

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB15/Min/26 Rev.1
1 March 1955

Fifteenth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Friday, 4 February 1955, at 4 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. H. van Zile HYDE

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Twenty-sixth Meeting

Friday, 4 February 1955 at 4 p.m.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Designating Country</u>
Dr. H. van Zile HYDE, <u>Chairman</u>	United States of America
Professor O. ANDERSEN, <u>Vice-Chairman</u>	Denmark
Professor M.J. FERREIRA, <u>Vice-Chairman</u>	Brazil
Dr. S. ANWAR	Indonesia
Dr. R. AZUMA	Japan
Professor H.M. JETTMAR	Austria
Dr. J.J. du Pré LE ROUX	Union of South Africa
Dr. Melville MACKENZIE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Dr. P.E. MOORE	Canada
Professor J. PARISOT	France
Professor J.S. SALEH, <u>Rapporteur</u>	Iran
Dr. E. SUAREZ	Chile
Dr. H. EL-TAHER (alternate to Dr. R. Pharaon)	Saudi Arabia
Dr. H.B. TURBOTT, <u>Rapporteur</u>	New Zealand
Dr. U IAT	Burma
Dr. P. VOLLENWEIDER	Switzerland
Dr. S. AL-WAHBI	Iraq

Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies

United Nations

Mr. A. FELT
Mr. P.R. AMOR

International Labour Organisation

Mr. M.A. DJAMALZADEH

Observers for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

International Council of Nurses)
League of Red Cross Societies)

Miss R. JATON

Secretary: Dr. M.G. CANDAU
Director-General.

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1. OUTSTANDING RESOLUTIONS

The CHAIRMAN recalled that all resolutions adopted in plenary session and checked by the Rapporteurs were distributed on the special blue-headed paper and it was open to any member of the Board to suggest drafting corrections within forty-eight hours after their distribution.

Resolutions EB15.R1 to EB15.R37 had been distributed before or on 1 February 1955. Those resolutions, therefore, were in final form, with the exception of the French and Spanish texts of that on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which had appeared as EB15.R21 Rev.1 on 2 February.

All resolutions from EB15.R38 to EB15.R78 had been distributed on 3 and 4 February. For those the forty-eight hour period had not elapsed and they were still subject to correction by members of the Board before the closure of the session.

He suggested that members should look at resolutions EB15.R38 to EB15.R78 rapidly to ensure that they were correctly worded.

There were also the following revisions which had been issued that afternoon and to which his suggestion also applied:

- (a) EB15.R59 (Principles to govern the Use of the Executive Board Special Fund) Spanish ONLY (drafting changes);
- (b) EB15.R61 Rev.1 (Committee on Gifts and Bequests; Second Report) French and Spanish ONLY (drafting changes);
- (c) EB15.R63 Rev.1 (Role of the Hospital in the Public-Health Programme) English, French and Spanish (drafting changes in order to put the wording into conformity with EB15.R62).

The Board was already aware that resolution EB15.R34 had been split into three resolutions:

- (a) EB15.R34 Rev.1 (Proposed Procedure for the Consideration of the 1956 Programme and Budget Estimates by the Committee on Programme and Budget of the Eighth World Health Assembly);
- (b) EB15.R57 (Establishment of Main Committees of the Eighth World Health Assembly); and
- (c) EB15.R58 (Proposed Terms of Reference of Main Committees of the Eighth World Health Assembly, including the Procedure for Establishing the 1956 Programme and Budget Estimates).

He would leave a few minutes for members to read and consider the resolutions to which he had referred.

No corrections were proposed or questions raised by members on the resolutions mentioned by the Chairman.

Decision: The wording of the resolutions already adopted was approved.

Dr. DOROLLE, Deputy Director-General, stated that those of the provisional minutes that had not yet been distributed would be sent to members at their personal address unless some other address were given. Members were requested kindly to send by return of post any corrections to those minutes so that the Secretariat could as soon as possible circulate the final minutes to Member governments.

