

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATIONSIXTH WORLD HEALTH  
ASSEMBLYORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉSIXIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTEA6/VR/11 ✓  
22 May 1953ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETINGFriday, 22 May 1953, at 3 p.m.ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIEREVendredi 22 mai 1953, à 15 heures

Palais des Nations, Genève

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD

COMPTE RENDU IN EXTENSO PROVISOIRE

ACTING PRESIDENT	:	} Dr. Melville MACKENZIE	} (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
PRESIDENT PAR INTERIM	:		

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Note : This provisional record contains original speeches in English and French and the French translations of speeches delivered in Spanish. The Official Record of the Health Assembly, which will appear in separate English and French editions, will contain all speeches in either the original language or translation.

Corrections to the provisional record should reach the Editor, Documents and Official Records, Division of Editorial and Reference Services, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, by 10 July 1953.

Ce compte rendu provisoire contient les discours originaux en français et en anglais, et la traduction française des discours prononcés en espagnol. Les Actes officiels de l'Assemblée de la Santé, qui sont publiés séparément en français et en anglais, reproduiront soit les discours originaux, soit leur traduction.

Les rectifications à apporter au compte rendu doivent être envoyées au Rédacteur-Editeur des Documents et Actes officiels, Division des Services d'Édition et de Documentation, Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, Palais des Nations, Genève, Suisse, avant le 10 juillet 1953.

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1. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON ITS TENTH AND ELEVENTH SESSIONS  
RAPPORTS DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF SUR SES DIXIEME ET ONZIEME SESSIONS

The ACTING PRESIDENT: The Assembly is in session. The next item on the Agenda is the reports of the Executive Board on its tenth and eleventh sessions. Those are volumes 43 and 46 of the Official Records. All that is necessary is for the Assembly to note these and I take the liberty of proposing the following resolution:

The Sixth World Health Assembly

1. NOTES the reports of the Executive Board on its tenth and eleventh sessions; and
2. COMMENTS the Board on the work it has performed.

Would that resolution be in general agreement with the views of the Assembly?

If that is generally agreed we note it.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE  
RAPPORT DU BUREAU DE L'ASSEMBLEE

The ACTING PRESIDENT: The next point is the report of the General Committee. This is a report again for noting only and not for adopting, so that if the Assembly agrees we should take note of it. There is, however, one point about which we should take action and that is the resolution in paragraph 6 recommended by the General Committee on the question of the duration of sessions of the World Health Assembly under item 10 of the agenda of the Assembly. This is a resolution which was put forward by the Executive Board, was considered by the General Committee and now is put forward for the agreement of the Assembly. Are there any objections? If there are no objections we may consider this resolution adopted.

3. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT FUTURE HEALTH ASSEMBLIES  
DISCUSSIONS TECHNIQUES LORS DES FUTURES ASSEMBLEES DE LA SANTE

The ACTING PRESIDENT: The next question is that of future technical discussions and in this connexion I should be very pleased if Dr. van Zile Hyde of the delegation of the United States of America would be good enough to introduce a resolution and note from the General Committee on this question. These are contained in A6/64.

Dr. HYDE (United States of America): Mr. President, fellow delegates, your General Committee met yesterday afternoon to consider the question of technical discussions in future Health Assemblies. It studied the recommendations which were submitted by delegations regarding the organization and conduct of technical discussions in future Health Assemblies. It also considered the oral report made by the General Chairman on the technical discussions held at this Assembly. On the basis of this study, the General Committee suggests to the Health Assembly that the following resolution, which is contained in A6/64, be adopted.

The Sixth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing that the technical discussions held in the past three Assemblies have contributed substantially to the development and diffusion of technical knowledge;

Considering that the Assemblies present a unique opportunity for an informal exchange of views between public-health administrators from all parts of the world;

REQUESTS the Executive Board, at its twelfth session,

(1) to study the matter of the organization and conduct of technical discussions in the light of the recommendations made by delegations during

the current Assembly, giving special attention to:

- (a) the continuation of the discussions on an informal basis,
  - (b) the possible desirability of the introduction of the discussions by selected experts,
  - (c) the limitation of the discussions to a single subject of particular public-health significance, and
  - (d) the limitation of the discussions to a total period not to exceed the equivalent of two working days;
- (2) to select a subject to be discussed at the Seventh World Health Assembly, taking into account the suggestions made by delegations attending the Sixth World Health Assembly; and
- (3) to instruct the Director-General to take appropriate action to prepare the technical discussions at the Seventh World Health Assembly in accordance with the decision of the Executive Board.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr. Hyde. Would the Assembly be in agreement with transmitting this question to the Executive Board in the light of the various suggestions made by the General Committee and approved by the Assembly? Are there any objections? If there are no objections, then this question will be referred to the Executive Board. And I take it that this resolution as read out by Dr. Hyde is in agreement with the views of the Assembly and will consequently be adopted.

