



TWENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 2.2.3

INDEXED

DETAILED REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1975

Comments from other organizations, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1975

In accordance with arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and with resolutions 1549 (XLIX) and 1643 (LI) of the Economic and Social Council, the Director-General transmitted on 5 December 1973¹ the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1975² to all organizations of the United Nations system. The responses which are marked with an asterisk * were placed before the Executive Board at its fifty-third session, whilst the others have been received since that time.

1. UNITED NATIONS

"May I say, at the outset, that your new budget system, based on programmes, has facilitated significantly the review of those activities which are most directly relevant to the programmes carried out by the United Nations. Your introductory note, in which you outline the principles underlying this new form of budgeting, including the steps taken in strengthening WHO's capacity for longer-term planning, has been read with great interest, as well as the summary of the main areas of concentration in WHO's work programme. The explanatory notes, providing the definitions of the terms used as well as other technical information, have also been very helpful.

A review of the document makes it quite apparent that, with the adoption by the United Nations and WHO of similar systems of planning programming, budgeting and evaluation, a large measure of compatibility has been achieved between the two budgets. This side benefit from the new approach to budgeting is a very fortunate development. In this connexion, you may be interested in the following suggestions made at the last session of the General Assembly as to how the Secretary-General might improve his own budget submission in subsequent years:

- (a) Objectives and review of past performance: It was felt that in many instances it was not possible to relate inputs to outputs with sufficient precision, as objectives and the review of past performance were frequently couched in quite general terms;
- (b) It was considered desirable that indications be provided of the percentage rate of increase in respect of the major components of a section;
- (c) More information was requested about the source and use of extra-budgetary resources.

¹ See Annex.

² Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 212.



Regarding the substance of your work programme, we are pleased to note that there appear to be no instances of noteworthy overlapping or duplication of effort with the activities undertaken by the United Nations. At the same time, as you know, many of the activities carried out by WHO are of direct interest to various United Nations departments, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Division of Narcotic Drugs, and call for close cooperation between the relevant offices of the United Nations and the corresponding services of WHO.

The following are our substantive comments on some of the specific aspects of the work programme:

Drug dependence and drug abuse

It is noted with pleasure that both the absolute amounts and the percentage of funds allocated to drug dependence and drug abuse in the WHO programme have shown a steady increase from 0.14% in 1973 to a projected 0.25% in 1975. It is also noted that, if the amounts allocated for the Expert Group on Drug Dependence and for drug dependence and abuse under the European programme had been included in the estimates summarized on pages 25 and 29 of the programme, the percentages of the total programme would be 0.19% and 0.28%, respectively, in the years 1974 and 1975.

Given the numerous mandates of the United Nations legislative bodies, notably the General Assembly 2719 (XXV), the Economic and Social Council 1559 (XLIX) and 1781 (LIV) and the resolutions of the 18th (18.47), 23rd (23.42) and 25th (25.62) World Health Assemblies, as well as the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which describe the global and increasing nature of the drug abuse problem, it appears that the relative allocation of resources by WHO from its regular funds may not reflect the degree of urgency attributed to the global drug abuse problem by these various legislative mandates and the increasing seriousness of this international problem. The WHO may wish to take note of this observation, concerning the relative adequacy of funds devoted to dealing with drug dependence and abuse.

It is encouraging to observe that several programmes and sub-programmes within the WHO programme are relevant to the drug dependence and abuse problem, namely sub-programme 5.3.4 for Drug Evaluation and Monitoring, sub-programme 7.1.2 for Health Statistical Methodology and programme 4.1 for Health Manpower Development. While it must be assumed that the programmes of drug dependence are able to draw on the resources of the various services involved in the programmes named above, it is found in the statements for these programmes and sub-programmes that there is no specific reference to the problems of drug dependence. The WHO may wish to inquire as to the relationships among these various programmes and the arrangements made to maximize the use of existing resources within the organization to deal most effectively with drug abuse. For example, the resources of the services dealing with health statistical methodology are of relevance not only to epidemiological research but to other kinds of national statistical analysis and reporting under the provisions of the international treaties. The serious need for developing specialized personnel at the national level to deal with problems of drug dependence and abuse is another area in which the existing resources of WHO in health manpower development are clearly relevant. It is clear that the programmes of drug evaluation and monitoring were developed before the recent expansion of WHO's efforts in the field of drug dependence. WHO may wish to consider closer co-ordination of this programme with the epidemiological research activities so as to achieve optimum use of the resources invested in the drug monitoring system.

