Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters

Provisional Summary Record of the Tenth Meeting

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Monday, 20 May 1968, at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman: Dr J. ANOUTI (Lebanon)

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Note: Corrections to this provisional summary record should reach the Chief Editor, Official Records, World Health Organization, Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, before 12 July 1968.

Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, Secretary, continuing his introduction of the report by the Director-General (document A21/AFL/7) which he had begun at the previous meeting, referring to paragraph 3 on the ACC report to the Economic and Social Council on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes, stated that that report, which had been submitted by the ACC to the Council each year for the past two years, provided information regarding the activities of each organization in the United Nations system, with information being supplied by the individual organizations themselves. So far the Council had noted that report and had asked for it to be continued although it had not given an indication as to whether it considered it useful. The ACC had at its April 1968 session decided that individual tables on their own programmes, with explanatory notes and an annex giving related costs, could be prepared by each organization. In accordance with that decision, the Executive Board had, at its forty-first session, considered the form of the tables submitted by WHO and had requested that they be included in the programme and budget estimates for 1970. The Committee on Programme and Budget would, under item 2.3, be considering changes in presentation in respect of future years and the Director-General had provided the relevant information in connexion with that item.

With regard to paragraph 4 on co-operation in the use of computers, he drew attention to the fact that the WHO computer installations were available to any organization in the United Nations system that wished to make use of them, in accordance with the view of the ACC, and that, to date, five organizations had done so, namely, ILO, UNCTAD, the United Nations Postal Administration in Geneva, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and WMO; ILO had indicated it would not need to use the WHO computer facilities in future as it would have its own, but the others had expressed a wish to continue to do so. He recalled that the ACC had considered the question of the establishment of a computer users' committee to co-ordinate a number of aspects; that committee would not be limited to Geneva-based organizations but would include all organizations in the United Nations system. It was hoped that that committee would take decisions of mutually beneficial interest to all participating. It would be remembered that, in connexion with the item of the agenda relating to the review of the financial position of the Organization, he had referred to the situation existing with regard to the computer. The Director-General had adopted the position that WHO computer facilities, as well as any other facilities, should be available to all organizations in the United Nations system. Similarly, WHO would wish to take advantage of facilities existing in other organizations when that was useful and economical.

Paragraph 5 related to co-ordination in the use of language staff and, more specifically, to a pool of interpreter trainees. WHO looked on that arrangement as a first step in improved co-ordination of the use of language staff in general.

Co-ordination in the grading of posts, which was the subject of paragraph 6, had been under study through inter-agency machinery over a number of years with the co-operation of the International Civil Service Advisory Board and he hoped that it would be pursued in order to bring about an improvement in common standards for classification of posts based on duties and responsibilities.

He stressed the fact that the Director-General had studied not only the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee but also many aspects of co-ordination in administrative, budgetary and financial matters. The Secretariat would be glad to give any further information which might be required.
Dr CAYLA (France) thanked the representative of the Executive Board and the Assistant Director-General for their clear presentation of the question.

Commenting on the report by the Director-General contained in document A21/AFL/7, he said that his delegation was gratified to learn of the procedures adopted in respect of the use of the impressive computer installations in WHO. He also commended the steps to co-ordinate the use of language staff.

In connexion with co-ordination in the grading of posts, and with particular reference to the provisions of WHO Staff Regulation 3.2, he asked whether WHO was among the organizations using the Common System of Salaries and Allowances.

He welcomed the fact that the Executive Board had, in resolution EB41.R4O, considered that a large proportion of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee were already fully in operation in WHO and that recommendation 43 was partly in operation, pending a more precise definition of certain terms in that recommendation. He would welcome further elucidation as to the definition required.

With regard to recommendation 24 relating to standardization of financial regulations, in respect of which the Director-General had been requested by the Board to continue to co-operate in further inter-agency study, he expressed the view that it should be possible to apply that recommendation easily in respect of WHO.

The resolution adopted by the Executive Board made no mention of recommendation 15 concerning a special appropriation line to be included, where necessary, in the budget for minor contingent expenses. He asked for clarification as to the position in that regard in WHO.

Mr WACHOB (United States of America) said that his delegation had studied with interest the report by the Director-General (document A21/AFL/7) concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, as well as the more detailed report submitted to the forty-first session of the Executive Board (Official Records No. 165, Annex II). It was clear from those reports that the Director-General and his staff were making progress in the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations which were intended to lead to a more efficient use of resources in the United Nations family of organizations.

