



COMMITTEE B

INDEXED

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TENTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Tuesday, 21 May 1974, at 10.10 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr M. A. CHOWDHRY (Pakistan)

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Note: Corrections to this provisional summary record should reach the Chief, Editorial Services, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, before 5 July 1974.

1. FIFTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE B (Document A27/B/7)

At the request of the Chairman, Dr BADDOO (Ghana), Rapporteur, read out the draft fifth report of the Committee (document A27/B/7).

Decision: The fifth report of Committee B was adopted.

2. WHO'S HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME: Item 2.7 of the Agenda (Resolution WHA26.58; Documents A27/14 and Corr.1, A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.7, A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 and A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9) (concluded)

The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Austria and Ghana had expressed the wish to be cosponsors of the draft resolutions introduced by the Belgian delegate at the previous meeting (documents A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 and No.9).

Professor LEOWSKI (Poland) commended the Director-General's report on the item (document A27/14 and Corr.1). Because of the rapid industrial, agricultural and urban development taking place throughout the world, there was a need to give increasing attention to the protection of the environment and to the prevention of the effects of hazardous agents on health.

In his country, environmental protection was viewed as an extremely complex problem and fell within the competence of the Ministry of Land Resources and Environmental Protection, which was responsible for coordination. The Ministry of Health was responsible for the health aspects of environmental protection and had the task of determining the highest permissible standards of environmental pollution and food contamination. The sanitary and epidemiological services exercised constant control over the quality of air, water and food, while health research institutions carried out investigations on the biological and toxicological properties of pollutants and contaminants as well as epidemiological studies on the effects of environmental pollution on health; both types of research were regarded as complementary and required constant development. In that connexion, he expressed appreciation for WHO's assistance in studies on industrial toxicology.

He emphasized the importance of research, especially from the long-term viewpoint, and stressed the need for investigations on the effects of various environmental agents by means of population-orientated surveys. Broad international collaboration in that sphere would be very valuable, and it was clearly the role of WHO to initiate and coordinate such collaboration.

For several years, Poland had been participating in an international study on the long-term effects of environmental pollution on chronic respiratory diseases in children, and had carried out related epidemiological surveys. Poland actively participated in work on the Codex Alimentarius, particularly in respect of contaminants and food additives. The State Institute of Hygiene had conducted studies on the determination of the lead content in concentrated fruit juices from which it had concluded that there was no reason for FAO/WHO recommendations to be unduly tolerant. Furthermore, research had shown the addition of nitrates to milk used for cheese production to be mistaken, in view of the carcinogenic properties of nitrosamines; WHO might well give that problem its attention. It was anticipated that work on the codex of deontology in the international food trade, recommended by the United Nations, would be completed soon. At the end of 1973, Poland had undertaken to collaborate with WHO in respect of studies on the levels of mycotoxins, nitrates and nitrites in food and on the level of lead in the human environment.

He emphasized the value of studies aimed at evolving a system of immediate detection of hazardous agents in the changing environment, since present analytical methods for the detection and measurement of chemical and biological pollutants and of various forms of radiation in the human environment were inadequate. Integrated indices of the quality

of the environment and of the health status and development of the human organism should be identified. It seemed reasonable to extend the surveillance and control system that had existed for many years as a means of preventing epidemics of communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases in order to detect sufficiently early the pathogenic environmental agents affecting human health.

The complex programme of environmental protection started in Poland in 1973 was evidence of its full awareness of the need for an overall approach. That programme had been prepared with the active participation of health experts. Any initiatives taken by WHO and other international agencies to promote exchanges of experience in that field would be most valuable.

His delegation supported the draft resolutions contained in documents A27/B/Conf.Doc. Nos.8 and 9, as well as the draft resolution on drought contained in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.7.

Dr AVRAMIDIS (Greece) expressed satisfaction with the work being done by WHO in the promotion of environmental health. WHO had especially concerned itself with factors in the environment affecting human health, and with the pollution of air, water and soil. Attention should also be drawn to the effects of noise and vibrations as part of the complex of environmental factors affecting health, the evaluation of the effects of which represented a considerable problem for medical science.

