

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB9/AF/Min/8 Rev. 1  
17 March 1952

Ninth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
RESTRICTED

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Falais des Nations, Geneva

Thursday, 10 January 1952, at 3.0 p.m.

CONTENTS

1. Biennial Assemblies (continuation)
2. Programme and Budget Estimates for 1953 (continuation)

Eighth Meeting

Thursday, 10 January 1952, at 3.0 p.m.

Present

Designating Country

Dr. A.L. BRAVO, Chairman

Chile

Professor M. De LAET, Vice-Chairman

Belgium

Dr. F.J. BRADY

United States of America

Dr. J.A. HOJER

Sweden

Dr. Melville MACKENZIE

United Kingdom

Dr. R.G. PADUA

Philippines

Secretary: Dr. P. DOROLLE  
Deputy Director-General

1. BIENNIAL ASSEMBLIES: Item 21.1 of the Agenda (document EB9/AF/1)  
(continuation)

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the committee should now turn to the consideration of pages 10, 11 and 12 of document EB9/AF/1. These pages dealt with powers which had already been delegated by the Assembly to the Board and with powers which the Board might wish to recommend should be delegated to itself. He proposed that each item should be dealt with individually.

(a) Article 18 (i): Recommendations on health made by the United Nations

It was agreed that no amendment to this article should be recommended to the Board.

(b) Article 18 (j): Reports to the Economic and Social Council

Dr. BRADY said that, in view of the discussion which had taken place on this point at the previous meeting, he considered that a recommendation should be made to delete the following words from the resolution of the First World Health Assembly: "...as approved by the Health Assembly..."

This proposal was accepted for inclusion in the report of the committee.

(c) Articles 19 and 21: Adoption of conventions, agreements and international regulations

In response to Dr. RAE, alternate to Dr. Mackenzie, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he did not feel that the Board required any further authority because "recommended practices" were mainly experimental and were constantly changing. If, at some future date, the Board wished to define these practices, there should be no difficulty in such a procedure.

Dr. MACKENZIE believed that the purpose of the proposal was that the Board should be empowered to define "recommended practices", particularly in the case of the International Sanitary Regulations. When, for example, recommendations were

received from an expert committee regarding the manner of disinsecting of aircraft, the Board would be entitled to make recommendations on that point to governments, within the framework of the Sanitary Regulations.

It was agreed that the committee should recommend to the Board that no amendment be made in these articles.

(d) Article 44(b): Establishing regional organizations

Dr. BRADY said that it did not seem necessary for this article to be maintained, since it was not probable that any further regional organizations would be established.

Professor De LAET said that it was important to bear in mind the distinction between the definition of a regional area and the establishment of a regional organization.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that the definition of a regional area was a function of the Assembly, while the establishment of a regional organization was a power which had been delegated to the Board. It might be advisable to maintain this article in case, at any future date, the Assembly decided to define another regional area.

It was agreed that the committee should recommend no amendment to this article.

(e) Article 64: Determination of manner in which statistical and epidemiological reports are to be submitted

Dr. MACKENZIE said that he did not feel that the power under this article should be delegated to the Board. The production of statistical reports was a complicated matter and varied considerably as between countries; any alterations

in the instructions regarding the manner in which statistical and epidemiological reports were to be produced might involve governments in extremely heavy expenditure; he did not believe that governments would be willing to hand over to the Board the power to issue such instructions; he thought they would prefer to discuss such matters in the Assembly where their delegations could include statistical advisers.

Professor De LAET thought that the Board was the more suitable body to deal with the matter since it consisted of experienced medical administrators.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that the Board was competent to make recommendations regarding the form of the reports to the Assembly but he believed that Dr. Mackenzie was right in considering that governments would prefer to discuss the matter in the Assembly, in view of their constitutional obligations to accept instructions as to the form of the reports, and the consequent financial factors involved.

Dr. HOJER felt that this power should be delegated to the Board.

On the proposal of Dr. Mackenzie, a vote was taken. The result of the voting showed that the committee, with Dr. Hojer dissenting, was not in favour of making a recommendation that these powers should be delegated to the Board.

