



Fourth report of Committee B

Committee B held its fourth meeting on 15 May 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka) and later Dr E. Peruzzi (Venezuela).

It was decided to recommend to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions and decision:

- 28 Amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution

One resolution

29. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

29.3 International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

One resolution

31. Personnel matters: amendments to the Staff Rules

One resolution entitled:

- Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General

32. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund: appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

One decision

Agenda item 28

Amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Considering that the membership of the Executive Board should be increased from 32 to 34, so that the number of Members in the European Region and Western Pacific Region entitled to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board be increased to eight and five, respectively,

1. ADOPTS the following amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution, the texts in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages being equally authentic:

Article 24 - Delete and replace by

The Board shall consist of thirty-four persons designated by as many Members. The Health Assembly, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution, shall elect the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board, provided that, of such Members, not less than three shall be elected from each of the regional organizations established pursuant to Article 44. Each of these Members should appoint to the Board a person technically qualified in the field of health, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.

Article 25 - Delete and replace by

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the Members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty-two to thirty-four the term of office of the additional Members elected shall, insofar as may be necessary, be of such lesser duration as shall facilitate the election of at least one Member from each regional organization in each year.

2. DECIDES that two copies of this resolution shall be authenticated by the signatures of the President of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, of which one copy shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, depositary of the Constitution, and one copy retained in the archives of the World Health Organization;

3. DECIDES that the notification of acceptance of these amendments by Members in accordance with the provisions of Article 73 of the Constitution shall be effected by the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as required for acceptance of the Constitution by Article 79(b) of the Constitution.

Agenda item 29.3

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling the role of WHO in planning for and implementing the objectives of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People as recognized in resolutions WHA47.27, WHA48.24, WHA49.26 and WHA50.31;

Noting the report by the Director-General to the Executive Board;¹

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/157, which adopted the programme of activities for the International Decade, in which it is recommended that "specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international and national agencies, as well as communities and private enterprises, should devote special attention to development activities of benefit to indigenous communities", that the United Nations system should establish focal points for matters concerning indigenous people in all appropriate organizations, and that the governing bodies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system should adopt programmes of action for the Decade in their own fields of competence, "in close cooperation with indigenous people";

Recognizing with satisfaction the progress made in the Initiative on the Health of Indigenous People of the Americas;

Noting the importance of the traditional medical knowledge of indigenous people;

Noting with appreciation the activities of the focal point for the International Decade,

1. URGES Member States:

To develop and implement national plans of action or programmes on indigenous people's health, in close cooperation with indigenous people, which focus on: ensuring access of indigenous people to health care; supporting the participation of indigenous representatives in WHO meetings; ensuring health services are culturally sensitive to indigenous people; respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge of traditional healing and medicine in close cooperation with indigenous people; ensuring the active participation of indigenous people in identifying their health needs and appropriate research for developing strategies to improve their health status and the future direction of their health;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to promote the inclusion of indigenous health in the work programme at the country, regional and global level;

(2) to report annually to the World Health Assembly on progress on indigenous health initiatives globally, incorporating regional updates, and highlighting significant activities at the country level;

¹ Document EB99/23.

- (3) to improve and increase, in close cooperation with indigenous people, institutional and technical cooperation between WHO and Member States in the area of indigenous people's health, so that models of good practice in indigenous people's health are shared, globally, regionally and between countries to inspire, compare and highlight the rich diversity of projects, experiences and approaches;
- (4) to encourage the representation of health workers of indigenous origin in WHO work, including meetings;
- (5) to promote in close cooperation with indigenous people, the respect, preservation, and maintenance of the knowledge of traditional healing and medicine, and to promote the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of such knowledge, in conformity with trade and intellectual property conventions.¹

¹ Conventions and agreements administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization.

Agenda item 31**Salaries of staff in ungraded posts
and of the Director-General**

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Noting the recommendations of the Executive Board with regard to remuneration of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General,

1. ESTABLISHES the salary for the posts of Assistant Directors-General and Regional Directors at US\$ 133 994 per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified net salary of US\$ 93 671 (dependency rate) or US\$ 84 821 (single rate);
2. ESTABLISHES the salary for the post of Deputy Director-General at US\$ 147 420 per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified salary of US\$ 102 130 (dependency rate) or US\$ 91 883 (single rate);
3. ESTABLISHES the salary for the Director-General at US\$ 181 235 per annum before staff assessment, resulting in a modified net salary of US\$ 123 433 (dependency rate) or US\$ 109 670 (single rate);
4. DECIDES that those adjustments in remuneration shall come into effect on 1 March 1998.

Agenda item 32

**United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund: appointment of
representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee**

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly appointed Dr J. Larivière, delegate of Canada, as a member of the WHO Staff Pension Committee, and Dr B. Wasisto, delegate of Indonesia, as alternate member of the Committee, the appointments being for a period of three years. Professor J. Leowski, delegate of Poland, was appointed to replace Professor Béat Roos, the appointment being for a period of two years.

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