He referred in detail to the UNDP-financed project for environmental pollution control in the metropolitan area of Athens, for which WHO acted as executing agency in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Social Services. The main objectives of the project had been the development of sectoral programmes for control of air, water and noise pollution and for solid wastes disposal, the creation and training of professional and sub-professional manpower for environmental control, and the development of environmental policy, legislation, and administrative machinery for pollution control.

Considering the various constraints and difficulties to be anticipated in the initial stages of such a broad and ambitious project, a great deal had been accomplished since it had become fully operational in September 1973. In air pollution control, a network of seven air quality monitoring stations had been set up, and a series of immediate measures aimed at the reduction of significant pollution from readily identifiable sources was at present under study by the Government. Following the establishment of a microbiological laboratory under the auspices of Athens University, the first reliable data on the composition of the city's sewage had been obtained, using equipment provided under the project. A joint programme of investigations was also being drawn up with the Oceanographic and Fishery Institute. An international consulting firm would be entrusted with a study on the question of liquid wastes disposal. The first measurements of community noise levels and sources had taken place in January 1974, a noise working group had been set up and a common system of measurement agreed upon so as to ensure compatibility of the results of monitoring activities. A preliminary report on solid wastes had been prepared for the development of a programme of improved solid wastes collection and disposal, including the recovery and reuse of materials. The establishment of a central governmental agency for pollution control was being considered by his Government in consultation with WHO. The efficient and timely provision of the planned inputs had enabled project operations to develop rapidly. As well as helping the Greek Government to solve some of its important environmental problems, the Athens project might well serve as a model for other countries and regions with similar problems and circumstances.

Dr FETISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Director-General's valuable report reflected the considerable work already achieved by WHO in connexion with the environment, and more particularly its advisory services, the preparation of criteria and standards, and the coordination of research. As indicated in the report, any solution to the main problems of the human environment would have to be the fruit of efforts by the national sanitation services themselves. He endorsed the general trends of the WHO

programme in that field, and agreed with the stress laid on the need for speedy recognition of new hazards. It would be desirable for WHO to complement its work on standards and criteria by a study of the possibility of research being undertaken to provide firm recommendations for measures to prevent excessive environmental pollution.

WHO's work in the environment programme, in which many international governmental and nongovernmental organizations were participating, should be concentrated on the health and biomedical aspects of that programme, which should be given a prominent place in the Organization's activities. Unfortunately, that was not brought out in the report, which indicated that WHO intended to give particular attention to the technical aspects - an orientation which, in his delegation's opinion, would not facilitate the accomplishment of the tasks properly within its purview.

As one of the co-sponsors, his delegation commended to the Committee the draft resolutions contained in documents A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 and No.9. It would also vote in favour of the draft resolution on drought contained in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.7.

Professor HUANG Chia-szu (China) emphasized the increasing importance of the protection and improvement of the human environment throughout the world in the interest of the health of the broad masses, agricultural and industrial development, and the wellbeing of future generations. His Government accordingly attached great importance to the preservation and transformation of the environment to improve the life and health of the people, in respect of which it was guided by certain basic principles. The first of those principles was the need for overall planning and rational deployment with a balanced relationship between industry and agriculture, urban and rural areas, production and living conditions, and economic development and environmental protection. A policy of decentralization of industry was being followed with a view to building up small towns, development along those lines being favourable to the industrialization process and facilitating the problem of industrial and human wastes disposal, as well as resulting in benefits of an economic and cultural order. The older industrial cities were also being transformed. The city of Shanghai was a striking example; the chaotic industrial deployment and serious pollution before the liberation had been remedied, dirty canals being filled in and shanty towns being replaced by workers' residential villages.