A review of country programmes reveals that specific allocations related to drug abuse control are to be found in only three individual countries, in addition to relatively modest interregional programmes. Although country programmes are based on country requests, it is suggested that a more active involvement by WHO early in the programming process may serve to make individual countries aware of the resources available to meet their needs in dealing with their drug abuse problems. There is little question that such problems exist in a number of countries, particularly in the Middle East, in South East Asia and, in a few instances, in South America. For example, there are relatively large populations of addicts in several South East Asian countries, where prevention and treatment facilities are significantly inadequate. Moreover, the problem of coca leaf chewing in Peru and Bolivia has long been known to constitute a health and social problem. The WHO may wish to examine the relative importance of these health problems in the context of their total allocation of resources. The appropriateness of the foregoing comment is bolstered by the fact that several requests have been received recently by WHO for specific technical assistance in the field of drug dependence, particularly treatment. Those requests have been forwarded to the UNFDAC for financing because of the absence of any specific financial provisions within the existing WHO budget. The question arises whether WHO might not be able to arrange for some degree of financial flexibility so as to deal with high-priority individual country requests as they arise.

A programme of research and reporting on the epidemiology of drug dependence is currently being negotiated by UNFDAC and WHO. We expect the UNFDAC contribution to that project alone to be approximately \$ 208 000 in 1974 and \$ 251 000 in 1975. That contribution to a single project will virtually double the resources available to WHO in the field of drug dependence and abuse. Other projects are under consideration. By these contributions, UNFDAC hopes to assist WHO to accelerate and expand its activities in this field. We believe it important, however, that serious attention be paid to the need of assuring continuity of these programmes, which represent for the most part long-range activities. Thus, we suggest that the WHO may wish to review the requirements to assure programme continuity after 1975.

Health statistics

In the field of statistics, the highlights of the programme of WHO will be presented to the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission as part of the five-year programme of statistics of the United Nations system of organizations covering the period 1975 to 1979. We are pleased to note that the co-ordination and integration of the statistical activities of the United Nations system have been and continue to be enhanced by the participation of WHO in the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Statistical Commission and its working group.

Family Planning

The programme covered under family planning is of direct interest to the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as well as to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The delivery system for family planning services, as envisaged in the WHO programme, complements very well those activities of the Social Development Division aimed at promoting the provision of family planning services as a human right, through integrated and multidisciplinary efforts of welfare, health, education and agriculture personnel. Here, particularly, much greater attention ought to be given to the participation of women as equal partners in these efforts. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is

engaged in studies of the relationship of the role of women and family planning, and closer co-operation in this field is called for. The activities of WHO relating to manpower development and the training of family planning personnel, especially at the paramedical and auxiliary levels, are also of concern to both the Social Development Division (the social integration and welfare section of the Division is, as you may know, specifically involved in the study of ways to achieve the most effective use of resources in the co-ordinated training of personnel for social welfare and other sectors) and the Public Administration Division, which is working on the public administration aspects of family planning.

Human Reproduction

We note that the programmes covered in the proposed programme and budget cover the totality of the activities whether financed from regular budget or other resources. In this connexion, for the activities to be carried out under the programme entitled 'Human Reproduction', the amounts shown indicate a sharp decline in the UNFPA contribution, which came to \$ 12 million in 1973 with a forecast for \$ 3 million in 1974 and less than \$ 1 million in 1975. The footnote given on page 119 indicates that 'the scope and magnitude of this sub-programme will largely depend on the availability of complementary funds from UNFPA and other sources'. We, therefore, assume that the projected decline in activities in 1974 and 1975 is not likely to materialize if the necessary financial support from UNFPA and other sources will be forthcoming. This forecast may be due to lack of information on country proposals. A similar situation is being experienced in the United Nations and it would appear to be highly desirable that a joint effort be made to improve the flow of information necessary to make adequate projections for field activities at the country level.

Concerning programme co-ordination in this area, we have noted that the proposed programme of work and budget does not list any project which has not been known to the Population Division on the basis of pre-project consultations; in general, it is felt that the machinery for inter-agency co-ordination provided through the ACC Subcommittee on Population has proved very satisfactory.

