

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB23/AF/Min/12 Rev.1
10 March 1959

Twenty-third Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Tuesday, 27 January 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr H. van Zile HYDE

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Twelfth Meeting

Tuesday, 27 January 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Designating Country</u>
Dr H. van Zile HYDE, <u>Chairman and Rapporteur</u>	United States of America
Professor G. A. CANAPERIA, <u>Rapporteur</u>	Italy
Dr A. J. METCALFE	Australia
Dr M. C. SHOIS	United Arab Republic
Dr Jaswant SINGH	India
Dr J. N. TOGBA	Liberia
Professor V. M. ZHDANOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Secretary: Dr P. M. DOROLLE
Deputy Director-General

1. ADOPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Item 12 of the Agenda (Document EB23/AF/WP/25)

The CHAIRMAN emphasized that the Standing Committee's only responsibility at the present stage in respect of its preliminary draft report was to ensure that it reflected accurately its decisions and recommendations to the Executive Board. Any point of substance could be raised at a later stage in the Board itself.

Dr DOROLLE, Deputy Director-General, introducing the main outlines of the report, observed that Chapter I contained, in accordance with past procedure, background information which had been brought up to date and was of a purely factual nature. Chapter II was an analysis of the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1960 contained in Official Records No. 89 and of the manner in which they were presented for consideration. Chapter III described the budgetary procedures followed in the computation of the estimates. It would be noted that, from Chapter III onwards, each chapter contained observations made by the Standing Committee, as framed by the Rapporteurs.

With Chapter IV there began the main body of the report. That chapter contained a detailed explanation for the increases proposed for 1960 as compared with 1959, giving an analysis under budgetary chapters and including the comments made in the discussions of the Standing Committee. Chapter V dealt with an important aspect of the Standing Committee's terms of reference, namely, the formulation of questions of major importance for consideration by the Board, as well as other

matters studied by the Committee. The section relating to the Working Capital Fund Resolution took into account the decision of the Executive Board on the substance of the matter.

A renumbering of the items in the report, in order to make it conform more closely with the presentation of Official Records No. 89, would be necessary. He would suggest, however, that the Secretariat be made responsible for that task once the report had been adopted by the Standing Committee and before it was submitted to the Executive Board.

He would call attention to a number of typographical errors at the appropriate juncture in the discussion of the report.

Chapters I-III

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL called attention to two minor typographical errors in Chapter I which would be corrected in the final text. In Chapter II, the reference in the seventh line of section 4.1, on page 35, to the amount of \$ 16 330 400 should be amended to \$ 16 330 900.

Chapter IV

Following a point raised by Professor CANAPERIA, Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, agreed that the manner in which the percentage of increase was shown in section 2.1 on page 57 and in the subsequent sections was somewhat misleading. It would accordingly be preferable to give that information under the following titles: amount of increase as compared with 1959; percentage of

increase as compared with 1959; and percentage of increase as compared with the total increase. As a consequence of such an amendment, the first words of section 2.1.1 would be amended to read: "Of this increase . . . "

It was so agreed.

In reply to a query by Dr TOGBA, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the title above the percentage figures given in section 2.5 on page 59 might be amended to read: "Percentage of total increase". The information on the actual amounts involved in 1959 was contained in Appendix 5, which had been prepared at the request of the Standing Committee. That information was complementary to the tables showing percentage comparisons between 1959 and 1960 in Appendix 4.

He suggested further that, in the interests of clarity, it might be useful to include specific mention of Official Records No. 89 in the titles of the sections throughout Part II of the chapter, in spite of the fact that an explanation was given in the comments on page 65 that the page references were to that volume.

It was so agreed.

Following a point raised by Dr TOGBA, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the words "not at the Regional Office" be inserted in the table on page 67 in respect of the venue for 1960 of the session of the Regional Committee for the Americas. The existing blank space might cause confusion.

It was so agreed.

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Mr SIEGEL, commenting on the information given in the tables concerning consultant services and duty travel in sections 8 and 9 respectively, suggested that the presentation could be improved by amending the tables so that they included the decrease in the requirements and the net increase figures, which were at present shown in a separate sentence in the sections.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN noted that it might be desirable, when the Committee came to consider the part of the report relating to changes in the organizational structure of the Secretariat, and the proposed establishment in 1960 of a fourth post of Assistant Director-General under the heading "Other Questions of Major Importance to be discussed by the Board" for a cross-reference to be made to the information given in section 4.1 on pages 88-92.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL called attention to the fact that a section had been omitted in error on page 100, namely, section "4.6.5 Health Education of the Public (pages 36, 37 and 58)", with the following text: "The Committee noted that no change in the staffing pattern was proposed".

He also called attention to an error in section 4.10 on page 105, in the last line of which, after the words "increase in", there should be inserted the words "the number of pages of".

Referring to section 4.12, paragraph 2 (page 105), he suggested that, in the interests of clarity, the second and third sentences be deleted and the following words be added at the end of the first sentence: "and he needed some assistance in the field of statistical methodology".

It was so agreed.

In reply to a point raised by Dr TOGBA, Mr SIEGEL agreed to supply further details regarding the net decrease of \$ 8773 shown in the common services costs referred to in sub-paragraph 6(d) on page 116. As far as he could recall, the main item of that decrease had been due to a decrease in the requirements for office equipment.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the sentence contained at the end of the comments on each region, i.e. on pages 122, 127, 130, 133 and 139, stating that the Committee had no further comment, was superfluous and might be omitted.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that paragraph 5 on page 146 be amended to read:
"The Committee considered that the procedures for developing the health programme proposed to be financed from funds provided under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance appeared to be unnecessarily complex".

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Mr SIEGEL believed it might be useful to include a further sentence in the same paragraph, stating: "The Committee understands that this question will be studied by the Board under item 5.1 of its agenda".

It was so agreed.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL called attention to a typing error in paragraph 1.3 on page 148. The reference to Annex 6 should be replaced by a reference to Annex 4.

Mr SIEGEL informed the Committee that some revision would be necessary of the figure of 8.4 million dollars given in paragraph 14.2 on page 153. He hoped to be able to provide the Board with a more accurate figure, now that preliminary year-end information was becoming available.

Chapter V

Mr SIEGEL suggested that the last sentence in the last paragraph of (3) in section 1.2 (page 157) should form a separate paragraph, since it applied to the whole of (3) and not only to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

It was so agreed.

Mr SIEGEL believed that it had only been suggested in the Committee that MESA should be kept as a separate account, so that the word "possible" might be inserted before the word "exception" in the second sentence of the last paragraph in section 7.3 (page 171).

Dr SINGH thought that the Committee had taken a definite decision about MESA being kept separate and that no modification of the text was therefore required.

It was so agreed.

Mr SIEGEL suggested that the last sentence in the last paragraph of section 7.3 should be reconsidered. The Director-General believed that it might be premature for him to report to the present session of the Board about the multiplicity of special accounts. He could study the matter in a more comprehensive manner once the Twelfth World Health Assembly had taken the relevant decisions and would therefore prefer to report to the Board at its twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth session.

The CHAIRMAN believed that the decision about the postponement of the Director-General's report should be left to the Board.

It was so agreed.

Dr TOGBA asked whether the amount left blank in sub-paragraph (i) in section 9.1.1 (page 172) could be inserted.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL explained that the draft Appropriation Resolution was submitted by the Board with the amounts left blank and they were filled in by the Assembly.

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He then explained that a footnote should be inserted against the blank in paragraph 1 of the draft Working Capital Fund Resolution reproduced in section 10.3 (page 178). The footnote should read "The amount as at 31 December 1958 was US\$ 3 402 525, which amount may be revised by 30 April 1959".

Decision: The report, as amended, was adopted.

2. **PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 1960 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AT THE TWELFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: Item 11 of the Agenda (Document EB23/32)**

Mr SIEGEL said that the two suggested resolutions in sections 2 and 3 of document EB23/32 followed the practice of previous years when the Committee had approved similar draft resolutions for submission to the Board, which in turn recommended them to the Health Assembly. It would be remembered that consideration of the question of Assembly procedures for examining the programme and budget estimates had been postponed by the Board.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL suggested that those recommendations, if approved, could form Chapter VI in the Standing Committee's report.

In reply to a question by Dr TOGBA about a proposed change in the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, Mr SIEGEL explained that, as far as the next Assembly was concerned, the amendment could not come into force early enough to affect the matters dealt with in the two draft resolutions.

Decision: It was agreed to recommend the adoption of the two draft resolutions contained in document EB23/32.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

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Twenty-third Session



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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should be submitted in writing to the Chief, Records Service, Room A.369, within 48 hours of their distribution or as soon as possible thereafter.

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