

WORLD HEALTH
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DE LA SANTÉEXECUTIVE BOARD

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PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITIES

Report by the Director-General

The Preparatory Conference of Universities was organized by UNESCO, with the co-operation of the Netherlands Government, in Utrecht from 2 to 13 August 1948. WHO was represented, at the invitation of UNESCO, by an observer who took part in the discussions.

The Conference, which was constituted as a working conference, decided to establish an International Association of Universities. An Interim Committee of ten members was created to draw up the Constitution of the Association. The Interim Committee will work in close collaboration with UNESCO, which will supply the Secretariat.

The Conference also laid down principles of co-operation among universities and other institutions of higher learning, and analyzed various problems which arise from recent scientific and social developments and which affect the work of universities.

Reference was made at the Conference to the specific interests of WHO.

Because medical education is an important aspect of the problems of universities, it was recognized that WHO can contribute to the development of co-operation among such institutions. The Conference, however, requested no specific action by WHO.

It is considered that WHO, by co-operating with UNESCO, can and should influence the medical aspect of this project. The Director-General intends to keep in close touch with UNESCO in connection with the work of the International Association of Universities, in order to give guidance, where appropriate, on the medical aspects of this work.

Resolution

If the Executive Board approves, it may wish to adopt such a resolution as follows:

The Executive Board

NOTES the report of the Director-General on the Preparatory Conference of Universities, and

DIRECTS the Director-General to maintain close liaison with UNESCO in connexion with the work of the International Association of Universities and its Interim Committee in order that WHO may give guidance, where appropriate, on the medical aspects of this work.
