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ENGLISH
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TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Ninth Meeting held on Monday 25 March 1946 at 10.30 a.m. at
Palais d'Orsay, Paris.

CHAIRMAN : Dr. René SAND

1. Welcome to Médecin-Général VAUCEL.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Médecin-Général Vaucel of the French Colonial Ministry, who was in a position to give useful advice on health questions in the colonial sphere.

2. General Discussion on the World Health Conference.

A. Composition

The CHAIRMAN said that two sub-committees had dealt with the composition of the World Health Conference and of the Executive Board. Two texts had emerged from their proceedings. For the purposes of the debate, Document E/H/PC/W/5 would be taken as a basis, and Document E/H/PC/W/4 would provide useful additional suggestions.

The Committee then considered the first paragraph of each of the above mentioned texts dealing with the composition of the Conference. A general discussion ensued in which all the members took part. The various subjects examined in relation to the texts under discussion were as follows:

a) Should the delegations of Member States consist of one or several delegates, it being understood that each delegation would have only one vote?

b) If a delegation were composed of several delegates, should there be a head of the delegation?

c) Should delegates necessarily be technical experts (whether doctors or not) on health questions, or would there be advantages

if some were Ministers, professors of Hygiene, etc.?

d) Should the texts under discussion be merged, or should the two different texts be retained, one of them being more comprehensive and detailed than the other?

In conclusion, the Committee, on the proposal of Dr. Cavallion and others, decided to modify the text of the first paragraph of Document E/H/PC/W/4 as follows:- (additions underlined)

"1. Composition

"The World Health Conference shall be composed of
"delegates from States Members of the Organization. Each
"Member shall be represented by one delegate. This delegate
"shall be chosen from among the persons most qualified by
"their technical competence. Each Member State shall
"appoint on the same basis an alternate and advisers who
"shall not have the right to vote except in the case of a
"alternate participating in the place of a Member."

The Committee further decided that, in order that all the opinions expressed should be represented, both the texts under consideration should be submitted to the June Conference.

As a consequence of this decision, paragraph A (E/H/PC/W 5) entitled "Composition" was retained as it stood.

B. Meetings.

This subject did not figure in Document E/H/PC/W 5, and after some discussion the text of Document E/H/PC/W 4 on this subject was adopted as it stood.

C. Functions.

The study of this question was included in Document E/H/PC/W 5, and in this text the following changes were made:

a) Sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph (iv), deletion of the word "public" before the word "health".

(adopted)

b) Sub-paragraph (viii), after the word "Security" addition of the word "Trusteeship", to read "Security and Trusteeship Councils".

(adopted)

c) Discussion of the list in paragraph (iv). Was it restrictive or simply intended to give illustrations of the main questions to be covered by the regulations adopted by the Conference?

(the original text was maintained without change)

d) Consideration of the regulations referred to in paragraph (iv). Would they be binding on States? It was pointed out that the concluding words of this paragraph ("except for such Members as may notify the Director of rejection or reservations...") ruled out any possibility of compulsion.

D. Composition of the Executive Board.

The text of paragraph A "Composition" of heading VI "Executive Board" (Document E/H/PC/W 5) was read. In this connection a general discussion took place on the following points:

a) Should the President of the Conference be ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Board?

The Committee decided in the negative, owing to the drawbacks which might result from the simultaneous exercise of these two functions. The text was accordingly deleted and replaced by the following words: "The Executive Board shall elect its own Chairman and draw up its own rules of procedure."

b) How often should the Board meet? The Committee decided that "the Board should meet at least twice a year."

c) Should the place of the next meeting be determined by the Board or its Chairman? It was decided that this decision should be taken by the Board.

d) On what basis should the constitution or rules of procedure of the Organization be determined? This matter was referred to the drafting sub-committee.

e) Should States be re-eligible at the end of their term of office? The Committee decided in the affirmative, and the words "and should be available for re-election" were added at the end of the second sentence, after the words "for terms of three year

Having thus concluded the examination of Document E/H/PC/W 5, the Committee considered the text contained in paragraph 2 of Document E/H/PC/W 4. With regard to the question of the number of Members of the Executive Board, the Committee decided to propose to the Conference that it should consist of 9 to 15 persons, the exact figure to be determined by the Conference. As regards the sub-paragraph dealing with the rules governing the first election of members, the Committee authorised the drafting sub-committee to embody them in the rules of procedure.

It was decided that the sub-paragraph concerning the desirability of the Conference choosing the members of the Executive Board in such a way that its membership should reflect as wide a field as possible should be embodied in the text concerning the composition of the Board, which would be examined later.

Apart from these observations, the proposals contained in Document E/H/PC/W 4 were adopted as a whole.

It was decided that the texts adopted should come before the Committee for a second reading.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.
