

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WP/RC8/9
12 July 1957

Eighth Session
Hong Kong
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda Item 14.2

ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY ON REGIONALIZATION

As requested by the Ninth World Health Assembly¹ the Regional Committee at its seventh session considered the subject of regionalization. A copy of the Committee's report² was transmitted to the Director-General for submission to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board at its nineteenth session considered the progress report presented by the Director-General and recommended to the Tenth World Health Assembly that the study be deferred until the whole matter could be reconsidered by the Executive Board after the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the light of the ten years' report to be prepared as part of the tenth anniversary celebration.³

The following resolution adopted by the Tenth World Health Assembly⁴ is submitted for consideration of the Committee:

"The Tenth World Health Assembly,

Having considered resolution EB19.R59 of the Executive Board at its nineteenth session together with the report of the Director-General on the Organizational Study on Regionalization including the comments and observations of Regional Committees;

Concurring with the reasons given by the Executive Board at its nineteenth session, and

Having regard to the existence of differentiated areas within a single region in certain parts of the world,

1. DECIDES that the Study on Regionalization, as requested by the Ninth World Health Assembly,¹ be deferred until the whole matter can be reconsidered by the Executive Board after the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the light of the Ten Years Report to be prepared as part of the Tenth Anniversary Celebration;
2. DECIDES that, if it is found necessary, each regional committee may meanwhile study for itself the delineation of areas having uniform geographical, sanitary or social characteristics within a single region, with a view to better utilization of the available resources; and
3. DECIDES that any such study shall be communicated to the Executive Board as a contribution to the organizational study concerned.

/It will be ...

¹Resolution WHA9.30, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 71, 29

²Unpublished document WP/RC7/25 Rev.1 Annex I

³Resolution EB19.R59, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 76, 22

⁴Resolution WHA10.35

It will be noted that the Health Assembly decided that the Study on Regionalization should be deferred until the whole matter could be reconsidered by the Executive Board after the Eleventh World Health Assembly. However, the attention of the Committee is also drawn to paragraph 2 "..... if it is found necessary, each regional committee may meanwhile study for itself the delineation of areas having uniform geographical, sanitary or social characteristics within a single region,"

The First World Health Assembly authorized the Executive Board to establish regional organizations in accordance with the delineation of geographical areas decided upon as soon as the consent of the majority of Members situated in such areas had been obtained.

The Western Pacific Region embraces a very wide area and includes the following countries and territories:

a) Countries with seats of government in the Region

Australia	Japan	New Zealand
Cambodia	Korea	Philippines
China (Taiwan)	Laos	Viet Nam

b) Countries responsible for territories within the Region

France	The United Kingdom of Great Britain
Portugal	The United States of America
The Netherlands	

The following territories have been assigned to the Region

American Samoa	New Hebrides
British Solomon Islands Protectorate	Niue
Brunei	North Borneo
Cook Islands	Oceania
Federation of Malaya	Papua and New Guinea
Fiji	Sarawak
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Singapore
Guam	Tonga
Hong Kong	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Nauru	Wallis and Foutouna Islands
New Caledonia and dependencies	West New Guinea
	Western Samoa

In addition Macau and Timor-Dili have been participating in the activities of the Region for some years, although no precise indication has ever been received from the Government of Portugal concerning the assignment of these territories.

The question of delineation was not discussed at the last session of the Committee and there is, therefore, no reference to this point in the Committee's report. If the Committee wishes to undertake this specific study, it is suggested that the appointment of a working group might be considered.