



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



# 123rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Washington, D.C., September 1998*

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CE123/FR (Eng.)  
25 September 1998  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**FINAL REPORT**

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## FINAL REPORT

### Opening of the Session

The 123rd Session of the Executive Committee was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization on 25 September 1998. The session was attended by delegates of the nine Members of the Executive Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and United States of America. Also present were observers for Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Puerto Rico, Peru, and Venezuela.

Dr. Alvaro Erazo Latorre (Chile, President of the Executive Committee at its 121st and 122nd sessions) opened the session and welcomed the participants, extending a special welcome to the new Members of the Committee elected by the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference: Cuba, Nicaragua, and United States of America.

### Procedural Matters

#### *Officers*

Pursuant to Rule 15 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected the following Members to serve as officers for its 123rd and 124th Sessions:

<i>President:</i>	Ecuador	(Dr. Edgar Rodas)
<i>Vice President:</i>	Colombia	(Dr. Virgilio Galvis Ramírez)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Antigua and Barbuda	(Dr. Samuel Aymer)

Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary ex officio, and Dr. David Brandling-Bennett, Deputy Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Technical Secretary.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda (Document CE123/1)*

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat without change (Decision CE123(D1)).

## **Constitutional Matters**

### ***Proposal to Amend the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization in Relation to the Term of Office of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau***

Dr. Heidi Jiménez (Chief, Office of Legal Affairs) recalled that Resolution EB102.R1 of the Executive Board of WHO had established that Regional Directors would be appointed for terms of five years and would be eligible for reappointment only once. The same resolution had requested the Regional Director for the Americas to discuss with the Governing Bodies of PAHO the possibility of amending the PAHO Constitution so as to establish the same rules concerning appointment of the Director of PASB.

Accordingly, the matter had been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at its 122nd Session in June 1998. The Committee had considered the change desirable in order to make the practice of the Americas Region consistent with those of the other WHO Regions and WHO Headquarters. However, the Committee had felt that there would not be sufficient time to adequately inform all the Member States about the nature and ramifications of the change prior to the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 1998. In addition, the Committee had noted that the proposed amendments would require a change in the periodicity of the Pan American Sanitary Conferences and that, if the interval between the 25th and the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conferences were to be lengthened to five years, the 26th Conference would no longer coincide with the observance of the Organization's 100th anniversary in 2002. The Committee had therefore proposed that consideration of any amendments to the Constitution be deferred until after the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference and that any changes that were eventually adopted take effect as of the opening of the 26th Conference, which would still be held in 2002.

At the 123rd Session, the Executive Committee was asked to make a recommendation to the 41st Directing Council, based on the background paper prepared by the Secretariat (Document CE123/2). That paper presented three main options: (1) maintain the status quo; (2) separate the issues of term of office and term limitation, modifying either one or the other; and (3) change the term of office and introduce term limitation, in which case the Conference would meet every five years, the Director would be elected for a five-year term, and he/she would be eligible for reelection only once.

Dr. Jiménez also noted that the Committee could recommend that any amendments adopted should come into effect with the opening of the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2002 and that they should not apply to the current Director.

The consensus of the Executive Committee was that the third option should be recommended in order to make the rules regarding election of the Director of PASB consistent with those that applied to the Regional Directors of the other WHO regions. Some concern was expressed that, if the proposed change was accepted, PAHO might lose some of the independence and autonomy of action that it had traditionally enjoyed. However, the majority of the participants felt that the change was mainly one of form, not of substance, and that the Organization's independence and the panamericanism which it espoused would not be fundamentally affected.

The Director pointed out that the changes proposed under the third option would bring PAHO into line with the inter-American system, as well as with WHO. He agreed that it was very important to maintain the spirit of panamericanism, but shared the view that the proposed changes in the term and reelection of the Director would not affect the way PAHO approached its work in the Hemisphere. He therefore encouraged the Committee to recommend the third option.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the 41st Directing Council that it consider amending the Constitution of PAHO as indicated in the third option (Section 3.3) presented in Document CE123/2. It also recommended that the amendments take effect as of the opening of the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2002 and that they not apply to the incumbent Director (Resolution CE123.R1).

## **Membership of Committees**

### ***Election of One Member to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming***

Mexico was elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming on the expiration of the term of office of Bahamas on the Executive Committee. (Decision CE121(D2)).

### ***Election of Three Members to the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development***

Cuba, Paraguay, and United States of America were elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development on the expiration of the terms of office of Bahamas, Chile, and Costa Rica on the Executive Committee (Decision CE123(D3)).

***Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations***

Nicaragua was elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations on the expiration of the term of office of Chile on the Executive Committee (Decision CE123(D4)).

**Governing Body Matters**

***Dates and Proposed Topics of the 31st and 32nd Sessions of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming***

The Committee decided that the 31st Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming would be held on 23 and 24 November 1998 and the 32nd Session, on 25 and 26 March 1999.

The Director proposed that the following topics be examined at those two meetings: integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI), persistent organic contaminants, eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Americas, violence against women and girls, the PAHO/WHO budget proposal for the 2000-2001 biennium, monitoring and evaluation of health reform processes, plan of action for the development of health care quality assurance programs, the PAHO fellowship program, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, blood transfusion services, food safety, and health legislation. He also suggested that the evaluation of PAHO technical cooperation in one country of the Region—which had been discontinued for the 1997-1998 cycle of meetings—be reincorporated into the agenda.

In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the issues of social security and privatization of health services should be included under the discussion of health legislation, and it was pointed out that, pursuant to Resolution CSP25.R16, during 1999 the Governing Bodies would need to discuss the proposal to develop a regional convention against tobacco use. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should draw up the agendas for the two meetings, bearing in mind that time constraints might make it impossible for the Subcommittee to consider all the items proposed by the Director.

The Committee adopted Decision CE123(D5) on this item.

***Dates of the 18th Session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development***

The Committee decided that the 18th Session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development would be held on 8 and 9 February 1999 (Decision CE123(D6)).

***Dates of the 124th Session of the Executive Committee***

The Committee set the dates 21-25 June 1999 for its 124th Session (Decision CE123(D7)).

***Dates and Venue of the 41st Directing Council, 51st Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas***

The Committee decided that the 41st Directing Council would be held from 27 September through 1 October 1999 and that, in accordance with the decision taken by the 25th Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Council would meet in San Juan, Puerto Rico (Decision CE123(D8)).

In response to a question regarding the cost of holding the 41st Directing Council in Puerto Rico, the Director noted that the Government of Puerto Rico had agreed to cover all additional costs associated with holding the session outside of PAHO Headquarters. The Delegate of Puerto Rico said that his Government was well aware that holding the Directing Council in San Juan would entail considerable economic investment and logistic effort, and he affirmed that Puerto Rico was prepared to cover all additional costs.

**Closing of the Session**

The President thanked the delegates for their participation and declared the 123rd Session closed.

**Resolutions and Decisions**

In the course of the 123rd Session, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolutions and decisions:

***Resolutions***

***CE123.R1 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization***

***THE 123rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,***

Having reviewed Document CE123/2, "Proposal to Amend the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization in Relation to the Term of Office of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau";



Noting the action of the Executive Board of WHO to amend Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board to provide that the appointment of a Regional Director shall be for five years and he or she will be eligible for reappointment once only, and its request that PAHO consider an amendment to its Constitution to establish the same rules for the appointment of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;

Bearing in mind that the Secretary General of the Organization of American States is also elected for a five-year term and may not be reelected more than once;

Taking into consideration the importance to the Organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference being held in the 100th anniversary year of the Pan American Health Organization, that is, in 2002; and

Aware of the provisions for amending the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization,

*RESOLVES:*

1. To request the Director:
  - (a) To include in the agenda of the 41st Directing Council in 1999 the item *Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization*;
  - (b) To transmit Document CE123/2, which contains the options for possible amendments to the PAHO Constitution, to the Member States of PAHO at least three months in advance of their consideration by the 41st Directing Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the Constitution.
2. To recommend to the 41st Directing Council that it:
  - (a) Consider amending Articles 7.A and 21.A of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization to read as follows:

*“Article 7.A. The Conference shall meet every five years at the Headquarters of the Organization on a date fixed by the Director of the Bureau in consultation with the Executive Committee.”*

*“Article 21.A. The Bureau shall have a Director elected at the Conference by the vote of a majority of the Governments of the Organization. The Director shall hold office for a period of five years, and may not be reelected more than once. In the event that the successor to the Director has not been elected prior to the expiration of the Director’s term of office, the Director shall continue to serve until the successor takes office. In the*

*event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Director, the Deputy Director shall assume the duties of the Director until the next meeting of the Council. The Council shall then elect a Director ad interim by a majority vote of the Governments present and voting.”*

- (b) Establish the effective date of the amendments as the opening date of the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2002.
- (c) Decide that the amendments not apply to the incumbent Director.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

### ***Decisions***

#### ***CE123(D1) Adoption of the Agenda***

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Committee adopted the agenda submitted by the Director without change (Document CE123/1).