His Government welcomed the statement by the Director-General, in his report to the Board, that he planned to submit to the Board at its forty-third session a report on possibilities for further improvement and refining of the planning process, including the introduction of some broad long-term financial indicators of future programmes. Long-term planning, with some indications of financial implications, was essential for orderly development in an organization as well as in a national government.

His delegation was happy to note in that same report that evaluation procedures, on which the Ad Hoc Committee had rightly put considerable emphasis, were being further strengthened. In connexion with the statement contained in the report to the Executive Board under recommendation 30 that it was for the Board to decide whether existing procedures with regard to progress reports was sufficient or whether it needed supplementing by having the information also reviewed during its deliberations, his delegation hoped that the Director-General would find it possible to present to the Board at its forty-third session some proposals for making such information available to the Board at regular intervals, say twelve-monthly.

With respect to recommendation 27 concerning comments by the External Auditor, he was glad to note that the appendix to the Financial Regulations already permitted the External Auditor to include, in his comments on the accounts, observations on the administration and management of the Organization. The Director-General had pointed out that the External Auditor of WHO had, over the years, made observations on its administrative procedures in his formal
reports to the Health Assembly and had made informal comments to the Director-General on many subjects bearing on work methods and procedures. His delegation considered it appropriate, at the present Health Assembly which had examined the first formal report of the new External Auditor, to express his hope that, like his predecessor, would bear in mind those provisions of the appendix to the Financial Regulations.

With regard to recommendation 21 relating to use of miscellaneous income, he recalled that the Director-General was authorized, pursuant to resolution WHA8.14, to use casual income to raise the level of the Working Capital Fund to 20 per cent. of the effective working budget. He hoped that the Board would recommend in the future that the casual income available as at 30 April, after the Director-General had exercised his authority with respect to raising the level of the Working Capital Fund, should be applied to reduce the level of assessments for the following year.

Recommendation 8 was already met by the Director-General's Annual Report and his annual Financial Report. His Government had recently reviewed a series of documents, comprising programme and budget estimates, Annual Reports and annual Financial Reports, with a view to following developments in budget estimates for individual projects from the time of their original appearance in the programme and budget document up to the time they were reported upon, several years later, in the Director-General's Annual Report and annual Financial Report. That examination revealed the desirability "inter alia" of there being a closer relationship between those documents as there appeared to be some slight discrepancies with regard to certain projects as between them.

He commended the Director-General on the documentation submitted on that item of the agenda, as well as on the progress which those reports reflected in the implementation of recommendations which he believed to be in the interest of the Organization.

He then submitted the following draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee:

The Twenty-first World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the Director-General's report in document A21/AFL/7 concerning the implementation of the recommendations in the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies;

Bearing in mind also resolutions EB37.R43, WHA19.30, EB39.R42, WHA20.22 and EB41.R40,

1. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION that in his report to the Executive Board the Director-General states that he plans to submit to the Board at its forty-third session a report on "possibilities for further improvement and refinement of the planning process, including the introduction of some broad long-term financial indicators of future programmes";

2. WELCOMES also the action taken thus far by the Director-General concerning the development of additional procedures for programme evaluation;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to present to the forty-third session of the Executive Board for its consideration proposals for further improving and strengthening the evaluation process; and

4. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Twenty-second World Health Assembly on further progress in the implementation of the recommendations in the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the recommendations concerning reporting on budget performance.
The SECRETARY, replying to the points raised by the delegate of France, said, with regard to paragraph 6 of the Director-General's report (document A21/AFL/7), that it was necessary to make a careful and important distinction between Staff Regulation 3.2 on salaries and related allowances, to which the delegate of France had referred, and Staff Regulation 2.1, which related to classification of posts and staff. The Common System of Salaries and Allowances was to a very large extent the scale of salaries followed by all organizations in the United Nations system, although there were some variations between them; the few deviations existing in WHO had been authorized by the Executive Board. There were differences in details of application but efforts were being made through the International Civil Service Advisory Board to reduce them. There existed, however, a rather wide difference between organizations in respect of classification of posts and staff and it was precisely on those grounds that the International Civil Service Advisory Board desired greater uniformity regarding classification of posts. The project was a long-term one but some progress was being made. It was hoped that the International Civil Service Advisory Board would keep the matter under review with a view to achieving a greater degree of uniformity.

