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WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB4/Min/8 ✓
14 July 1949

Fourth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Thursday, 14 July 1949, at 9.30 a.m.

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1. Draft Report of the Fourth Session of the Executive Board, Part I
2. Future accommodation of WHO Headquarters Office
3. Relations with non-governmental organizations: Relations with national and regional organizations
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5. Financial Rules: Report of the working party
6. Resolution by the Executive Board of UNICEF concerning a study on continuing needs of children: Co-ordination and planning among international agencies to promote health and welfare of children
7. Action of the Executive Board of UNICEF concerning the French proposal to create an international children's centre at Paris

Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should reach the Editorial Section, Division of Editorial and Reference Services, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, before 31 August 1949.

Eighth Meeting

Thursday, 14 July 1949, at 9.30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN:

Sir Arcot MUDALIAR (India)

Present:

Designating Country

Dr. V. J. BABECKI	Poland
Dr. H. S. GEAR	Union of South Africa
Dr. J. A. HOJER	Sweden
Dr. H. HYDE	United States of America
Prof. M. de LAET	
Dr. Melville MACKENZIE	United Kingdom
Dr. NAZIF Bey	Egypt
Prof. J. PARISOT	France
Dr. G. H. de PAULA SOUZA	Brazil
Dr. A. STAMPAR	Yugoslavia
Dr. E. TEJERA	Venezuela
Dr. E. TOK	Turkey
Dr. A. VILLARAMA	Philippines
Dr. J. ZOZAYA	Mexico

Observers:

UNESCO
PASB

Dr. I. Zhukova
Mr. Hernando Rey

Secretary: Dr. Brock CHISHOLM
Director-General

1. DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD,
PART I (Document EB4/44)

On the proposal of Dr. GEAR, supported by Mr. LINDSAY (alternate to Dr. Mackenzie) it was agreed to defer consideration of part I of the draft report until the afternoon meeting of the Board, it being understood that such consideration would not preclude the possibility of further comment on the items therein when the final report of the Board was submitted.

2. FUTURE ACCOMMODATION OF WHO HEADQUARTERS OFFICE: Item 9.1 of the
Supplementary Agenda (Document EB2/42)

Mr. SIEGEL, Director, Administration and Finance, recalled that, by a decision of the Second Health Assembly, authority had been delegated to the Director-General and the Executive Board to decide the question of Headquarters accommodation, on account of the fact that the various projects submitted had not been worked out in sufficient detail to enable a choice to be made at that stage. He introduced a new project, details of which would be found in document EB4/42 and in the plans before the Board. Mr. Muller and Mr. Evans, representing the Swiss authorities and the United Nations respectively, were present to take part in the discussion.

Mr. MULLER, in view of the fact that the time available for study of the new project had been too short to allow his government to give a definite opinion at the present meeting, requested that discussion should be deferred until the following day. He suggested that a working party might be appropriate to the study of the project.

Mr. EVANS stated that the project would be entirely acceptable to the United Nations. Its execution would, however, raise certain practical problems regarding work in the building, which would necessitate the beginning of construction work not later than November 1949. To enable that to be done, it would be necessary for final decisions, including the approval of the United Nations General Assembly, to be taken not later than the end of September. Preparatory work was already going forward which would enable an immediate start to be made when final approval was given.

Decision: A working party on Headquarters accommodation, composed of Professor Parisot, Professor de Laet, Dr. Hyde, Dr. Tok and Dr. Zozaya, was set up to study the new project in consultation with representatives of the Swiss authorities and the United Nations.

3. RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Item 4.2 of the Agenda (Document EB4/39)

Mr. CALDERWOOD (alternate to Dr. Hyde) wondered whether it was desirable to admit the organizations noted in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution into official relationship with WHO. It might be more satisfactory if it were left to the discretion of the Director-General to establish working relationships only, a report on the subject to be later submitted by him to the Executive Board.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL observed that no previous experience existed on which to base action in the matter. It was felt that the best procedure would be for himself and the directors of the regional organizations to maintain close collaboration in order that action taken in that field would be more or less consistent for all regions. The taking of general decisions on the matter might lead to difficulties.

Mr. CALDERWOOD accordingly proposed that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (document EB4/39, page 2) should be reworded as follows:

"3. Regional and national organizations for which there is no international non-governmental organization. These can be admitted into working relationship with the World Health Organization, subject to consultation between the Regional Director and the Director-General."

