

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

E/H/PC/17  
25 March 1946  
**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING.

Held on Friday, 22 March 1946, at 10.30 a.m. at the  
Palais d'Orsay, Paris.

Chairman: Dr. René SAND.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Dr. Martinez Baez, who had just arrived from Mexico. After announcing a schedule of work which was approved, he introduced to the Commission Dr. Esther Brunauer, who had come as a representative of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to extend best wishes to the Committee for the success of its work, and Dr. M. T. Morgan, representing the Office International d'Hygiène Publique.

Dr. BRUNAUER expressed the interest which UNESCO was taking in the Preparatory Committee for the Health Conference. Specialized agencies should certainly co-operate to work for the common good; there should be no sense of competition, and to prevent a possible overlapping of activities, the establishment of joint sub-committees might be helpful. She would be happy to give any information about UNESCO which might be desired. She emphasized the importance of bearing in mind that they were all building together the defences of peace.

Dr. MORGAN, after giving a short history of the work of the "Office", expressed the opinion that its strength had lain principally in three factors: (1) its complete separation from political considerations, as provided for in Article 2 of its Statutes; (2) the fact that it had been freely accessible to all countries of the world, which he thought was of the utmost importance; and (3) the fact that all its specialized work had been financed by the participating countries and that it had no substantial funds of its own.

The "Office" issued a monthly bulletin, which contained not only scientific contributions by Members and a bibliography but also a summary of the laws and regulations on public health in force in the various countries. As to its composition, it was made up of a permanent committee consisting of one member from each country, and an executive secretariat. The number of votes to which each country was entitled had depended upon its financial contribution to the organization but as this system had been "undemocratic", no formal voting had been done.

The work had been carried out by plenary sessions and by sub-committees, such as the Quarantine, Air, Pilgrimage, and Technical Commissions, and although members whose particular interests lay in the various fields were appointed to these sub-committees, any member could attend the meetings.

The Permanent Committee of the "Office", which had met twice a year, had not found it practicable to provide for an Executive Committee, such as the one suggested for the new Organization, which would have limited representation and would meet more frequently than the Organization itself. Experience had shown that all countries liked to be represented when international decisions were being taken. The "Office" had, of course, no executive but simply advisory powers in relation to Governments. Much of its work had consisted in dealing with complaints and in smoothing out difficulties between countries.

In answer to a question as to whether the Conference scheduled for 4 May was to be held, Dr. PIERRET and Dr. MORGAN stated that much depended upon the results achieved in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

The Committee then considered the Preamble to the Convention (E/H/PC/W/2), which had been prepared by a sub-committee. After minor wording changes had been made and it had been agreed to incorporate in the Preamble the second point in Aims and Objectives (E/H/PC/W/3)

and to submit the document to a drafting committee, the Preamble was tentatively approved.

As to the name of the organization, the title "World Health Organization" agreed upon by the sub-committee was adopted by the Committee. In this connection, Dr. SKE explained why, in the drafting of the Declaration presented to the San Francisco Conference in the joint name of Brazil and China, the term "International Health Organization" had been used. He referred to 1945, when at San Francisco other organizations were being formed under the title of "United Nations", and some representatives had felt then the need for a title in wider terms. "International" had therefore been chosen. But since May, the world had entered into the atomic age; thoughts had again progressed. He would therefore heartily support the proposal for the title "World Health Organization". The Organization could congratulate itself on being the first to recognize this new world age.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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