4. OTHER BUSINESS  
QUESTIONS DIVERSES

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Under Other business, the delegate from Uruguay has requested permission to address the Assembly.

Le Dr FABINI (Uruguay) (traduction de l'espagnol) : Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, il m'a paru opportun de rappeler que l'année prochaine - 1954 - marque le centième anniversaire du début de l'une des oeuvres les plus importantes des temps modernes. Une femme, Florence Nightingale, agissant avec énergie, avec décision, animée d'un sentiment humanitaire élevé, a entrepris en 1854 une action dont nous connaissons tous la grandeur et l'importance exceptionnelle. Au cours des cent années écoulées depuis lors, l'oeuvre de Florence Nightingale a pris un développement grandiose et, comme cela arrive pour toute action féconde et directement liée à l'activité humaine, elle se perfectionne sans cesse.

Messieurs les délégués, je ne m'étendrai pas sur ce sujet car ce que je pourrais en dire ne vous apprendrait pas grand chose que vous ne sachiez déjà. J'ai pensé, Monsieur le Président, et je me permets d'en faire la proposition à l'Assemblée, que le souvenir de Florence Nightingale devrait être évoqué d'abord par la publication d'une brochure qui rappellerait la vie et l'oeuvre de cette grande figure. Les années ont passé et les jeunes générations ne se rendent pas suffisamment compte de ce que représente cette grandiose initiative. J'ai pensé également, Monsieur le Président, qu'il serait bien, qu'il serait émouvant qu'à notre arrivée au Palais, l'an prochain, nous y trouvions une

expression tangible, un tableau, une oeuvre décorative, en somme quelque chose qui rappelle les aspects de sa vie et de son oeuvre.

Tels sont les deux points que je me permets de suggérer à l'Assemblée et j'estime qu'en agissant ainsi non seulement nous rendrions à Florence Nightingale l'hommage qui lui est dû, mais aussi que nous reconnâtrions l'importance sociale que représentent l'oeuvre et le travail des infirmières.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, je propose, à l'intention du Conseil Exécutif, le projet de résolution approprié.

Miss RABO (Sweden): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, as a member of the nursing profession I am naturally happy to note the proposal on the suggestions submitted by the delegation of Uruguay, which the Swedish delegation supports. Personally, I feel that perhaps the finest reward that could be given in honour of Florence Nightingale would be if next year, or in a future not too distant, as many Members of the World Health Organization as possible would give nurses an opportunity to become members of or advisers to their delegations.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: I should like to thank the delegate of Sweden for her remarks. I am, of course, as Florence Nightingale was a countrywoman, very much touched by this tribute to her greatness, but unfortunately we have to deal realistically in the Assembly and I must suggest the best lines upon which this could be brought to the notice of the Organization. Unfortunately, as this was not included on the agenda, it is impossible actually for the Assembly to take any decision. So that I am afraid all we can do is to advise the

delegate of Uruguay to bring this before the Executive Board. Under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, any item proposed by a Member or Associate Member of the Organization may be included on the provisional agenda of each session. So I should be very glad to ask the delegate of Uruguay whether he feels that this would be the line he would like to take, because, I am afraid, on procedural points, it is impossible for the Assembly to take a decision on anything that is not on the agenda. Might I ask the delegate of Uruguay if he would be in agreement with his Government putting this on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Board?

The delegate of Uruguay has assented and so, if the Assembly is in agreement, we will proceed in this way.

5. CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT  
DISCOURS DE CLÔTURE DU PRÉSIDENT PAR INTERIM

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: I think we have now reached the end of the various items on the agenda and I should like to say a few words, as is customary, on what has been achieved during the present session.