Another guiding principles was integrated utilization, whereby materials contained in harmful industrial substances were recovered and put to good use, as well as solving pollution problems. That principle greatly affected the interests of the population. treatment of polluted water by particular industries or areas, while it might not be strictly economic if overall and long-term interests were not borne in mind, did in fact help agriculture, protect marine life, and eliminate health hazards to the people. Another principle followed by his Government was to mobilize and rely on the support of the masses. Action to protect the environment and eliminate pollution hazards should be adequately and clearly explained to the masses and they must deal with the problems, with the help of strengthened leadership.

Harnessing the collective wisdom of the masses to combat pollution, and by combining indigenous and foreign methods, many economical methods of solving difficult problems could be found.

The final principle guiding national policy was that of the need to protect the environment for the benefit of the people. As Chairman Mao had stressed, man himself was the most precious thing in the world. China's socialist economy was aimed at serving the people, and it was building its industry with the people's health in mind. It had suffered from long years of oppression and plunder by the imperialists, when the people had been impoverished and lived in poor conditions. Since liberation, much had been done to protect and improve the environment but many problems still remained that called for further action. However, it should certainly be possible, with the benefit of social, scientific and technical advances, to improve the utilization of natural resources, the protection of the environment, and the wellbeing of the workers.

Dr GARRIDO GARZÓN (Spain) commended the report, which illustrated the immense scope of the problems existing in the field of environmental health. Although each country might have different needs, the general problem was common to all. He welcomed the stress laid on the need for criteria and standards for contaminants and for comparable analytical methods. Adequate standards and monitoring were the two major basic aspects to which WHO should give maximum attention.

He expressed appreciation of the aid extended by WHO as executing agency for two UNDP-financed projects in his country - one on river pollution in northern Spain, the other on air pollution in Bilbao province - which should produce useful data on the effects of pollution on human health. In addition, a study had recently been undertaken on the effects of inorganic mercury on the population of the Almadén area, where the world's richest mercury mines were situated. That multidisciplinary study on the environment and human health was being carried out with the cooperation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Rochester, New York, United States of America and should yield new information.

Since the struggle against pollution was necessarily a costly exercise, and hence might slow down the development of some sectors, it was important to explain the reasons why action must be taken. The experience of countries reflected in WHO's technical publications should assist those who controlled national finances to allocate the requisite funds. He agreed that health services should play an active part in pollution control and that programmes in that field differed from other health programmes because of the other institutions involved. However, the results of epidemiological studies were an essential tool for decision-making.

WHO should participate actively in the world environmental monitoring system, concentrating for the present on completing existing networks before proceeding to other forms of pollution. His delegation supported the draft resolutions before the Committee, which aimed at strengthening WHO's activities.

Dr GOERKE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution on drought, as well as being a co-sponsor of the two draft resolutions on WHO's environmental health programme.

He commended the Director-General's excellent and well-balanced report. His Government would give all possible assistance for the continuation of the work outlined therein. He welcomed the new approach to the problem and fully agreed with the increased emphasis placed on the effects of combined environmental stress on human health. The progress made in basic sanitation activities, as well as in the preparation of environmental health criteria and monitoring activities, was satisfactory. His own country had experienced difficulties, which had eventually been overcome, in drawing up health criteria to be communicated to WHO. He therefore considered WHO's work in that sphere to be particularly worthy of encouragement. Further attention could also be given to the prevention of such nuisances as odours and noise.

In his own country, new regulations regarding air pollution control had just been prepared that took full account of the proposals contained in the report of the WHO Expert Committee on Air Quality Criteria and Guides for Urban Air Pollutants (WHO Technical Report Series No. 506).

Dr TAYLOR (New Zealand) referred to operative paragraph 1(d) of the draft resolution in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8, in which Member States were asked to collaborate with WHO in various ways. Such collaboration was essential if WHO was to provide the health leadership and perform the coordinating role Member States asked of it. His country was participating in the WHO long-term programme in environmental health for the formulation of environmental health criteria by collecting and collating data and contributing reviews on national research related to the health effects of environmental pollution. The first substances reviewed had been nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines, mycotoxins, manganese, and polychlorinated biphenyl constituents. He realized that such work was relatively sophisticated; basic environmental sanitation was still the most important environmental problem in the developing countries and WHO had a valuable role to play in helping to solve it.

