

directing council

regional committee



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXXV Meeting

Washington, D.C.
September 1991

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



XLIII Meeting

Provisional Agenda Item 7.1

CD35/28 (Eng.)

26 July 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT ON THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON
ANIMAL HEALTH

The VII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health was held in accordance with the convocation issued by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau pursuant to Resolution CD17.R19 of the XVII Meeting of the Directing Council (1968).

The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers: President, Dr. Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs of Bolivia; Vice Presidents, Dr. Maria del Rosario Sintes de Restrepo, Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, and Dr. Harcourt Lewis, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados; and Rapporteur, Dr. Francisco Matamoros, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources of Honduras.

The inaugural session was addressed by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, Mr. Edward Madigan, and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

The Meeting was attended by 34 delegates from Member Governments, among them 15 Ministers and 7 Vice Ministers or Under Secretaries of Agriculture and Health. There were also observers from international technical and financial cooperation agencies, as well as representatives of the livestock and food industries, universities and WHO Collaborating Centers in the countries of the Americas.

In accordance with the strategic orientations and program priorities of the Pan American Health Organization in the quadrennium 1991-1994 and by mandate of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, the main projects of technical cooperation in veterinary public health were presented for analysis and discussion. These included the program for the elimination of urban rabies, the hemispheric program for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and the program in food protection.

As a part of the overall program, the proposed programs and budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, and the activities executed during 1990-1991, were presented and analyzed. With reference to the Zoonoses Center the Director of PASB presented a special report in compliance with Resolution CSP23.R23 of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The delegates unanimously recommended the approval of the budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. In the case of CEPANZO, they expressed their firm support for the activities of the Center and requested the Governing Bodies of PAHO to support the Director of PASB in the quest for solutions and in taking appropriate steps to preserve uninterrupted the operational integrity of the Center.

In keeping with the program priorities of PAHO, two subjects of current regional interest were also presented for consideration, the first dealing with the production and availability of food of animal origin through a process of coordination of the Ministeries of Agriculture and Health and the livestock producers, and the second, the impact of the animal population on the environment and public health. The subjects were discussed by intersectoral panels with the participation of Ministers of Agriculture and Health.

The meeting included in its agenda a special session on the cholera epidemic, which gave the Ministers of Agriculture the opportunity to discuss the risks of transmission of cholera by food and the international trade consequences.

The Agenda of the Meeting also included topics related to the strategies for the control of rabies transmitted by vampire bats and the strategies and plan of action for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

The Meeting adopted 13 resolutions, including resolutions on the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995; support for the continuation of the Pan American Zoonoses Center; adoption of the recommendations of the III Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; mobilization of resources for the final attack phase of rabies in large cities and a new plan of action for the elimination of rabies in urban agglomerations of smaller size and in rural areas; strengthening of food protection programs; support to PAHO to develop an integrated multi-sectoral plan for the control of cholera; strengthening of veterinary public health programs in the countries; analysis of special needs of technical cooperation for the Caribbean countries; plans of action for the control of rabies transmitted by vampire bats and for the eradication of tuberculosis; and the participation of the community in the national programs. Special recognition was expressed to Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo for his leadership and contribution to improve the health situation of the Region and to strengthen intersectoral coordination.

The Final Report of RIMSA VII was made available to the 107th Meeting of the Executive Committee, which also heard a report on the deliberations of the Meeting.

For the information of the Directing Council, the Director is pleased to annex the Final Report of RIMSA VII.

Annex



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

CD35/28 (Eng.)
ANNEX

**VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL,
ON ANIMAL HEALTH**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Washington, D.C., USA, 30 April - 2 May 1991

RIMSA7/FR (Eng.)

2 May 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH-SPANISH

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FINAL REPORT

The VII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from 30 April to 2 May 1991, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in compliance with Resolution XX approved by the Directing Council of PAHO in its XVII Meeting.

OFFICERS

The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

President: Dr. Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez
Minister of Campesino and Agricultural
Affairs of Bolivia

Vice Presidents: Dr. María del Rosario Sintés de Restrepo
Minister of Agriculture of Colombia

Dr. Harcourt Lewis
Minister of Agriculture, Food
and Fisheries of Barbados

Rapporteur: Dr. Francisco Matamoros
Vice Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Natural Resources of Honduras

Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary ex officio.