As we reach the concluding stage of the present World Health Assembly, I am sure that all who have attended the meetings of the Assembly will feel the greatest regret that our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Khater, has been prevented by illness from finishing his work as President of the Assembly - a task which he was carrying out with the greatest charm, tact and wisdom - by presenting to us his summary of the results of our deliberations over the past three weeks. In

paying tribute to the great skill with which he presided over our meetings up to the time of his unfortunate illness; I am sure that you would wish me to express our very earnest hope of his speedy restoration to good health. Called upon, as I am, at short notice, to take his place, I am acutely conscious of my inadequacy to summarize the work of the Assembly as closely as Dr. Khater would have done. But I will do my best to carry out what I feel would have been his own wishes in the matter.

We must never forget that the Assembly is primarily a business meeting of governments. It is the only occasion in the year when governments have an opportunity of marking their appreciation of the work of the World Health Organization or referring to its defects. It is therefore proper that the work of the Assembly should be invariably dominated by a realistic approach to our difficulties under present world conditions and the many other calls on the money and services of governments. We must consequently give a proper account of our stewardship. Indeed, the future development of the Organization really depends on our work being efficient and effective in the eyes of our governments and above all not being wasteful. I felt, therefore, very great satisfaction at the appreciation expressed, not only in the Assembly itself, but in the Committee on Programme and Budget, of the value of the programme of work carried out in 1952. This year the criticisms were remarkably few, considering the work, but we should do well to take any such criticisms to heart and try to meet them.

The present Assembly has been notable for the progress which has been made towards the solution of difficulties which have beset the Organization for a considerable time. Difficulties which have tended in no little degree to impede the harmonious development of the Organization's work. Fresh light has been brought to bear on the question of our relations with organizations of a non-governmental character, whose activities in the field of health are of international importance and whose co-operation with the World Health Organization is something which is essential to the fulfilment of our objects. A decision has been taken on this subject which I am sure we all hope will be in the best interests of our work.

The development of the regional structure of the Organization is also something which has presented problems of a particularly difficult nature, and the steps which are envisaged as a result of the work of the present Assembly should go far towards enabling that structure to be elaborated in a satisfactory manner.

Finance is always bound to present problems in the development of any organization such as our own, particularly during its formative stages. We have had a serious situation to face in this respect during the past 12 months in the matter of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to Under-Developed Countries. It is a problem which has been common to the United Nations and to all the specialized

agencies. Our earlier hopes in the matter of the amount of money which would be made available to us have not been realized. Our planning of Technical Assistance programmes has thus fallen out of step with the available funds and to our great regret a drastic revision of all plans has become an inescapable necessity. I am sure that all members will share my own appreciation of all that the Director-General and his staff have done in order to present to us a workable plan of adjustments, a plan which takes into account the most fundamental of principles - that one must cut one's coat according to one's cloth. I am sure that we all hope that conditions will improve as quickly as possible. In the meantime, we can be confident that the system of priorities which has been worked out will enable the work of Technical Assistance to proceed with sufficient elasticity to ensure that there will be as little hardship as possible for the recipient countries. It is noteworthy that the same attitude of realism has actuated the Assembly in its handling of the regular budget for the coming year. May I, on your behalf, extend a hearty welcome to the new Member, Nepal, which has been admitted to the Organization at the present Assembly, and to the Spanish Protectorate Zone of Morocco, to which associate membership has been extended. May I also express your pleasure at the resumption of China's participation in our work.

I am sure that I am expressing the wish of all present in conveying my congratulations to the Member States who have been elected to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board; that is to say, Austria, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Iraq, Switzerland and the United States of America. I am sure that the existing members of the Board will look forward with much pleasure to the opportunity of welcoming their new colleagues and the contribution they will undoubtedly make to the important work which the Executive Board will be called upon to carry out during the next twelve months.

Turning to the technical field, I should like to convey my congratulations to the Executive Board on its careful analysis and endorsement of the programme of work for 1954, a programme which takes carefully into account the activities of the Organization already under development and bears in mind that continuity of projects and their completion as far as possible is of more importance than embarking on a variety of subjects. I am especially glad to note that the question of the award of fellowships has been dealt with in a broad-minded spirit so as to provide for the award of a certain number of fellowships tenable in the recipient's own country, notwithstanding the general principle that fellowships should ordinarily be granted only to meet cases where the facilities for training are available only in countries abroad.

