

Annex 3REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME BUDGET¹1 Introduction

The Sub-Committee on Programme Budget held a preliminary meeting on 22 August 1978. Professor J. Suliанти Saroso (Indonesia) was elected Chairman. At this meeting, the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 (document SEA/RC31/3), as well as the other working papers (SEA/RC31/PB/WP1, 2 and 3) relevant to the terms of reference adopted by the Regional Committee (SEA/RC31/4), were introduced and explained. The Chairman also advised on the usual procedure of work of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee met again on 24 and 25 August 1978 to review the programme of the South-East Asia Region in accordance with its terms of reference and to finalize its report.

The meetings were attended by the following:

Dr U Aung Thein	Burma
Dr Ho Myong Hun	DPRK
Dr Jang In Won	DPRK
Dr Kwon Sung Yon	DPRK
Mr N.N. Vohra	India
Dr R. Soebekti	Indonesia
Professor J. Suliанти Saroso	Indonesia (Chairman)
Mr Ahmed Ali Didi	Maldives
Dr Z. Jadambaa	Mongolia
Dr L. Budjav	Mongolia
Dr Prakorb Tuchinda	Thailand
Dr Samlee Plienbangchang	Thailand

2 Report of the Meeting on Allocation of Resources between Countries Held on 28-29 February 1978 in New Delhi

The Sub-Committee took note of the report of the meeting on resource allocation between countries, held on 28 and 29 February 1978. While endorsing the conclusions of the aforesaid meeting, it was agreed that the resource allocation parameters should be further refined. The Sub-Committee wished to bring this to the attention of the forthcoming meeting which will be convened by the Regional Director prior to allocating resources for the 1982-1983 programme budget, and expressed the view that a prior study of the documentation that will be prepared by the secretariat and efforts to make available official up-to-date statistical information by the Member countries would be of great use to the meeting.

The representative from DPRK pointed out that although his government had agreed to the resource allocation for 1980-1981, based on the resource allocation formula as recommended, it had not accepted the

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statistical data in respect of DPRK, that had been used in the formula, as such information had not been made available by the Government of DPRK.

3 Examination of the 1977 financial implementation

The relevant working paper on the 1977 financial implementation was discussed in depth. The quality of the document was commended and some suggestions were made to make the working paper even more useful in future. The Sub-Committee expressed satisfaction that the available resources had been utilized to 100% in spite of the fact that some programme components had not been implemented according to the original plan and therefore had had to be reprogrammed in consultation with the Member States.

The Sub-Committee was advised that similar information on project delivery for the current year was available with the Regional Office and the WHO Programme Coordinators as part of the internal programme monitoring system. The Sub-Committee agreed that closer monitoring of the current programme by the national authorities on the basis of such information would further improve delivery of the programme according to plan and recommended to Member States that they pay closer attention to this.

4 Examination of the 1978 and 1979 inter-country programme

The Sub-Committee reviewed the relevant working paper and felt that it gave a clear picture of the interest and usefulness of the inter-country programme to the Member countries. The Sub-Committee decided that similar information on the status of the inter-country programme should continue to be provided, inter alia, in conjunction with the presentation of the budget details for the 1980-1981 inter-country programme.

5 General review of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981

The Sub-Committee noted that the proposed programme budget had been drafted and presented in a new format as discussed and endorsed by the Regional Committee in 1976 and 1977. It also noted with satisfaction that the distribution of resources complied fully with the criteria established by the meeting on allocation of resources between countries held on 28-29 February 1978. As the proposals had been worked out in close collaboration with the Member countries, and the flexibility in programme budgeting had increased as a result of the new procedures, the Sub-Committee was in agreement with the proposal.

In the light of the discussions in the current session of the Regional Committee on the development of a network of national medical libraries, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Regional Committee request the Regional Director to consider an increase in the allocation of funds for this purpose.

With regard to resolution SEA/RC29/R1 on the allocation of resources for monitoring and coordinating research in the South-East Asia Region, the Sub-Committee noted that the proposals for 1980-1981 included an allocation

of more than 5% of the regular budget for the promotion and development of biomedical and health services research under the inter-country programme.

Referring to resolution WHA29.48 the Sub-Committee was pleased to note that the proposals for 1980-1981 showed an increase in direct technical cooperation, which was well above the target of 60%. The Sub-Committee also noted with satisfaction the compliance with operative paragraph 1 (1) (d) of the same resolution, in regard to the optimum use of the technical and administrative resources available in the individual developing countries. The use of national managers and national consultants in several Member States, the increased procurement of supplies and equipment from within the Region and other appropriate measures were mentioned.