



**World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

**FORTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
QUARANTE-HUITIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE DE LA SANTE**

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**PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWELFTH PLENARY
MEETING**

**Friday, 12 May 1995, at 11:30
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

President: Dato Dr Haji Johar NOORDIN (Brunei Darussalam)

**COMPTE RENDU IN EXTENSO PROVISOIRE DE LA DOUZIEME SEANCE
PLENIERE**

**Vendredi, 12 mai 1995, à 11:30
Palais des Nations, Genève**

Président : Dato Dr Haji Johar NOORDIN (Brunéi Darussalam)

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**1. THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS
TROISIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION DE VERIFICATION DES POUVOIRS**

The PRESIDENT:

The Assembly is called to order. Belatedly may I wish the distinguished Muslim delegates a fruitful and spiritually rewarding Eid Al-Adha.

Our first item of business is to consider the third report of the Committee on Credentials. A meeting of the Bureau of the Committee was held, in accordance with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure, but there has been insufficient time to allow for the translation and printing of the report. I shall therefore present the report on behalf of the Bureau. The Bureau examined the formal credentials of the delegation of Equatorial Guinea which had been seated provisionally in the Health Assembly pending the arrival of its formal credentials. These credentials were found to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure, and the Bureau of the Committee therefore recommends that the Assembly recognize their validity. Does the Assembly accept this report of the Committee on Credentials? I see no objection, the report is therefore adopted.

**2. SECOND REPORT OF COMMITTEE A
DEUXIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION A**

The PRESIDENT:

I would like to report to you that when the General Committee met for the last time on Tuesday, 9 May, it gave me the authority to schedule our programme of work according to the progress in the two main committees in such a way that the Assembly adjourns no later than this afternoon. It also entrusted me with the task of monitoring the progress of work in conjunction with the Chairmen of the two committees in order to be able to decide on the exact time of closure. Before we proceed therefore, we shall hear from the two main committees which met the whole of yesterday and this morning.

We shall start with the second report of Committee A, contained in document A48/55. Please disregard the word "Draft" as the report was adopted by the Committee without amendment. This report contains seven resolutions which I shall invite the Assembly to adopt one after the other.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the first resolution entitled: "Revision and updating of the International Health Regulations"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the second resolution entitled: "Reorientating medical education and medical practice for health for all"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the third resolution entitled: "Prevention of hearing impairment"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fourth resolution entitled: "Reproductive health: WHO's role in the global strategy"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fifth resolution entitled: "An international strategy for tobacco control"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the sixth resolution entitled: "Control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections: integrated management of the sick child"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the seventh resolution entitled: "Communicable diseases prevention and control: new, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted and the Assembly has therefore approved the second report of Committee A.

**3. SECOND REPORT OF COMMITTEE B
DEUXIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION B**

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now consider the second report of Committee B contained in document A48/53. Please disregard the word "Draft" as the report was adopted by the Committee without amendment. This report contains eleven resolutions and two decisions which I shall invite the Assembly to adopt one after the other.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the first resolution entitled: "WHO response to global change: review of the Constitution of the World Health Organization"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the second resolution entitled: "WHO response to global change"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the third resolution entitled: "WHO response to global change: renewing the health-for-all strategy"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fourth resolution entitled: "WHO response to global change: Technical Discussions"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fifth resolution entitled: "Appointment of External Auditor"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the sixth resolution entitled: "Assessment of new Members and Associate Members: assessment of Palau"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the seventh resolution entitled: "Scale of assessments for the financial period 1996-1997"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the eighth resolution entitled: "Review of the working Capital Fund"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the ninth resolution entitled: "Real Estate Fund"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the tenth resolution entitled: "Salaries for ungraded posts and the Director-General"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the eleventh resolution entitled: "International decade of the world's indigenous people"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

I now invite the Assembly to adopt the decisions, one after the other.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the first decision entitled: "Annual report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 1994"? In the absence of any objections the decision is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the second decision entitled: "Appointment of representatives of the WHO Staff Pension Committee"? In the absence of any objections the decision is adopted and the Assembly has therefore approved the second report of Committee B.

**4. THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE B
TROISIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION B**

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now consider the third report of Committee B contained in document A48/54. Please disregard the word "Draft" as this report was adopted by the Committee without amendment. This report contains seven resolutions which I shall invite the Assembly to adopt one after the other.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the first resolution entitled: "Consolidating budgetary reform"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the second resolution entitled: "Reorientation of allocations"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the third resolution entitled: "Paris AIDS Summit"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fourth resolution entitled: "Recruitment of international staff in WHO: geographical representation"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the fifth resolution entitled: "Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

I now call upon the delegate of Israel.