I am sure that all members will have experienced great satisfaction from the completion of the work connected with the consideration of reservations made by Member States to the International Sanitary Regulations. It is indeed a tribute to the work of all those who have been connected with the preparation of these

Regulations that Member States have found it necessary to make so few reservations in respect either of metropolitan or of outlying territories. I am sure that we can look forward with the greatest confidence to the world-wide application of these important Regulations in a spirit of mutual understanding and with the common object of preventing the spread of pestilential disease with the minimum of interference with international traffic and intercourse. I would also refer in the same connexion to the interest which the Organization proposes to take in the battle against smallpox, and would wish the Organization every success in its intended campaign against this dread disease.

May I also refer to the action of the Assembly in extending the currency of the agreement between the World Health Organization and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East? The help and advice which the World Health Organization can give to this agency is clearly a matter of the greatest importance and I can only express my great appreciation of its continuance.

I cannot conclude my remarks on the work of the Assembly in the medical field without reference to the technical discussions which have taken place on the three subjects of venereal disease, tuberculosis and typhoid fever, under the experienced general chairmanship of our very dear friend and colleague Dr. Salcedo of the Philippines, ably supported by Dr. Aujaleu of France, Sir John Charles of the United Kingdom and Dr. Pandit of India, and assisted by Dr. Gonzalez of Venezuela, Dr. Hemmes of the Netherlands and Dr. Maleki of Iran as Rapporteurs. I feel that the experience

gained since technical discussions were initiated has shown the wisdom of choosing subjects for discussion which are clearly defined and circumscribed. Quite apart from the merit of these discussions from the purely professional point of view, it is my firm belief that they are of the greatest value from the standpoint of those sections of the public in our various countries who take an interest in the work of the specialized agencies. If I may mention my own country, I am sure that there are many people who have no real picture of the technical work undertaken at our World Health Assemblies, and I am confident that their interest will be much increased by the knowledge that specific health subjects are given closest attention in the course of our discussions.

A brief mention of co-operation with the United Nations and other organizations would, I feel, not be out of place. In a complex system of organization such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies and organs, mutual co-operation is a subject which must be kept at the forefront at all times. Even after five years' or more experience, there are still examples of duplication and differences in practice which militate against the achievement of perfect working relationships. We must at all times bear in mind that co-operation is a living thing, and that every effort must be made to ensure that the machinery intended to secure it is used to the full.

It is always invidious to single out names of special importance in a concourse which includes so many who have devoted long years to health services and who have made such notable contributions in this great field of work. May I, however, express the delight of all of us today at the award of the Léon Bernard Prize to Dr. Frandsen of Denmark, whose work commands the admiration of us all? I should also like to express on your behalf our great appreciation of the able manner in which Dr. Leroux of Canada and Mr. Brady of Ireland and Dr. Jafar of Pakistan carried out their onerous duties as Chairmen of the Committee on Programme and Budget, the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters, and the Working Party on the International Sanitary Regulations. To their names I should also like to add those of Professor Canaperia of Italy and of Dr. Karunaratne of Ceylon, who as representatives of the Executive Board have so faithfully made available the views of the Board for the guidance of the main committees. Nor must it be overlooked that the smooth working of the Assembly and the adequate handling of the intricate subjects which have formed our agenda would not have been possible without the whole-hearted co-operation which we have enjoyed from the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the staff of the Secretariat; without the superb work of the interpreters and précis-writers and the many members of the staff of the Organization, who have worked long hours behind the scenes. To all these, I extend on your behalf our grateful thanks. Nor must I overlook the unfailing hospitality of this international city of Geneva, which does so much to ensure the success of our Assemblies.

Finally, we have to say a regretful word of farewell to our Director-General, Dr. Brock Chisholm. May I wish him good health and every success in whatever field of activity he may choose, and may I express on your behalf a hearty welcome to his successor, Dr. Candau, and an assurance to him of our ready co-operation in the great task to which he has been called?

I will now wish all my fellow delegates a safe return to their countries and express the hope that I shall meet them all again next year.

I now declare the Sixth World Health Assembly closed.

The session adjourned at 3.50 p.m.  
La session est close à 15h.50