2. CLOSURE OF FIFTEENTH SESSION

Professor FERREIRA recalled that three years had passed since the World Health Assembly elected, as countries to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Iran, Denmark and Brazil. To those countries had been given the responsibility of appointing

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men technically qualified in the field of health to assume as members of the Board the heavy burden of the interests of all Member States of the World Health Organization.

The national origins of Dr. Moore, Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Turbott, Professor Saleh and Professor Andersen had been entirely forgotten. But the work, both technical and administrative, done by those members clearly showed how wise had been the Constitution of the Organization in establishing the principle that the Executive Board was composed not of representatives of countries but of men qualified to think and act in universal terms. It was also a wise provision of the Constitution that had established the principle of rotation so that all countries, large or small, rich or poor, over- or under-developed, should in their turn be able to designate a man for a seat on the Executive Board. That was without doubt one of the fundamental parts of the WHO structure.

The Constitution was wise, but if feelings were to be considered it was sometimes cruel. Each year there had to be faced the sad necessity of parting with friends with whom one had learned how to strengthen friendship, respect divergencies and seek the true path of good will. Those three years of companionship and sharing of difficulties had been for all a fruitful though short experience.

The retiring members would go back to work in their own countries with the confidence that they had co-operated in a great organization. Although WHO was in its early stages and had only touched the surface of the problems before it, all were aware of the vast possibilities which it offered of protecting and enriching man's greatest capital - his physical, mental and moral integrity. There could be no doubt that in a world of anxiety and uncertainty men would always strive for the attainment of happiness, an aim incompatible with bodily illness or mental

disorder. In human relations war and destruction must still be reckoned with but at the basis of any human soul there remained a source of power working towards peace and dignity.

Probably no other international structure had such tremendous possibilities as the World Health Organization. Each man was seen by most of his fellow men, as worker or boss, soldier or general, saint or criminal; but to the doctor he remained simply a human being seeking cure or protection. It was true that defects and difficulties at times appeared within the Organization and between it and Member States. Sometimes it became necessary to consider sincerely both what one said about oneself and what one really was. The real truth was that such considerations and difficulties had never touched the foundation of the work, the faith in the mission that had been entrusted to the responsible bodies of WHO.

He had the honour to speak on behalf of members who were leaving the Board, and he believed that he spoke for all when he said it was a sad day for those who had reached the end of their term of work.

They had served the Board side by side with two great personalities on whom the heaviest burden of the Organization had been placed: Dr. Brock Chisholm and Dr. Marcolino Candau. To them, as representing the whole Secretariat, they wished to express their deepest appreciation.

To their friends of the Executive Board, veterans or newcomers, and especially to their Chairman, Dr. van Zile Hyde, they expressed their recognition of the team spirit and friendship already established as a fundamental character of the Executive Board of WHO.

He wished on behalf of the retiring members to assure the Board that they were not deserting the cause. At any time and any place in the future they would always be of their company.

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The CHAIRMAN said that all members privileged to remain on the Executive Board were very sensible of the contribution that had been made by the retiring members; Dr. Moore, Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Turbott, Professor Saleh, Professor Andersen and Professor Ferreira. They would most surely leave with a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

To him personally it had been a privilege and an honour to preside over the meetings of the Board and he expressed to all members his appreciation of the hard work they had done. In particular thanks were due to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteurs. The Rapporteurs had produced an outstanding report which was not only a good WHO report, but might indeed be considered as a pattern for all other organizations.

In particular he would say to Dr. Candau that all members would leave after the session with an increased respect and with the confidence that the Organization was in the hands of a competent, hard-working Director-General. Dr. Dorolle, the Deputy Director-General, had been the Chairman's right hand throughout the session; its success would have been impossible without his guidance. All members had appreciated the opportunity of making the better acquaintance of the regional directors and had acquired a growing respect both for them personally and for the work they were doing. He also paid tribute to the technical staff of the Organization, and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat, particularly for the work they had done in getting out the report and resolutions.