Mr LAMDAN (Israel):

Thank you, Mr President. At the beginning of this Assembly it rapidly became clear that there were two ways to go on the agenda item before us: the way of contention or the way of consensus. Contention, stirred up in part by certain countries in the Middle East not fully reconciled to the peace process, would have taken us back to the bad old days, when this forum was highly politicized and used as an arena to make diplomatic warfare against Israel. Happily, good sense won out and it was agreed that this item should be dealt with on the basis of consensus between those parties directly concerned, as in fact was the practice last year. And indeed consensus has again been achieved, reflecting the ongoing peace process and the changes on the ground including the fact that since 1 December 1994 responsibility for health services has been transferred to the Palestinian Authority, not only in Gaza and Jericho, but in wider areas still administered by Israel.

Consensus of course means compromise, and compromise frequently means giving way on points which are not entirely to one's satisfaction. This is the case in this consensus resolution. I will not go into a detained analysis of the text but I do wish, Mr President, to take this opportunity of putting on record the fact that Israel is still not happy about the title of the item which continues to contain elements which are both contentious and obsolete. As Dr Fathi Arafat indicated last year, a new title should be found which would focus essentially on health assistance for the Palestinians so that all our children can live in friendship and peace. In practice the title should accurately reflect and track the language of the resolution. This has been, and remains, our position.

As to the substance of the matter the resolution does, in fact, relate to the technical assistance and health programmes which this Organization can provide for the Palestinians, and to the aid that can be given to the Palestinian Authority to enable it to run and develop its own health system. For my part, I should like to conclude by reiterating the call made by my Minister in the general debate to all countries that can assist the Palestinian Authority to help it establish a sustainable medical care system - for the sake both of the Palestinians and of peace itself.

Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

I thank the delegate of Israel. Your comments will be fully recorded in the verbatim record. I now recognize Palestine.

Mr. KHOURI (Palestine):

السيد خوري (فلسطين):

شكرا سيدي الرئيس،
أود بدوري أن أعرب عن تمسك وفد فلسطين بروح التوافق الذي ساد في هذه الدورة من جمعية الصحة العالمية كما أود أن أعرب عن ارتياحنا للقرار الذي اعتمد تحت بند ٣١ المعنون الأحوال الصحية للسكان العرب في الأراضي العربية المحتلة بما فيها فلسطين ومساعدتهم. كما أود أن أعرب عن أمنية بلادي في أن تحرز عملية السلام تقدما ملموسا خلال العام القادم مما سيعود بآثار ايجابية على صحة شعبنا وعلى الجهاز الصحي الفلسطيني وسيساهم بالتالي في تعزيز روح التوافق في هذه الجمعية الموقرة. أخيرا أود أن أكرر شكر بلادي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية ولجميع الدول التي ساهمت في دعم شعبنا في تأسيس نظامه الصحي وشكرا لاصفاكم.

The PRESIDENT:

I thank Palestine; your comments will be noted in full in the verbatim records.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the sixth resolution entitled: "Establishment of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted.

Is the Assembly willing to adopt the seventh resolution entitled: "Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations: health assistance to specific countries"? In the absence of any objections the resolution is adopted and the Assembly has therefore approved the third report of Committee B.

**5. THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE A
TROISIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION A**

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now consider the third report of Committee A, as contained in document A48/56; please disregard the word "Draft" as this report was adopted by the Committee without amendment. This report contains the resolution entitled "Proposed appropriation resolution for the financial period 1996-1997". As the Committee adopted the resolution, we can delete the word "proposed", and the resolution should now read: "Appropriation resolution for the financial period 1996-1997". Is the Assembly willing to adopt this resolution? In the absence of any objections, the resolution is adopted and the Assembly has therefore approved the third report of Committee A.

**6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON ITS
NINETY-FOURTH AND NINETY-FIFTH SESSIONS
EXAMEN ET APPROBATION DES RAPPORTS DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF SUR SES
QUATRE-VINGT-QUATORZIEME ET QUATRE-VINGT-QUINZIEME SESSIONS**

The PRESIDENT:

We now come to the conclusion of item 9, Review and approval of the reports of the Executive Board on its ninety-fourth and ninety-fifth sessions.

