

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉFIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLYA/VR/15(Private)
21 July 1948RESTRICTED
EnglishProvisional Verbatim Record

of the

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
(First part - private)Palais des Nations, Geneva
Wednesday, 21 July 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESIDENT: Dr. Andrija STAMPAR (Yugoslavia)

NOTE: This provisional record contains the originals of speeches delivered in English and the interpretations of other speeches. All speeches will be published in the final records of the Assembly in either the original or an authentic translation.

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1. LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY CONCERNING THE NOMINATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND HIS TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT (document A/81).

The PRESIDENT: The meeting is called to order. The first part of our meeting today is private.

I have received a letter from the Chairman of the Executive Board which I will have read:

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that in accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution the Executive Board, at its second meeting on 19 July 1948, unanimously decided to nominate

Dr. Brock Chisholm, Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization,

for the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization.

At its first meeting on 16 July and at its second meeting the Executive Board has also considered and approved the text of a Draft Agreement between the World Health Organization and its Director-General. This text is reproduced in document A/79.

In conformity with these decisions the Executive Board recommends to the Health Assembly that it adopt the following resolution at its present session:

The World Health Assembly

By VIRTUE of Article 31 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization

WHEREAS the Executive Board has unanimously decided to nominate Dr. Brock Chisholm, Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization, for the post of the Director-General of the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS the Executive Board has approved and submitted to the Assembly the text of a Draft Agreement between the World Health Assembly and its Director-General establishing his terms of employment;

THEREFORE

APPOINTS, upon the nomination of the Executive Board, Dr. Brock Chisholm this day to the post of the Director-General of the World Health Organization;

APPROVES the said Draft Agreement between the World Health Organization and its Director-General; and

AUTHORIZES the President to sign, in its name, the

Agreement with the Director-General in conformity with the provisions of Rule 85 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant

Aly Tewfik SHOUSHA, Pasha,
K.B.E., M.D.
Chairman
Executive Board

2. TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL - DRAFT AGREEMENT
(document A/79)

The PRESIDENT: You have in your hands document A/79 (EB/2/Rev.2), Terms of Employment of the Director-General. The General Committee discussed again today the terms of employment of the Director-General, and on behalf of the General Committee I shall submit to you an amendment or revised text of paragraph 6, Article I:

"The Health Assembly shall have the right, on the proposal of the Board, after hearing the Director-General, and subject to at least six months' notice in writing to terminate this Agreement for reasons of exceptional gravity likely to prejudice the interests of the Organization."

Are the Members of the Assembly in agreement with the terms of employment of the Director-General as amended? Any Member who is not in favour of it should raise his hand.

There are no objections to the terms of employment of the Director-General.

The document, thus amended, is adopted.

3. ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT: We can now proceed to elect the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

First of all, I must ask the Members if there are other proposals with regard to the Director-General of the Organization. If any Member has any other proposal to make he should raise his hand.

As there are no objections to the proposals made by the Executive Board, we shall now elect the Director-General by secret ballot. The voting papers have been distributed; every delegate who is in favour of the proposal made by the Executive Board should write "Yes", and any delegate who is not in favour should write "No". Those who wish

to abstain should not fill in the papers at all.

The delegate of the Netherlands.

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands): Is it your intention that we write "yes" or can we make a cross?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, you can make a cross. You can put a cross against "Yes" or against "No", or against both if you wish to abstain.

Now the delegates will be called upon to vote. I have to appoint tellers now. May I ask the delegates of Canada and Iran to be tellers?

[After marking their voting papers, delegates deposited them in the ballot box as the names of their countries were called in English alphabetical order. The votes were then counted by the tellers.]

The PRESIDENT: May I announce the result of our voting?

Number of Members entitled to vote:	55
Number of Members absent:	7
Number of Members present and voting:	48
Number of voting papers null and void:	None
Number of voting papers valid:	48
Majority required:	25

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Total number of valid votes	46	2	None

Result: Dr. Brock Chisholm has been elected Director-General of the World Health Organization by a majority of 44.

(The announcement by the President was received with acclamation)

The PRESIDENT: May I thank the tellers for their excellent work?

We will continue our meeting in open session after an adjournment of five minutes.

The first part of the meeting was adjourned at 3.5 p.m.

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A/VR/15 (Public)
21 July 1948

English

Provisional Verbatim Record

of the

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

(Second part - public)

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Wednesday, 21 July 1948, at 3.10 p.m.

PRESIDENT: Dr. Andrija STAMPAR (Yugoslavia)

then

Dr. G. H. de Paula SOUZA (Brazil,
Vice-President of the Assembly)

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The second part of the meeting (public) opened at 3.15 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: We are now in public session.