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

#### ***CE123(D2) Election of One Member to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming***

Mexico was elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming on the expiration of the term of office of Bahamas on the Executive Committee.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

#### ***CE123(D3) Election of Three Members to the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development***

Cuba, Paraguay, and United States of America were elected to serve on the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development on the expiration of the terms of office of Bahamas, Chile, and Costa Rica on the Executive Committee.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

***CE123(D4) Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations***

Nicaragua was elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations on the expiration of the term of office of Chile on the Executive Committee.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

***CE121(D5) Dates and Agendas for the 31st and 32nd Sessions of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming***

The Committee decided that the 31st Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming would be held on 23 and 24 November 1998 and that the 32nd Session would be held on 25 and 26 March 1999. The Committee also authorized the Secretariat to draw up the agendas for the two sessions, bearing in mind the topics proposed by the Director and the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

***CE123(D6) Dates of the 18th Session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development***

The Committee decided that the 18th Session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development would be held on 8 and 9 February 1999.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

***CE123(D7) Dates of the 124th Session of the Executive Committee***

Pursuant to Article 17.A of the PAHO Constitution, the Committee set the dates 21-25 June 1999 for its 124th Session.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

***CE123 (D8) Dates and Venue of the 41st Directing Council, 51st Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas***

Pursuant to Article 12 of the PAHO Constitution and Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, the Committee decided to authorize the Director to convene the 41st Directing Council, 51st Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 27 September through 1 October 1999.

*(Single meeting, 25 September 1998)*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Executive Committee and the Secretary ex officio, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on this twenty-fifth day of September, nineteen hundred and ninety-eight. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Member States of the Organization.

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Edgar Rodas  
President of the 123rd Session  
of the Executive Committee  
Delegate of Ecuador

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George A. O. Alleyne  
Secretary ex officio of the 123rd Session  
of the Executive Committee  
Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

## **AGENDA**

### **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

### **2. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

2.1 Election of the President, Vice President, and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee

2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

### **3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

3.1 Proposal to Amend the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization in Relation to the Term of Office of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

### **4. COMMITTEE MATTERS**

4.1 Election of One Member to the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

4.2 Election of Three Members to the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development

4.3 Election of One Member to the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

### **5. GOVERNING BODY MATTERS**

5.1 Dates and Proposed Topics of the 31st and 32nd Sessions of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

5.2 Dates of the 18th Session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development

5.3 Dates of the 124th Session of the Executive Committee

5.4 Dates and Venue of the 41st Directing Council, 51st Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

### **6. OTHER MATTERS**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

**Members of the Committee  
Miembros del Comité**

**Antigua and Barbuda  
Antigua y Barbuda**

Dr. Samuel Aymer

**Colombia**

Dr. Virgilio Galvis Ramírez  
Dr. José María Salazar Bucheli

**Cuba**

Dr. Rene Raúl Ruiz Armas

**Ecuador**

Dr. Edgar Rodas  
Dr. César Hermida Bustos  
Dra. Tatiana Neira Alvarado

**Mexico  
México**

Dra. Melba E. Muñiz

**Nicaragua**

Dr. Lombardo Martínez Cabezas  
Lic. Anamaría Cerulli

**Panama  
Panamá**

Dra. Enelka de Samudio

**Members of the Committee** (*cont.*)  
**Miembros del Comité** (*cont.*)

**Paraguay**

Dra. Carmen Frutos de Almada

**United States of America**  
**Estados Unidos de América**

Mr. Neil A. Boyer  
Mr. Richard S. Walling  
Ms. Mary Lou Valdez

**Observers**  
**Observadores**

***Member States***  
***Estados Miembros***

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Dra. Miguela Maria Pico

**Bahamas**

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Mrs. Hannah Grey

**Barbados**

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**Canada**  
**Canadá**

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**Venezuela**

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**Associate Members**  
**Miembros Asociados**

**Puerto Rico**

Dr. Rafael Burgos-Calderón



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*Director (Secretary ex officio of the Executive Committee)*  
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*Asesores del Director*

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Deputy Director

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago  
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Mr. Eric J. Boswell  
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Dr. Stephen J. Corber  
Director, Division of Disease Prevention and Control

Mr. Horst Otterstetter  
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Dr. Juan Antonio Casas  
Director, Division of Health and Human Development

Dr. José Antonio Solís  
Director, Division of Health Promotion and Protection

Dr. Daniel López Acuña  
Director, Division of Health Systems and Services Development

Dr. Ciro de Quadros  
Director, Special Program for Vaccines and Immunization

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Chief, Office of Analysis and Strategic Planning

*Chief, Legal Office*  
*Jefe, Oficina de Asuntos Jurídicos*

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