Dr ZAMFIRESCU (Romania) suggested that a reference to ILO, with which WHO collaborated in the field of occupational health hazards, should be added in operative paragraph 2(b) of the draft resolution on coordination on programmes and action in the field of the environment (document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9).

He wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution on drought contained in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.7. He was convinced that, sooner or later, the deterioration of the health situation in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Africa would call for direct and urgent intervention by WHO, and he emphasized the need for the Organization to be as fully prepared as possible.

Dr BADDOO (Ghana) associated himself with the observations of previous speakers. WHO's concern in the face of the deterioration in environmental conditions resulting from rapid industrial development was timely. Indeed, environmental health could be considered one of the main problems facing the Organization at the present time. In his own country, a Council for the Protection of the Environment had been established which looked forward to assistance from WHO. He supported the draft resolutions contained in documents A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 and No.9.

Recalling that his delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on drought, he expressed appreciation for the measures already taken by WHO in that connexion and hoped that efforts to render aid would be intensified.

Dr HASSAN (Egypt) said that his delegation was a co-sponsor of the three draft resolutions before the Committee and associated himself with the emphasis placed by previous speakers on the interrelationship of human health and the environment. While it was true to say that man was part of his environment, the concept of that environment should be broadened to include the socioeconomic background as a whole since that undoubtedly had an effect on health, particularly where the developing countries were concerned. It was accordingly necessary for health development to be an integral part of social and economic development as a whole; any other approach made it more difficult for health and environmental measures to accomplish their objectives. That point had been stressed by the head of his delegation in his statement at the sixth plenary meeting of the current Health Assembly under agenda items 1.9 and 1.10. He would welcome a reference to that concept being included in the preamble of the draft resolution contained in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9, the operative part of which should be amplified to urge Member States to ensure that their health development plan was a basic component of their socioeconomic plan, coordinated in a positive and synergistic way, and to recommend that WHO, at headquarters and at the regional offices, should consider that concept in assisting national programmes and in coordinating its activities with UNDP and other international agencies in that direction.

Mr MAHDI (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) expressed appreciation of the Director-General's report. It was helpful not only in showing WHO's concern with environmental health but also in bringing out WHO's interrelationship with the programmes and activities of other organizations. He was gratified to see that in the draft resolution on drought, FAO was thanked for its help in the Sudano-Sahelian relief operations. Periodic reports issued by FAO were providing steady information on the progress of the operations. Everything accomplished so far had been the result of the combined efforts of the recipient countries, donor countries, nongovernmental groups, and the United Nations system as a whole. Among the organs of the United Nations system, the United Nations, WFP, UNDP, United Nations Disaster Relief Office, UNICEF, and WMO had all made their contribution, and there had been excellent cooperation with WHO. The present draft resolution would strengthen efforts in that direction.

With regard to the other two draft resolutions before the Committee, WHO and FAO had a long history of fruitful collaboration in such fields as nutrition, animal health, pesticide residue, and food standards. As indicated in document A27/14, that cooperation also extended into the area of the environment. FAO also had a wide ranging programme in that field, and its mandate had recently been amplified and defined by the seventeenth FAO Conference. In FAO's view the major environmental problems facing agriculture, fishing,

and forestry were not only to avoid environmental pollution but also to maintain the productive capacity of the basic natural resources for food and agriculture through rational management and cultivation. However, FAO did not underestimate the importance of measures against pollution. Its own ecological management programme covered such activities as biological control of pests, recycling of agricultural industries, waste disposal, and control of food contamination. In the latter activity FAO was collaborating fully with WHO. Mention was made in document A27/14 of the UNDP-supported food contamination monitoring programme, which was currently under way and in which WHO and FAO were working together. That programme was a good example of the joint, though different, interests of WHO and FAO in a particular aspect of the environment programme. WHO's objectives in the use of the programme data, for instance, were the early recognition, evaluation and prevention of risk to human health from contamination of food. FAO could put that data to use for the development of various plant strains resistant to contaminants, establishing appropriate food policies, or controlling and managing water resources to reduce or prevent water contamination. Those examples gave an idea of the complementary nature of the interests, responsibilities, and activities of WHO and FAO.