Strengthening of Health Services

In the programme of WHO aimed at the strengthening of health services, we particularly support the work being done in the fields of geriatrics and popular participation in the design and implementation of health services delivery. It is felt, however, that the problems of the aged should be given a higher priority than has been accorded to it in the present work programme. In this context, attention is drawn to the recent study on the aged prepared by the Social Development Division which outlines requirements for further action. In the field of rehabilitation, the efforts of WHO to integrate rehabilitation services in medical care plans and to extend treatment services to the community are fully supported and considered complementary to the work on rehabilitation carried out in the Social Development Division.

Nutrition

Another aspect of the family health programme of particular interest to the United Nations is the sub-programme on nutrition, and we hope that WHO finds it possible to allocate greater resources to it. A larger allocation would enable it to play a

more significant role in the areas of clinical testing, public health research related to nutrition, and would permit a deeper involvement with other relevant aspects of the malnutrition problem of developing countries, including education programmes directed to special population groups and to the population at large.

Environmental Health

WHO's programme for the promotion of environmental health is also of particular interest to the United Nations. In particular, the sub-programme covering the promotion and protection of human health through control of the environment, which deals - among other matters - with the sanitary engineering aspects of public health, is directly relevant to the programme of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on human settlements. Other aspects of this programme of special interest are the relationship of disease to housing conditions, specific research for the development of local building materials and skills, reclamation of materials from waste, and the development of low-consumption water closets. The activities covered under pre-investment planning for basic sanitary services provide wide scope for co-operation between WHO and the Centre for Housing, Building, and Planning of the Department of ESA. The same applies to the control of environmental pollution hazards and to the establishment and strengthening of environmental health services and institutions. Here, too, it would be highly desirable that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and the services of WHO concerned with this sub-programme should keep in close touch and that the contacts, that at one time existed through periodic consultations, be re-established to permit a better exchange of information.

* * *

I should like to conclude by expressing the hope that the improvements recently introduced in the presentation of our respective budgets will further facilitate collaboration between the two organizations and the identification of those programme areas where joint or concerted action by WHO and the United Nations would best save the interests of our member states."

1.1 ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)

"In the areas of common interest to both WHO and ECE in the field of environmental health and protection, no new topics in your programme schedules in the year 1975 appear to lead to unnecessary duplication of work. On the contrary, I note with pleasure that for instance the results of the ECE Seminar on Problems of Collection, Disposal, Treatment and Recycling of Solid Wastes, which is scheduled to be held in 1975 under the auspices of the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems, might be of assistance to your Organization in implementing your projects in this field mentioned under G.1.2 'Provision of Basic Sanitary Measures' and 'Assistance to Research'. Early in 1974, a preliminary programme will be drafted and finalized later. Your Secretariat will, as usual, be invited to participate in this seminar.

With regard to the implementation of your project on environmental health criteria, page 266, 'proposal for 1975', I would like to inform you that the ECE Working Party on Air Pollution Problems is expected, at its fourth session in January 1974, to proceed with a project entitled 'Assessment in economic terms of the effects of air pollution with a view to providing a tangible basis (together with health criteria) for establishing the desired level of air pollution control'. As you can see from the wording of this project, it is envisaged to be implemented as a complementary project based on studies on economic effects of air pollution carried out in the ECE as well as on the health criteria established by WHO.

In connexion with project 6.1.5 - Health of working population (pages 271-272) you may wish to note that the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers established, at its inception, a Study Group on Vocational Training and the Prevention of Accidents in Forest Work. This Study Group has undertaken for a number of years the study of the noise caused by forestry machines, especially power saws, and its harmful effects on forest workers. It has now in particular taken up the problem of the acceptable limits for such noise, and the methods used for noise measurement in order to arrive at a standardization and to formulate recommendations intended not only for governments and users but also for the constructors of such machines. When this work has reached a sufficiently advanced stage, I suggest that it might be appropriate for our Secretariat to discuss the results with the officials responsible for the above-mentioned programme in WHO.

In this connexion, I may reiterate my confidence that, as in the past, officials of our Secretariats will continue their close co-operation in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication in carrying out the programmes of work approved by our respective governmental bodies."

1.2 ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

"We have studied this document with great interest in the fields of housing, building and physical planning, statistics, economic research and planning, population, environment and manpower and training, and I am happy to forward to you the attached comments as prepared by my ECA colleagues.

