

In view of its general interest Document EBl7/32 has been circulated to all Members and Associate Members.

In addition, the attention of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been drawn to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board so as to enable that State, if it so desires, to designate a representative to be present at the time of the discussion of the relevant item.

MH/AF/59.55

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Seventeenth Session

Provisional agenda item 7.2



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

EB17/32 ✓

15 December 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTIFICATION BY THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Director-General wishes to report on the background and the development concerning participation in the World Health Organization of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was already a Member of the United Nations when it signed the Constitution of the World Health Organization in July 1946. Upon the deposit of its instrument of acceptance of the WHO Constitution with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 24 March 1948, it became a Member of the World Health Organization, in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution.

By telegram of 12 February 1949 the Deputy Minister of Public Health of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics informed the Director-General that the Union no longer considered itself a Member of the World Health Organization.

The matter was placed on the Agenda of the third session of the Executive Board in 1949; at this session the Executive Board adopted a resolution whereby it decided that the matter be brought before the Second World Health Assembly.¹

The Second World Health Assembly and the Third World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA2.90 and WHA3.84 respectively, the texts of which are reproduced in Annexes 1 and 2 of this document.

Subsequently, the Seventh World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA7.16 on Future Scales of Assessment, the third paragraph of which reads as follows:

"3. Invites the Member States which have not been actively participating in the work of the Organization to resume full participation at the earliest date."

¹ Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 17, 19

2. On 8 July 1955, during the Twentieth Session of the Economic and Social Council 869th meeting, when Agenda Item 3 - "World Social Situation" - was discussed, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made the following statement:

"... the Soviet Union delegation considered that United Nations activities in the field of public health were extremely important and that the World Health Organization (WHO) was doing useful work. In order to extend its share of international cooperation in the medical field the Soviet Union was joining WHO."¹

3. After this statement had been made official contacts were established between the Director-General and the Ministry of Public Health of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It results from these contacts that the position of the Government of the USSR is as follows:

(a) the USSR is prepared to resume active participation in the work of the World Health Organization;

(b) the USSR is prepared to pay its contribution for the year 1948 when it considered that it participated actively in the work of the Organization. In addition, the USSR is also prepared to reimburse the Organization for the expenses incurred during the following years in sending documentation to the USSR.

(c) the USSR recognizes that the question of financial relations between the Union and the Organization cannot be dealt with separately since it forms part of the general problem of the relations between the WHO and the other Members placed in the same position.

4. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has no objection that the matter be referred to the Executive Board and subsequently to the World Health Assembly for consideration.

¹ Document E/SR.869, United Nations Economic and Social Council Twentieth Session, p. 31, para. 23.

RESOLUTION WHA2.90

Whereas the Vice-Minister of Health of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Vice-Minister of Health of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Vice-Minister of Health of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, expressing their dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the work of WHO, have notified the Director-General that their States no longer consider themselves Members of the World Health Organization;

Whereas the objective of the World Health Organization is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, which involves the co-operation of all countries; and

Whereas this principle has been proclaimed by these States at the First World Health Assembly,

The Second World Health Assembly,

Regretting deeply the absence of representatives of these States from the Assembly and, in the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, of members of the Executive Board;

Recognizing the consequent loss to the work of the Organization; and

Taking note of the observations in the communications sent to the Director-General; and

Hoping that these States will in the near future wish to reconsider their position,

- (1) INVITES them to reconsider their intention and join if possible the present and following sessions of the Health Assembly and, in the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, those of the Executive Board; and in any event
- (2) Fully APPROVES the steps taken in this regard by the Executive Board and the Director-General;
- (3) REQUESTS the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Director-General to continue endeavours to prevail upon the said States and their responsible authorities to change their decision and to report to the Third World Health Assembly on the results of such endeavours; and
- (4) RECOMMENDS that States Members of the Organization take such steps as they may deem suitable in order that the said States may reconsider their decision.

RESOLUTION WHA3.84

The Third World Health Assembly,

Having noted the communications received from the Vice-Minister of Health of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Vice-Minister of Health of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Vice-Minister of Health of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Minister of Health of the People's Republic of Roumania, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Albania, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, notifying the Director-General that their States no longer consider themselves Members of the World Health Organization,

RESOLVES that while the World Health Organization will always welcome the resumption by these Members of full co-operation in the work of the Organization, it is not considered that any further action at this stage is desirable.