Now that the main committees have finished their consideration of the Executive Board's reports, we are in a position to formally take note of these reports. From the comments which have been made, I take it that the Assembly wishes to commend the Board on the work performed and express its appreciation of the dedication with which the Board has carried out the tasks entrusted to it.

**7. SELECTION OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE FORTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD
CHOIX DU PAYS OU SE TIENDRA LA QUARANTE-NEUVIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE
DE LA SANTE**

The PRESIDENT:

I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the fact that, under the provisions of Article 14 of the Constitution, the Health Assembly, at each annual session, shall select the country or region in which the

next annual session shall be held, the Executive Board subsequently fixing the place. I should also recall that the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly concluded that it was in the interests of all Member States to maintain the practice of holding Health Assemblies at the site of the headquarters of the Organization. I therefore take it that the Assembly decides that the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly will be held in Switzerland. In the absence of any objections, it is therefore so decided.

**8. STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL:
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR-GENERAL:**

The PRESIDENT:

I would now like to invite Dr Nakajima, Director-General, who has asked for the floor, to say a few words. Dr Nakajima, you have the floor.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

Mr President, excellencies, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, two years ago, I committed WHO to a far-reaching process of reform which, from the start, has been designed and carried out in close consultation with the governing bodies and Member States of the Organization. In the past few days, reviewing the progress made so far, the Assembly approved the concrete changes which we have introduced in our structures, procedures and methods of work. I wish to thank you all for your support and to assure you that we will continue implementing the reform process along the lines which you have endorsed within this Assembly and on the Executive Board's recommendations.

The first issue of the *World health report*, prepared at your request, has been particularly well received. It has been hailed as a valuable update on the world's health, helping countries and agencies to assess priority needs and focus on "bridging the gaps" in terms of health for all individuals and communities, in all countries and continents. The special event on health planned for 1998 to prepare for health beyond the year 2000 should be an historic opportunity to renew our commitment to health for all at the highest political level.

The Assembly has just approved the programme budget for 1996-1997 by consensus, including revised criteria for prioritization and shifts in allocation of resources in favour of countries. The difficult economic situation experienced by practically all countries is reflected in the decisions you have made and the constraints these imply for WHO's future action in support of health development.

The Secretariat will do its best to absorb cost increases as instructed by the Assembly. Our first concern will be to safeguard the priority areas which have been identified, and especially the programmes and cooperation activities directed to countries in greatest need and population groups that are most vulnerable. With the support and efforts of all, we hope that the implementation of our cooperation programmes at country level will not be adversely affected by the financial constraints imposed on the Organization.

I would like to thank all Member States for their understanding and cooperation, particularly on some of the difficult issues we have had to deal with, including budgetary matters.

Mr President, I wish to thank you personally for the excellent manner in which you have conducted this Forty-eighth World Health Assembly. You have greatly facilitated the work of the Assembly and helped the spirit of consensus to prevail as it should in the best interests of the Organization as a whole. I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of all the committees, and all the members of the General Committee, and express gratitude also for the advice which will help us in further strengthening WHO's global leadership on public health issues and international health cooperation.

Mr President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I shall conclude by expressing my overriding concern that we should all rise to the challenge of bridging the gaps in health status and development for all the peoples of the world, and especially the poorest and most vulnerable. To achieve this and effectively promote the future of international health cooperation we must stand united. Together we must uphold the excellence and integrity of our Organization. I have been elected to the post of Director-General to serve the whole

membership of the Organization. I believe in the World Health Organization, its mission and community of purpose. I shall continue to discharge the responsibility that has been entrusted to me, with the support and participation of all Member States and regions. I appeal to all of you to share this heavy burden of responsibility with me, in a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and mutual support between nations.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Nakajima.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENT
COMMUNICATION**

The PRESIDENT:

Before adjourning the meeting, I have a brief announcement concerning the Executive Board. I understand that the ninety-sixth session of the Executive Board will open at 9:30 on Monday, 15 May in the Executive Board Room at WHO headquarters. Documents for the Executive Board members are available in their special pigeon-holes which are located next to the Documents Distribution counter near doors 13 and 14, here at the Palais des Nations. Members are requested to pick up their documents up until 14:30 today. I shall now adjourn the meeting. Please remain in your seats. The closing plenary will be held in a few minutes.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.
La séance est levée à 12:45.**

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