PARTICIPANTS

The following Governments were represented in the Meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Observers attended from the Government of Spain and from the following organizations: the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the European Economic Community (EEC),

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the International Regional Organization for Health in Agriculture and Livestock (OIRSA), the World Bank (IBRD), the American Society of Tropical Medicine, the Asociación de Industriales de la Carne de Venezuela, the Asociación de Productores de Leche de Colombia, the Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, the Confederación Interamericana de Ganaderos, the Confederação Nacional da Agricultura do Brasil, the Facultad de Veterinaria de la Universidad de Buenos Aires, the Faculdade de Veterinaria de Minas Gerais, the Federação da Agricultura do Rio Grande do Sul, of Brazil, the Federación de Ganaderos de Venezuela, the Federación Rural del Uruguay, the Fundación Argentina de Erradicación de la Fiebre Aftosa, the International Association of Hydatology, the National Academy of Sciences, National Cancer Institute and New York University Medical Center, of the United States, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Inc., Rhône Merieux, the Sociedad Rural de Argentina, Tufts University, the United States Animal Health Association, the Universidad de la Plata, the University of Missouri, the University of Wisconsin, the WHO collaborating Center for Tropical Veterinary Public Health Training, the Wistar Institute, and the World Association of Veterinary Medicine.

AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF SESSIONS

In its first plenary session the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda (Document RIMSA7/1) and the provisional program of sessions (Document RIMSA7/2).

SESSIONS

The Meeting held an inaugural session, one special session, five plenary sessions, and a closing session.

The inaugural session was addressed by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, Mr. Edward Madigan, and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

The first plenary session then followed, with a consideration of the topics "Analysis of the Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995," presented by Dr. Elmer Escobar, of the PASB, "Report of the Director of the PASB on Resolution CSP23.R23 of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference " by Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the PASB, and "Analysis of the Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995," by Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga.

The Chairman then asked Dr. Harry C. Mussman to present the "Report to the Director of the Pan American Health Organization by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center."

In the second plenary session Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, of the PASB, presented the topic "Regional Program for the Elimination of Urban Rabies, Report on the Evaluation of the 1980-1989 Decade"; Dr. Roberto Bobenrieth, of the PASB, presented the "Report on the Evaluation of the Regional Program for Food Protection, 1986-1990, and Proposed Regional Medium-Term Plan, 1991-1995", and Mr. Juan Agustín Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, presented the topic of the "Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Report of the III Regular Meeting."

In the third plenary session the Panel on the "Production and Supply of Food of Animal Origin Based on Coordination between the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and the Livestock Producers" began with presentations on "Nutrition and Health: The Importance of Food of Animal Origin in the Americas," by Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director Emeritus of the PASB; "The Potential for American Livestock Production to Meet Dietary Needs," by Dr. Antonio Cabrera Mano Filho, Minister of State for Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Brazil; "Availability of Appropriate Technology for the Production of Meat and Milk in the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean," by Dr. Hugo Sancho representing the Vice Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica; "Quality Control of Food of Animal Origin vis-à-vis Public Health," by Mr. Enrique Rossl Link, Minister of Agriculture of Peru; and "The Food Assistance Program and its Quality Control," by Dr. Baldur Schubert, representing the Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Brazil.

In the special session on the Cholera Problem the participants considered the topics "Risk of Transmission of Cholera by Food," by Dr. Dilma Scala Gelli of Brazil, and "The International Food Trade and the Cholera Situation in Latin America," by Dr. Fred Shank of the United States of America.

In the fourth plenary session the Panel on "The Environmental and Public Health Impact of the Animal Population" was begun, and heard presentations on the topics "Urbanization. Future Challenge for the Management of Contamination from Animal Populations in Cities," by Dr. Mercedes Juan López, Under Secretary for Health Regulation and Promotion in the Secretariat for Health of Mexico; "Elimination of Waste from Livestock Activity. Proposals for Protecting the Environment," by Dr. Silverio Tamayo, of Cuba; "Use of Drugs and Pesticides in Animal Production and Implications for Public Health," by Dr. Lester Crawford, representing the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America; "Coordination between the Agriculture, Health and Private Sectors for Environmental Protection in Agricultural and Livestock Activity," by Dr. Gustavo Ferres Pacheco, Under Secretary for Livestock, Crops and Fisheries in the Ministry of Livestock, Crops and Fisheries of Uruguay.

