

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉEXECUTIVE BOARD

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

✓ CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Executive Board at its second session adopted the following resolution: (Off.Rec. World Hlth Org., 14, 22. Item I.15.5)

"Whereas it is expected that the Organizing Committee for the Permanent Bureau for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences will establish a permanent Bureau (or Council) as a non-governmental organization collaborating with WHO, and that

Whereas the first Health Assembly allocated for 1949 the sum of \$20,000 for the co-ordination of international congresses of medical sciences;

The Executive Board

INSTRUCTS the Director-General

- 1 To continue collaboration with UNESCO with a view to establishing the proposed Permanent Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences;
- 2 In consultation with the above-mentioned Council (or its Organizing Committee), to explore the possibility of preparing a draft agreement with a view to (a) ensuring collaboration between WHO and the Council, (b) giving effect to the principle laid down in the relevant resolution of the first Health Assembly (A/49 p.2) which aims at the increase of the responsibilities of WHO in the co-ordination of medical congresses, and (c) setting forth definite proposals for assistance to medical congresses in publishing their proceedings;

APPROVES participation by WHO in the sponsorship of the conference which is to be convoked in Brussels in April 1949 for the establishment of the Permanent Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences;

AGREES that expenses for the technical organization of the congress and for assistance to medical congresses in publishing their proceedings may be covered out of the sum allocated for co-ordination of medical congresses, the sum to be expended in respect of services and not in the form of direct grants."

Accordingly, WHO is collaborating with UNESCO in the preparations for the establishment of the Permanent Council for Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences at the Conference convened in Brussels 4-9 April 1949. WHO's share in the organizational expenses of the Conference is estimated at \$4,000.

As instructed in paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Organizing Committee has been consulted and the following arrangements for future collaboration are envisaged:

- I Representation: In principle, the Permanent Council, when established, should be brought into official relationship with WHO according to the principles laid down for the non-governmental organizations by the World Health Assembly (Off. Rec. World Hlth.Org. 13, p.326-327). However, if WHO continues to be a sponsoring agency, a closer form of relationship is desirable. To this end, the draft statutes of the Permanent Council (Art. 26) provide for special representation of WHO within the Council. This may be met by assigning a representative of WHO to the Executive Committee of the Permanent Council to participate in all meetings of the Committee but without the right to vote.

- II Assistance: In view of the very limited financial resources of the international congresses related to the proposed Council, financial assistance from WHO (and other agencies, e.g. UNESCO) will be indispensable, at least for the next few years. Such assistance would be the most practical way of implementing the recommendations of the first World Health Assembly that WHO assume greater responsibilities in the co-ordination of medical congresses.

1. Assistance to the Permanent Council itself:

Secretariat Personnel (a) with regard to a suggestion that one or two persons might be seconded from WHO's staff to the Secretariat of the Permanent Council, it appears that administrative difficulties would make this course undesirable; there remains, then, the suggestion:

(b) reimbursement of a proportion of the costs for salaries and allowances of personnel not to exceed a certain maximum expenditure.

Travel expenses: reimbursement of a proportionate share of such expenses incurred by members of the Secretariat, within fixed limits.

Office space and general services: reimbursement, if necessary, of a proportion of these expenses within fixed limits.

Meetings: reimbursement of a proportion of the costs of travel of the members of the Executive Committee.

Reimbursement of a proportion of the costs for interpreters, other conference staff and documents service.

2. Assistance to individual international congresses: participation in costs of congresses selected by WHO in consultation with the Permanent Council

Three main categories of desirable assistance were indicated by the Organizing Committee:

(a) Technical services (interpretation, précis-writing, documents service, educational activities of congresses);

(b) Publication of proceedings;

(c) Reimbursement of travel expenses to selected scientists participating in the Congress. . .

ad (a) and (b), Assistance for technical services and publication of proceedings may be given either by the personnel of WHO, through direct payment of printing and other expenses, reimbursement of all or part of the actual expenses of the Congress or, in some instances, by prepayments towards costs, subject of course to subsequent justification.

Provision of technical and editorial services by the permanent staff of WHO would necessitate an increase in personnel and would be more expensive than if such services were arranged for by the congresses themselves. Participation of WHO in the actual expenses of congresses therefore appears to be a more flexible, more economical and a more practical way of providing the assistance required.

ad (c) The Organizing Committee expressed their hope that WHO might reconsider its earlier decision not to reimburse travel expenses incurred by scientists to enable them to attend selected congresses.

Should the Executive Board confirm this previous decision, travel reimbursements to participants will be excluded from WHO's contribution.

III. Arrangements

A. Formal: Arrangements for future collaboration may be envisaged as follows:

1. Conclusion of a formal agreement with the Permanent Council. A tentative draft of such an agreement is attached. This draft, if accepted by the Executive Board, should be transmitted to the Conference for the establishment of the Permanent Council and then submitted for approval to the World Health Assembly.
2. Alternatively, acceptance by the Executive Board, subject to approval by the World Health Assembly, of principles for collaboration as outlined in this document (Section V). The Director-General should then be empowered to make necessary arrangements with the Permanent Council for the implementation of this decision, including assistance to and collaboration with the Permanent Council within the limitations set up by the decisions of the Executive Board and the budgetary appropriations.

B. Transitory: In view of the fact that the Permanent Council will be formally established in April 1949 and will require some time to organize its work, it is proposed that the present arrangements including support of the provisional

joint Secretariat in Paris be continued until a decision regarding collaboration with the Council has been taken by the second World Health Assembly.