In connexion with recommendation 24 of the Ad Hoc Committee (Official Records No. 165, page 61), he had earlier endeavoured to indicate that at some time in the future it might be desirable for WHO to propose changes in the Financial Regulations once the inter-agency consultations had been completed concerning standardization of nomenclature and certain specific policy points agreed.

The attitude of WHO regarding recommendation 15 was that the recommendation should not be accepted as provision already existed for meeting unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure through the use of the Working Capital Fund; that recommendation, if implemented, would unnecessarily increase the size of the budget by providing for an additional source of contingency financing.

The difficulties of definition with regard to recommendation 43 related to the problem of establishing indirect costs of meetings, as they were clearly open to varying interpretations. To proceed before agreement had been reached on the definition of "indirect conference costs" might merely lead to confusion. It was considered, accordingly, that that recommendation made by the Ad Hoc Committee could not be carried out by an organization such as WHO until the term was defined.

Commenting on the points raised by the delegate of the United States of America, he assumed, in respect of his suggestion that casual income should be taken into account in assessing contributions over and above the amount used to bring the Working Capital Fund up to the level of 20 per cent. of the effective working budget, that the United States delegation was in agreement with the practice of using casual income to raise the level of the Working Capital Fund. In all events, the entire matter of the Working Capital Fund would be considered by the Executive Board at its first session in 1970.

With regard to the point made by the United States delegate relating to discrepancies found in the documentation in relation to information given on some projects proposed in the budget estimates and information in the Annual Report, he emphasized the fact that WHO operated projects entirely on the basis of requests by Member States. Governments clearly had the right to change their minds, either in view of legislative requirements or because their needs changed in the intervening period between the original request and implementation. Accordingly, there were in fact numerous differences between projects listed in the original programme and budget estimates and those reported upon in the Director-General's Annual Report and in the annual Financial Report. Indeed, WHO made every effort to maintain sufficient flexibility in order to meet evolving needs. It should be noted that the document containing the proposed programme and budget estimates included information annexes which should not be considered as a formal budget. The Director-General's Annual Report was prepared before the end of the year to which it related whereas the annual Financial Report, which was a report of obligations incurred each year for the projects referred to therein, was prepared early in the following year, so it was not surprising that differences could be noted between them. The Financial Report for 1967 had included more information on projects than heretofore.
He hoped that the United States delegation would confirm his understanding that the fourth operative paragraph in the draft resolution it had just submitted referred to reporting on budget performance in respect only of general programmes and not of specific projects.

He then submitted the following draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee:

The Twenty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General on co-ordination with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on administrative, budgetary and financial matters;

Noting that the Executive Board has carefully reviewed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Review the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and has indicated the status of each of the recommendations in the World Health Organization,

REQUESTS the Executive Board to keep under review and to report, as appropriate, to a future World Health Assembly on additional developments in the co-ordination of administrative, budgetary and financial matters in the United Nations system of organizations.

It would be noted that that draft resolution, which he hoped would assist the Committee, was intended to cover also general co-ordination. He saw no incompatibility between it and the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation which related solely to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL reiterated the consideration to which the Assistant Director-General had drawn attention, namely, that, as clearly laid down in Article 2 (c) and (d) of the Constitution, WHO assisted governments upon their request. It would be unrealistic to assume that developing countries would be able to assess, without altering details, their needs over two years in advance of the actual implementation of a project. Article 28 (g) of the Constitution provided that the Board should submit to the Health Assembly a general programme of work covering a specific period. The annual budget estimates examined by the Assembly, as provided for in Article 55, were prepared within the general programme which allowed for flexibility so that it could be adapted to varying needs. There was accordingly no cause for surprise if differences in detail could be noted as between the documents relating to various stages in the life of projects.

Dr LISICYN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation considered the question of co-ordination as being of extreme interest and worthy of detailed examination since it related to the entire question of improving the efficiency of the activities of the Organization. He expressed appreciation to the Assistant Director-General and to the Deputy Director-General for their lucid explanations of a complex problem.

His delegation fully supported the trend of action outlined in the report by the Director-General (document A21/AFL/7) and the conclusions of the Executive Board, at its forty-first session as reflected in resolution EB41.R40.

