

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Eighth Session
Hong Kong
5-11 September 1957

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

WP/RC8/16
28 August 1957

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Regional Director has the honour to submit to the Regional Committee a letter received from the Government of Viet Nam on the subject of: "Amendment to the Rules of Procedure". The request did not reach the Regional Office until 26 August 1957 - too late to include the item on the supplementary agenda in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure.

The agreement of the Committee is therefore sought to the inclusion of this additional item on the agenda.

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Proposal by the Government of Viet Nam)

Letter, reference 14153 BV/GD, dated 12 August 1957, from the Secretary of State for Health transmitted to the Regional Director by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on 15 August 1957.

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

According to this rule, "a majority of Members shall constitute a quorum" in the conduct of business. According to Rule 1 of the same Rules of Procedure, the term "Member" implies both to Member States and Associate Members.

However, according to the "Rights and Obligations of Associate Members and Other Territories in the Regional Organizations" (Basic Documents, 7th Edition, page 23), Associate Members have no vote in plenary meetings (sessions) of the Regional Committee nor in sub-divisions thereof dealing with financial or constitutional matters.

On this same question of the conduct of business, Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (Basic Documents, 7th Edition, page 109) says: "A majority of the Members represented at the session shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at plenary meetings of the Health Assembly" but here, the word "Members" means Member States (Basic Documents, 7th Edition, page 96).

Should the quorum at the Regional Committee be constituted by Member States in full possession of their right (and not by Associate Member States), the word "Members" in Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee should be replaced by another expression which could not be misinterpreted (for instance: Member States).

Although there are not yet any Associate Members in the Western Pacific Region, I should be grateful to you if you would kindly place this matter on the supplementary agenda for the eighth session of the Regional Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Signed: Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs