

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ



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24 May 1957
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TENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY	DIXIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE DE LA SANTE	DECIMA ASAMBLEA MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD
THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING	TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE	DECIMOTERCERA SESION PLENARIA
<u>Friday, 24 May 1957</u> <u>at 3.30 p.m.</u>	<u>Vendredi, 24 mai 1957</u> <u>à 15 h. 30</u>	<u>Viernes, 24 de mayo de 1957</u> <u>a las 15,30 horas</u>
<u>Palais des Nations</u> <u>Geneva</u>	<u>Palais des Nations</u> <u>Genève</u>	<u>Palais des Nations</u> <u>Ginebra</u>
PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD	COMPTE RENDU IN EXTENSO PROVISOIRE	ACTA TAQUIGRAFICA PROVISIONAL

President : (Irak)
Président : Dr S. AL-WAHBI (Iraq)
Presidente: (Iraq)

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CONTENTS

1. Announcement
2. Approval of the Reports of the Executive Board on its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions
3. Other business
4. Closure of the Session

SOMMAIRE

1. Communication
2. Adoption des rapports du Conseil exécutif sur ses dix-huitième et dix-neuvième sessions
3. Autres questions
4. Clôture de la session

SUMARIO

1. Anuncio
2. Aprobación de los informes del Consejo Ejecutivo sobre sus 18^a y 19^a reuniones
3. Otros asuntos
4. Clausura de la reunión

1. ANNOUNCEMENT
COMMUNICATION
ANUNCIO

The PRESIDENT: The meeting is called to order. Before taking up the first item on our agenda I would like to announce that all delegations will have found on their desks a set of resolutions that have been adopted at the plenary meeting this morning, together with an index of all the resolutions adopted by the Tenth World Health Assembly. As soon as the Assembly adopts the resolution pertaining to the first item on this afternoon's agenda - the adoption of the Report of the Executive Board on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions - the resolution will be distributed so that all delegations will have the comprehensive list of all resolutions adopted by the Health Assembly before its closure.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON ITS EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH SESSIONS

ADOPTION DES RAPPORTS DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF SUR SES DIX-HUITIEME ET DIX-NEUVIEME SESSIONS

APROBACION DE LOS INFORMES DEL CONSEJO EJECUTIVO SOBRE SUS 18a Y 19a REUNIONES

The PRESIDENT: The first item on our agenda is the adoption of the report of the Executive Board on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions. As stipulated in Article 18(d) of the Constitution, the Health Assembly, together with its two main committees, has had an opportunity to review the work performed by the Executive Board at its last two sessions. It is now necessary to adopt a resolution by which the Assembly would approve the reports of the Board on these last two sessions. At this juncture may I propose a draft resolution for your consideration.

The Tenth World Health Assembly

1. NOTES the report of the Executive Board on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions and
2. COMMENDS the Board on the work it has performed.

Any observation on the draft report suggested by the Chair? If there are no observations, does the Assembly agree to accept and adopt this draft resolution? No objection to adopting it? As I see none, I take it that the Assembly adopts the resolution unanimously.

3. OTHER BUSINESS
AUTRES QUESTIONS
OTROS ASUNTOS

The PRESIDENT: The next item on our agenda is "Other Business". Does any delegate want to make any observation under this item? I recognize the delegate of Syria.

Dr EL-CHATTI (Syria): Mr President, I asked for the floor in order to have an opportunity to put on the records of the Assembly that, under the instructions just received from my Government concerning the renewal of the contract of the Director-General, the delegation of Syria is very happy to vote in favour of resolution WHA10.31. Needless to say, it is a pleasure for me, personally to convey this position to the Health Assembly and I would request that my statement appear in the records of the proceedings of the Tenth World Health Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr El-Chatti. Your statement will be recorded.

4. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION
CLÔTURE DE LA SESSION
CLAUSURA DE LA REUNION

The PRESIDENT: I recognize the Chief Delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Sir John CHARLES (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Mr President, circumstances over which I had no control prevented me from tendering my personal congratulations at the time of your installation. If I had then offered them it would have been in the sure anticipation of your success. And now that that success has been so abundantly made manifest I am happy indeed, on behalf of my Government, to record our appreciation of your services; of your skill in keeping in tune with the feelings and wishes of this great Assembly; of your delicate control of its deliberations suaviter in modo, fortiter in re - but fortunately the fortiter has not been really required; of your courtesy and good humour - good humour which you transmitted to the Assembly. All these gifts of chairmanship so bountifully displayed in the tradition, if I may say so, of your immediate predecessor, the Doyen Professor Parisot, have placed us very deeply in your debt; have made our tasks here easy and agreeable and have left us all with the pleasantest of memories. Mr President, we thank you. (Applause - Applaudissements - Aplausos)

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sir John Charles. I recognize the Chief Delegate of India.

Sir Arcot MUDALIAR (India): Mr President, it is a privilege and a pleasure to me to join Sir John Charles in expressing our deep appreciation of your kindness and courtesy, of the amiable and very effective manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of the Tenth World Health Assembly. To those of us who have known you in the past and who have admired your many qualities of head and heart it does not come as a surprise. Nevertheless in a session such as this, when representatives from so many nations are present and ideas and ideals probably sometimes come into conflict, it is a matter of great gratification to us all that you were able to conduct these proceedings with such phenomenal success.

Mr President, this is the Tenth World Health Assembly, and if I look back and take a panoramic view of the previous sessions, calling to mind the many pleasant faces and the many friendly voices that we have heard from this rostrum, I cannot but realize that some of our old friends are no longer able to be with us and some new friends, we have had the pleasure and privilege to welcome. Yes, Mr President,

"The old order changes, giving place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways . . ."

But the World Health Organization will go from strength to strength with the newer elements and fresher minds coming in and I hope and trust that this organization will long fulfil its manifold duty to the great good of humanity.

Mr President, it has been your privilege during your presidency to welcome some of those who had left us at an earlier stage and have joined us now. I hope and trust that more will come in and that this Organization will be a truly global Organization.

I am gratified to see that the eleventh session of the World Health Assembly will be held in a country from which much is expected. I have been a frequent visitor to that country and I can say without any fear of contradiction that the greater the possibilities, the greater the amount of good that can come from a session being held in that country.

It is my hope, Mr President, that when you preside at the initial session of that Eleventh World Health Assembly and the Tenth Anniversary celebrations, it will be your pleasant duty to announce things that perhaps some of us have hoped and prayed and wished for. I do not want to refer to anything in particular but I do hope and trust that there will be no situation like the one which prompted our delegation to give notice of the resolution which could not be moved and which a section of the press nevertheless stated that we had withdrawn. I hope that, by that time, the world will have changed so much; ideologies will have come more into contact with each other; and, in fact, the World Health Organization will be in a position to say that here and now we are in a position to reunite, for the good of the world, all those interested in the welfare of humanity.

The country where we are holding the next session is a great country, great not merely in the physical and material sense but in many other respects and some of us who have had the opportunity, as I said, of visiting that country have been and are

aware of that. It is my hope that, when we meet there, no resolution of the kind that the delegate of India had to move - or rather had to give notice of, and could not move - will be necessary and that on that occasion it will be your privilege, Mr President, to hand over the gavel to your successor with the full confidence that the world is heading for better days, irrespective of all other conditions, and that humanity is saved from the dread speculations which it is its unfortunate duty to share now.

Mr President, once more I express our deep appreciation of the noble qualities you have displayed as president of this Assembly and I wish you every success in your year of office.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sir Arcot.

Fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, two weeks ago, when from this same rostrum I thanked the Tenth World Health Assembly for the great honour bestowed on me in being chosen as its President, I expressed the conviction that our deliberations would constitute another important landmark in the life and growth of the Organization. I believe that even a very cursory examination of the work of this Assembly will show that my optimism and my confidence were amply justified.