In the fifth plenary session the topic "Strategy and Plan of Action for the Control of Rabies Transmitted by Vampire Bats" was presented by Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation of Trinidad and Tobago, and "Strategy and Plan of Action for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in the Americas" by Dr. Juan Agustín Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture of Chile.

At the end of the fifth plenary session the President, responding to the sentiment of the delegations present, asked for a round of applause for Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo and proposed a resolution on the matter.

Afterwards the Delegate of Ecuador cited the great work done by the President and the other officers of the Meeting.

The closing session was addressed by the President of the Meeting, Dr. Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs of Bolivia, and Dr. Robert F. Knouss, Deputy Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

The VII Meeting adopted the following 13 resolutions:

RESOLUTION I

PROPOSED PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CENTER FOR 1992-1993 AND 1994-1995

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA/HPV) has programmed its activities for the period 1992-1993:

- a) Having regard to the context defined by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in its Strategies of Health for All by the Year 2000 (Official Doc. 173), the Plan of Action for Implementation of the Regional Strategies (Official Doc. 179), and the Strategic Orientations and Program Priorities for PAHO in the Quadrennium 1991-1993, and in the Veterinary Public Health Program (HPV) BPB, 1992-1993;
- b) In keeping with the requests of the countries, the recommendations made by the Scientific Advisory Committee of PANAFTOSA in its meeting of November 1989, the recommendations of RIMSA VI and the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) in its XVII and XVIII Meetings;
- c) And particularly in accordance with the purposes, strategies and technical content of the Hemispheric Plan of Action for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA), with the participation of the government and private sectors that represent the countries of the Region on the Committee;

Cognizant of the substantial and valuable technical cooperation that the Center has been rendering to the Member Countries in the control of foot-and-mouth disease since 1951, and bearing in mind in particular:

- a) That the Center is the only international project in a position to give the countries of the Americas comprehensive technical cooperation for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and other vesicular diseases;
- b) That PANAFTOSA has ineluctable obligations to the countries, and must act independently of diverse interests, including those of the international trade in animals and animal products, which often extend to crops harvested in areas where the cattle are affected by foot-and-mouth disease; and
- c) That under the agreement in force since 1953 with the Pan American Health Organization, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil continues to make a regular annual contribution to the Center to finance the remunerations of the local staff, upkeep of the Headquarters and other operating expenditures,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization that it approve the program budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in the amount of US\$8,586,100 for the 1992-1993 biennium and of \$9,720,300 for the 1994-1995 biennium as set forth in Document RIMSA7/5 and Corrig.

2. To thank the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for its regular annual contribution to the Center as host country, and to urge it to make the necessary effort to complete, in local currency at the exchange rate on the date the funds are released, the unpaid balances of the contributions for 1989 and 1990 in the amounts of US\$52,903.32 and \$57,903.32, respectively, and for 1991 in the amount of \$300,000.

3. To request the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil that for the budget periods of 1992-1993 the regular annual contributions for the upkeep of the Center's headquarters and the hiring of local personnel, and the contributions to continue the works for maintenance of the facilities be at least US\$271,400 for remunerations and operating expenditures and at least \$28,600 for the maintenance of facilities at the exchange rate on the date of release of the funds.

4. To request the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia and Venezuela to make the maximum effort to complete the payment of their pending balances due to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

5. To request the Director of the Pan American Health Organization to pursue and support, in collaboration with the governments, efforts to obtain additional extrabudgetary funds from international sources so that the Center may meet, in a manner satisfactory to the countries, the new and broader commitments required for realization of the proposals of the Hemispheric Plan and for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

6. To thank the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the report on the activities and accomplishments of PANAFTOSA, and to express its appreciation for the valuable guidelines and recommendations presented to the Director of the PASB, which are responsive to the current needs and realities of the countries in the Region.

