

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item 16.6

REPORTS ON THE WORLD HEALTH SITUATION

The Constitution of WHO provides that "Each Member State shall report annually to the Organization on the action taken and the progress achieved in improving the health of its people."

In line with the above provision the Executive Board at its fifteenth session, having noted the report of the Director-General¹ on the decisions of the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council and the Ninth General Assembly, which stressed the need for assessments of the health situation in the world, adopted a resolution recognizing the responsibility of WHO to assess the world health situation.² The Board also requested the Director-General to submit a report to the Eighth World Health Assembly on the arrangements necessary to prepare such assessments, with special reference to the possibility of the Health Assembly studying periodically a report on the world health situation.

The World Health Assembly, having considered the report of the Director-General³, adopted resolution WHA8.40⁴ in which, inter alia, it approved the resolution of the Executive Board, and "requests the Executive Board to study the matter further and to report to the Ninth World Health Assembly on the arrangements necessary for the preparation of such reports with special reference to the possibility that the Health Assembly study periodically a report on the world health situation."

In pursuance of this resolution a further report was prepared by the Director-General⁵ and considered by the Executive Board at its seventeenth session.

The Executive Board transmitted the report to the Ninth World Health Assembly and suggested⁶ that the Assembly recommend as a basis for the preparation of reports from those Members of WHO, also Members of PASO,

¹Unpublished document EB15/46, Add.2 and Annex

²Resolution EB15.R51, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 60, 20

³Unpublished document A8/P&B/9

⁴Resolution WHA8.40, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 63, 39

⁵Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 68, 162, Annex 19

⁶Resolution EB17.R67, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 68, 28

the relevant portions of the questionnaire in use by the PASO, and as a basis for the preparation of reports by Members in other regions, the list of headings reproduced in Annex 4 of document A8/P&B/9, with necessary adjustments.

The Ninth World Health Assembly having considered the resolutions of the Executive Board and the report prepared by the Director-General¹, confirmed that such studies and reports were essential to the fulfilment of the Organization's functions and adopted resolution WHA9.27 in which, it

- "1. INVITES the Members of the World Health Organization to prepare, as a step toward the fulfilment of their obligations under Article 61 of the Constitution, a report covering as far as possible the period 1954 to the end of 1956;
2. RECOMMENDS, as a basis for the preparation of reports from those Members of the World Health Organization that are also Members of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, the relevant portions of the questionnaire in use by the PASO; and, as a basis for the preparation of reports by Members in other regions, the list of headings reproduced in Annex B of document A9/P&B/9, with necessary adjustments;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General through the regional organizations to give all suitable assistance to Member States in preparing these reports; and
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to prepare for the Eleventh World Health Assembly the first report on the world health situation summarizing the reports submitted by Members pursuant to Article 61 of the Constitution."

The attention of the Committee is drawn to this resolution and the following draft resolution is submitted for consideration:

The Regional Committee,

Endorsing resolution WHA9.27 of the Ninth World Health Assembly;

Recognizing the need for preparing a report on the world health situation covering, as far as possible, the period from 1954 to the end of 1956;

Noting with approval the basis for the preparation of such reports as suggested by the Director-General in his report to the Health Assembly;

¹Unpublished document A9/P&B/9

1. URGES all Member Countries and territories in the Western Pacific Region to prepare, as a step towards the fulfilment of their obligation under Article 61 of the Constitution, the required reports covering the period indicated for submission to the Director-General through the Regional Director of the Western Pacific Region,
2. RECOMMENDS that, as a basis for the preparation of these reports by Member Countries and territories they make use of the list of headings attached herewith, with whatever adjustments they deem necessary to fit local conditions, and
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to give all the necessary assistance which Member Countries and territories may solicit in the preparation of these reports.

LIST OF HEADINGS UNDER WHICH INFORMATION WAS TO BE
REQUESTED FROM MEMBER STATES IN FULFILMENT OF
ARTICLE 61 OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Circular Letter sent in July 1950)

Report covering calendar year ...

I. General introduction

1. Main vital and population data

Short statement on recent changes in the population distribution patterns: urban and rural, age and sex distribution. Trends in general and infant mortality; main causes of death and proportion of unknown and unspecified causes. Reference to a recent authoritative study on the subject for further details.

