

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Seventh SessionORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EB7/45 ✓

8 January 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## LONG RANGE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND UNICEF

Decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations

1. On 11 August 1950 the Economic and Social Council adopted Resolution 310 (XI) on long-range activities for children.<sup>1</sup> An informal inter-secretariat meeting of the UN, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO was held at Geneva on 23-24 August 1950 to discuss the implications of this resolution. The various organizations were in complete agreement on the policies relating to long-range activities for children and co-operation with UNICEF. The working document on the resolution of the Economic and Social Council which the Secretary-General prepared for the General Assembly incorporated important parts of the policies discussed at the above meeting.

2. The General Assembly considered, in addition to the resolution of the Economic and Social Council, a draft resolution proposed by its Third Committee. On 1 December 1950 it adopted the latter resolution, as amended in the plenary session of the Assembly by Bolivia, Canada, Ecuador and the Netherlands under the title "Continuing Needs of Children: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund".<sup>2</sup>

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UN Document E/1849 p.42

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UN Document A/1597

3. The text of the resolution is as follows:

"The General Assembly,

Having considered resolution 310 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council in the light of resolutions 57 (I) and 318 (IV) of the General Assembly,

Recognizing the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in under-developed countries and countries that have been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities,

- (1) Reaffirms its approval of the policy of the Executive Board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to devote a greater share of the Fund's resources to the development of programmes outside Europe;
- (2) Expresses again its gratitude to Governments and individuals for their generous contributions enabling the Fund to carry out its tasks;
- (3) Renews its appeal to Governments and private persons to continue their contributions to the Fund, and to the various official and private international organizations interested in child welfare to collaborate with the Fund in every possible way;
- (4) Recommends to Member States that they develop and improve their national child welfare services, providing, if possible, the necessary funds for that important purpose under their respective budgets;
- (5) Requests the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies:
  - (a) To give greater emphasis in support of national programmes designed to aid children within the framework of existing United Nations activities for promoting the economic and social development of under-developed areas;
  - (b) To explore the means of procuring and financing supplies incidental to such programmes, especially those needed for demonstration purposes;
- (6) Decides:
  - (a) That the Executive Board of the Fund shall be reconstituted as from 1 January 1951 to consist of the Governments of the States represented on the Social Commission and the Governments of eight other States, not necessarily Members of the United Nations, to be designated by the Economic and Social Council for appropriate terms, with due regard to geographical distribution and to the representation of the major contributing and recipient countries;

(b) During the period of the Fund's existence, as provided in paragraph 6(e), the Board, in accordance with such principles as may be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission, shall, with due regard to the urgency of the needs and available resources, formulate the policies, determine the programmes and allocate the resources of the Fund for the purpose of meeting, through the provision of supplies, training and advice, emergency and long-range needs of children and their continuing needs particularly in under-developed countries, with a view to strengthening, wherever this may be appropriate, the permanent child health and child welfare programmes of the countries receiving assistance;

(c) That the Executive Board shall take all necessary steps to ensure close collaboration between the Administration of the Fund and the specialized agencies, pursuant to the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(d) That the Administration of the Fund shall, as appropriate, obtain from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations having a special interest in child and family welfare the advice and technical assistance which it may require for the implementation of its programmes;

(e) That the General Assembly will again consider the future of the Fund at the expiration of three years, with the object of continuing the Fund on a permanent basis."

4. The policy of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board on the matters treated in this resolution is set out, notably, in the resolution of the First World Health Assembly on UNICEF<sup>3</sup>, in resolution WHA3/50 on Continuing Needs of Children<sup>4</sup>, in the resolution on co-ordination and planning to promote the health and welfare of children adopted by the Executive Board at its 4th Session<sup>5</sup> and in the Board's resolution on continuing needs of children adopted at its 5th Session<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the policies of WHO on co-ordination, notably those set out in the general resolution of the First World Health Assembly on co-ordination<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Off. Rec. World Hlth Org. 13 p.327

<sup>4</sup> Ibid 28 p.34

<sup>5</sup> Ibid 22 p.6

<sup>6</sup> Ibid 25 p.17

<sup>7</sup> Ibid 13 p.329

and resolution EB6.R.10 of the Executive Board on co-ordination and implementation of international health activities<sup>8</sup>, are relevant to this decision, particularly in view of the obligation placed upon WHO by resolutions 324 (XI) B of the Economic and Social Council and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 1950 on concentration of effort and resources<sup>9</sup>. These resolutions are the subject of document EB7/31.

