



## **First report of Committee B**

Committee B held its first meeting on 11 May 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka). On the proposal of the Committee on Nominations,<sup>1</sup> Dr M. Nguema Ntutumu (Equatorial Guinea) and Dr E. Peruzzi (Venezuela) were elected Vice-Chairmen and Dr L. Romanovska (Czech Republic) Rapporteur.

It was decided to recommend to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

23. Financial matters

23.2 Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

Three resolutions entitled:

- Status of collection of assessed contributions
- Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution
- Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution: temporary restoration of voting privileges

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<sup>1</sup> Document A51/30.

## Agenda item 23.2

### Status of collection of assessed contributions

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Noting with concern that, as at 31 December 1997:

(1) the rate of collection in 1997 of contributions to the effective working budget for that year amounted to 78.27%, leaving US\$ 91 110 877 unpaid;

(2) only 105 Members had paid their contributions to the effective working budget for that year in full, and 61 Members had made no payment;

(3) total unpaid contributions in respect of 1997 and prior years exceeded US\$ 174 million,

1. EXPRESSES deep concern at the continuing high level of outstanding contributions, which has had a deleterious effect on programmes and on the financial situation;
2. CALLS THE ATTENTION of all Members to Financial Regulation 5.6, which provides that instalments of contributions shall be considered as due and payable in full by the first day of the year to which they relate, and to the importance of paying contributions as early as possible to enable the Director-General to implement the programme budget in an orderly manner;
3. REMINDS Members that, as a result of the adoption, by resolution WHA41.12, of an incentive scheme to promote the timely payment of assessed contributions, those that pay their assessed contributions early in the year in which they are due will have their contributions payable for a subsequent programme budget reduced appreciably, whereas Members paying later will see their contributions payable for that subsequent programme budget reduced only marginally or not at all;
4. URGES Members that are systematically late in the payment of their contributions to take immediate steps to ensure prompt and regular payment;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to review, taking into account developments in other organizations in the United Nations system, all additional measures that may be appropriate to the circumstances of WHO with a view to ensuring a sound financial basis for programmes and to report on this matter to the Executive Board at its 103rd session and to the Fifty-second World Health Assembly;
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to draw this resolution to the attention of all Members.

**Agenda item 23.2****Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution**

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the second report of the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Board on Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

Having been informed that the voting privileges of Venezuela had been restored as a result of payments made which reduced their unpaid prior years' arrears of contributions to a level below that indicated in resolution WHA41.7, and that one Member, Mauritania, had made a payment subsequent to 30 April 1998, which was sufficient for that Member's voting privilege to be restored as from the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly;

Noting that, at the time of opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly, the voting rights of Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chad, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Yugoslavia remained suspended, such suspension to continue until the arrears of the Member State concerned have been reduced, at the present or future Health Assemblies, to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

Noting that, in accordance with resolution WHA50.8, the voting privileges of Afghanistan, Central African Republic and Djibouti, and in accordance with resolution WHA50.22, the voting privileges of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been suspended as from 11 May 1998, such suspension to continue until the arrears of the Member States concerned have been reduced, at the present or future Health Assemblies, to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

Noting that Belarus, Burundi, Ecuador, Gambia and Mali were in arrears at the time of the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly to such an extent that it was necessary for the Health Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the voting privileges of these Members should be suspended at the opening of the Fifty-second World Health Assembly;

Having been informed that as a result of a payment received subsequent to 30 April 1998, the arrears of Peru have been reduced to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution,

1. EXPRESSES concern at the large number of Members that have been in arrears in the payment of their contributions in recent years to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution and the unprecedented level of contributions owed by them;
2. URGES the Members concerned to regularize their position at the earliest possible date;
3. FURTHER URGES Members that have not communicated their intention to settle their arrears to do so as a matter of urgency;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to approach the Members in arrears to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, with a view to pursuing the question with the governments concerned;

5. REQUESTS the Executive Board, in the light of the Director-General's report to the Board at its 103rd session in 1999, and after the Members concerned have had an opportunity to explain their situation to the Board, to report to the Fifty-second World Health Assembly on the status of payment of contributions;

6. DECIDES:

(1) that in accordance with the statement of principles in resolution WHA41.7 if, by the time of the opening of the Fifty-second World Health Assembly, Belarus, Burundi, Ecuador, Gambia and Mali are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, their voting privileges shall be suspended as from the said opening;

(2) that any suspension which takes effect as aforesaid shall continue at the Fifty-second and subsequent Health Assemblies, until the arrears of the Member concerned have been reduced to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

(3) that this decision shall be without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

**Agenda item 23.2****Members in arrears in the payment of their  
contributions to an extent which would justify  
invoking Article 7 of the Constitution****Temporary restoration of voting privileges**

The Fifty-First World Health Assembly,

Having regard to resolutions WHA44.12, WHA45.8, WHA46.10, WHA47.18, WHA48.6, WHA49.4 and WHA50.8;

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the World Health Organization,

1. DECIDES to restore, on a temporary basis only for agenda item 12 of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly, the voting privileges of all Members whose voting privileges are currently suspended;
2. CONFIRMS that such restoration is without prejudice (i) to application of the aforesaid Health Assembly resolutions for all other agenda items of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly and (ii) to the continuing obligation of all Members to meet their financial commitments to the Organization in full.

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