In view of this urgent need of integrated approach to development analysis and planning is necessary to give priority to those areas mentioned above. It is because of this urgency that one is a bit worried about the lack of priority being given to them in the WHO programme. In fact, WHO's work programme in the African region is concentrated on 'identification of the most rational and effective ways of helping Member States to develop their own health systems and first and foremost, to train national health personnel at all levels' (p. 350). It is only in the long run that the work programme is expected to make it possible to undertake the 'study of the methodology of the planning, organization and socio-economic analysis of different health systems and services of different countries and the preparation of realistic recommendations on the best ways in which they might develop, taking into account the importance of the development and use of cost/effectiveness and cost/benefit analyses in the field of health'.

This approach raises a fundamental question: How long is the run in respect of the Institute proposed for Dakar? Moreover, these aspects of development techniques have been neglected for too long that it is time they were given the immediate attention that they deserve. In any case, the training of national health personnel at all levels can only best be determined within the framework of the services they are to render, the amount of resources that can be allocated by the Government to such services as well as to the training of the required staff. All these are indeed part and parcel of health economics. Thus the allocation of resources and the effectiveness with which they are used are so important that the methodology of health planning within the context of overall planning and the establishment of the Institute where such a methodology can be taught deserve immediate attention.

In view of the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade, particularly in respect of the review and appraisal exercise, it is also interesting to note that the duties of the Programme Co-ordination Section of the WHO include 'the co-ordination of the administrative and financial aspects of the Organization's work with those of other organizations in the United Nations system, in the observance and reporting

of socio-economic activities of the system, and in the co-ordination of some internal activities of the Organization'. As already indicated in the International Development Strategy, regional review and appraisal report should highlight the problems identified in the reports prepared by national Governments, UN Specialized agencies and other international functional organizations. Hence, the report prepared by WHO will always be crucial to the regional report since its emphasis is expected to be on the 'impact' of socio-economic development on the well being of socio-economic groups; and health aspects form an important component of the well-being of peoples.

It is hoped that WHO will not only prepare its own biennial reports but also transmit them through its Liaison Officer to the ECA secretariat.

Housing, Building and Physical Planning

During various discussions with Mr Max Roy - the previous WHO Sanitary Engineer assigned to ECA and representatives from the Housing Section, it was from this Section emphasized that the work programme to be jointly undertaken by him and the Section should be concentrated upon both the waste disposal problem for individual housing and collective rural and urban settlements. This the Housing Section's opinion is still maintained.

The theme of this joint work programme would encompass waste disposals systems with recommendations for implementation and maintenance of these systems, and health regulations for individual housing and rural and urban settlements in Africa.

Statistics

There will eventually be a relationship between some of the WHO assisted field inquiries in vital and health statistics and those conducted under the proposed ECA post-census programme of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics through household surveys. Full provision will be made for inter-agency co-ordination.

It is encouraging to note that efforts are being made to prepare these documents more speedily than in the past.

Economic Research and Planning

It is a welcome change that a specialized agency like the WHO is not only stressing the importance of the integration of health planning with other sectoral and overall planning, but also the application of the 'principles of operational research, system analysis and judicious pragmatism'. This approach is indeed in accord with the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade which are being expressed in such phrases as 'integrated approach to socio-economic analysis and planning, unified approach to development analysis and planning'.

It is also in this context that one should welcome the decision to establish an African Institute of Health Planning in Dakar, Senegal as this will substantially help in giving impetus to national health planning. It is hoped that both the techniques of operational research, system analysis, cost/effectiveness and cost/benefit analysis with particular reference to health and the most effective approaches to the integration of health planning into overall development planning will be taught in the Institute. The ECA is interested in these approaches because one of the specific projects in its 1975-1979 work programme in economic research and planning is Sectoral Planning in African countries which forms a part of a bigger project - the preparation of a Manual on Planning Techniques for African countries.

Population

The idea of the integration of family planning services in Mother and Child Health Services in a number of countries in Africa is very much in line with the trend of thinking of demographers in the region. The ECA work programme in this area is based on this principle which is also in line with the recommendations of the first session of the Conference of African Demographers as well as other ECA meetings on population.

The operational research and methodology aspects of this project will be relevant to the ECA Workshop on Methodology of Fertility Studies and KAP Surveys planned for December 1974.

In the health statistics area the study of the effects of demographic and socio-economic factors upon health is also relevant to the micro-case studies on the relationship between the size of family and the health of the family now being implemented by the ECA. The WHO studies will produce more data for more studies to be undertaken.

They will also help in the ECA study on the effectiveness of family planning programmes in Africa due to be implemented in 1975.