He thanked also Mr. Pelt, Director of the European Office of the United Nations, on behalf of the Board, for all that the European Office had done to facilitate the session; and concluded by expressing the Board's thanks to the interpreters.

Mr. FELT, Director, European Office of the United Nations, thanked the Chairman for his expression of appreciation to the staff of the European Office. Although to his regret he had been absent from Geneva and unable to attend the meetings of the Board, the representatives who had followed the meetings closely had been much impressed by the valuable work accomplished.

He had noted with particular satisfaction the consideration given by the Executive Board to the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its eighteenth session and by the United Nations General Assembly at its ninth session, and the concern it had shown to maintain and intensify the co-ordination of the work being carried out by the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

The report on the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1956 (document EB15/65)¹ adopted by the Board at its previous meeting was remarkable for its clarity and precision. It would be of great interest to all who followed the work of WHO and would constitute an excellent basis for the work of the Eighth World Health Assembly.

On behalf of the Secretary-General and in his own name he expressed sincere congratulations on the work accomplished to the Chairman, the Rapporteurs and all the members of the Board. He also complimented the Director-General and his staff on the way in which the work of the session had been prepared and carried through at Secretariat level.

Professor PARISOT considered the session to have been one of the best sessions of the Board. It had been marked by interesting discussions, on excellent reports - particularly the reports of expert committees - on the increasingly effective efforts of the regional offices under the stimulus of their directors, and on many other

¹ Published as Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 61

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subjects which showed the vitality of the Organization. In particular a new field of activity for WHO had been opened up - the use of atomic energy for the benefit of health.

The discussions had as usual been greatly facilitated by the explanations and information supplied by the Director-General and his collaborators. The Board was grateful to the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteurs and the members of the working parties for the success with which they had carried out their functions. He stressed that if the report on the programme and budget estimates had called for so few comments, it was due to the merits of the form and substance of that large document and to the conscientious and careful work of its authors. He wished to add the thanks of all the members of the Board to those addressed by the Chairman at the previous meeting to the Rapporteurs and members of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance and particularly to its Chairman, Dr. Turbott. The report would greatly facilitate the discussions at the Eighth World Health Assembly.

He paid a tribute to the members of the Secretariat who had made it possible for the discussions to proceed without delay and without interruption in spite of the considerable amount of documentation that had had to be prepared. Special thanks were due to those who had worked day and night to prepare the document on the programme and budget. He expressed appreciation of the services rendered by the interpreters.

He expressed the thanks and congratulations of the members to the Chairman, whose valuable leadership had been one of the main elements of the success of the session. The high tone and brilliance of his statements had been greatly appreciated. He had guided the work of the Board with wisdom and the authority acquired by a

long experience and an unfailing knowledge of the Constitution, the aims and methods of the Organization. He had succeeded in maintaining a spirit of harmony which had permitted rapid and fruitful work.

The atmosphere of understanding, mutual confidence and sympathy which had characterized the session was a guarantee of the success of the efforts of the Organization and a mark of the loyalty of all those who co-operated in its work.

Dr. LE ROUX said his colleagues had asked him to address a few special remarks to the Chair. He might paraphrase the words of the explorer, Scott, that preventive services were invidious since, when they were the most successful, the need for them was the least apparent, by saying that when a Chairman was the least apparent he was the most effective. Dr. van Zile Hyde had most unobtrusively and firmly guided the members of the Board throughout the session and with their thanks for his efficient leadership went their best wishes and the assurance that they would look forward to the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Le Roux and the members of the Board for their remarks and declared the fifteenth session closed.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

Members submitting corrections to provisional minutes which they receive after the close of the session are kindly requested to do so by return of post, in order that the definitive minutes may be sent to Member States as soon as possible. Such corrections should be addressed to the Chief, Documents and Official Records Section, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

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EB15/Min/26
4 February 1955

Fifteenth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

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The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.