

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting

Washington, D.C.
October 1961

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting



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Topic 32: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE XVI PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,
XIV MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

At its ninth plenary session, the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference noted the official invitation extended by the Delegation of the Government of Argentina that the XVI Meeting of the Conference be held in Buenos Aires. In Resolution XVI, the XV Conference expressed its thanks to the Government of the Republic of Argentina and accepted the invitation.

Subsequently, on 24 July 1959, the Director of the Office of International Health and Social Affairs of the Ministry of Public Health of Argentina informed the Representative of Zone VI that that Office had been entrusted with making the necessary organizational and financial arrangements for the meeting, and suggested that it would be advisable to begin discussions on the various arrangements and problems involved in its preparation.

Accordingly, the necessary instructions have been sent together with a copy of this document, to the Representative of Zone VI, to the effect that, in agreement with the Government of Argentina, he should take the necessary steps to determine the obligations of that Government and of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau with respect to the organization and financing of the Conference, including the appointment of the date of the Conference and the nomination by the Government of Argentina of a Committee to cooperate with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in organizing the sessions, pursuant to Articles 7-A and 7-B, respectively, of the Constitution of the Organization.

1. Method of Work of the Conference

The Pan American Sanitary Conferences held in Santiago, Chile, in 1954, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1958, were organized on the basis of plenary sessions and the establishment of two main committees: Committee I, which was responsible for studying technical matters on the Agenda of the Conference, including the topics for the Technical Discussions; and Committee II, which dealt with administrative, financial, and legal matters. Both Committees set up working parties to study particular items in detail.

In order efficiently to organize the secretariat services of the XVI Conference, its organization and method of work must be known well beforehand so that provision may be made for the necessary services and funds. The matters to be dealt with include the number of rooms for the plenary sessions, and for the meetings of the committees and working parties; the type and amount of simultaneous interpretation equipment; interpreters, précis writers, translators and temporary personnel which must be contracted sufficiently in advance.

The Director therefore suggests that the method of work that gave such satisfactory results in Chile and in Puerto Rico, that is, the establishment of two main committees and such working parties as were necessary, should be adopted as the basis for determining the secretariat services which the Bureau will have to arrange for in collaboration with the Organizing Committee.

The services to be provided for the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference will be essentially the same as those provided for the two preceding Conferences. They are as follows: registration, credentials, information, administrative arrangements for the engagement of personnel, accounts and finance; interpretation; minutes and translations; reporting and transportation; documents (typing, mimeographing and distribution); general services (guards, cleaners, etc.); public information.

2. Technical Discussions

The XV Pan American Sanitary Conference (Resolution XX) decided "to accept in principle the desirability of holding Inter-American Congresses of Public Health once every four years" and instructed the Executive Committee to study the procedures for holding such congresses.

Bearing in mind the financial obligations that would arise, both for the Host Government and for the Bureau, from the holding of such congresses, the Executive Committee decided to request the Director to consult with the Government of Argentina on the advisability of holding an Inter-American Congress of Public Health prior to the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference.

After thoroughly examining this matter and bearing in mind that, pursuant to Article 4-D of the Constitution, the Conference is the supreme inter-American body in the field of public health and, consequently, should consider technical matters, and that a public health congress held jointly with the Conference would replace it in its constitutional role as a scientific forum, the Government of Argentina came to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to hold the above-mentioned Congress. In the opinion of the Government of Argentina, moreover, it appeared