1.1 Area of the country

1.2 Population (estimate in (year))

1.3 General mortality rate in (year)

1.4 Infant mortality rate in (year)

1.5 Birth-rate in (year)

1.6 Progress in vital statistics registration; efforts to secure completeness of data and extension of medical certification of causes of death

2. Organization of public health services

A statement on the organization and, if available:

2.1 General public health statistics such as data on tuberculosis sanatoria, venereal disease dispensaries and health units

2.2 Statistics on curative medicine, such as data on hospitals, including all types

2.3 Statistics on public health personnel such as data on doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives and pharmacists, medical and dental students

Reference to the latest departmental, annual or special reports would be acceptable where relevant

3. Important economic or environmental factors bearing on the public health and public health administration during the year (production of foodstuffs, nutrition, housing, unusual climatic conditions, national income and changes in budget)
- 3.1 Percentage of general government budget allotted to central health administration
- 3.2 If possible, percentage of budgetary appropriation for central health administration allotted for (a) administrative and public health services, (b) medical care
- 3.3 If possible, estimates of per capita cost of (a) public health administration and preventive medicine services, and (b) medical care based upon regional and local as well as central budgets
4. Important general measures taken by the government having a bearing on public health
5. Important government decisions affecting the status of non-metropolitan territories for which the Member State is responsible or having a bearing on the health of the population of these territories.¹

II. Outstanding achievements in the field of public health during the year²

¹ Information under this heading refers to statements Member States may wish to make on decisions and measures having a bearing on the health of several or all non-metropolitan territories for which the Member State is responsible.

² It is suggested that this part of the report should provide the material on highlights in the field of public health for the annual summary analysis which, according to Rule 5 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, is to be included in the annual report of the Director-General on the work of the Organization.

III. Action taken and progress achieved during the year¹

1. Changes in the scope of health responsibilities of the government.
Policies
2. Changes in the organization of public health services
 - 2.1 Central health administration
 - 2.2 Regional and local health administration
 - 2.3 Additions to equipment (institutions, etc.) and staff
3. Legislation
 - 3.1 Laws enacted and more important decrees and regulations adopted during the year
 - 3.2 International agreements bearing on public health, adopted
4. New projects initiated during the year and progress on projects described in previous reports
 - 4.1 By government: national, regional or local
 - 4.2 By non-governmental organizations or bodies
 - 4.3 Surveys of health situation and state of health of the population
 - 4.4 Control of communicable diseases and campaigns against epidemics
 - 4.5 Control of endemic diseases and diseases of social importance
 - 4.5.1 Tuberculosis

¹ Items included under this heading are intended to serve as a framework for comprehensive and concise reports along uniform lines. It is appreciated that some questions listed in this section have already been dealt with in special reports in response to circular letters sent out by this Organization. Thus, information on on legislation, for instance, would consist of a short list of important laws and decrees, the full texts being forwarded to WHO under previous arrangements.

- 4.5.2 Venereal diseases
- 4.5.3 Cancer
- 4.5.4 Malaria
- 4.5.5 Trachoma
- 4.5.6 Other diseases
- 4.6 Progress in reporting of morbidity data
- 4.7 Maternal and child health
- 4.8 Mental hygiene
- 4.9 Alcoholism and drug addiction
- 4.10 Nutrition¹
- 5. Recent developments in the training of public health personnel
 - 5.1 Medical
 - 5.2 Auxiliary
- 6. Teaching of medicine
 - 6.1 Recent reforms in undergraduate teaching
 - 6.2 Recent reforms in graduate teaching and special courses
 - 6.3 Number of students attending medical schools
 - 6.4 Number of students graduating
- 7. Changes in medical care of the population
 - 7.1 Coverage by health insurance schemes
 - 7.2 Health centres
 - 7.3 Physicians (number in practice)

¹ If not covered under items 4.3 and 9.3

- 8. Health education of the public
- 9. Other activities
 - 9.1 State control of foodstuffs, drugs, biological and serological products in (year)
 - 9.2 Important State activities in housing, town and country planning, water supply and sewage disposal in (year)
 - 9.3 Progress in research having a bearing on improving the health of the population

IV. Main national present-day health problems. Planning

- 1. Long- and short-range planning activities
 - 1.1 Development of important programmes
 - 1.1.1 Proposed legislation submitted to governments
 - 1.1.2 Implementation of approved programmes