Decision: The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

4. FORM OF ANNUAL REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES: PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH YEAR-BOOK: Item 7 of the Agenda and Item 7 of the Supplementary Agenda (Document EB4/41)

Dr. MACKENZIE very much doubted whether the International Year-Book as it had been published previous to the war had served any useful purpose: the information contained therein had been collected, in general, two years prior to publication: there was thus a grave risk of its being out of date. The publication by WHO of such a year-book would involve considerable expenditure and should be given very serious consideration. It might be advisable to set up a working party to study the matter.

He felt it might be useful if the Secretariat could prepare short notes on advances or new ideas in public health to be published within six months of the receipt of the information from the governments concerned.

Dr. STAMPAR was also of opinion that the question of publication of a year-book required careful study. The value of the year-book published by the League of Nations had been greatly impaired because of the differences in the form of presentation of information from different sources. He felt it would be useful if a standard questionnaire could be prepared for the collection from governments of the necessary information to be included in a year-book. He agreed with Dr. Mackenzie that a working party might be set up.

Professor de LAET supported Dr. Mackenzie's observations. Before the Board decided on the publication of such a year-book, it should be quite certain that it would serve a useful purpose.

Professor PARISOT strongly supported the suggestion of Dr. Stampar regarding the preparation of a standard questionnaire. It would be very useful if information from every source could be presented in a similar form in order to facilitate comparison.

Dr. NAZIF Bey felt that the proposed questionnaire would not achieve the desired result. Nor would any useful purpose be served by setting up a working party in view of the short time available. He proposed that the Director-General should send a model form of report to governments asking for the necessary information. When replies had been received, a working party might be set up to study the form of year-book to be published.

Dr. HYDE, while agreeing that a questionnaire or model report such as had been suggested by Dr. Nazif Bey would be useful, was of opinion that it should not be sent out without previous consultation with Member Governments, to ensure that it was in a form which they would be able to answer. Accordingly, he suggested that, after a preliminary draft questionnaire had been studied by the Secretariat and the Board, it should be sent to Member Governments for their comments.

Dr. OLCAR (alternate to Dr. Tok) agreed with previous speakers that the sending out of a questionnaire would be useful, and was in favour of the publication of a year-book containing the information received. His Government had had difficulties in the past in obtaining information in regard to public-health matters and the publication of such a year-book should prove of great value. If all public-health administrations were ideal, there would obviously be no need for a World Health Organization and, in his opinion, reports from small and backward countries would be of value in showing the Organization what needs existed in the field of health. WHO would not be responsible for the reliability of information supplied by governments: the governments concerned would be responsible.

Dr. GAUTIER, Assistant Director-General, stated that there were two distinct but closely interrelated aspects to the question under consideration. First, the publication of a year-book and secondly the use to be made of reports to be received from governments in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution.

Regarding the former, his experience had been contrary to that cited by previous speakers: before the war demands for the year-book had been numerous. He fully agreed that the important factors in such a year-book were that the information in it should be comparable, that it should be published with sufficient speed and that the quality of the information rather than the quantity should be stressed. In drawing up a questionnaire, the aim should be to arrive at a form which could be answered adequately by all countries regardless of the degree of development of their public-health administrations. He was in favour of drawing up a draft questionnaire for the approval of the Executive Board and thereafter sending it to governments, with the object of finding out whether the information asked for was what they would wish to have incorporated in a year-book.

As regards the second point, reports already received from governments had resulted in the Secretariat having at its disposal a fund of information which was very largely unused. No one wished to impose on governments the necessity to remodel an annual report which they had drawn up according to their own methods, in order to send a second report to WHO in a form making possible comparison with the information obtained from other countries. The extra work entailed for governments would not, however, be very great if a specific questionnaire were drawn up which, it was thought, countries would be able to answer. It might be possible to use part of the reports furnished by governments in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution to form the basis of the inter-

national year-book. However, as time was short, it would hardly be possible to submit such a questionnaire to the Board before its next session.

Dr. MACKENZIE suggested that the Director-General be asked to write to governments requesting their comments on the possible form, contents, periodicity and usefulness of an international health year-book. The matter could then be considered at the next Executive Board session.

With regard to the proposed questionnaire, there were some practical difficulties involved. First, it would involve similar delays in the publishing of the year-book as would be experienced by any other method of collecting information. Secondly, it would be very difficult to obtain comparability of information, in view of the fact that governments presented such information according to their own methods and needs.

Dr. GAUTIER pointed out that the Second Health Assembly had, by its resolution on the subject, requested the Executive Board to present its comments on the possible form, etc., of an international health year-book. Member Governments which were represented at the Second Health Assembly had already been offered an opportunity of putting forward their views.

Dr. HYDE said that it was the case, in general, that frequency of reporting decreased as the level became higher. National reports were usually drawn up for a period of one year; trends and developments on a world level might perhaps be the subject of reports over a period of four or five years.

Dr. VILLARAMA felt that an opportunity for leadership was offered to WHO in the matter. He was in favour of the compilation of a model report by the Secretariat for the collection of the necessary information.

Dr. van de CALSEYDE (alternate to Professor de Laet) considered some of the observations of Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Hyde to be of capital importance. It was certain, as had been noted by Dr. Mackenzie, that each country drew up its reports according to its own ideas and that, if the information in those reports were to be usefully employed, it would have to be presented in a similar form. That could only be done by means of a questionnaire drawn up by the Secretariat.

As regards Dr. Hyde's point, he was of opinion that only after a period of two to five years could changes of major importance taking place in any country be evaluated. It would be very costly and of little interest to attempt such evaluation each year.

the CHAIRMAN summarized the main points made during the discussion and requested that the Secretariat should draft the text of a resolution incorporating those points and submit it to the Board on the following day.

The Chairman's suggestions were accepted and the Secretariat was instructed to draw up a draft resolution to that effect.

5. FINANCIAL RULES: REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY: Item 8.1 of the Agenda (Document EB4/14 and Add.1 and EB4/45)

Dr. van den BERG (alternate to Professor de Laet) said he would ask Mr. Roseman, Rapporteur of the working party, to introduce the report. He added that the Executive Board was fortunate in having so efficient a financial section.

Mr. ROSEMAN, Rapporteur of the working party, introduced the report (document EB4/45) embodying the revised Provisional Financial Rules and the one additional rule the working party had suggested.

Decision: The resolution contained in EB4/¹⁴~~45~~ was approved.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL proposed the following text for the fourth paragraph of document EB4/47:

"REQUESTS the Director-General to co-operate with the Executive

Director of UNICEF and with the United Nations and the specialized agencies and jointly to present to the ACC a proposal for the establishment of an ad hoc committee composed of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Directors-General of FAO, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, or their representatives, with the following terms of reference"

deleting the words in parentheses.

✓ Decision: The resolution in document EB4/47, as thus amended, was adopted.

7. ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF CONCERNING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT PARIS: Item 8.2 of the Supplementary Agenda (Document EB4/32)

Since the report of the working party was not yet available, the CHAIRMAN suggested that that item should be considered at the afternoon meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB4/Min/8 Rev. 1.
1 November 1949

Fourth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

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Dr. Melville MACKENZIE	United Kingdom
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Dr. G. H. de PAULA SOUZA	Brazil
Dr. A. STAMPAR	Yugoslavia
Dr. E. TEJERA	Venezuela
Dr. E. TOK	Turkey
Dr. A. VILLARAMA	Philippines
Dr. J. ZOZAYA	Mexico

Observers:

UNESCO
PASB

Dr. Inina Zhukova
Dr. Hernando Rey

Secretary: Dr. Brock CHISHOLM
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Mr. MULLER, in view of the fact that the time available for study of the new project had been too short to allow his government to give a definite opinion at the present meeting, requested that discussion should be deferred until the following day. He suggested that a working party might be appropriate to the study of the project.

Mr. EVANS stated that the project would be entirely acceptable to the United Nations. Its execution would, however, raise certain practical problems regarding work in the building, which would necessitate the beginning of construction work not later than November 1949. To enable that to be done, it would be necessary for final decisions, including the approval of the United Nations General Assembly, to be taken not later than the end of September. Preparatory work was already going forward which would enable an immediate start to be made when final approval was given.

Decision: A working party on Headquarters accommodation, composed of Professor Parisot, Professor de Laet, Dr. Hyde, Dr. Tok and Dr. Zozaya, was set up to study the new project in consultation with representatives of the Swiss authorities and the United Nations.

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The DIRECTOR-GENERAL observed that no previous experience existed on which to base action in the matter. It was felt that the best procedure would be for himself and the directors of the regional organizations to maintain close collaboration in order that action taken in that field would be more or less consistent for all regions. The taking of general decisions on the matter might lead to difficulties.

Mr. CALDERWOOD accordingly proposed that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (document EB4/39, page 2) should be reworded as follows:

"3. Regional and national organizations for which there is no international non-governmental organization. These can be admitted into working relationship with the World Health Organization, subject to consultation between the Regional Director and the Director-General."

Decision: The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

4. FORM OF ANNUAL REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES: PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH YEAR-BOOK: Item 7 of the Agenda and Item 7 of the Supplementary Agenda (Document EB4/41)

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Professor de LAET supported Dr. Mackenzie's observations. Before the Board decided on the publication of such a year-book, it should be quite certain that it would serve a useful purpose.