(Adopted at the third plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION II

URBAN RABIES

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having examined the results of the evaluation of the decade of the urban rabies control programs of the countries (RIMSA7/18), which showed a considerable reduction of cases of human and animal rabies in large cities;

Mindful that canine rabies is still active in some cities that are free of human rabies, and that the risk of exposure needs to be eliminated in those cities; and

Considering the importance of Resolution XIII of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, held at Washington in September 1990, on Strategic Orientations and Program Priorities for the Pan American Health Organization during the quadrennium 1991-1994, in which context the elimination of urban rabies in the Americas is a priority,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Governments of the Member Countries to consolidate the gains made toward elimination of the risks of rabies in the principal cities of Latin America and in this way to attain the goal of elimination of this zoonosis.

2. To request the countries to hold to their policy decision to eliminate urban rabies and to expand their national programs to take in urban agglomerations of smaller size.

3. To request the Director of the PASB to continue technical cooperation in support of the country programs for the elimination of urban rabies and in the search for external resources in collaboration with the Governments.

(Adopted at the third plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION III

FOOD PROTECTION

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Recognizing the valuable and significant contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), of the institutions of the Government of the United States of America--the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Agriculture, the Commerce Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), of the Government of Canada through the Division of Health Protection and Welfare and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and of the Pan American Health Organization;

Having examined the report "Evaluation of the PAHO/WHO Program for Technical Cooperation in Food Protection 1986-1990" (Document RIMSA7/7) presented by the PASB Secretariat;

Having regard to the health risks created by biological and chemical contamination of foods;

Aware of the importance of developing integrated food protection programs to prevent economic losses from deficient practices in the handling and preservation of and trade in foods; and

Cognizant of the need to integrate food protection activities under a multisectoral approach,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank and commend the PASB for the report "Evaluation of the PAHO/WHO Program of Technical Cooperation in Food Protection" (Document RIMSA7/7) and for the gains made in the period 1986-1990.

2. To request the Director of the PASB to draw up a new food protection program to consolidate the gains made and introduce new goals and measures for the 1991-1995 period.

3. To request the PASB to seek the most practical ways to consult with the countries on the new program of technical cooperation in food protection referred to in paragraph 2.

4. To reiterate to the Member Governments Resolution IX on food protection approved at RIMSA V, in April 1987, so that they will step up their internal efforts in this field and in particular in regard to information networks, laboratories, and the surveillance of food-borne disease.

(Adopted at the third plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION IV

HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering Resolutions VII and IX of RIMSA VI in April 1989, approving the recommendations of the I and II Regular Meetings of COHEFA, held in July 1988 and April 1989, respectively, which implicitly approved the development of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America (PHEFA);

Noting with approval the creation of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA), its entry into operation and the valuable contribution it is making to attainment of the goals of the hemispheric program;

Having appreciated the growing participation of livestock producers and other community groups involved in animal production, services and processing industries;

Recognizing the effective support that the Secretariat ex officio is providing to COHEFA in the discharge of the functions and responsibilities vested in the Committee by the Member Countries;

Wishing to highlight the recommendations of the XVII and XVIII Regular Meetings of COSALFA and the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Director of PAHO/WHO in relation to the work of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center;

Cognizant of the value of the Report of the Secretariat to the III Regular Meeting of COHEFA; and

Having considered the recommendations of the III Regular Meeting of COHEFA,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the III Regular Meeting of COHEFA.

2. To take cognizance of the important contribution of the Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Program, and of the subregional projects in particular, to the success of the strategy of economic and commercial integration of countries in the Region.

3. To congratulate the Member Governments for the effort made and dedication shown to attain the goals of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America despite the severe economic and social crisis that besets the continent.

4. To commend the increasingly significant participation of the social sectors involved in cattle production, and the cattle producers in particular, in activities for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

5. To thank PAHO/WHO for its constant support to the measures of the countries for fulfillment of the hemispheric commitment they have assumed.

