

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

الهيئة الصحية العالمية
المكتب الإقليمي لشرق البحر الأبيض

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE LA
MÉDITERRANÉE ORIENTALE

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

3N/RC9A/Min/2
14 September 1959

Ninth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUB-COMMITTEE A

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

Eastern Mediterranean, Regional Office, Alexandria
Monday, 14 September 1959, at 12 noon

CHAIRMAN: Dr. M.O. Shoib (United Arab Republic)

CONTENTS

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Hours of Work.
3. Appointment of Sub-Division on Programme.
4. Annual Report of the Regional Director to the Ninth Session of the Regional Committee.

Government Representatives

FRANCE	Médecin Colonel Faure
IRAN	Dr. M. Etemadian Dr. A.T. Diba Dr. P. Khabir
IRAQ	Dr. S. Mohamed Al Chalabi Dr. Farouk Partow
ITALY	Dr. Alessandro Murari dalla Corte Bra' Dr. Goffredo Tassi Dr. Italo Gentilini Dr. Vincenzo Angrisani
JORDAN	Dr. Ahmad Nabilsa
LEBANON	Dr. J. Ancuti (Chairman of Sub-Division on Programme)
LIBYA	Dr. Nouri El Hammali Mr. Omar Abbas El Qadi
PAKISTAN	Brigadier M. Sharif, <u>Vice-Chairman</u>
SAUDI ARABIA	Dr. Wassan Nassif, <u>Vice-Chairman</u>
SUDAN	Dr. Ahmed Zaki
TUNISIA	Dr. Ahmed Ridha Farah
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC	Dr. Bashir El Azmeh, Central Minister of Health Dr. M.O. Shoib, <u>Chairman</u> Dr. Dia E. Chatty Dr. Naguib Ayyad Dr. Ahmed Abdallah Dr. Mostapha El Sammaa Dr. Mohamed Seif-el-Din

World Health Organization Representatives

Secretary to the Sub-Committee	Dr. A.H. Taba, Regional Director
Representative of the Director-General	Dr. P. Dorolle, Deputy Director-General
Deputy Secretary to the Sub-Committee	Dr. A. El Halawani, Deputy Regional Director

United Nations and Specialized Agencies Representatives

Technical Assistance Board	Dr. Taghi Nasr
UNICEF	Mr. M.B. Sandberg
UNRWA	Dr. J.S. Mackenzie Pollock
Food and Agriculture Organization	Miss Mona Doss
UNESCO	Mr. E. Kupka

Representatives and Observers of Inter-Governmental, Non-Governmental and National Organizations

League of Arab States	Dr. W. El Nabulsi
International Statistical Education Centre, Beirut	Mr. Faiz El Khuri
International Association for Prevention of Blindness	Dr. A. Farouk
International Committee of Catholic Nurses	Miss Marie Ejeil
International Council of Nurses	Mrs. F. Mostafa
International Dental Federation	Dr. K. Salama
International Union of Architects	Mr. M.A. Heikal
International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses	Dr. Goffredo Tassi
League of Red Cross Societies	Dr. Youssef Seddik Raafat
World Medical Association	Dr. Mostapha Omar
Egyptian Public Health Association	Dr. Ahmed Kamal
High Institute of Public Health	Dr. Abdel Fatah El Sherif
United States Naval Medical Research Unit No.3 (NAMRU)	Dr. John R. Seal

1. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA (Agenda item 5)
(Document EM/RC9/1)

Decision: The agenda (document EM/RC9/1) was unanimously adopted.

2. HOURS OF WORK

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee should meet every day from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. with a half-hour break for refreshments at 10.30 a.m.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-DIVISION ON PROGRAMME (Agenda item 7).

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed to appoint a Sub-Division on Programme on which all members of the Sub-Committee would be entitled to sit, in accordance with the procedure followed at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN invited nominations for the Chairman of the Sub-Division on Programme.

Dr. NASSIF (Saudi Arabia), seconded by Dr. NABILSI (Jordan), nominated Dr. Anouti (Lebanon).

Decision: Dr. Anouti was elected unanimously.