Commenting on the individual recommendations, he expressed the opinion that recommendation 4 called for further study as it was not already fully applied in WHO. His delegation supported the view expressed with regard to recommendation 15, that WHO should not establish a contingency fund. He stressed the importance of the recommendations relating to the Working Capital Fund. He drew particular attention to recommendation 21, which was in contradiction with the provisions of resolution WHA18.14. Accordingly, the re-examination of the procedures regarding the Working Capital Fund which the Executive Board would undertake at its first session in 1970 was fully justified.
His delegation attached particular importance to recommendation 29 relating to long-term planning. He recalled that the Director-General had reported specifically on that complex problem to the Twentieth World Health Assembly. The Board should continue the work begun and determine criteria for more accurate evaluation of specific projects. That recommendation was in keeping with the spirit prevailing in WHO and, in particular, with the organizational studies undertaken by the Board with a view to ensuring the most effective utilization of resources.

In connexion with recommendation 43, while he would agree that alternative bases existed for the definition of direct and indirect conference costs, it was necessary to study further how indirect conference costs might be reduced. Similarly, he considered that recommendation 40 was useful, particularly in connexion with shortening the duration of Executive Board sessions.

His delegation believed that the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation was in keeping with the spirit of the Director-General's report, the conclusions of the Board, and with recommendation 29, and would accordingly support it. He agreed with the Assistant Director-General that there was no contradiction between it and the draft resolution suggested by the Secretariat, the latter being more general in nature. His delegation was also in favour of that draft resolution.

Mr BRADY (Ireland) thanked the Executive Board and the Assistant Director-General for the information provided: the appendix to Annex 11 of Official Records No. 165 clearly demonstrated that the Organization had gone as far as could reasonably be expected of it in supporting the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. It was, in that context, important to bear in mind the fact that the proposals were, after all, recommendations and were not mandatory on WHO. There could be no doubt that every recommendation had received careful and sympathetic consideration in the interests of the Organization and WHO had been able to co-operate with regard to most of them.

He would be glad of information regarding the activities so far of the Joint Inspection Unit referred to under recommendation 28, and in particular whether any visits had been made to WHO. He would also like to know whether that Inspection Unit had been accepted by all organizations in the United Nations system.

He endorsed the suggestion made by the delegate of the United States that the balance of casual income should, as far as was possible after transfer to the Working Capital Fund, be used to reduce the level of assessments for the following year.

Dr CAYLA (France) expressed appreciation to the Assistant Director-General for his reply.

He agreed with the Assistant Director-General that the draft resolutions were not contradictory but would welcome an indication from the delegate of the United States as to his own position in that regard.

Dr POPESCO (Romania) said that, as was apparent from the information given in Annex 11 to Official Records No. 165, the Organization was progressing with the introduction of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. As had been stressed, the main aim should be the most effective utilization of funds for the benefit of Member States. In that context, the recommendations relating to preparation of the budget and to long-term planning were of particular relevance. A large number of recommendations called for intensification of study and for increased co-operation with other United Nations bodies. The results apparent from resolution EB41.R40 showed that work was proceeding satisfactorily and the Director-General was to be commended on that score.

Particular importance should be attached to recommendation 29, and it was gratifying to see the extent to which the Organization had integrated long-term planning; it would be recalled that the Executive Board was required to submit a general programme of work for a specific period. It was desirable none the less to explore other ways in which improvements
in long-term planning could be achieved and, in that connexion, his delegation looked forward to the report that would be submitted by the Director-General at the forty-third session of the Board.

His delegation would support both the draft resolutions before the Committee.

The SECRETARY, replying to the point raised by the delegate of Ireland in respect of the Joint Inspection Unit, stated that a supplementary amount had been included in the budget for 1968 to enable WHO to be a participating organization and that, to the best of his knowledge, no organization had rejected the Joint Inspection Unit, which had come into being at the beginning of the year. That Unit consisted of eight inspectors, with headquarters in Geneva. The Director-General, taking advantage of their presence in Geneva at the end of the January session of the Executive Board, had invited them to a meeting with himself, the regional directors and the senior staff of WHO, which had provided an opportunity for WHO to indicate its willingness to participate, as well as for a visit by the inspectors to the headquarters building, including the computer installations. Several inspectors had come to WHO for a month at the end of February and further short visits had taken place in March and April to discuss various activities of the headquarters staff. He understood that the inspectors were at present making field visits relating to all the organizations and that they would be visiting two regions of WHO.

