

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE III (JURIDICAL QUESTIONS)
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Held at Hunter College on Thursday 11 July 1946, at 10:30 A.M.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Karl EVANG (Norway), Chairman of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee was entrusted with the task of examining the texts drawn up by the drafting sub-committee.

Dr. LECLAINCHE, rapporteur of the said sub-committee, read out the report which it had prepared (See document E/H/L/W/26), and commented on the texts which had been drawn up and reproduced in document E/H/L/W/25.

He explained in particular the arrangement of the Protocol that was to lead to the taking over of the functions and tasks assumed by l'Office International d'Hygiene Publique. He pointed out that the representatives of this institution had stated that the hasty transference of its functions would undoubtedly lead to disturbances. Speaking on his own behalf, the rapporteur thought that the date of the transference of the said functions might coincide with that of the disappearance of the organization itself, which would normally take place in 1950; but until that date the office could be placed under the supervision of World Health Organization.

With regard to UNRRA, the Rapporteur said that the drafting sub-committee, after having heard the explanations of the representative of that body thought it would be easy to reach a practical solution under the administrative and juridical arrangements to be concluded between UNRRA and the Interim Commission. He paid a tribute to all who by their good will and efforts had enabled the drafting sub-committee to bring about such happy results.

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The CHAIRMAN complimented the Rapporteur and all who had contributed to the work of the sub-committee. He consulted the meeting as to the method to be followed. It was agreed to proceed to the examination one by one of the texts of the rules in document E/H/L/W.25.

General discussion. (Article IV, Membership and Associate Membership)

Article IV, paragraphs 1 and 2

A general discussion was opened on the various paragraphs composing this rule. Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted subject to purely formal improvements which the General Drafting Committee would undoubtedly make.

Article IV, Paragraph 3

With regard to paragraph 3 of this Article Dr. LEON (Mexico) proposed that it should be made clear that the International Health Conference in question was the one held in New York in 1946. This addition was unanimously approved.

Article IV, Paragraph 4

Dr. BUSTOS (Chile) maintained that as no country could be excluded from the World Health Organization, paragraph 4 of this Article should be amended in this sense; thus the admission of a State desirous of belonging to the World Health Organization would be decided by a simple majority and not by a two-thirds majority of the members.

Dr. MORAN (Guatemala) shared the same opinion in substance as that propounded by the Chilean delegation. He suggested on his part that paragraph 4 of Article IV should be amended as follows: for a State to be admitted into the World Health Organization it is sufficient that it should be presented by three other States who are already members.

Dr. EVSTAFIEV (Byelorussia) thought that the whole of Article IV, with all its paragraphs, was suitably worded and should be retained in its present form.

Dr. CAMBOURNAC (Portugal) supported the opinion expressed by the Chilean delegation.

Mr. SANDIFER (United States) explained the attitude which the United States delegation had adopted since the beginning. It had always aimed at

maintaining the necessity of a universal participation of States in the technical organization that was being formed. He justified the text drawn up by the drafting sub-committee, which he thought was likely to be approved by the great majority. He pointed out that the time limit in paragraph 3 had no other purpose than that of avoiding the possibility of the constitution remaining open for signature indefinitely, and he recommended the adoption of Article IV as it stood.

Mr. TANGE (Australia) said he was satisfied with the proposed text and supported the point of view expressed by the delegate for the United States of America.

Mr. VALLAT (United Kingdom) fully agreed with the remarks made by the delegations for the United States and for Australia.

Dr. LEON (Mexico) invoked rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and asked for the closure of the general discussion. The delegate for CHILE and the delegate for PARAGUAY protested against this measure. Nevertheless the closure was decided by the Committee by 16 votes to 3.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the various amendments to paragraph 4 of Article IV, put forward respectively by the delegations for CHILE and for GUATEMALA. The delegation for CHILE then withdrew his own amendment and supported the one submitted by the delegation for GUATEMALA.

Dr. GINES (Paraguay) asked that a vote be taken by roll-call. This was agreed to. The amendment submitted by Guatemala was not adopted, 5 votes being in favour and 20 against, with one abstention.

Paragraph 4 of Article IV in the form proposed by the drafting sub-committee was then voted upon. It was adopted by 20 votes.

The meeting rose at 12:45
