

FORTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA44.12

Agenda item 22.3

13 May 1991

MEMBERS IN ARREARS IN THE PAYMENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN
EXTENT WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY INVOKING ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Forty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee of the Executive Board to Consider Certain Financial Matters prior to the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly on Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;¹

Noting that Antigua and Barbuda, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Zaire were in arrears at the time of the opening of the Health Assembly to an extent that it is necessary for the Health Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the voting privileges of these Members should be suspended;

Having been informed that, as a result of payments received after the opening of the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly, the arrears of contributions of Grenada, Guinea-Bissau and Zaire have been reduced to levels below the amounts which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

Reaffirming the principles laid down in resolution WHA41.7;

1. EXPRESSES serious concern at the number of Members in recent years that have been in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;
2. URGES the Members concerned to regularize their position at the earliest possible date;
3. FURTHER URGES Members which have not communicated their intention to settle their arrears to do so as a matter of urgency;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to approach the Members in arrears to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, with a view to pursuing the question with the governments concerned;
5. REQUESTS the Executive Board, in the light of the Director-General's report and after the Members concerned have had an opportunity to explain their situation to the Board, to report to the Forty-fifth World Health Assembly on the status of payment of contributions;

¹ Document A44/41.

6. EMPHASIZES the necessity of applying the principles laid down in resolution WHA41.7 consistently, so as to maintain equity amongst Member States;

7. DECIDES:

(1) that if, by the time of the opening of the Forty-fifth World Health Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Iraq, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Suriname are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, their voting privileges shall be suspended as from the said opening, unless the Executive Board has previously found that the Member concerned is faced with exceptional difficulties and the Member has made a payment considered by the Board to be reasonable in the circumstances;

(2) that any suspension which takes effect as aforesaid shall continue until the arrears of the Member concerned have been reduced, at the next and subsequent Health Assembly sessions, to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

(3) that this decision shall be without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution;

(4) that the provision of services to the Members concerned should continue uninterrupted.

Eleventh plenary meeting, 13 May 1991
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