The development of an international classification of diseases in the WHO programme will be of help to two ECA projects in the area of population.

(i) The pilot studies on fertility, infant mortality and evaluation of population programmes (1974-1976) and,

(ii) Study of the main causes of death among children aged 0-5 years with the use of hospital records (1975).

In the area of mortality in general the WHO programme will be relevant to a number of studies and meetings planned by the ECA for 1974-1976.

The co-ordination of research on all aspects of human reproduction including family planning and its delivery should help in improving the delivery systems of family planning programmes in Africa. Research into the epidemiology of sterility is also of particular interest to the ECA population programmes since the ECA intends studying the problem which prevails at present in a number of countries.

The inter-regional projects listed on page 301 of the WHO document are all of particular interest and relevance to the ECA work programme in population.

Through the annual regional inter-agency co-ordination meetings on Population which are organized by ECA regular consultations take place on collaboration in the implementation of the work programme of ECA and the other agencies working in the field of population in Africa. This organ will be used effectively to achieve maximum co-operation between the ECA Population Programme Centre and WHO in the complementary population programmes in Africa.

Environment

The work programme for Africa aims at the promotion of environmental health through the assistance to Governments in pre-investment studies, planning and management of water supply schemes, waste disposal, improvement of housing and vector control.

Work done at ECA underlines the importance of the above proposals if the total African environment is to be improved - especially that of the rural environment.

ECA is already participating in the WHO/FAO programme for the control of Onchocerciasis in West Africa and looks to further co-operation if the disease is to be eliminated in the proposed 20-year programme.

Manpower and Training

WHO's sectoral objective and approaches to realizing this objective in the field of health manpower development are sound and well conceived. It is gratifying to note the interest shown in relating education and training to local environment, the balanced supply of health manpower, the training of personnel through continuing education and the attention to the training of middle-grade health personnel. Two major health manpower constraints facing most African countries derive from:

- (i) the acute shortage of middle-level para-medical and auxiliary health personnel and
- (ii) lack of adequate and effective training capability and resources for the training of the needed personnel in local institutions. The programme outlined for 1975 has rightly given due attention to ways of helping individual countries to overcome these two constraints.

Having regard to the fact that health manpower planning is an integral part of overall human resources planning within the framework of national development planning and that some other agencies have programmes in manpower planning and in training capability development, one would have liked to see some indication of areas of possible collaboration with other agencies within the UN family in realizing the above objective. In this regard ECA would welcome possible collaboration with WHO in the latter's effort to further improve the efficiency of health training staff through appropriate national or subregional training workshops.

WHO may wish to consider, in further developing its future work programme, the advisability of using its fellowship resources to promote a greater degree of regional self-sufficiency in training in specialized health fields, that is, providing equipment, fellowships and staff support enabling more African health and medical schools to develop specialized regional or subregional training and research facilities."

1.3 UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

"I wish to thank you for your letter of 5 December 1973 under cover of which you forwarded for my comments Volume 212 of the Official Records of the World Health Organization - Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1975. The comments which follow are the outcome of a limited review of the detailed and highly interesting material contained in Volume 212. We were unable to give it a more extended examination before the deadline imposed by the timetable of meetings of your Executive Board and its Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, since the relevant period included a session of the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board and a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Long-Range Strategy of UNIDO.

Both Organizations have now taken the first steps in developing a mechanism of programme budgeting. I believe that the adoption of this technique should facilitate the elaboration of joint action and, more generally, the effective co-ordination of our activities in areas of common concern. However, in both Organizations it is recognized that much remains to be done before it can be said that the principles of programme budgeting have been fully interpreted. In any event, I endorse your hope that consultations at the intersecretariat level well in advance of the preparation of work programmes will ensure to an increasing extent that, where appropriate, programmes are complementary.

As in my letter of 8 March 1973 to your predecessor in office, commenting on the corresponding document for 1974, I shall mainly discuss the programmes entitled Prophylactic and Therapeutical Substances (5.3) and Promotion of Environmental Health (6.1).