Dr. Brock Chisholm, who has been elected Director-General, is with us. The Director-General. (Applause).

4. DECLARATION BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is incumbent upon me to make the following declaration, as required in the Staff Regulations:

I solemnly promise to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as a member of the international service of the World Health Organization, to discharge those functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the World Health Organization only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization.

I am deeply appreciative of the honour the World Health Organization does me in electing me its first Director-General, and even more sensible of the grave responsibilities inherent in that office. The confidence you show in me must be shared by your whole Secretariat, whose individual and collective devotion and loyalty have contributed so much to the success of the work of the Interim Commission and of this Assembly. We shall do our utmost to merit your continued confidence.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the World Health Assembly, after this declaration has been made I announce that the World Health Assembly appoints, upon the nomination of the Executive Board, Dr. Brock Chisholm this day to the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization, approves the draft agreement between the World Health Organization and the Director-General, and authorizes the President to sign, in its name, the agreement with the Director-General in conformity with the provisions of Rule 85 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure.

On behalf of the World Health Assembly I express our congratulations to the Director-General and our best wishes.

(Applause). I am very happy to see such unanimity and agreement in this very important issue.

May I ask the Vice-President of this Assembly, Dr. de Paula Souza, to preside for the rest of the meeting.

[Dr. de Paula Souza thereupon took the Chair]

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (document A/82)

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): On behalf of my country, and as Vice-President of this Assembly, I should like to thank you all, as well as Dr. Stampar, for the honour you are doing me in asking me to preside over this meeting.

We have several items on our agenda for this afternoon and we shall begin with item 5, relating to the composition of the Executive Board. You will remember that the Assembly unanimously elected 18 countries who were called upon to appoint members to sit on the Executive Board. Those countries have appointed the said members and their names appear on document A/82. I shall now read out those names.

Australia, Dr. Redshaw; Brazil, Dr. de Paula Souza;
Byelorussian SSR, Dr. Evstafiev; Ceylon, Dr. Chellapah;
China, Dr. Yung; Egypt, Sir Aly Shousha, Pasha;
France, Professor Parisot; India, Colonel Mani;
Iran, Dr. Hafezi; Mexico, Dr. Zozaya; Netherlands,
Dr. van den Berg; Norway, Dr. Evang; Poland,
Dr. Kozusznik; Union of South Africa, Dr. van der
Spuy; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Dr. Vinogradov; United Kingdom, Dr. Mackenzie;
United States of America, Dr. van Zile Hyde;
Yugoslavia, Dr. Stampar.

6. LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The ACTING PRESIDENT: I have before me a letter from the Chairman of the Executive Board:

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Executive Board has met three times since its Members were elected by the Health Assembly on 12 July 1948. At its meeting on 19 July the Board provisionally approved its Rules of Procedure and at its meeting on 20 July it elected H.E. Sir Aly Tawfik Shousha, Pasha, as its Chairman. Under the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Board the Chairman will hold office until the meeting of the Board following its reconstitution at the next regular session of the Health Assembly.

The election of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Board has been postponed until the next meeting.

A list showing the present membership of the Board is attached.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Aly Tawfik Shousha, Pasha, KBE, MD,

Chairman
Executive Board

7. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fourth Report of the General Committee

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): We shall now take item 6 on the agenda - fourth report of the General Committee (document A/83). You all received that document yesterday, and I wonder whether we could approve it forthwith.

Are you in agreement?

If nobody wishes to speak, I shall consider that this document is approved.

Third Report of the Committee on Programme

You have also in your hands the third report of the Committee on Programme. It is also one of those documents which were distributed yesterday, and I wonder whether we could not approve it immediately. Does anybody wish to speak? If nobody wishes to speak I shall regard this document as approved. Approved.

Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Legal Committee.

We have now to consider several reports of the Legal Committee. We have the fourth, the sixth and seventh reports, with the reference numbers A 70, A 74, A 75 and A 75 Corr.1. I think we might follow the same procedure in regard to those three reports as applied to the other reports which have already been approved to-day.

Now, as regards the fifth report of the Legal Committee, I understand Dr. van den Berg wishes to make an observation.

If you are in agreement and if nobody wishes to speak, I shall consider the fourth, the sixth and the seventh reports of the Legal Committee approved; I shall ask Dr. van den Berg, delegate of the Netherlands, to be good enough to come up to the rostrum to make his observations concerning the fifth report.

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands): In this special case I am very glad to have the opportunity of introducing the fifth report of the Legal Committee. This is not necessary because the report needs further explanation; but, on behalf of the Legal Committee, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact of historical significance which is placed before it.