Professor PAKISOT strongly supported the suggestion of Dr. Stampar regarding the preparation of a standard questionnaire. It would be very useful if information from every source could be presented in a similar form in order to facilitate comparison.

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Dr. GAUTIER, Assistant Director-General, stated that there were two distinct but closely interrelated aspects to the question under consideration. First, the publication of a year-book and secondly the use to be made of reports to be received from governments in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution.

Regarding the former, his experience had been contrary to that cited by previous speakers: before the war demands for the year-book had been numerous. He fully agreed that the important factors in such a year-book were that the information in it should be comparable, that it should be published with sufficient speed and that the quality of the information rather than the quantity should be stressed. In drawing up a questionnaire, the aim should be to arrive at a form which could be answered adequately by all countries regardless of the degree of development of their public-health administrations. He was in favour of drawing up a draft questionnaire for the approval of the Executive Board and thereafter sending it to governments, with the object of finding out whether the information asked for was what they would wish to have incorporated in a year-book.

As regards the second point, reports already received from governments had resulted in the Secretariat having at its disposal a fund of information which was very largely unused. No one wished to impose on governments the necessity to remodel an annual report which they had drawn up according to their own methods, in order to send a second report to WHO in a form making possible comparison with the information obtained from other countries. The extra work entailed for governments would not, however, be very great if a specific questionnaire were drawn up which, it was thought, countries would be able to answer. It might be possible to use part of the reports furnished by governments in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution to form the basis of the inter-

national year-book. However, as time was short, it would hardly be possible to submit such a questionnaire to the Board before its next session.

Dr. MACKENZIE suggested that the Director-General be asked to write to governments requesting their comments on the possible form, contents, periodicity and usefulness of an international health year-book. The matter could then be considered at the next Executive Board session.

With regard to the proposed questionnaire, there were some practical difficulties involved. First, it would involve similar delays in the publishing of the year-book as would be experienced by any other method of collecting information. Secondly, it would be very difficult to obtain comparability of information, in view of the fact that governments presented such information according to their own methods and needs.

Dr. GAUTIER pointed out that the Second Health Assembly had, by its resolution on the subject, requested the Executive Board to present its comments on the possible form, etc., of an international health year-book. Member Governments which were represented at the Second Health Assembly had already been offered an opportunity of putting forward their views.

Dr. HYDE said that it was the case, in general, that frequency of reporting decreased as the level became higher. National reports were usually drawn up for a period of one year; trends and developments on a world level might perhaps be the subject of reports over a period of four or five years.

Dr. VILLARAMA felt that an opportunity for leadership was offered to WHO in the matter. He was in favour of the compilation of a model report by the Secretariat for the collection of the necessary information.

Dr. van de CALSEYDE (alternate to Professor de Laet) considered some of the observations of Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Hyde to be of capital importance. It was certain, as had been noted by Dr. Mackenzie, that each country drew up its reports according to its own ideas and that, if the information in those reports were to be usefully employed, it would have to be presented in a similar form. That could only be done by means of a questionnaire drawn up by the Secretariat.

As regards Dr. Hyde's point, he was of opinion that only after a period of two to five years could changes of major importance taking place in any country be evaluated. It would be very costly and of little interest to attempt such evaluation each year.

the CHAIRMAN summarized the main points made during the discussion and requested that the Secretariat should draft the text of a resolution incorporating those points and submit it to the Board on the following day.

The Chairman's suggestions were accepted and the Secretariat was instructed to draw up a draft resolution to that effect.

5. FINANCIAL RULES: REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY: Item 8.1 of the Agenda (Document EB4/14 and Add.1 and EB4/45)

Dr. van den BERG (alternate to Professor de Laet) said he would ask Mr. Roseman, Rapporteur of the working party, to introduce the report. He added that the Executive Board was fortunate in having so efficient a financial section.

Mr. ROSEMAN, Rapporteur of the working party, introduced the report (document EB4/45) embodying the revised Provisional Financial Rules and the one additional rule the working party had suggested.

Decision: The resolution contained in EB4/24 was approved.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL proposed the following text for the fourth paragraph of document EB4/47:

"REQUESTS the Director-General to co-operate with the Executive

Director of UNICEF and with the United Nations and the specialized agencies and jointly to present to the ACC a proposal for the establishment of an ad hoc committee composed of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Directors-General of FAO, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, or their representatives, with the following terms of reference"

deleting the words in parentheses.

Decision: The resolution in document EB4/47, as thus amended, was adopted.

7. ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF CONCERNING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT PARIS:
Item 8.2 of the Supplementary Agenda (Document EB4/32)

Since the report of the working party was not yet available, the CHAIRMAN suggested that that item should be considered at the afternoon meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.