With regard to the use of casual income, he said that the Director-General was in complete agreement that casual income should be used to finance the annual budget estimates once the level of the Working Capital Fund had been brought up to the level of 20 per cent. of the effective working budget and he would be prepared to make a recommendation to that end. It would of course be appreciated that it was not possible to know in October exactly what casual income would be available as at 30 April the following year.

With regard to the two draft resolutions before the Committee, he saw no objection to their both being adopted as they were compatible, providing that his interpretation of the fourth operative paragraph of the United States draft resolution was in keeping with the intentions of its authors.

Mr WACHOB (United States of America) confirmed the interpretation put by the Assistant Director-General on the fourth operative paragraph to the effect that reporting was intended to relate to general programmes and not to specific projects; the wording of that paragraph was intended to be broad.

His delegation would support the draft resolution submitted by the Secretariat.

**Decision:**

(1) The draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation was approved.

(2) The draft resolution submitted by the Secretariat was approved.

2. **IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION WHA19.31:** Item 3.5 of the Agenda (Resolutions WHA19.31 and WHA20.38; Document A21/AFL/3)

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that in document A21/AFL/3 reference had been made to WHA20.38, in which the Twentieth World Health Assembly had noted his report on the implementation of resolution WHA19.31 and had decided to refer the matter for further consideration to the regional committees concerned, namely, the Regional Committees for Africa, Europe and the Western Pacific. The resolutions subsequently taken by those three regional committees were attached to the report before the Committee.
The Regional Committee for Europe had not asked for changes to be made in resolution WHA19.31, but had asked the Director-General to interpret it in the sense that seminars and conferences should not be considered as a service to a country, but as an exchange of information useful to all countries of the Region.

The resolution of the Western Pacific Region suggested that the assistance given to overseas territories should be limited to campaigns against communicable diseases and to training programmes for indigenous health personnel.

In its resolution the Regional Committee for Africa had reiterated its unreserved support for the resolution it had previously adopted and for resolution WHA19.31 and opposed the granting of any assistance to Portugal.

Though the question had been considered extensively by each of the regional committees mentioned, the Secretariat was nevertheless faced with a problem of the greatest importance for the future work of the Organization in the different parts of the world affected. He realized the political implications were important and that many Member States had to take the political situation into consideration. It would, however, be practically impossible to carry out the Assembly's instructions on programmes for the control of communicable diseases, which affected more than one country or were of regional or world importance, if WHO was unable to work in all the parts of the world concerned.

It was certain that the African Region was the one most strongly affected, as shown by the smallpox eradication programme, the malaria eradication programme, and the onchocerciasis and trypanosomiasis programmes, which could not be effective unless they could be carried on in all the territories affected.

The help extended by WHO to any given area, was help to the indigenous population, irrespective of its government. If independent neighbouring countries were to be protected, WHO had to insist on co-ordinating its work throughout the area. It was not the first time that it had not been possible for countries to sit at the same conference table. However, in all previous cases it had been possible to advise countries so that the work could be carried on in a co-ordinated way to protect all the peoples concerned. WHO had to find a way of successfully continuing the campaigns against communicable diseases, if the peoples of neighbouring countries and the indigenous population of the territories in question were to be protected. He believed, moreover, that the education programme for the indigenous population was most important for any future political evolution.

Dr de CONINCK (Belgium) made three points: One, that the specialized agencies should avoid taking decisions for political reasons which ran counter to their aims; in the case of WHO it was to ensure the health of a country and its population.

Two, the Preamble of the Constitution was being countermanded, if resolution WHA19.31 prevented WHO from intervening in any situation which threatened the health of the regional and even local populations, as the Director-General had himself stressed.

Three, resolution WHA19.31 should not affect the help given to Portugal itself, and consequently technical assistance to that country should not be suspended.

Two draft resolutions on the implementation of resolution WHA19.31 had emerged from the working party set up at the last meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe, and to break the deadlock, the Belgian delegation had endorsed one of the resolutions which had finally been adopted. The text thereof appeared in the Annex 2 to document A21/AFL/3. In so doing, the Belgian delegation had sought only to serve the cause of the Organization, since it considered it inconceivable that a Member country of WHO should be prevented from taking part in seminars and symposia of the World Health Organization, thus depriving it of the valuable experience to be gained therefrom.