As regards sub-programme 5.3.2 - Specifications and Quality Control of Pharmaceutical Preparations, the recommended specifications for the strength, purity and other characteristics of particular drugs must be largely the concern of WHO rather than UNIDO. With the recognition, however, that the analytical testing of finished products on the part of health authorities needs to be supplemented by quality control inside the factory, the role of UNIDO attains importance in such developing countries as have established or are planning to establish pharmaceutical production. I was pleased to note the reference (p. 238 of Volume 212) to collaboration with UNIDO regarding quality control measures. We should like to receive information concerning the projects envisaged in this field; the projects listed under regional activities in Annex I to Volume 212 are not described in sufficient detail for us to appreciate which of them might provide opportunities for an element of participation by UNIDO. There are references (again on p. 238) to training courses on quality control and good manufacturing practices, to be held at country or intercountry level for technical and administrative personnel, and to a revision of WHO's published recommendations 'Good Practices in the Manufacture and Quality Control of Drugs'. In both these areas, it would appear desirable to check the possibilities of collaboration between WHO and UNIDO.

Turning to programme 6.1 - Promotion of Environmental Health, it is evident that a major part of WHO's effort goes into the provision of basic sanitary measures and the related pre-investment planning (sub-programmes 6.1.2 and 6.1.3). There may be possibilities for UNIDO to collaborate in assisting to establish national sources of supply of materials and equipment for water supply and wastes disposal services in developing countries.

The area where probably the greatest need for mutual study of programmes will be felt is, however, the control of environmental pollution and hazards (sub-programme 6.1.4). When the stage is reached of establishing environmental health criteria and recommending limits to exposure to pollutants, in the light of data on pollution levels collected by means of monitoring programmes and of research into the effects on man's health of various pollutants, complex issues have to be resolved in regard to economic development, particularly in the industrial sector. UNIDO is accumulating expertise in this field, which it should prove useful to draw on in the preparation of manuals, guidelines, etc. UNIDO recognizes that the ideal place to control pollution is normally at source; it is endeavouring in its environmental programme to achieve this object, thus lessening the burden on both water treatment plant and monitoring services.

The interrelation between the programmes of the two Organizations in this area should extend to the establishment and strengthening of environmental health services and institutions (your sub-programme 6.1.7). It has been agreed with the United Nations Environment Programme that UNIDO shall have the major responsibility for furnishing inputs on the industrial aspects of governmental planning and institution building. Our projects include some which deal with pollution in industrial complexes and problems of location, as well as studies in the environmental consequences of establishing specific industries. Material resulting from such studies and projects would form a vital parameter for planning publications and guidelines for institutions.

I should like to mention briefly the sub-programme entitled Food Standards Programme (6.1.8). In view of the importance of food industries in industrial development, particularly in the least developed among the developing countries, UNIDO pays special attention to the possibilities of assisting Governments to establish and improve these industries. The Food Standards Programme jointly operated by FAO and WHO is an

indispensable adjunct to the efforts of UNIDO in this sector of industry. We hope that it will prove possible to devote increasing attention to the special circumstances of developing countries, particularly those with tropical climates, and shall be glad to avail ourselves of any opportunity to help in this area.

The corresponding WHO document for the year 1974 (No. 204) contained a list of meetings, seminars, research studies, etc. due to be undertaken from 1973 onwards. We found this a useful reference for selecting those likely to interest UNIDO, in order to obtain further information about them. The form of presentation of Volume 212 does not readily lend itself to a similar exercise. I therefore wish to conclude by enquiring whether, at an appropriate time, you would kindly forward a list of Expert Committee meetings, study groups, seminars, research studies and the like."

2. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)

"In general, the programme of work for WHO appears to support and complement that of the ILO in many important ways. The programmes of Strengthening of Health Services (page 93), Mental Health (page 217), and Prevention and Control of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and Use (page 222), for example, are of particular interest to the Vocational Training and Counselling Branch of the Human Resources Development Department. Likewise, the Manpower Development Programme remains of interest to the ILO's World Employment Programme. I trust that these and other examples of common programme interest may become the subject of fruitful intersecretariat consultations between our two organisations in the coming year. I have asked those of my colleagues who are responsible for ILO work in these fields to present directly to their counterparts in your organisation some specific observations and suggestions on certain individual project proposals in the proposed WHO Programme and Budget Estimates.

Only one somewhat disappointing aspect is found in the proposals. It would appear from page 275 that the 1975 Budget will no longer include the small financial contribution by WHO to the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS). WHO's support for the work of CIS has long been appreciated and I hope that a way can be found of restoring it in the future."

3. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

"The WHO estimates for 1975 have been studied by the divisions concerned and I am pleased to say that, as in the past, we have not found any instances of over-lapping or duplication requiring referral to the WHO governing bodies. One general comment is that it is difficult to identify specifically the amounts of funds which are budgeted for items relating to joint FAO/WHO activities. In particular, it is not clear from the presentation and the figures given for the joint FAO/WHO food standards programme (page 289) what is the amount of the WHO contribution to the joint costs of the programme for the years 1974 and 1975. You will recall that Dr Boerma wrote you about this on 13 August 1973.

We should also like to make the following specific comments in the interest of improved coordination between our organizations. The text concerning nutrition (page 125) refers in general terms to joint areas of interest and activity, and we look forward to being consulted on the projects in which FAO is concerned. Under the heading of Food Control on page 287, reference is made to DANIDA-assisted courses for chemical analysts of food additives, pesticide residues and food contaminants, and for food microbiologists. This is an activity of direct concern to FAO and it is felt that the impact of the courses would be increased if they were joint FAO/WHO courses. Finally, we believe that the manual of practice for the sanitary control of food production, etc., could also usefully be made a joint activity. In our view, the FAO/WHO agreement on food control programmes and projects envisages coordination on such matters."

4. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

"Chapter 2 - General management and co-ordination

As drafted, the programme is flexible enough and leaves room for inter-agency co-operation at various levels, but except for the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency no other United Nations body is mentioned: we would therefore recall that Unesco's co-operation with WHO in MAB and IHD, for example, is in our view important. This is relevant to both the Science and Technology section and the Environmental Health section. We consider that co-operation between WHO and Unesco in the fields of Cell and Molecular Biology, Brain Research and Microbiology is both useful and satisfactory.

Chapter 3, item 2: Family Health

There is scope for collaboration in the 'research activities in the fields of human reproduction, family planning, etc..' mentioned under this sub-item.

Close collaboration exists already between WHO's Family Health Division and Unesco's Department of Free Flow of Information and development of communication in respect of communication and education projects at global, regional and country levels. Unesco hopes that this close working relationship will continue during 1975, in particular as regards the proposed studies on the use of educational methods, media and channels of communication in different socio-economic contexts. Unesco would moreover be able to contribute to the experts meetings and field projects devoted to devising and experimenting with new methodologies for systematic planning and evaluation of information and education components of health programmes. In addition, we would like to develop the exchange of information and experience between Unesco sponsored family planning communication research projects in various regions and the WHO's regional programmes with a view to maximising the utilization of the research results at the national level.

Regarding sub-item 3.2.4. on nutrition (page 124), we are pleased to note the broadening of the WHO nutrition programme and the reference made to collaboration with Unesco at the regional level.

As for sub-item 3.2.5. on health education (page 129) we have also noted with appreciation WHO's intention of promoting better and more systematic planning, implementation, and evaluation of the health education components of its programmes, an area of action which we consider of great importance for the scholastic performance of children of all ages.

Section 5.2.6 - Mental Health

Among the objectives of your mental health programmes, there is a mention of the psycho-sociological elements and socio-cultural factors that play a role in mental disorders (pages 217-218).

In our proposed programme and budget for 1975-1976 will appear a project concerning the perception of the environment by adults and children in three regions of the world (Latin America, Western Africa and Central Asia) where important development projects affect the socio-cultural environment. Among other things, Unesco intends to study the mental disorders which may result from drastic changes of the physical and socio-economic environment. The qualitative and quantitative appreciation of these disorders must be considered as giving indirect indicators of the quality of the perception of the environment.

Section 5.2.7 - Prevention and control of alcoholism and drug dependence and abuse

We note that WHO intends to contribute to the study on 'incidence of drug dependence and the human and environmental factors associated therewith'. This is of particular interest to Unesco, with view of recommendation 7.51 adopted by the Unesco General Conference at its seventeenth session.

Moreover, the evaluation of various programme approaches and methods (mentioned in the first paragraph on page 222) could constitute a field where Unesco might be able to assist by communicating the results of its own studies on social problems related to drug abuse. However, it should be noted that the 'human and environmental factors associated therewith' (i.e. drug abuse - end of the third para.) may perhaps have a different meaning for Unesco than for WHO.

Section 6 - Promotion of environmental health

The Unesco Social Sciences Department is in the process of setting up a programme on population and the environment which can be related to the WHO environmental health programme. We therefore hope that Unesco will have the possibility to include in its Proposed Programme and Budget for 1975-1976 the results of research in the field of simulation and social planification of the environment obtained by WHO in the three regions considered (Latin America, Western Africa and Central Asia)."

5. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

"I have noted with interest the section of special concern to international civil aviation on page 143 '. . . rapid increase of both international and national movement of people, animals and goods aggravates this need.'

Control of Environmental Pollution (para. 6.1.4) is a further area of interest to ICAO which has been noted and in which ICAO is active, in addition to working in coordination with WHO.

I have no further comments to make concerning the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates of the World Health Organization for 1975."

6. WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

"I have no specific comments to offer on this very informative document which has been studied with great interest by WMO. I wish, however, to take this opportunity of expressing once again, on behalf of WMO, our gratitude for the close collaboration that has developed between our two Organizations and to confirm our belief that this collaboration will continue to strengthen and expand in the new year. In particular, I hope that the close co-operation in the field of air-pollution will continue to develop."

7. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO)

IMCO had no comments to offer on this occasion.

8. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

"I apologize for not having replied earlier especially with regard to your notes concerning the Programme and Budget estimates of your organization. The main reason for the delay is that our own six-year programme has only recently been completed and submitted for my consideration. You will no doubt agree that the programme content proposed for the Agency's Life Sciences Division has some relevance to the matters you have raised.

There are several areas where WHO and IAEA are co-operating and I very much hope that this co-operation can continue and even be strengthened. It would be useful if Dr. Hellmut Glubrecht, Deputy Director General of the Department of Research and Isotopes, and Dr. Ralph Kniseley, Director of the Division of Life Sciences, could visit WHO in the near future for consultations.¹ From our point of view it would be preferable for such a visit to take place before 11 February, when our Board of Governors will be meeting. This would provide an opportunity for discussions with your staff members on matters of mutual interest including in particular:

1. The Agency's programme related to dosimetry, in particular the secondary standards dosimetry laboratories and the postal dose intercomparison;
2. Joint IAEA/WHO action in environmental activities with special emphasis on international co-operation in research on mutagens, teratogenic and carcinogenic effects from radiation or irradiated substances;
3. Wholesomeness problems connected with the International Food Irradiation Project;
4. Co-operation in computer applications in dosimetry and radiotherapy; and
5. Co-operation in the field of radiation sterilization of medical products.

Since both Dr. Glubrecht and Dr. Kniseley have joined the Agency staff as recently as September 1973, the discussions would in addition provide an excellent opportunity for your staff to get to know them and thereby facilitate further WHO/IAEA collaboration on the basis of personal contacts.

May I add that I very much hope that some of the dosimetry work at present being done by IAEA, particularly that concerning the application of radiation in medicine, could be taken over by WHO. X-ray, high voltage and isotope radiation sources are now so widespread, and dose measurement processes are standardized to such an extent that the world wide co-operation and standardization task might well be put in the hands of WHO. May I at the same time add that we in this organization would be most willing to assist in any further development work necessary outside of routine measurements."

¹ The consultations referred to have been arranged as suggested.

ANNEX

Ref: B6/370/2 (75)

5 December 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith Volume 212 of the Official Records of the World Health Organization containing Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates of the World Health Organization for 1975, in accordance with the arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and reflected in resolutions 1549 (XLIX) and 1643 (LI) adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

The Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates are being sent to you at the same time as they are being transmitted to WHO's Members and Associate Members. The proposals contained therein will be considered by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization at its fifty-third session beginning 15 January 1974, after they have been studied by the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the Executive Board which will open on 7 January.

In order that the Standing Committee and the Executive Board may be fully apprised of any comments you may wish to make concerning programmes of your organization in related areas, such comments should be received by me not later than 2 January 1974.

In accordance with past procedure, we will transmit to you after the fifty-third session of the Executive Board an indication of the consideration given to such comments as you may transmit.

As the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination informed the Council in its Annual Report for 1972-1973, this formal phase of prior consultation is only one of a number of steps being taken to ensure that, where appropriate, programmes are complementary. You are aware of the steps which have been taken during the past year to undertake both formal and informal inter-secretariat consultations well in advance of the preparation of the proposed programme and budget estimates of the Organization. It is my hope that continuing utilization of all the varied forms of early consultation will be of mutual benefit, particularly in the identification of those areas where joint or concerted action would be advantageous.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Mahler, M.D.
Director-General

Annex

ADDRESSEES

United Nations

cc: Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)
Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

International Labour Office (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International Civil Aviation Organization

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

International Atomic Energy Agency

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