to the extent of their possibilities.

The Executive Committee considered that no resolution was necessary on this topic.

Item 24: Promotion of TCDC/ECDC in the Health Sector with the Collaboration of PAHO

Dr. Salazar (PASB) presented the topic with a review of the background to this subject, which is Resolution III of the XXX Meeting of the Directing Council, in compliance with which the Director presented his report on promotion of the use of TCDC/ECDC by the Governments with the collaboration of PAHO. He announced that this use had increased, and cited as the most notable example the Plan on Priority Health Needs of Central America and Panama.

Other examples of this cooperation were the collaboration with the Governments of the Hipólito Unanue Agreement on pharmaceuticals, and the cooperation with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

The Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming, Mr. Boyer, made a brief report in which he took special note of the Director's genuine desire to integrate TCDC into the Organization's programs. He also spoke of the need to establish an evaluation methodology.

Other representatives gave examples of this cooperation, such as the tripartite Cuba/Nicaragua/PAHO and Cuba/Mexico/PAHO programs.

Some participants emphasized the function of the Pan American Centers as promoters of TCDC and the catalytic operation of the Director's policy, with its multiplier effect in the countries.

The Executive Committee approved Resolution-XX proposing to the Directing Council in its XXXI Meeting that it continue encouraging such operations.

Item 25: Health in Cases of Disaster and Emergencies

Dr. de Ville (PASB) said that this topic had arisen out of a request of the Government of Peru for the presentation of a report on the status of regional and national emergency preparedness and relief coordination programs.

The report presented addressed first the status of the regional program, then the status of preparedness programs in the health sector of the Member Countries and, lastly, cooperation with other agencies and the Program's future orientation.

Dr. de Ville gave details on the status of the program. To summarize, its objective is to promote increased preparedness in the health sector of the Member Countries by establishing a permanent preparedness program at the national level and with provisions for cooperation and integration with the plans of civil defense institutions and similar agencies.

At the regional level, the program is divided into seven components, each with an independent budget: 1) technical cooperation with national programs, 2) development of teaching materials, 3) training in environmental health, 4) hospital disaster preparedness, 5) assessment of health needs following disasters, and 6) overall program management and supervision.

In the discussion the point was made that success depended on multisectoral integration and personnel training. The observer for Chile noted that in the last earthquake in his country no one had died in collapsing hospitals because the personnel and even the patients were well aware of what had to be done.

Also highlighted in the discussion was the generous provision of extrabudgetary funds by Canada, the EEC, the United States of America and other governments and agencies.

At the end of the discussion the Director referred to two types of strategies that would underlie the future Program to ensure its proper functioning. The first would place the Program on a firmer and more independent foundation and entrust responsibility for the preparation of cooperation plans to the PAHO staff itself. The second was for the countries to take on the responsibility of encouraging, coordinating and supporting the inclusion of appropriate emergency preparedness measures. He added that the Organization could easily serve as intermediary, but the countries have to cooperate.

On this topic the Executive Committee approved Resolution XXII recommending to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council that it adopt a proposed resolution for promoting the preparedness and collaboration of the Member Governments and requesting the Director to support the countries' programs, strengthen technical cooperation in preparation for major technological disasters, and seek more extrabudgetary funds for these purposes.

Item 26: Policy Guidelines Regarding the Pan American Centers

Mr. Tracy, Chief of Administration of the PASB, explained to the Executive Committee that the Pan American Centers had been established to provide solutions to health problems of common interest to the countries where no suitable national institutions existed, but with the intention of doing so only until the countries acquired the requisite technical capacity. The transfer of responsibilities would have to be made with care so that the services provided would not suffer.

The main difficulty lay in the differences between the pay of United Nations personnel and the staff of the Governments, of which two examples were cited: those of the international staff of CEPANZO in Argentina and of PANAFTOSA in Brazil. In some cases, the differences in remuneration were on the order of 1 to 15.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the caution that must be exercised in implementing the policy on preparation for a possible transfer, by placing local people in vacancies as they arise. In any case, there was no transfer in immediate prospect, and the Executive Committee would always be told in advance, for, as was pointed out in the discussion, the problems of such transfers were not of a legal nature alone.

The Executive Committee approved Resolution XXIII reflecting all these provisions to avoid impairing the quality of services to the countries and for moving forward with a policy on preparations for transfers that has been clearly established by the Governing Bodies of PAHO.

Item 27: Building Fund

This topic was presented by Mr. Tracy, Chief of Administration of the PASB. He explained the status of this Fund and the contribution by the WHO Real Estate Fund to the cost of building and maintaining PAHO-owned buildings. The Director of PAHO had endeavored to have that participation set at 29% or 30% on the basis of the proportion of the budgets for the Americas contributed by the World Health Organization, but the Director-General of WHO had fixed the reimbursement figure for all construction and repair projects over \$20,000 at only 25%.

The situation in regard to the new building to be erected on the site of the Governor Shepherd building could be summed up broadly by saying that the work was being done by a developer at no cost to PAHO. At the end of 60 years the new building and any additional land and development rights would become the property of PAHO. The Organization would receive \$300,000 a year in land rent and would pay rent to the developer for approximately 30,000 square feet of office space in the new building. The land rent would be used to rent temporary office space for PAHO.

In regard to the maintenance and repair of PAHO-owned buildings, it emerged in the discussion that PAHO's Headquarters building was beginning to need major maintenance and repair work, and PAHO would have to bear the cost of maintaining the offices in Buenos Aires, Guatemala City, Brasilia, Lima and Caracas, which are its property. It was therefore necessary that funds be available in PAHO's Building Fund.

The Director explained, among other things, that the need to replenish the Building Fund and the manner of defraying these costs offered a fresh opportunity for the Governing Bodies to participate in the management of the Organization.

Participants in the meeting asked many questions of detail, which were answered point by point by the Secretariat.

The consensus was that the Building Fund should be replenished from PAHO's Miscellaneous Income.

There was thorough discussion on such details as the acquisition of modular furniture in order not to need more office space and the transfer to the new building of the Computer Center, which had heavy equipment and required air conditioning and ventilation. The Director explained that some costs would have to be accepted that had not been previously anticipated, but which would avert higher costs later on. Finally, the Executive Committee approved two resolutions, Resolution XXIV on the new annex at Headquarters, and Resolution XXV on the maintenance and repair of PAHO-owned buildings. Each of these resolutions recommends to the XXXI Meeting of the Directing Council the approval of an incorporated resolution embodying the proposals made by the Director on this topic.

Item 28: Other Matters

The Director advised the Executive Committee that he had received a letter from the Minister of Health of Portugal requesting the admittance of Portugal to PAHO with observer status. The Director had replied to the Portuguese Minister that, pursuant to Resolution XXVII of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, the admission of new observers on the basis requested by Portugal was virtually impossible.

Nevertheless, he had said he would suggest to the Executive Committee the possibility of some special arrangement being made in light of the ties that linked Portugal to the Region of the Americas in history and through WHO.

There ensued a brief discussion in which it was requested that this matter be taken up again in the meeting of the Executive Committee of October 1985.

The Director suggested that, in the future discussion on the matter of the admission of observers, it could be required that the applicant Government have historical and cultural ties to the Region of the Americas, that it show interest in participating in inter-American activities, and that it contribute technically and financially to PAHO's technical cooperation programs.

Finally, it was agreed that the Director would reintroduce the topic at the next meeting of the Executive Committee when more specific information had been received from Portugal on its application.