(Adopted at the third plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION V

PAN AMERICAN ZOOSES CENTER

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering Resolution XXIII of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, held in Washington, D.C., in September 1990, on the situation of the Pan American Zoonoses Center of the Veterinary Public Health Program, in which the Government of Argentina was requested and the Director instructed to step up the negotiations to resolve the financial situation of this Center and take the appropriate legal and administrative measures in accordance with Article VII.2 of the existing Agreement between the Government of Argentina and the Organization;

Noting the document "Strategic Orientations and Program Priorities for the Pan American Health Organization during the Quadrennium 1991-1994," approved by Resolution XIII of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, held at Washington, D.C., in September 1990, as a basic framework for the strategic planning of PAHO, and calling for among other things the selective concentration of resources as an operating procedure of the Secretariat;

Cognizant of the importance and technical excellence of the Pan American Zoonoses Center as a source of technical support to the different programs in aspects of planning, reference services and the provision of biological standards, epidemiological surveillance, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and manpower training in the fields of zoonoses and food protection;

Taking into consideration the efforts the countries are making to develop programs for the control of zoonoses and food protection;

Having regard to the report presented by the Director of the PASB to the plenary of the VII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA) in compliance with operative paragraph 4 of aforementioned Resolution XXIII; and

Taking into account the support expressed by the Ministers of Agriculture and their delegates to this RIMSA VII Meeting for the work done by the Center, and their request that the problem of the continuity of the Pan American Zoonoses Center be solved as soon as possible,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Director of the PASB, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, for the report presented, and to express its appreciation for all the efforts made to comply with Resolution XXIII of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference.

2. To thank the Government of the Argentine Republic, as host country to the Pan American Zoonoses Center, for maintaining and operating it since 1956.

3. To express its firm support for the activities of the Pan American Zoonoses Center and to reaffirm the need for it to continue its technical cooperation with national programs for the control and elimination of zoonoses and for food protection of the countries in the Americas.

4. To urge the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization to support the Director of the PASB in the quest for solutions and in taking appropriate steps to preserve uninterrupted the operational integrity of the Pan American Zoonoses Center.

5. To request the Director of the PASB to facilitate the uninterrupted provision of the principal technical cooperation services that the Center offers to the countries until the negotiations for its continued operation as an integral unit have been completed.

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION VI

ADMISSION OF CHILE TO THE COMMISSION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
VIRUS-FREE COUNTRIES

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the solidity of the status attained by Chile as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease by virtue of a dynamic system for the epidemiological surveillance of risks of introduction of the foot-and-mouth disease virus and of an effective and efficient program for the prevention of exotic diseases;

Considering the intensified trend toward bilateral and multilateral agreements for economic and commercial integration in relations among the countries in the Región;

In view of the creation of the Commission of Countries Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease by Resolution XII of RIMSA VI and the interest of the countries free of the disease in the Region to establish sanitary provisions that will be effective in preserving this condition and in promoting and intensifying economic relations in a setting of sanitary security; and

Having seen the desire expressed by the Delegation of Chile during COHEFA III and RIMSA VII to join the Commission of Countries Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease,

RESOLVES:

To admit Chile to the Commission of Countries Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, created by Resolution XII of RIMSA VI.

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session,
1 May 1991)

RESOLUTION VII

CHOLERA

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the presentations made during RIMSA VII on the risk of transmission of cholera by foods, and the international food trade and the cholera situation in Latin America;

Cognizant of the rising concern of governments and the public over present conditions of food hygiene, which pose a risk of the transmission of cholera;

Cognizant of the need to take steps in connection with the production, processing, packaging, distribution and preparation of foods to prevent their contamination and the spread of cholera;

Cognizant of the impact of the cholera epidemic on public health and the economic situation of the affected countries in the Region;

Taking account of the importance of foods sold by itinerant street vendors in the spread of cholera in urban areas;

Considering that some countries have adopted restrictive measures that have affected the international trade in foods supplied by fisheries and agriculture, and their consumption locally;

Considering that neither the World Health Organization in letter of reference E14/439/1 of February 22 this year nor the technical and scientific presentations made at this meeting indicate any documented evidence for the spread of cholera in food products imported across international borders; and

Aware of the urgent need for a great effort on the part of national and international organizations, including the public and private sectors, to check the spread of cholera in foods,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its solidarity with the people and Government of Peru in the effort they are making to check the spread of cholera.