M. ZARB, Chief, Legal Office, suggested that the report of the committee would be improved if Article 64 were added to the list of those powers which the committee believed should remain vested in the Assembly.

On the proposal of Dr. Mackenzie, it was agreed that Article 64 should be inserted between Article 44(a) and Article 72 on page 9 of document EB9/AF/1 and that mention should be made in the text of the fact that there had been disagreement

(f) Article 71: Relations with non-governmental organizations

It was agreed that no amendment was necessary.

(g) Article 76: Requests for advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice

M. ZARB said that, under the terms of paragraph 3 of Article I of the Agreement between WHO and the United Nations, the Board could be authorized by the Assembly to request advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice. Since, however, each such authorization had to be obtained separately from the Assembly, the Board might wish to recommend that it should receive a more general authorization. There was a precedent in the case of UNESCO, where such a general authorization had been given by the Assembly to the Executive Board.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that a general authorization from the Assembly would be advisable.

There was no comment on the three paragraphs of text on page 12 of document EB9/AF/1 and the Committee decided to approve Chapter II, Section B, as amended.

2. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES for 1953: Item 20 of the Agenda (documents EB9/19 and "List of new projects to be started in 1953")

The Americas

The CHAIRMAN asked that the Regional Director of the Regional Office for the Americas should give a brief introduction to the discussion on new projects for the Americas.

Dr. SOPER, Director, Regional Office for the Americas, referred to the summaries of individual projects in pages 271 to 311 of document EB9/19. These were adequate considering that the projects had been drawn up by members of the staff of WHO as a result of their observations on the probable needs of the

countries in question, and of informal discussions with representatives of the governments concerned more than one and a half years before any of the projects could be carried out. In the case of the project on garbage disposal for Brazil, for example, it was quite clear that the need for such a project would exist, since the considerable industrial development of the country had not been accompanied by similar advances in the disposal of industrial waste.

In reply to Dr. Brady, Mr. SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance, said that it was specifically stated in document EB9/19 Add.3 that the cost of fellowships would be shown in the budget as a part of the cost of a project and not under a separate heading.

Dr. SOPER said, in reply to Dr. Padua, that as regards venereal-disease-control it was intended to provide training by means of a seminar in Sao Paulo. The training of serologists had already begun in the Faculty of Hygiene of this university and it was intended that it should become the centre of training for venereal-disease-control for several countries of Latin America. The Dean of the Faculty had been for some time the Assistant Director of the Regional Office for the Americas so that good relations between WHO and the Faculty could confidently be expected.

Mr. BLAISDELL, adviser to Dr. Brady, referring to document EB9/19, page 320 (Brazil), asked how the figure of \$60,000 given as the estimated contribution of the government had been reached, if no detailed discussions with governments had yet taken place.

Dr. SOPER said that it was not possible to obtain firm commitments from governments for contributions so far in advance of the probable starting date of the projects; however, all the items on the list before the Committee had been

discussed by the Regional Committee, on which the governments concerned were represented.

Mr. SIEGEL said that the amounts shown for estimated contributions from governments reflected the estimates made by those governments of the costs which would be met by them in local currency. The estimates had been included with the approval of the governments concerned but were not intended to represent either maximum or minimum figures for the eventual contributions.

Dr. SOPER said that he would like to stress the importance of the project for setting up a cardioliipin production centre in Chile. It had been found, in venereal-disease-control programmes in tropical countries, that considerable numbers of false-positive reactions had been obtained when Wassermann, Kahn and other similar tests were used; much better results were achieved with cardioliipin but it was difficult to obtain adequate supplies of a proper antigen; a production centre in Latin America would provide the answer to the problem. The new project for a garbage disposal programme in Chile had grown out of a survey made by the Organization. It was expected that the health demonstration area, which had already been surveyed, would be operating during the course of 1952 so that the project would be a continuing one in 1953.

In reply to Dr. PADUA, the CHAIRMAN said that there was only one health demonstration area planned in one province of Chile.

Dr. SOPER said that the area for the project was one in which there had been considerable industrial development and in which there were many health problems.



Dr. HOJER said at this point that he did not think it necessary for the committee to have an explanation of all the projects for the Americas, as they formed part of the general programme.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that the committee should examine only the new projects and those which involved the expenditure of large amounts.

Dr. SOPER said that, although the details of all the projects for the Americas were given in the Programme and Budget Estimates (document EB9/19), he wished to call attention particularly to one new project, the Tuberculosis Control Programme for Jamaica (page 294, EB9/19).

Except for some previous work on insect control - particularly the eradication of Aedes aegypti - and malaria control in one or two areas, that project was the first real project among the non-self-governing territories in the Caribbean area; he thought that it deserved special mention for that reason.

The CHAIRMAN asked the committee to note the other comments on the same subject, under Ecuador and Guatemala respectively (pages 286 and 290, EB9/19).

Dr. SOPER also called attention to the proposed activities under the head, Inter-Country Programmes (page 308). Such programmes had been developed particularly under technical assistance and with the Organization of American States. Experiments carried out during the past two years, in bringing together in the Latin American countries workers from those countries and giving them an opportunity to receive intensive training under the conditions in which they would work, had proved more useful than spending time and money in sending them to the United States for training, for which, amongst other things, they were obliged to have a knowledge of English.

Dr. HOJER considered that such training was very good and that the ten inter-country projects could serve as a model of what should be done in the regions.

Dr. SOPER then explained the symposium - or, as it was called in the United States of America, workshop - method of training. He said that two-and-a-half years ago, the nursing section of his region had prepared and carried out a course of training for nursing supervisors in Santiago, Chile.

The number of girls trained, who came from Chile and the surrounding countries, was relatively small and, as at that time there were no Latin-American workers available who had been trained in the technique, the expense of the initial experiment had been approximately the same as it would have been had the same number of girls been sent to the United States for three months. However, the results of that training had proved far superior to what could have been achieved by spending the same amount of money in sending the girls to the United States.

A second workshop seminar had been held last year in Central America, and the favourable reports received from disinterested observers showed that the method of giving special training to professional personnel was preferable except when the general course in public-health was indicated.

Mr. MEILS, adviser to Dr. Mackenzie, referred to the amount of \$320,000 shown as the Guatemalan government's contribution to that country's programme for 1953 (page 345). He said that, as Guatemala had not paid its contributions to the Organization since 1948, he felt some doubt about that estimate.

Dr. SOPER said that, whilst he could not give details of the particular items, Guatemala was spending, and had spent, a great deal of money on the programmes for the country. In the control of typhus, for example, in which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau had collaborated since 1943, the Guatemalan Government had not hesitated to contribute to the fund for carrying out the project. There was also under construction, at government cost, a new building for the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama.

Although the Government of Guatemala had for several years been in arrears with its contributions to the PASB, its payments to the regional office had now been brought up to, but not including, 1951.

Mr. SIEGEL said that the Government of Guatemala had recently informed the Organization that it was hoped to complete the legislative processes to enable the country's payments (1948-1952) to be made about July of the present year.

Mr. MELLIS said that this latest information, of which he had not been aware, was very encouraging.

The meeting rose at 5.0 p.m.

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PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva

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2. Programme and Budget Estimates for 1953 (continuation)

Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should be submitted in writing to Mr. Richards, room 401-5, within 48 hours of their distribution or as soon as possible thereafter.

Eighth Meeting

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Belgium

Dr. F.J. BRADY

United States of America

Dr. J.A. HOJER

Sweden

Dr. R.G. PADUA

Philippines

Dr. Melville MACKENZIE

United Kingdom

Secretary: Dr. P. DOROLLE  
Deputy Director-General

1. BIENNIAL ASSEMBLIES: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (document EB9/AF/1)  
(continuation)

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the committee should now turn to the consideration of pages 10,11 and 12 of document EB9/AF/1. These pages dealt with powers which had already been delegated by the Assembly to the Board and with powers which the Board might wish to recommend should be delegated to itself. He proposed that each item should be dealt with individually.

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It was agreed that no amendment to this article should be recommended to the Board.

(b) Article 18 (j): Reports to the Economic and Social Council

Dr. BRADY said that, in view of the discussion which had taken place on this point at the previous meeting, he considered that a recommendation should be made to delete the following words from the resolution of the First World Health Assembly: "...as approved by the Health Assembly..."