5. It is clear that the decision of the General Assembly on continuing needs of children and UNICEF affects directly the maternal and child health programmes of WHO and indirectly a number of other advisory services. The resolution of the General Assembly is the more significant, because it concerns a field of action which is generally recognized as having priority. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination reported at its 10th Session that, along with economic development, full employment and aid to Korea, "the importance of international action to meet the continuing needs of children has received special emphasis in the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies".<sup>10</sup> The member governments have debated this action, in the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, since the time of the WHO Interim Commission and it appears evident that their divergent policies have not yet been fully reconciled. The Director-General considers it essential that these differences of opinion should in no way hamper the development of adequate and well co-ordinated services within the United Nations and the specialized agencies to assist governments in creating or strengthening national programmes for the benefit of children.

6. The relevant programmes of the United Nations, including those of the Department of Social Affairs and UNICEF, and of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO when fully co-ordinated, would constitute in fact a reasonably comprehensive and

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8  
Ibid 29 p.59

9  
UN Doc E/1810 & A/1589

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UN Document E/1865 p.3

coherent plan for international assistance in this field. In executing WHO's part of this plan, in pursuance of the decisions of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board, the Director-General proposes to emphasize primarily the common objectives of such a plan; consultations within the United Nations system, in respect of such a general plan of reasonably comprehensive and coherent value will have to children and in respect of specific requests from governments, to determine those services which might well be offered jointly by the competent organizations; and effective methods of co-operation among regional offices and regional representatives of the international organizations. In short, every effort will be made to obtain co-ordinated results by ensuring that WHO and the other interested agencies work together both in planning projects with governments and in assisting governments in the execution of the projects. The Director-General considers that it is incumbent upon the administrations of international organizations to give the example of co-ordinated action, especially in relation to programmes for children, since the needs of children cannot be met by any one technical service acting independently.

7. The Director-General requests the opinion of the Board on the general policy stated above.

8. The following paragraphs of the resolution of the General Assembly appear to call for comment at this time:

8.1 Paragraph 5: The fact that this recommendation is addressed to the Economic and Social Council, which is to act in consultation with the specialized agencies, would appear to ensure the co-ordination of the relevant programmes through the existing machinery.

8.2 Paragraph 5a: The activities of the UN to assist national programmes of child welfare were concentrated at first in the war devastated countries of Europe, since, like the work of UNICEF, they were inherited from UNRRA. Increased emphasis on activities to aid children in under-developed areas can be expected to supplement the resources with which WHO, through its regional offices, is able to offer to assist programmes of governments outside Europe.

8.3 Paragraph 5b: With respect to supplies, steps have already been taken in certain cases, particularly in the programmes of technical assistance for economic development, to co-ordinate assistance given to governments by the United Nations organizations with that given through other international arrangements, notably the Commonwealth Plan and the various technical assistance programmes of the USA. Such co-ordination may sometimes enable governments to obtain supplies from sources outside the United Nations system for use in programmes for which they have requested technical assistance from the United Nations or the specialized agencies. The Director-General intends to explore the resources which may well become available through co-ordination of this type for programmes in which WHO may be assisting governments either in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations or independently.

8.4 Paragraph 6a: The Economic and Social Council, on 13 December 1950, designated the following states, in addition to those represented on the Social Commission, to appoint members of the Executive Board of UNICEF:

<u>State</u>	<u>Term</u>
Ceylon	2 years
Dominican Republic	1 year
Indonesia	2 years
Iraq	2 years
Italy	3 years
Switzerland	3 years
Thailand	1 year
Uruguay	3 years

The full membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF, after 1 January, 1951, will therefore be as follows:

Australia	Ecuador	Union of South Africa
Belgium	France	Switzerland
Byelorussian SSR	India	Thailand

Bolivia	Indonesia	USSR
Brazil	Iraq	United Kingdom
Canada	Israel	United States of America
Ceylon	Italy	Uruguay
China	New Zealand	Yugoslavia
Dominican Republic	Turkey	

8.5 Paragraph 6b: The Board will recall in this connexion that the principles laid down by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session for the operation of the Fund included the following:

"B. Relation of Emergency Measures to Existing Problems

Emergency measures shall be so developed and administered as to utilize the permanent child health and welfare programmes of the countries receiving assistance..." (UN document E/437, p.28-29)

The above decision is cited in the preamble of the resolution adopted by the First World Health Assembly<sup>1</sup> and therefore constitutes part of the terms of reference of the Joint Committee on Health Policy, UNICEF/WHO.