In operative paragraph 2(a) of the draft resolution contained in document A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8, the Director-General was requested to develop a comprehensive approach in environmental health. The collaboration with the organization concerned, in particular with FAO in matters relating to food, would be useful in developing the approach desired by the Committee. FAO warmly welcomed operative paragraph 2(b) of the draft resolution, which emphasized the strengthening of coordination with other organizations and programmes working in the multisectoral field of the environment.

Mr SIFAF (Ethiopia) congratulated the Director-General on his comprehensive report on WHO's human health and environment programme. He supported the three draft resolutions before the Committee and thanked all the national and international organizations and governments which had promptly and generously responded to Ethiopia's appeal for relief assistance. Although that assistance had greatly helped to alleviate the problem, more assistance was required to combat the health consequences persisting in the affected areas.

It was regrettable that, as reported by the Director-General, the progress so far achieved in environmental health, especially in the developing countries, had not been satisfactory. Developing countries, including Ethiopia, were still far from satisfying the basic needs of appreciable numbers of their populations for the provision of safe water and waste disposal facilities. An increased effort was needed by national health authorities, with the technical guidance of WHO, in developing and promoting practical, economic, and acceptable methods for providing rural water supplies and waste disposal.

Dr DIETERICH, Director, Division of Environmental Health, noted with pleasure that many delegates, particularly those from the United States of America, Nigeria, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, China, and Egypt, had emphasized the need to consider man as the ultimate determinant in all efforts to improve the environment. That was, indeed, the view that the Director-General was adopting in developing his programme. Therefore, emphasis had been placed in the Director-General's report (document A27/14) on a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectional approach to environmental problems, rather than on dealing separately with the various environmental elements, such as air, food, or water. The programme concentrated on the four major areas of work described on pages 7-9 of this document, with due attention to the priorities and needs of particular countries. The need for better sanitation in the developing countries was one of the greatest environmental health problems in the world, yet the problem of pollution would also require more attention there; the programmes on environmental health criteria and environmental health monitoring were designed to meet those needs.

In connexion with the development of preventive technology applicable in developing countries - a matter raised by the delegates of Ethiopia, the United States of America and China among others - the document indicated on page 16 the measures being undertaken in cooperation with a number of other international agencies. Since the document had been drafted, WHO had begun the preparation - together with UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, IBRD, OECD, and the International Development Research Center of Canada - of a new joint project to develop and transfer the technological information badly needed in developing countries for further improving water supplies and sanitation, particularly in the rural areas. It was hoped that a fully worked out programme could be submitted within the next 12 months to Member States for their collaboration.

It had been encouraging to hear many delegations voice their support of the environmental health criteria and environmental health monitoring programmes, to which he had already referred. Both programmes were designed to deal not only with the customary biological problems of environmental pollution but also with chemical and physical problems and later, perhaps, with psychosocial problems. In the implementation of the environmental health criteria programme, WHO had been able so far to make specific arrangements with 15 Member States; detailed agreements were under negotiation with three others, and participation in the programme had been accepted in principle by a further nine countries. Six countries had expressed interest but were not yet in a position to participate actively. The programme would provide Member States with the essential scientific information necessary to legislate against pollution in the various environmental media. It was gratifying to hear that the Federal Republic of Germany had already made use of one of the criteria documents of WHO, published in the Technical Report Series No. 506. UNEP was supporting the programme; in which would be initiated, first, 11 criteria documents together with five preliminary reviews of groups of substances, and later 13 further environmental health criteria documents and preliminary reviews of six substances. WHO would not be able to implement those plans without the active collaboration of scientific institutions in the Member States. The same applied to WHO's environmental health monitoring programme. The Director-General was convening a meeting of experts in July 1974 to advise him on the implementation of that programme and particularly on arrangements for international cooperation. The success of WHO's international monitoring programme hinged upon collaboration with corresponding national programmes, and the provision of technical assistance to Member States to strengthen or establish their own national systems would be emphasized, along with the development of the appropriate methodology and indices, long-term studies on health effects, and the international dissemination of information with a view to making the programme the health component of the Global Environment Monitoring System being developed by UNEP.