One of the most positive and gratifying features of the Tenth Health Assembly has, in my opinion, been the thorough and careful manner in which it has scrutinized the broad aspects of the work WHO carried out in 1956, as well as its implications for the programmes of ensuing years. Last year Professor Parisot, in his admirable presidential address, warned us about the risk gatherings such as ours run in

concentrating on administrative and financial matters and thus losing sight of the fundamental purpose which brings us together, namely to provide the Organization with the professional and technical guidance it expects from the many illustrious public health experts attending these assemblies. I am sure that all those who shared Professor Parisot's concern - and I was one of them - will be considerably relieved and encouraged by the detailed and stimulating examination to which the Committee on Programme and Budget has submitted both the past activities of the Organization and its plans for the future. It is of course impossible even to summarize all the important conclusions resulting from the study conducted by the Assembly. May I therefore be excused for limiting myself to some impressions which remain with me after listening to the discussions of the last few days.

I think that there was general agreement that in the extremely important field of communicable diseases the Organization is going in the right direction by devoting increasing efforts to the co-ordination of research on the means of controlling or eradicating diseases. This does not mean that WHO is withholding its direct assistance to countries engaged in frontal attacks on a number of diseases which have been plaguing them for centuries. The eloquent figures given by the regional directors in the extremely valuable reports they have brought before us on the work in their respective areas testify to the continued vigour with which WHO is contributing to many national campaigns undertaken against malaria, tuberculosis, various treponematoses and other communicable diseases. The increased accent put on WHO's role of leadership in research simply recognizes the fact that in many cases the very

success of these campaigns depends to a great extent on the results which can be achieved if hitherto disconnected research activities are co-ordinated through the machinery of an international organization such as WHO. This explains why there was an almost unanimous feeling among our colleagues, during the discussions on WHO's programme of work, that the World Health Organization must not only continue, but even widen, its participation in the investigations which are being made today on the major health problems of the world. Thus our Organization was asked to take the lead in co-ordinating international studies on the effectiveness of polio vaccines, to stimulate future research on the method of combating bilharziasis, on the techniques of fighting leprosy and on the epidemiology of cancer, to give only a few examples of the many avenues of research in which WHO can take effective action.

While in the field of malaria much clarification is still needed on the phenomenon of resistance to insecticides, WHO's primary role remains of course the mobilization of internationally available resources in order actively to help countries to proceed with the mass campaigns of eradication. I sincerely hope that the Director-General's appeal for generous contributions to the Malaria Eradication Special Account will be heard, since it is obvious that in this branch of our activities financial considerations constitute the main obstacle to the extremely valuable contribution WHO can make to the eventual eradication of this disease. The figures which are available on the present situation augur well for the future. So far, eradication has been achieved in ten countries or territories, is under way in 15 and has been initiated or planned in 38. It is of interest that the total population of these sixty-three countries is 1211 million, or almost half the population of the world.

We were all very impressed, I am sure, by the results of the review undertaken by the Assembly of the programmes of the Organization for promoting education and training of all types of health personnel. The most important features of these programmes are, in my opinion, the expansion of training facilities within the regions where the need is the greatest, the emphasis placed on training of teachers, and the assistance to training schools in all parts of the world. I wish especially to commend also the keen interest WHO continues to take in adjusting medical curricula to the needs of the modern world. The fact that by the end of 1956 the fellowship programme had reached the six-thousand mark is symbolic of the importance of this part of WHO's efforts, the success of which will determine to a very considerable degree whether we shall be able to achieve the long-term objectives we are pursuing.

I associate myself wholeheartedly also with those delegates who expressed gratification at the increased assistance being given to countries by the World Health Organization to enable preventive and curative medicine to be better integrated. Linked with this subject is the theme chosen this year for the technical discussions, which are now a firmly established tradition and which have once again proved to be one of the most rewarding parts of the meetings of the Assembly. As might have been expected, the theme of the role of the hospital in the public health programme stimulated a fruitful exchange of ideas. The general conclusion reached was that the hospital can often serve as a health centre whose activities should be fitted closely into the pattern of other medical services provided for the community. This, I am sure, will strengthen the hands of many administrators of health services who are eager to see the hospitals of their countries playing their full part in health work.