8.6 Paragraph 6c and 6d: Provision for consultation and collaboration between the Fund and other organizations was made in the original terms of reference as follows:

Resolution 57(I) paragraph 3(c) "The Board may, as occasions arise, invite representatives of specialized agencies for consultation on matters within their competence."

Resolution 57(I) paragraph 4(c) "To the maximum extent feasible, the utilization of the staff and technical assistance of specialized agencies, in particular the World Health Organization or its Interim Commission, shall be requested, with a view to reducing to a minimum the separate personnel requirements of the Fund."

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<sup>1</sup> Off. Rec. World Hlth Org. 13, p.328

Economic and Social Council Resolution 44 (IV)

"C. Relation to other activities

The Fund shall maintain close relations with other relief agencies and in particular with the other activities of the United Nations, including appropriate specialized agencies and the Department of Social Affairs..."

8.7 The provisions made in paragraph 6c and 6d appear to be consistent with the position adopted by the United Nations and specialized agencies concerned at the meeting of 23-24 August (see paragraph 1 above).

8.8 Subject to reservation concerning the principles to be laid down by the Economic and Social Council, the Director-General considers that paragraphs 6c and 6d, together with the clause cited above from paragraph 6b and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on concentration of effort and resources, lay down satisfactory principles for collaboration between UNICEF and WHO within the framework of the whole plan of action of the United Nations and specialized agencies to assist national programmes for children.

9. In view of the above, the Board may wish to postpone any decision on the action to be taken to continue or modify the Joint Committee on Health Policy until after the Economic and Social Council has formulated the principles concerning the administration of the Fund. In that case, it would still be necessary for the Board to state its position concerning the Joint Committee on Health Policy, at a later date, to the Executive Board of UNICEF and to the Social Commission.

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ENGLISH ONLY

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## CORRIGENDUM

Page 5 - Delete the first sentence and substitute the following:

"In executing WHO's part of this plan, in pursuance of the decisions of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board, the Director-General proposes to emphasize primarily the common objectives of such a plan; consultations within the United Nations system, in respect of specific requests from governments, to determine those services which might well be offered jointly by the competent organizations; and effective methods of co-operation among regional offices and regional representatives of the international organizations."

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## A D D E N D U M

The Director-General has the honour to communicate to the Board the text of a letter he has received from the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 1950 on Long-Range Activities for Children; UNICEF, together with the text of a note to the Secretary-General from the Executive Director of UNICEF.

4 January 1951

"Dear Dr. Chisholm,

The text of the resolution adopted on 2 December (sic) by the General Assembly concerning long-range activities for children will be communicated to you today under separate cover. As you are no doubt aware, the final text was amended in the plenary session with a view to laying greater emphasis on the desirability of strengthening the permanent programmes of the countries receiving assistance.

Although certain provisions safeguarding the position of the specialized agencies which had appeared in the Economic and Social Council's resolution, and for which the Secretary-General had pressed, were not adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General feels confident that the General Assembly's resolution will allow of a smooth and wholehearted co-operation between UNICEF, the specialized agencies and the Social Affairs

Department of the United Nations Secretariat; and that the working relationships at the administrative level that have been developed between the various organizations concerned will be maintained and strengthened. In this connexion, I attach for your information the text of a note which the Secretary-General has received from the Executive Director of UNICEF.

Yours sincerely,

A.D.K. Owen  
Acting Secretary-General"

"Dear Mr. Lie,

In accordance with my earlier conversations with Mr. Martin Hill, I am happy to confirm to you my desire to maintain the existing UNICEF arrangements with the various specialized agencies, and in particular with WHO and the FAO.

I have already indicated to Dr. Chisholm of the WHO and to Mr. McDougall, acting for Mr. Dodd, of the FAO, my position on our relationships, but please feel authorized to inform any of the agencies concerned of my feeling in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice Pate  
Executive Director"