



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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PAHO BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

This document reports on previously approved and new projects financed from the PAHO Building Fund, extrabudgetary sources, and PAHO Regular Budget sources.

1. Status of Previously Approved Projects Financed from the Building Fund

Resolution CE130/11 of the 139th Session of the Executive Committee (2002) provided \$220,000 for the repairs of the garage, which had been severely damaged by salt corrosion. As part of the project, the Administration contracted an engineering firm to test the garage floor slabs for potential damage. The resulting study indicated the high possibility that the damage would be more severe than originally estimated. Repairs were completed at a final cost of \$485,595 using the original funding, additional PAHO Building Funds, and PAHO Regular Budget.

It should be noted that no repairs had been made to the slab during the 40 years since the original construction of the Headquarters building in 1965. The cost was consistent with that incurred at the World Bank which also completed similar repairs at the same time.

2. New Projects Financed from the Building Fund

2.1.1 Headquarters Building Fire Alarm System

The electronic-circuit fire alarm system in the Headquarters building was upgraded at a cost of \$123,000 using funds contributed from the WHO Building Fund and the PAHO Building Fund. In addition, a public address system was included to enable the Administration to contact all staff on all floors during a future emergency, a requirement of the fire safety regulations.

2.1.2 Headquarters Building Elevator Rehabilitation

Additional repairs of \$32,544 to the safety and other systems of the four elevators of the Headquarters building were made. The PAHO Building Fund financed these repairs.

2.1.3 Headquarters Building Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning System (HVAC)

Due to cost restrictions, the 1999-2002 renovations of the Headquarters building did not include replacement of the original HVAC on the 2nd and 10th floors. The Administration engaged an engineering firm, at a cost of \$35,124 using PAHO Building Funds, to study the potential cost for finishing the project. The estimated cost for the HVAC portion exceeds \$800,000. However, the study identified the need to rehabilitate the 2nd and 10th floor electric cabinets which were not renovated in 1999-2002 at a cost of approximately \$100,000. These improvements will be programmed for fire safety reasons at a future date.

2.1.4 Headquarters Building Window Platform

PAHO Building Funds in the amount of \$20,210 were required to replace the original 40-year-old window-washing/window-replacement platform. The new platform is currently in operation.

3. Future Projects Financed from the Building Fund

During the 2006-2007 biennium, the Administration plans to replace a major portion of the existing analog audio system in Conference Rooms A, B, and C and Room 1017 with a digital system. The audio system enables users to hear translations of the speakers. The existing system uses technology which is obsolete and the manufacturer no longer provides replacement parts, so the system could collapse at any time. Thus, a replacement is needed.

WHO Headquarters provided \$484,000 for this project in the 2006-2007 biennium, but the estimated total cost is approximately \$750,000. To complete the project, the balance will need to be financed from the PAHO Building Fund and possibly the Regular Budget. The project has been divided into portions to enable work to be completed when funding is identified.