

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/H/PC/18
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English
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TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 22 MARCH 1946, 2.45 P.M., AT THE PALAIS D'ORSAY, PARIS

Chairman - Dr. René Sand

1. Aims and Objectives.

A general discussion of the report of the sub-committee on Aims and Objectives (E/H/PC/W/3) took place, in which the following were the main points discussed:-

(a) The deletion or maintenance in the initial sentence of certain references repeating passages similar to those already contained in the Preamble;

(b) Desirability of merging the chapter on Aims with that on Functions;

(c) The notion of "positive health";

(d) The expression to be used to designate those who would benefit from the measures taken to improve physical and mental health - "all peoples", "all people", "all classes of the population". The Committee was inclined to favour the expression "amongst all peoples", and decided to refer the text to a drafting committee, which would take into account all the observations made.

As to the other parts of the proposed text, the Committee decided to reconsider them after they had been revised and adjusted by the drafting sub-committee.

2. Functions.

The Committee then discussed the report of the sub-committee on Functions (E/H/PC/W/1). Certain Members questioned whether the words "whether the work is done by the Organization itself or through other agencies" at the end of the initial sentence should be retained, and

Dr. STAMPAR, among other speakers, emphasized the importance of referring to the directing and co-ordinating functions of the new Organization with regard to other international institutions. After hearing the observations made, the Committee decided to retain the proposed text subject to drafting changes.

Paragraph (a): As the Committee agreed that the wording of this paragraph might commit the Organization to too many obligations, it was altered to read: "... furnish such technical advice or assistance as Governments may request".

Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d): These paragraphs were adopted subject to drafting changes.

Paragraph (e): A discussion took place regarding the "standards" mentioned, and it was decided to add "the causes of deaths" immediately after "the nomenclature of diseases".

Paragraph (f): As a result of the various opinions expressed, the Committee decided that the text should be submitted to a drafting Committee and should include the ideas of improvement, of the development of standards, and of possible co-operation with other international organizations.

Paragraph (g): It was decided that this paragraph should relate to medical care in general, not only medical care for the protection of maternity and infancy, and that after the words "and children" there should be added: "with particular orientation towards the emotional development of children". This text would be submitted to the drafting committee.

Paragraph (h): Dr. CAVAILLON proposed that this paragraph should be divided into two parts, the first dealing exclusively with research and the second with the development of exchanges of information. The Committee adopted this proposal, subject to reference to the drafting committee.

Paragraph (i): Dr. SOUZA emphasized the importance of health teaching, and of schools of hygiene, which should be open not only to doctors but to other persons performing related duties. Dr. CANCEIK gave

particulars regarding health teaching in Czechoslovakia; and Dr. BERGMANN proposed that mention should be made of the importance of bringing medical teaching into harmony with public health requirements. The paragraph after "standards of teaching and training" might read "and research in the medical and related professions in agreement with the new needs of public health, through fellowships, etc." This addition was approved in principle. In this connection, Drs. SOUZA and BIRAUD recalled that before the war the creation of an international school of hygiene had been decided upon, and that international courses had been held both in Paris and London with a teaching staff and students of all nationalities.

Paragraph (j): This paragraph was adopted without observation, but Dr. CAVAILLON suggested the addition of the two following paragraphs before paragraph (k):-

"(j) bis - study the best methods of applying the most effective administrative and social techniques concerning health problems as a whole and particularly the exercise of medicine including both medical and hospital practice."

"(j) ter - improve environmental hygiene and sanitation."

Regarding paragraph (j) bis, it was proposed that mention should also be made of social insurance, and Dr. CAVAILLON suggested the words "with the possible assistance in both cases of sickness insurance".

These additional paragraphs were adopted subject to drafting changes.

Paragraph (k): Dr. MORGAN observed that this paragraph possibly gave the future Organization too much freedom of action, but Dr. BIRAUD pointed out that the constitution of the F.A.O. contained a similar text giving that body discretionary powers in its own sphere of action. He therefore thought that this paragraph should be retained in the constitution of the new Organization.

3. Miscellaneous Observations

Dr. GOODMAN suggested the insertion after paragraph (g), perhaps, of a passage mentioning assistance to be given to refugees and displaced persons, since the number of such persons in Central Europe was very large.

Dr. DOULL pointed out that, if requested by the United Nations, the new Organization might be called upon to exercise its functions in the trusteeship territories and for the benefit of persons without nationality. A distinction should therefore be made between the work of international and national bodies. In connection with the latter, he drew attention to the importance of strengthening the national services in certain countries.

Dr. Mackenzie thought that stress should be laid on the education and instruction of the public in health matters, and also on the necessity of creating an international library of legislative and administrative texts concerning health.

The CHAIRMAN promised to instruct the drafting sub-committee to take due account of all these suggestions.

4. Constitution of Sub-Committees.

Dr. STAMPAR believed that the point had been reached when sub-committees could draw up a formal report, which should include:-

- (a) An introductory note on the antecedents of the present Committee (San Francisco Conference, decisions of the Economic and Social Council, etc.);
- (b) A historical retrospect of the work done in the international sphere in relation to public health;
- (c) A definition of the words "health" and "santé";
- (d) Recommendations to be submitted to the June conference. These should be of the most general character and not take the form of a detailed draft.

The CHAIRMAN thought that it would be desirable to provide definitions not only of the words "health" and "santé" but also of "epidemic", "endemic" and "social disease", or at any rate to determine some of their essential elements in order to obviate certain difficulties.

In the appointment of sub-committees, it was decided that Drs. CHISHOLM, EVANG, MANI and SZE would serve on the Drafting Sub-Committee. The sub-committee for the Governing Body would consist of

Drs. STAMPAR, KOPANARIS, MACKENZIE, SOUZA, SHOUSHI and CANCEIK; and that for the Executive Organ, of Drs. BAEZ, KACPRZAK, PARRAN, CAVAILLON and BERGMANN. A translation sub-committee would be appointed later, and it was understood that all delegates would be entitled to attend the meetings of any sub-committee.

The Meeting rose at 6 p.m.