IV. Future co-operation and consultation with UNESCO

The Permanent Council, being an independent international body and in need of assistance and support, will most probably wish to establish collaboration with UNESCO, which initiated and supported the creation of the Council. UNESCO intends to give the Permanent Council its assistance and support. With the creation of the Permanent Council, the Co-ordination of Medical Congresses will cease to be a direct UNESCO/WHO activity but will remain an activity of common interest to both specialized agencies. Article 1 of the Agreement between UNESCO and WHO provides for co-operation and consultation in regard to matters of common interest.

It is, therefore, desirable that close liaison and consultations be maintained between WHO and UNESCO in order to co-ordinate the assistance given by both agencies to the Permanent Council. Each organization should extend its assistance according to its policy, e.g. WHO may concentrate its assistance on technical services whereas UNESCO's funds might be available inter alia for travel grants.

V. Recommendation

If the Executive Board shares the views expressed in this document it may wish to consider adoption of the following draft resolution in the form suggested under A or B.

Whereas, the first Health Assembly decided to support the co-ordination of international congresses of Medical Sciences and to increase the responsibilities of WHO in this activity (WHO.Off.Records No. 13, p. 323), and

Whereas the permanent Council for Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, a non-governmental international organization, will be established in the near future, as the result of joint UNESCO/WHO action, and

Whereas, the above-mentioned Permanent Council, in order to perform its tasks, will need support and assistance from WHO, suitable arrangements for collaboration are essential,

The Executive Board,

A: Suggests that the following principles governing collaboration between WHO and the Permanent Council be laid down subject to approval by the World Health Assembly;

1. that the Permanent Council be recognized as a non-governmental organization brought into official relationship with WHO;
2. that the Permanent Council be recognized as representing all international congresses in the medical and related fields, all collaboration between WHO and any congress to be channelled through the Permanent Council as far as possible;
3. that a senior staff member of the secretariat of WHO be assigned by the Director-General to represent WHO at the meetings of the Permanent Council in an advisory capacity;
4. that WHO assist the Permanent Council in its tasks by giving advice upon request and supplying material support in the form of reimbursement of a part of the actual expenses for secretariat, technical services and publication of their proceedings, to selected congresses of interest to WHO or, where possible, by direct participation in such technical services by WHO staff,
5. that adequate justification of the use made of any funds allocated to the Permanent Council by WHO should be regularly furnished by the Council,
6. that WHO designate priorities for some of the Council's activities or sponsor some selected congresses. In such cases, the Permanent Council should use the funds provided by WHO in conformity with the latter's decisions,
7. that arrangements for collaboration be reviewed every year and set up in accordance with the policy and budgetary appropriations of WHO and

REQUESTS the Director-General to implement the above decision by making appropriate arrangements for collaboration with the Permanent Council on the basis of this resolution and within the limits of annual budgetary appropriations

B: RECOMMENDS that the World Health Assembly approve the draft agreement to be concluded between the Permanent Council and WHO (Annex 1), and

REQUESTS the Director-General to implement the above decision by making appropriate arrangements for collaboration with the Permanent Council on the basis of this resolution and within the limits of annual budgetary appropriations.

ANNEX

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR THE CO-ORDINATION
OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Article I

Mutual recognition

- (a) WHO (hereinafter called the Organization) shall recognize the permanent Council for the co-ordination of international congresses of medical sciences (hereinafter called the Council) as the representative international body of its member organizations for the purpose of ensuring the continuity and co-ordination of international congresses of medical sciences.
- (b) The Council shall recognize the Organization as the principal international body in the field of health and shall recognize the principles laid down in the Constitution of the Organization.

Article II

Freedom of scientific information

The Organization and the Council shall facilitate the free exchange of scientific information between one country and another, in accordance with international agreements and with the national legislation of each country.

Article III

Mutual Consultation

The Organization and the Council shall consult each other regularly in regard to matters of common interest.

Article IV

Reciprocal representation

- (a) A permanent representative of the Organization shall be invited to participate at all meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee of the Council, and at any of the congresses established by it.

- (b) The Organization shall invite one or more representatives of the Council to participate as observers at plenary meetings of the World Health Assembly and of its main committees.
- (c) The Organization may further invite one or more representatives of the Council to participate as observers at other committees established by the Organization where questions of common interest to the Organization and the Council are to be raised.

Article V

Exchange of Information

Subject to such measures as may be deemed necessary in order to ensure the security of confidential material, the Organization and the Council shall keep each other informed concerning all projected activities and programmes of work in which there may be mutual interest, and for this purpose may exchange documents or other material.

Article VI

Should it appear desirable, the Organization may invite the Council, or any of its Member Organizations, to undertake certain tasks on behalf of the Organization.

Article VII

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and subject to the budget approved by the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board of the Organization may, on the request of the Council provide such financial assistance as may be desirable and possible to enable the Council to carry out its programmes.

The Organization reserves the right to impose such conditions as it may deem necessary concerning any financial assistance provided by it to the Council.

Article VIII

The Director-General of the Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Council may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this agreement as may be found desirable in the light of operating experience.

Article IX

- (a) This agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years subject to the right of either party to terminate it on 31 December of any year by notice given to the other party not later than 30 September of that year.
- (b) This agreement shall be subject to revision by mutual consent at the end of each year while it remains in force.

Article X

This Agreement shall come into force on its approval by the World Health Assembly and by the General Assembly of the Council.