It is well known that services which operate efficiently and silently seldom get talked about, and I therefore take this opportunity of calling to notice some of the traditional functions of an international health organization which are of unquestioned value to all our countries, and which are performed punctually and regularly by our Organization. I may mention the epidemiological intelligence service, the setting up of international standards for drugs and biological substances, the work on addiction-producing drugs, and the administration of international sanitary regulations. When we considered the Central Technical Services, attention was drawn to the great importance of the assistance given to Member governments in improving their compilation of health statistics, and I am sure that we are all most gratified to know that in an increasing number of countries throughout the world national committees on vital and health statistics have been formed. Mention was also made of the valuable information provided by the World Health Organization on the difficult subject of food additives, a matter which is becoming of increasing concern to health administrators and legislators in many countries.

It is most satisfactory that on one of the most important subjects which we have had to discuss during this session there has been virtual unanimity of opinion among the delegations present. I refer to the part which this organization is called upon to play in protecting populations against the health hazards arising from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. While stressing the necessity of careful co-ordination of the work of the different international bodies concerned in the atomic energy field, we all recognize the responsibilities of health workers, national health administrations,

and the World Health Organization in ensuring that proper steps are taken to avoid, during this second industrial revolution which is now beginning, the socially and medically costly mistakes which were committed in the course of similar periods of rapid development in the past.

In my remarks at the opening of this Assembly I emphasized the indispensable function of the Executive Board in the affairs of the World Health Organization, and I mentioned particularly its responsibility for making a thorough and detailed examination of the programme and budget proposed by the Director-General. I cannot help feeling that the Assembly has given an indication of its appreciation of the Executive Board's painstaking labours by adopting its recommendations with regard to the budget for 1958. I am sure that no country will have reason to regret having provided the Director-General with a budget which, although inferior to the amount he had asked for, is still sufficient to enable the Organization to fulfil its main responsibilities.

The welcome which we gave to the new State of Ghana and to the five Members which have this year resumed active participation in our work has been amply justified by the contribution they have made to our debates. This encourages us to hope that, when we meet next year to celebrate our tenth anniversary, it will be with the full participation of all Member States without exception.

It is a pleasant duty which devolves upon your President to express your collective appreciation of the vice-presidents and of the chairmen of the main committees and of the sub-committees and working groups. The position of Chairman of a main committee

is not always, you will agree, an easy one. We are therefore all the more grateful for the good judgment and tact of the two chairmen, which has enabled the committees of the Assembly to terminate their heavy schedules of work within the time allotted while still not curtailing the freedom of discussion. A similar tribute is due to the members of the General Committee, whose wise guidance is a determining factor in ensuring the smooth running of the necessarily involved arrangements for large meetings such as these; and also to the representatives of the Executive Board, who have aided our debates by their clear explanations and analyses of a number of the important questions we have had to discuss. I am sure to express also your feelings in thanking the General Chairman of the Technical Discussions and all those who have contributed to the success of these discussions.

We have been glad once again to have with us the representatives of the United Nations, the other specialized agencies, the Technical Assistance Board, and the non-governmental organizations whose interests are closely allied to our own.

I think that I need not emphasize further our appreciation of the role played by the Director-General. The decision taken by the Assembly to invite Dr Candau to continue his invaluable work for a further five years is a more eloquent tribute than any words that I could pronounce here. Allow me to say only that, personally, I sincerely hope that you, Dr Candau, will see your way to accepting this extension of your term of office for the full five years that have been proposed to you.

To the members of the Secretariat and to the interpreters, I would say only this: they must not think that because, in successive Assemblies, we have come to accept their devoted services as natural, and indeed to take them for granted, we are unaware or unappreciative of them.

When we next meet it will be in another country. We have been most happy to accept the generous invitation extended to us by the Government of the United States of America. The two previous occasions when the Assembly has met outside Geneva - in Rome in 1949 on the invitation of the Italian Government, and in 1955 when we enjoyed the hospitality of Mexico in their capital - have demonstrated the value of such opportunities for drawing attention, in different areas of the world, to the World Health Organisation and its activities. We look forward eagerly, therefore, to next year's meeting, which will certainly serve to enlist fresh support for our work from an increasing number of people in an important part of the world.

All that remains is for me to wish you a safe return to your own countries. This is not goodbye, but only au revoir, as I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you at the tenth anniversary meeting over which it will be my privilege to preside when next we meet.

The Tenth World Health Assembly is now adjourned.

The session adjourned at 4.20 p.m.
La session est close à 16. h.20
Se clausura la reunión a las 16.20 horas.