2. To recommend to the Governments of the Member Countries that their policies to guide sanitary measures for preventing the spread of cholera in the domestic and international food trade be based on the technical and scientific knowledge recommended by PAHO/WHO.

3. To express support for the action taken by PAHO to develop integrated multisectoral plans for cholera control, which includes:

- a) A request to the Director of the PASB for support in obtaining the resources needed to ensure that local food protection laboratories have trained personnel and facilities for the diagnosis and identification of Vibrio cholerae; and
- b) Urging the Governments of the Member Countries to establish jointly, through their agricultural, health and other legally responsible sectors, a program of sanitary surveillance and education for artisanal food handlers and street food vendors.

4. To ask the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States and PAHO for technical advisory services in the inspection of food processing plants, vessels and other means of transport, and artificial and natural fish and seafood farms, and in sanitary education for personnel of the food industry, including technical managers, and for all persons involved in the marketing of these products.

5. To request that the PASB collect and circulate in the Member Countries standards and relevant information on the international food trade.

6. To ask the Director of the PASB to establish a special technical cooperation program for assistance to the countries in the implementation of measures for the control and prevention of cholera, and in obtaining the requisite resources.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION VIII

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind that in Resolution XI of the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council in September 1981 the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization approved the Plan of Action for Implementation of the Regional Strategies of Health for All by the Year 2000, which ranks veterinary public health among the priority areas;

Having considered Resolution XIII on Strategic Orientations and Program Priorities for the Pan American Health Organization in the quadrennium 1991-1994, approved at the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 1990, which cites the development of activities in veterinary public health, and particularly in food protection, the environment, and the eradication of urban rabies and foot-and-mouth disease;

Reaffirming the technical, policy and social aspects of the topics presented in the panels on the "Production and Supply of Food of Animal Origin Based on Coordination between the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and the Livestock Producers" (Documents RIMSA7/9, 14, 16, 17 and 19), and on the "Environmental and Public Health Impact of the Animal Population" (Documents RIMSA7/10, 12, 20 and 21);

Cognizant of the high technical level of the PASB's technical cooperation programs and especially of its Veterinary Public Health Program, with its excellent Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers;

Cognizant of the value of the multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach that the Veterinary Public Health Program has been taking in its technical cooperation with the countries and as shown in the documents "Regional Program for the Elimination of Human Rabies. Report on the Evaluation of the 1980-1989 Decade" (Document RIMSA7/18) and "Report on the Evaluation of the PAHO/WHO Regional Program for Technical Cooperation in Food Protection, 1986-1990, and Proposed Regional Medium-term Plan, 1991-1995" (Document RIMSA7/7); and

Aware of the urgent need to strengthen government services conducting veterinary public health activities,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Governments of the Member Countries to institutionalize the concept of veterinary public health for the purpose of coordinating the contributions of the production and social sectors to health and development.

2. To request the Governments to have the sectors and institutions involved in veterinary public health measures coordinate their efforts so as to optimize the use of available resources for the improvement of animal production and protection of the environment and to raise the levels of public health.

3. To request the Director of the PASB to prepare a basic document on the concept and sphere of veterinary public health as a guide to government authorities on action to be taken in this field to address the new challenges that accompany the economic, technological and social changes of the day.

4. To request the Director of the PASB to have the Organization collaborate with the schools of veterinary medicine in strengthening undergraduate and graduate instruction in veterinary public health and coordinate actions in this sphere between those schools and the different sectors involved.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION IX

SPECIAL SITUATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION
AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that most of the countries and political units of the Caribbean are free of the important zoonoses including foot-and-mouth disease;

Bearing in mind the unique conditions and special requirements of the Caribbean Subregion in reference to animal health and veterinary public health needs; and

Recognizing the cooperation provided by PAHO/WHO to this Subregion in the 1970's and early 1980's that resulted in the development of infrastructure and human resources for animal health and veterinary public health,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Director of PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the Governments of the Member Countries, to analyze the special needs of the Caribbean Subregion in animal health and veterinary public health in the light of the Strategic Orientations and Program Priorities of PAHO during the Quadrennium 1991-1994.