It was agreed that the items referred to the Sub-Division on Programme should be items 14 and 15 of the Agenda as adopted.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE (Agenda item 8)
(Document (EM/RC9/2)

Dr. TABA, Regional Director, said that the report covered the period 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959, and was divided into two parts consisting of an Introduction and a General Review. In the Introduction, present activities within the Region had been summarized together with immediate trends in the orientation of programmes and suggestions had been made as to the lines along which the Regional programme might develop within the next few years.

The General Review gave a detailed picture of all programmes during the year since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee which had been held from 12 to 18 October 1958 in Baghdad thanks to the generous hospitality of the Iraqi Government. At that meeting thirteen countries had been represented and the resultant report, coordinated with that of Sub-Committee B, had been submitted to the Executive Board.

From the General Review, the importance placed on education and training to fill the lack of technical personnel required in the execution of health programmes, would be evident. Assistance given by WHO in this field ranged through all categories from sub-professional to the highest professional institutes. An activity of major importance was the award of fellowships which, during the year, had for the first time passed the two hundred mark. It must be stressed, however, that the utility of the fellowships programme depended greatly on the national authorities, both in the selection of candidates and in their proper utilization after their return from training.

Although the control of communicable diseases still took about half the Regional budget, much of the responsibility for control had been assumed by national governments and WHO assistance was being gradually diverted to research, pilot projects and training of personnel. Malaria eradication programmes were under way or in preparation in almost all the countries of the Region. An intensification of assistance in the control of smallpox would, however, be needed if this disease were successfully to be controlled throughout the Region and eventually eradicated. A Regional Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey Team had been operating during the year and a further strengthening of this programme was planned for 1960 when a Regional Tuberculosis Epidemiological and Statistical Unit would be set up to assess the results of survey and control campaigns. Assistance to Governments in respect of bilharziasis, communicable eye diseases and trachoma had been provided by research and control projects, and an inter-regional Trachoma Conference would be held in Tunis in October.

In the field of public health, requests had been received from Governments for help in the setting up of public health laboratories, and to meet this demand, a Regional Adviser in Laboratory Methods had been appointed to the staff of the Regional Office. The directives of the Health Assembly and of the Regional Committee regarding the particular importance of safe water supplies in environmental sanitation were being implemented by the Regional Office, by assistance to countries in the preparation of plans for safe water supplies and by the development of inter-country water supply plans. In this connection it was interesting to note that a dental health survey in some countries of the Region had shown that the dental caries rate was very low and could probably be still further reduced by fluoridation of the water. The medical use of radio isotopes was being studied and plans for assistance to countries in this field were being formulated. Activities in respect of maternal and child health and nutrition were covered in the General Review but it might be noted that the importance of nursing was receiving due recognition from the countries of the Region and that 30% of the field posts in the Region were occupied by WHO nurses assisting in health programmes.

Some progress was being made with the preparation of the Arabic version of the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death; it was hoped that the draft might be finalized during the coming year.

There had been no major changes in the staffing of the Regional Office, but several vacant posts, including that of the adviser in Mental Health had now been filled. By agreement with the Government of the United Arab Republic additional offices had been constructed in the Regional Office building and further construction was planned for the coming year.

It would be noted that funds available from Technical Assistance were now reduced : it was essential to stress the need for strong health representation on Government coordinating committees to ensure that the share for health programmes of such technical assistance funds as were available was not still further reduced.

The relationship between the Regional Office and other agencies and international organizations had continued very satisfactorily throughout the year and it was hoped that an equally satisfactory functioning relationship would be developed with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Regional Office which was an appropriate moment for the evaluation of the work already accomplished. Such evaluation had already been started in one country with the assistance of WHO and it was expected that other countries would wish to follow this example. This was one of the trends of which mention was made on page 15 of the introduction. Other evident objectives would include the eradication of malaria and smallpox, the control of tuberculosis and bilharziasis. Education and training could be expected to play an increasingly large part in future programmes, including training in such fields as radiation protection. Further assistance towards the provision of safe water supplies and increased research activities would also be prominent parts of future work. In view of these probable developments, the establishment of the Special Fund by the United Nations was most opportune.

In conclusion, the REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that his personal evaluation of the past ten years of work was that satisfactory results had been achieved thanks to the good working relationships between the Regional Office and member states.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Regional Director for his presentation of the report.

The meeting rose at 1:00 p.m.