If the Regulations No. 1 on nomenclature of diseases and causes of death are adopted, these regulations, in accordance with Article 22 of our Constitution, will come into force for all Members after due notice has been given of their adoption by the Health Assembly, except for such Members as may notify the Director-General of rejection or reservations within the period stated in the notice. This means that for the first time in the history of the world an international legislative body is acting here with the possibility of adopting regulations which can come into force without formal acceptance by the countries. I am sure that the Assembly will take a decision in view of the large responsibility as the first international legislative body.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): On behalf of the Assembly I should like to thank Dr. van den Berg for the explanation which he has just given. I think we all realise the special importance which attaches to the first regulations adopted under the aegis of the World Health Organization.

(The report was adopted).

Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Committee on Administration and Finance

We shall now consider the fifth report of the Committee on Administration and Finance and also the fifth report of the General Committee (document A/90), in which reference is made to documents A/85, A/86, A/87 and A/88. Since all those papers have no doubt been considered by Members of this Assembly, if you agree we shall not read them out from the rostrum. Does anybody object to that procedure? Does anybody wish to speak? If you are in agreement as to the contents of those documents, we shall regard them as approved.

Eighth Report of the Legal Committee

We shall now consider the eighth report of the Legal Committee, document A/80. Does anybody wish to speak in regard to that document? Nobody wishes to speak. I shall consider that document as adopted. Adopted.

8. UNITED NATIONS APPEAL FOR CHILDREN: RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND, AS AMENDED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (Document A/77.Rev.1)

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): We now have to consider the resolution presented by the delegation of Ireland regarding the United Nations appeal for children. That resolution was submitted to the General Committee of the Assembly, which appointed a small working party, who made a few drafting amendments to the original text of the resolution, now submitted to you in document A/77.Rev.1. I shall now read out the text of this resolution

as it is submitted to the Assembly.

"WHEREAS the World Health Organization is charged under its Constitution with responsibility for healthy development of the child; and to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work, to promote the improvement of nutrition and other aspects of environmental hygiene which directly affect the world's children, and to promote maternal and child health and welfare,

"WHEREAS the First Health Assembly has approved a programme containing specific provisions for the promotion of maternal and child health and nutrition,

"WHEREAS the United Nations Appeal for Children, with the support of workers, employers and non-governmental organizations, is successfully mobilizing the people of the world to bring relief to many millions of sick and under-nourished children, and

"WHEREAS this great effort by the peoples of the world will assist in saving countless lives which otherwise will be lost, and will assist in provision for long-term needs of the world's children, such as those envisaged in the programme for child health approved by this Assembly at its present session,

"THE FIRST HEALTH ASSEMBLY

"ENDORSES the aims of the United Nations Appeal for Children and

"EXPRESSES THE HOPE that this great humanitarian endeavour will be continued in a form to be determined by the UN bodies concerned in consultation with the relevant specialized agencies.

"EXPRESSES THE HOPE that funds from this appeal may be allotted to specialized agencies for those parts of their programmes which are directed to the health welfare and general benefit of children.

"AUTHORIZES the Director-General to establish contact with the United Nations Appeal for Children in order to discuss the common interests of WHO and UNAC in these fields."

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): Does anybody wish to speak on this very important resolution? The delegate of Canada.

Dr. CAMERON (Canada): I just want to point out that this item of business is not on the agenda. We have not had an opportunity of studying the resolution, and I think it would be in the interest of good business that this should be deferred until the next meeting of the Assembly.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): Does anyone else wish to have an opportunity of speaking on this subject? Does any Member of this Assembly wish to second the motion of the delegate of Canada? I see the motion is seconded by the delegate of Belgium. The resolution will therefore be reconsidered at the next plenary meeting of this Assembly.

9. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Fifth Report of the General Committee (document A/90)

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): We now have before us the fifth report of the General Committee. All the earlier reports were approved without any observations. I should like to know whether you also agree to approve this report, in accordance with the same procedure.

(The fifth report of the General Committee was adopted).

We have nothing more on the agenda. I am glad to note the spirit of unanimity which has prevailed throughout this meeting and I wish to say that the unanimity to which I refer is certainly due simply to the fact that all Members of the Assembly have had ample opportunity to study the matters which are dealt with in the reports, and therefore had no reason for voicing any opposition in this plenary meeting.

The next plenary meeting, which will be the last plenary meeting of the Assembly, will take place on Saturday, 24 July, at 10 o'clock. Before closing this meeting, I should like to thank you for the kind attention you have shown me.

I have to announce that the Executive Board will meet in Room IX immediately after the adjournment.

Before adjourning, I should like to know whether there is any other matter that anybody would like to raise. Since nobody wishes to speak, while thanking you very sincerely, I declare this meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.