2. To request the Director of PAHO/WHO to include as a topic in the next RIMSA the results of the analysis referred to above.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION X

RABIES TRANSMITTED BY VAMPIRE BATS

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having noted the topic "Strategy and Plan of Action for the Control of Rabies Transmitted by Vampire Bats" (Document RIMSA7/13) and the technical document (RIMSA7/15) prepared by the Veterinary Public Health Program of PAHO; and

Considering the severity of the problem of rabies transmitted by vampire bats, which causes substantial cattle losses and is emerging as a public health problem owing to the growing numbers of human cases,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Member Governments to establish or strengthen measures for the control of rabies transmitted by vampire bats and to expand the epidemiological surveillance system to include information on this disease.

2. To request the Director of the PASB to draw up a plan of hemispheric action for the control of rabies transmitted by vampire bats and to submit it to the Member Governments for consultation.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION XI

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that bovine tuberculosis is a zoonosis of cattle which reduces meat and milk production and is of great importance in the public health of the countries of the Americas;

Recalling Resolutions II, XIX, XII and XXII of the Inter-American Meetings, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control (RICAZ) I, IV and V, held in 1968, 1971 and 1972, respectively, and Resolution XIII of the VI Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health, held in 1989, recommending to the countries the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis;

Having taken note of the topic "Strategy and Plan of Action for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in the Americas" and of the technical document prepared by the Pan American Zoonoses Center of the Veterinary Public Health Program of PAHO/WHO;

Cognizant of the experience built up in the countries of the Americas, which has made possible striking advances in the control of this zoonosis with the available technology, many countries now being in a position to launch eradication drives in all or part of their national territories; and

Wishing to highlight the great support received from PAHO in the technical cooperation activities of its Veterinary Public Health Program for the control of bovine tuberculosis,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Member Governments to adopt the policy decision to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in their respective countries.
2. To request the Director of the PASB to draw up an action plan for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis for the Americas and to submit it to the Member Governments for consultation.
3. To again ask the Governments of the Member Countries and the international technical cooperation and finance agencies to intensify their support to achievement of the eradication of bovine tuberculosis from the Americas.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION XII

DR. CARLYLE GUERRA DE MACEDO, DIRECTOR OF THE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having regard to Resolution VII of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, which decided to declare Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo elected as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for a third term of four years as from February 1, 1991;

Considering that during his first two terms he oriented his institutional policy toward intersectorality in public health, and with the agricultural sector in particular;

Cognizant of the efforts made for development of the infrastructure of animal health and its reporting systems, the coordination of measures for and approaches to protection of the environment and natural resources, and the support given to the control of zoonoses, including foot-and-mouth disease, and of rural endemics that impact on the agricultural labor force and on food protection to facilitate international trade; and

Considering that the Americas is the only region of the World Health Organization that maintains a permanent forum at the ministerial level for intersectoral collaboration,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize and commend the work done by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

2. To request the Director in his new term to continue his leadership in the delivery of technical cooperation for the maintenance of intersectoral coordination in order to maximize national resources and be able to solve the common problems confronting the agricultural and health sectors.

3. To express to the Director of the PASB firm support for his efforts to strengthen the linkage between the agricultural and health sectors as a contribution to the health and development of the countries in the Americas.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

RESOLUTION XIII

PARTICIPATION BY THE COMMUNITY, AND ESPECIALLY BY PRODUCERS,
IN NATIONAL SANITARY CAMPAIGNS

THE VII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that the animal health services of the different countries labor under severe budgetary constraints;

Taking into account that the different diseases have a significant impact on meat and milk production and even on human health; and

Taking into consideration that the commitment of producers to programs for the prevention, control and eradication of epizootics is essential for the implementation and long-term success of these programs,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to PAHO and to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers that they provide, in the design of and budgets for the different programs recommended in this Meeting, the human and financial resources that will make it possible for producers and beneficiaries to participate decisively in their execution.

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session,
2 May 1991)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Meeting and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretary ex officio, sign this Final Report in English and Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in the city of Washington, D.C., United States of America, this second day of May, nineteen hundred and ninety-one. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and shall send copies thereof to the Member Governments of the Organization.

Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez
President of the VII Meeting
Minister of Campesino and
Agricultural Affairs
of Bolivia

Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Secretary ex officio of the VII Meeting
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau