

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Summary Record of the Sixth Meeting held on Thursday, 21 March 1946 at
10.00 a.m., at the Palais d'Orsay, Paris

Chairman: Dr. René SAND

Discussion on General Questions

The CHAIRMAN opened the discussion on the scope and purpose of the proposed International Health Organization. He emphasized the essential importance of every country's having a ministry of public health with Cabinet rank. Some countries still did not possess one; others regarded it as a minor ministerial department and only provided it with very small funds.

Dr. SZE, after studying the drafts which had been circulated, had been struck by their similarity of substance and their diversity of form and drafting.

With regard to form, he remarked that in Dr. Parran's draft the Preamble, purposes, and functions were clearly distinguished, in that of Dr. Stampar there was no such distinction; and in that of Drs. Cavailon and Leclainche the chapters on aims and functions were merged.

In his opinion, the Preamble should trace the main lines of the Committee's ideas in order to make them accessible to the general public; the chapter entitled "Purposes" should state the objectives to be attained; and that entitled "Functions", the method to be adopted for this purpose.

With regard to drafting, the texts submitted by Dr. Cavailon and Dr. Stampar were on traditional lines while that of Dr. Parran followed the more modern ("streamlined") concept already adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

Preamble

Sir Wilson JAMESON considered that it would be necessary to decide on the form which the document should take; it should comprise two essential parts. The first should deal with the functions of the Organization and its programme of work, which would have to be defined in order to avoid overlapping with other similar bodies such as the F.A.O.; hence the necessity for a sort of general declaration of principles. The second would deal with ways and means, in short with the machinery to be set up for the performance of the task assigned to the Organization.

Dr. EVANG believed that with the adoption of any one of the preliminary drafts, each of which had been carefully thought out, the Committee could set up an excellent international health organization; its work was thereby much facilitated. The principal difficulty would be the choice to be made on points of detail. Personally, for the Preamble he preferred the form adopted by Dr. Stampar and Dr. Cavaillon rather than that adopted by Dr. Parran, whereas, on the other hand, he was inclined to favour the draft of Dr. Parran with regard to its definition of purposes and functions, which was more complete. He criticised the notion of urgency as a determining factor in international health co-operation, and asked that among the functions should be included that of preventive medicine.

Title of the Future Health Organization

Dr. CHISHOLM thought that the first thing to be done was to determine the title of the future Organization, and proposed "World - or Universal - Health Organization", to show that, unlike other bodies, it was even more than international. Concerning the chapter entitled "Purposes" he accepted Dr. Parran's text with the addition of the following paragraph:-

- "e) improve human relations between all the peoples of the world by promoting better individual and collective emotional and mental health."

In this connection, Dr. DOULL enumerated some dozen titles which had been proposed during the preparatory discussions.

Sir Wilson JAMESON referred to his suggestion that the aims of the future organization should be put down on paper, especially in view of the forthcoming meeting of the F.A.O., so as to avoid overlapping. He considered Dr. Parran's draft to be the most complete in this respect, and proposed that the Committee should examine each draft in turn, the purposes which it enumerated, and either accept them or devise others.

Dr. SHCUSHA PASHA agreed with Sir Wilson Jameson, and thought that Dr. Parran's draft met with general approval. He asked that the distinction between national and international questions should be brought out more clearly than in the preliminary drafts.

It was decided that the chapters on purposes and functions should be studied on the basis of Dr. Parran's draft.

Purposes (Dr. Parran's draft)

A. Concerning paragraph (A) of the chapter entitled "Purposes", which reads as follows: "To improve the physical and mental health of all peoples through international collaboration and mutual assistance."

Dr. SZF proposed that in order to strengthen the bonds between UNO and the new Health Organization the text of Article I of the Charter, applicable to the tasks assigned to the new organization should be reproduced in the chapter on Purposes. This proposal was referred to the sub-committee on drafting; but it was pointed out that this clause of the Charter referred only to co-operation in the solution of international health problems, whereas it was also necessary for solving those of national scope.

B. The CHAIRMAN then read paragraph (B),:- "To prevent the occurrence and spread of disease. Dr. KAKPZAK suggested the insertion between paragraphs (A) and (B) of a special paragraph referring to mental health. Dr. de PAULA-SOUZA pointed out that in the international sphere there were countries which exported disease and others which imported them; that it was necessary to make a distinction between these two groups, and that it would be well to lay down definite principles on this subject. It was decided, however, that this question should be discussed in relation to the Chapter on "Functions".

C. The Committee then discussed paragraph (C):- "To stimulate and develop the improvement of health services throughout the world."

Dr. CHISHOLM suggested the insertion of the word "public" before the words "health services", and the addition of a paragraph referring to the curative aspect of the problem. It was agreed that the document being prepared should reflect this aspect, for example, in the definition of the term "health". It was noted, also, that this was brought out in Article I of "Purposes and Functions" in the draft of Dr. Cavailon, which read as follows:-

"(a) The exercise of medicine from the curative or preventive point of view both as regards medical and hospital practice."

In regard to paragraph (d) - "To make available to all countries information, counsel and assistance on problems pertaining to health and medical care," it was pointed out that Dr. Cavailon's draft enumerated a number of branches to which the action of the future Organization would apply. From another point of view, it was thought that such enumerations might be restrictive. Dr. de PAULA SOUZA proposed the insertion of two new paragraphs, the first reproducing paragraph (a) of Dr. Cavailon's draft and the second, paragraphs (b) and (d) of Sir Wilson Jameson's draft; and Dr. EVANG suggested that the enumeration in question should appear in the body of the text which was being drawn up.

Dr. Cavailon proposed that among the purposes mentioned should be included those appearing in the following portions of his draft:-

- (c) Health protection of maternity and infancy;
- (f) Environmental hygiene and sanitation;
- (h) Medical and public health research;
- (i) General health education.

He stated that the chief purpose of the enumeration was to inform and convince the public.

Sir Wilson JAMESON, Dr. SZE, and Dr. MANI, thought that the declaration of purposes should be in the most general terms; and Dr. BERMANN believed that medicine needed the co-operation of the public in defence of health and proposed to incorporate in Dr. Parran's draft the expression "positive health".

Constitution of Sub-Committees

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to set up two-sub-committees, one to draft the Preamble and title of the future Organization, and the other to propose a draft on its purposes. Each member present could choose one of the sub-committees on which to serve, and both would report to the next session of the Plenary Committee. Drs. Bermann, Chisholm, Cancik, and Sze chose to serve on the Sub-committee on the Preamble; the other members chose the Sub-committee on Purposes.

The Meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.