This proposal was accepted for inclusion in the report of the committee.

(c) Articles 19 and 21: Adoption of conventions, agreements and international regulations

In response to Dr. Rae, alternate to Dr. Mackenzie, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he did not feel that the Board required any further authority because "recommended practices" were mainly experimental and were constantly changing. If, at some future date, the Board wished to define these practices, there should be no difficulty in such a procedure.

Dr. MACKENZIE believed that the purpose of the proposal was that the Board should be empowered to define "recommended practices", particularly in the case of the International Sanitary Regulations. When, for example, recommendations were

received from an expert committee regarding the manner of disinsectization of aircraft, the Board would be entitled to make recommendations on this point to governments, within the framework of the Sanitary Regulations.

It was agreed that the committee should recommend to the Board that no amendment be made in these articles.

(d) Article 44(b): Establishing regional organizations

Dr. BRADY said that it did not seem necessary for this article to be maintained, since it was not probable that any further regional organizations would be established.

Professor De LAET said that it was important to bear in mind the distinction between the definition of a regional area and the establishment of a regional organization.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that the definition of a regional area was a function of the Assembly, while the establishment of a regional organization was a power which had been delegated to the Board. It might be advisable to maintain this article in case, at any future date, the Assembly decided to define another regional area.

It was agreed that the committee should recommend no amendment to this article.

(e) Article 64: Determination of manner in which statistical and epidemiological reports are to be submitted

Dr. MACKENZIE said that he did not feel that the power under this article should be delegated to the Board. The production of statistical reports was a complicated matter and varied considerably as between countries; any alterations

in the instructions regarding the manner in which these reports were to be produced might involve governments in extremely heavy expenditure; he did not believe that governments would be willing to hand over to the Board the power to issue such instructions; he thought they would prefer to discuss such matters in the Assembly where their delegations could include statistical advisers.

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Dr. HOJER felt that this power should be delegated to the Board.

On the proposal of Dr. Mackenzie, a vote was taken. The result of the voting showed that the committee, with Dr. Hojer dissenting, was not in favour of making a recommendation that these powers should be delegated to the Board.

M. ZARB, Chief, Legal Office, suggested that the report of the committee would be improved if Article 64 were added to the list of those powers which the committee believed should remain vested in the Assembly.

On the proposal of Dr. Mackenzie, it was agreed that Article 64 should be inserted between Article 44(a) and Article 72 on page 9 of document EB9/AF/1 and that mention should be made in the text of the fact that there had been disagreement in the committee regarding this recommendation.



(f) Article 71: Relations with non-governmental organizations

It was agreed that no amendment was necessary.

(g) Article 76: Requests for advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice

M. ZARB said that, under the terms of paragraph 3 of Article X of the Agreement between WHO and the United Nations, the Board could be authorized by the Assembly to request advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice. Since, however, each such authorization had to be obtained separately from the Assembly, the Board might wish to recommend that it should receive a more general authorization. There was a precedent in the case of UNESCO, where such a general authorization had been given by the Assembly to the Executive Board.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that a general authorization from the Assembly would be advisable.

There was no comment on the three paragraphs of text on page 12 of document EB9/AF/1 and the Committee decided to approve Chapter II, Section B, as amended.

2. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES for 1953; Item I of the Agenda (documents EB9/19 and "List of new projects to be started in 1953")

The CHAIRMAN asked that the Regional Director of the Regional Office for the Americas should give a brief introduction to the discussion on new projects for the Americas.

Dr. SOPER, Director, Regional Office for the Americas, referred to the summaries of individual projects in pages 271 to 311 of document EB9/19. These were adequate considering that the projects had been drawn up by members of the staff of WHO as a result of their observations on the probable needs of the

countries in question, and of informal discussions with representatives of the governments concerned more than one and a half years before any of the projects could be carried out. In the case of the project on garbage disposal for Brazil, for example, it was quite clear that the need for such a project would exist, since the considerable industrial development of the country had not been accompanied by similar advances in the disposal of industrial waste.

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