Dr CASTILLO (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's complete agreement with the Director-General and the delegate of Belgium. Any measure taken against any Member country reflected on the organization concerned. Any community had the right to the attention of an organization of international stature. Health problems and politics should not be mixed.
When, in 1966, the United Nations had decided to apply sanctions against Portugal at international level, Venezuela had supported the United Nations; when at the time of the meeting of the Pan American Health Organization in Trinidad and Tobago, the question of the admission of Guyana had arisen, Venezuela had expressed herself in favour, although at the time in dispute with Guyana for territorial reasons.

His delegation would not vote for any motion which was detrimental to any region of a Member State, and its stand coincided with the views of his Government.

Dr HAPPI (Cameroon) said that since the question of Portugal had already been settled in resolution WHA19.31, the Committee was now merely concerned with the implementation of that resolution. The question had been debated at length by the Regional Committee for Africa and its position was known. It had, however, been shown that disease knew no frontiers and that the Director-General was finding it difficult to apply the resolution, particularly in view of the assistance he might be asked to give to refugees from colonies and to the populations of the countries at present occupied by Portugal. It was the people of such countries that needed help from WHO in the struggle against malaria, smallpox, onchocerciasis and trypanosomiasis. After long reflection, the delegates from the African Region had asked the Director-General to consider the possibility of helping populations without contravening resolution WHA19.31. They considered resolution WHA19.31 of great importance, since the African countries disagreed with the position of the Portuguese in the countries occupied by Portugal. The resolution proposed by his and other delegations, and co-sponsored by the delegation of Bulgaria, made it possible for the Director-General to provide for assistance in the control of communicable diseases in those regions and, particularly, in the training of national personnel. Training schemes must, however, be organized directly by the Regional Office or by the nationalists, and not by any given country. Fellowships for nationals of those countries must be made available through the Regional Committee or the Director-General, not through any government, nor through the refugees themselves. In that way the Director-General could take action benefiting the population of the colonized countries and refugees, without contravening resolution WHA19.31.

Dr FOFANA (Mali) said that his delegation had carefully examined document A21/AFL/3, and in particular the attached resolutions. Resolution WHA19.31 was quite clear and its implementation should not cause confusion. The resolution of the Regional Committee for Europe appeared to suggest that the participants in conferences, seminars and other meetings benefited them as individuals and not as representatives of given countries. If that were so, then evidently they would also benefit the countries of which those representatives were nationals. Surely meetings organized by the World Health Organization were attended by participants as nationals of Member countries; if not, did WHO invite individuals from non-Member States to its meetings? He thought it was essential to show intellectual probity in connexion with a resolution which had already been adopted.

As regards the resolution of the Regional Committee of the Western Pacific, he would simply point out that WHO activities did not extend to the entire world. Many areas remained outside the sphere of WHO activities and the political reasons evoked to keep those at arms length, remained valid in the case of Portugal.

His delegation was, however, aware that the activities of WHO should be extended wherever they were needed, particularly if epidemiological conditions so required. It had therefore, with the delegations of Cameroon and Upper Volta, proposed the following draft resolution, which the sponsors considered could reconcile the various requirements.
The Twenty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the implementation of resolution WHA19.31;

Bearing in mind resolutions WHA19.31 and WHA20.38 adopted by the Nineteenth World Health Assembly and the Twentieth World Health Assembly respectively;

Noting resolution AFR/RC17/R2 adopted by the Regional Committee for Africa at its seventeenth session, resolution EUR/RC17/R9 adopted by the Regional Committee for Europe at its seventeenth session and resolution WPR/RC18/R2 adopted by the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific at its eighteenth session; and

Having regard to resolutions 2270 (XXII), 2311 (XXII) and 2326 (XXII) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-second session,

DECIDES that: in applying paragraph 2 of resolution WHA19.31, the Director-General should take into consideration the need:

(a) not to envisage in WHO programmes any assistance for Portugal until that country renounces the policy of colonial domination,

(b) to provide, in co-operation with other organizations, through special programmes, for health assistance to the refugees and nationalists of countries under colonial domination, particularly in regard to the control of communicable diseases and the professional training of qualified national personnel,

(c) to ensure, within the limits of his competence, the implementation of this resolution and to report periodically to the regional committees concerned and to the World Health Assembly on the measures taken to put this into effect.

Mr BOYD (Panama) said his delegation entirely agreed with the views expressed by the Venezuelan delegation. WHO was an organization which was not concerned with politics, but with the fight against disease.

Dr COMPAORÉ (Upper Volta) endorsed the statements made by the delegate of Mali; he also believed that the draft resolution submitted to the Committee by the delegations of Mali, Cameroon and his country could help to ease the situation.