He agreed that much had still to be done to strengthen the capabilities both of national health agencies and of WHO to deal with the total environmental problem. How successful such efforts would be depended on whether internal coordination could be improved so that health agencies participated more fully and effectively in the planning of national programmes for the environment. Health concerns had to be made part of any environmental programme and environmental health concerns had to be made part of any other programme aiming at social and economic development.

With respect to the development of environmental health manpower, WHO would continue to emphasize the establishment of graduate and undergraduate educational programmes, as well as a multidisciplinary approach to bring into being environmental health teams at the country level where they were needed.

The delegate of France had referred at the previous meeting to the WHO-assisted inter-university course in human ecology. The Director-General was grateful to the universities concerned for their collaboration and would continue to support the course and to make available WHO staff members.

Regarding coordination, the Environment Coordination Board constituted an important means for coordination within the UNEP framework. WHO would, of course, also continue to consult and coordinate with UNEP proper on projects carried out by the two Organizations; it would also continue its coordination with other agencies such as UNDP

in implementing preinvestment projects for water supply and waste disposal as well as projects for environmental pollution control such as that mentioned by the delegate of Greece, which could serve as a model for similar projects in other countries. WHO would also continue to collaborate with IBRD on the Cooperative Programme started in 1971 and with FAO on the Codex Alimentarius programme and other joint undertakings.

Replying to a question put by the delegate of France at the previous meeting, he explained that the projects listed in Annex V.A of document A27/14 represented the activities that would, during 1974 and 1975, usher in practical cooperation between WHO and UNEP. They were all relatively short-term projects, subject to extension into second or third stages. The projects were carried out by WHO as the participating agency with funds from UNEP; WHO used its own staff, as allocated in the regular budget, and its own programme components which had been approved in the regular programme and budget of the Organization. Further details would be reported to the Executive Board and, if the Health Assembly adopted the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9, to the next World Health Assembly. WHO had collaborated with IAEA in formulating projects 13, 14, and 15 in Annex V.A and there was no intention of duplicating the work of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) that was supported by WHO, as indicated in Official Records No. 212 (page 280; project RAD O4). In principle the work of ICRP focused on the assessment of scientific information and on the establishment of criteria, whereas WHO, in collaboration with IAEA, concentrated on collaboration with governments in dealing with actual conditions and in applying the principles and criteria established by ICRP. WHO would continue to develop a balanced, multidisciplinary approach. The health aspect of the programme was the overriding one, and WHO was attempting to achieve its objectives by the establishment of criteria, the development of monitoring, the planning and application of technology for the prevention of health risks, and the establishment of effective appropriate institutions and services at the country level.

Dr KAPLAN, Director, Office of Science and Technology, replying to a point made by the United States delegate at the previous meeting, said that WHO was acutely aware of the potential ecological problems raised by the use of certain substances in WHO's disease control programme; the matter was being investigated by ecologists. Regarding the environmental health monitoring network, it was necessary to have national collaboration. As the delegate of Poland had pointed out, the subject was complex. The determination of changes in health status and the development of health indices for a warning system needed much more research - not only by observations on man but also fundamental research; there were important gaps in knowledge of the effects of chemicals common in the environment today, and of long-term effects. The International Agency for Research on Cancer was investigating carcinogens, including mutagens and teratogens. WHO, together with UNEP, had formulated project requests to further research to provide the information badly needed by health ministries and authorities to make their judgments. Another project in which WHO was participating with UNEP was the development of an international registry of potentially toxic chemicals; that was being taken up actively following the second Governing Council meeting of UNEP in Nairobi early in 1974. There was a necessity for very close collaboration in research with national institutions and national authorities in order to build criteria over the years on a much sounder scientific basis than was possible at present.