Dr N'DIA KOFFI (Ivory Coast) agreeing with the delegate of Mali, said the question under discussion was a political one, and that a certain number of States were absent from the World Health Organization precisely for political reasons. He did not see why in the case of Portugal the Assembly should be required to go back on its decision contained in WHA19.31. He thought the draft resolution proposed by the delegation of Mali, Cameroon and Upper Volta would meet the wishes of the delegations present.

Mr STAMBOLIEV (Bulgaria) recalled the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, adopted in resolution 1514 (XV) at the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1960, which had proclaimed the need to put an end to colonialism in all its forms. The first part of that resolution stated clearly that subjugation of a people was contrary to fundamental human rights, in contradiction with the United Nations Charter and an obstacle to the development of co-operation and to peace throughout the world.

The Fourteenth World Health Assembly had passed resolution WHA14.58 noting the General Assembly resolution he had just mentioned and indicating that WHO had an important role to play in extending assistance to colonial countries having attained independence. The Health Assembly had also taken account of the United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning racial discrimination, with particular reference to apartheid.
The Seventeenth World Health Assembly had decided to apply the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution to the Republic of South Africa and to deprive it of the right to vote. The Nineteenth World Health Assembly had adopted measures against the colonial and racial policy of Portugal, suspending that country's membership of the Regional Committee for Africa and the provision to it of technical assistance until such time as the Government of Portugal should give proof that it would implement the United Nations resolution. It was on the basis of those decisions of the Health Assembly that the Regional Committee for Africa had decided that no assistance should be given to Portugal, since it was convinced that under present conditions such assistance would not benefit the African population. At the same time the Regional Committee had called upon the Member States of WHO to do everything possible to promote the right to health of the population of the Portuguese colonies in Africa struggling for national liberation.

He also referred to resolution 2311 (XX), adopted at the twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, which clarified a number of questions concerning the role of the specialized agencies in dealing with colonial problems. An important element of the discussion at the General Assembly had been the requirement that the national liberation movements of Southern Rhodesia, South-West Africa and the Portuguese colonies should receive assistance from the specialized agencies, particularly in the health field. The representatives of those movements had appealed to WHO for help, particularly as regards the control of epidemics, the supply of drugs, the provision of elementary sanitation, the training of medical staff, the equipment of medical schools and assistance to children and refugees.

During the discussion in the General Assembly and in the Committee of Twenty-four the question of the part which the specialized agencies should play, particularly in areas such as South Africa and the Portuguese colonies, had been raised. The General Assembly had passed a resolution recommending to the specialized agencies that they consider urgently measures for extending assistance to peoples struggling for independence.

It was for all those reasons that his delegation had decided to co-sponsor the draft resolution proposed by the delegations of Mali, Cameroon and Upper Volta.

Dr DICANCRO (Uruguay) agreed with the delegations of Venezuela, Panama and other delegations who considered that political matters should not be dealt with by WHO. His delegation would vote for operative clauses (b) and (c) of the draft resolution, and he proposed that each paragraph should be voted on separately.

Dr de MEDEIROS (Togo) said his delegation had the impression that the problem of human misery was easily forgotten. In certain territories there were people who had never been vaccinated and who were transferred against their will to other countries, where they lived under terrible conditions and suffered from malnutrition; such circumstances favoured the spread of communicable disease. And when application was made to WHO for help for those who hampered the efforts to combat disease, there were some who called that application political.

Most of those present were doctors, and all had the Hippocratic oath at heart. It was not possible to refuse help to those in danger. However, it was necessary to choose one's friends. And one's friends were those who really wanted the African continent to be able to make its cultural, human and humanitarian contribution to the world and who provided help in fighting poverty and disease.

Africa still had large foci of communicable diseases and Europe itself was in permanent danger as long as misery and communicable diseases persisted in Africa. He asked that the Director-General be given the means to prevent WHO's work on communicable diseases from being rendered null and void and to save human lives. A draft resolution had been submitted which should make that possible. It was surely obvious to all that Africa was on the move and would not turn back. To oppose the draft resolution would be to oppose international co-operation. The resolution was asking only for the necessary means to alleviate suffering. In that there was nothing political.
Dr ALLOUACHE (Algeria) supported the draft resolution by the delegations of Mali, Cameroon and Upper Volta, the more so since at the seventeenth session of the Regional Committee for Europe, Algeria had, together with Poland and Yugoslavia, presented a draft resolution calling for the suspension of technical assistance to Portugal.