Professor HALTER (Belgium) was pleased at the favourable reaction in the Committee to the two draft resolutions he had submitted at the previous meeting.

The proposal that the delegate of the German Democratic Republic had made concerning the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 was acceptable to the co-sponsors, who therefore proposed that the words "housing and urbanization" be added after the phrase "conditions of work" in operative paragraph 2(c).

He stated that, following consultations, the delegate of the United States had withdrawn his suggestion to substitute "offer assistance" for "provide assistance" in operative paragraph 2(a) of the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9. The Romanian delegate's proposal to add ILO to the list of organizations in paragraph 2(b) was welcomed by the co-sponsors.

The delegate of Egypt had raised an important point in speaking of the interdependence of the socioeconomic environment and the health of individuals. However, the two draft resolutions were based on essentially a rather material conception of environmental health, in which the rather abstract notion of the socioeconomic environment was difficult to accommodate. He had discussed the matter with the Egyptian delegate and thought his point would be partly met by substituting "socioeconomic" for "economic" in the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 and adding "for social and economic development" after "major national programmes" in operative paragraph 1(b) of the same text.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL assured the Committee that social and economic factors affecting the dimension of man and his environment were currently receiving WHO's attention. The Technical Discussions at the current Health Assembly had embraced practically all the social, economic, philosophical, and ideological aspects of man and his behaviour. A systems approach to the dynamic relationship between man and his environment was engaging WHO's attention, and the Director-General intended to examine the concept of the environment in its totality. He was grateful to the Egyptian delegate for raising that important point. In environmental matters the full collaboration and participation were needed of the Member States, of the various relevant disciplines, of the wealth of facilities and expertise at the disposal of some nations, and of all the specialized agencies and other international bodies.

The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution contained in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.7.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved.

Dr SACKS, Secretary, read out the amendments to the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.8 that had been accepted by the co-sponsors. The fifth preambular paragraph read:

"Recognizing the need for a methodology for the formulation of the environmental health requirements of technological, scientific, and socioeconomic development and for their application in the planning of appropriate programmes."

Operative paragraph 1(b) read:

"make health-oriented environmental action an essential part of all relevant major national programmes for social and economic development."

Finally, operative paragraph 2(c) read:

"to emphasize a comprehensive approach to environmental health problems by integrating programme activities aiming at improving basic sanitation and the quality of air, water, food, and conditions of work, giving priority to those conditions that are known to have an adverse effect on community health and the health of groups at special risk."

Mr JADAMBA (Mongolia) said that his delegation supported the principle reflected in the draft resolution in which the basic and principal measures that should be taken by all Member States had been included. He believed that both WHO and the Member States should focus their efforts on improvement of formulation of the environmental policy, programme, and projects, and on the close cooperation of the various appropriate governmental, nongovernmental and international organization in the field. He wished Mongolia to be added to the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was approved.

The SECRETARY recalled that the only amendment to the draft resolution in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9 was the addition of "ILO" after ". . . IBRD, FAO," in operative paragraph 2(b).

Professor HUANG Chia-szu (China) said that his delegation agreed with the draft resolution contained in A27/B/Conf.Doc. No.9 but expressed reverervations to operative paragraph 2(b) in so far as collaboration with IBRD was concerned, because that agency had not implemented the United Nations resolution on the expulsion of the Chiang Kai-Shek clique. The same subparagraph also referred to some other agencies in a similar situation. He expressed his reservations with reference to those and to similar situations occurring in other resolutions of the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was approved.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.