Dr AUJOULAT (France) asked for clarification on certain passages of the resolution which had been submitted.

He thought that the statements made by the various delegations showed that there was a unanimous wish to find a solution by means of which populations which had temporarily been abandoned by WHO could be given assistance. In view of the firm stand taken from the start by the Regional Committee for Africa, the efforts of the sponsors of the resolution to find a way of improving the fate of the populations depending on Portugal were praiseworthy indeed.

The main problem of the various regional committees was to ensure that there should not be vast areas in which the fight against communicable diseases was interrupted, thus threatening the health, not only of the population directly concerned, but also of the populations of the neighbouring countries. It was on paragraph (b) that he wished for clarification. What organizations were meant and how was co-operation to be established with them in order to assist the populations under Portuguese rule? He recalled that measures had been taken to provide medical assistance to refugees of all countries, including political refugees; unfortunately there were many in the world today. He wished to know whether it was in that framework that assistance to refugees from Angola, Mozambique or elsewhere was envisaged. Moreover, he would also like to know how "health assistance to the refugees and nationalists of countries under colonial domination" was to be interpreted. Did that mean all the indigenous population or did the word "nationalist" imply a certain discrimination? He thought the authors of the resolution might possibly modify the wording of paragraph (b) to make it more generally acceptable and that in that same paragraph - since WHO would be the guiding spirit even if it intended to appeal to the co-operation of other organizations - WHO should be mentioned as the leading Organization.

Dr LISICYN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, notwithstanding the repeated exhortations of the United Nations and WHO to discontinue the policy of colonialization and racial discrimination, Portugal still continued to oppress its so-called overseas territories. It was clear that the peoples in the Portuguese colonies enjoyed neither social rights, nor the right to health and medical assistance.

Under those circumstances, resolution WHA19.31 was still justified and there was no reason not to apply it. His delegation agreed with the draft resolution before the Committee and with the views expressed by its sponsors. He thought, however, that the word "nationalist" in paragraph (b) could be interpreted in different ways and asked for clarification. In the context, he understood it to mean those who were taking part in the struggle for self-determination; if that was the meaning, his delegation would support the draft resolution.

Dr COMPAORE (Upper Volta) said that in the context of the resolution the word "nationalist" meant those people who were under colonial oppression and who were fighting it. His definition concurred with that of the delegate of the Soviet Union.

Dr DABROWA (Poland) expressed his support for the resolution submitted by the delegations of Mali, Cameroon and Upper Volta.

In WHA19.31 WHO had, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and in application of Article 7 of the Constitution, suspended technical assistance to Portugal. The aim of resolution WHA19.31 had been to bring WHO's policy into line with United Nations policy, and therefore the resolution should be strictly applied by the Member States and the Director-General until Portugal stated its willingness to comply
with the decisions of the United Nations. He agreed neither with the recommendation in the resolution of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific that the policy of granting technical assistance should be reviewed, nor with the opinion expressed by the Regional Committee of Europe, that funds should be restored to enable Portuguese nationals to attend seminars and other meetings in that Region. As the delegates participating in the meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe in Dublin would recall - and as had been stated by the delegate of Algeria - the delegations of Algeria, Yugoslavia and Poland had submitted a draft resolution recommending that the Director-General continue to apply WHA19.31.

The resolution adopted by the Regional Committee for Africa fully coincided with his delegation's point of view, as did the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Mali, Cameroon and Upper Volta.

Dr HAPPI (Cameroon) said that he wished to give some clarification in connexion with the draft resolution. Paragraph (a) merely reaffirmed what had been adopted by the Assembly. As the delegate of France had said, the resolution had involved considerable effort on the part of its authors, and they felt that it should receive the approval of all.

The delegate of France had asked for clarification on paragraph (b). First, as to the organizations with which WHO could co-operate in order to assist refugees and nationalists: while the World Health Organization was the guiding spirit, it might possibly need the help of other organizations such as ICEM or UNICEF. That, however, was for the Director-General to decide.

The question had also been raised as to the meaning of the word "nationalist". The entire autochthonic population was nationalist; if a few were not, it was because they were still under colonial oppression. Since the resolution had been submitted by African countries who were known to be against colonialism, the word could not give rise to confusion.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.