

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉSECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLYA2/18 ✓
27 April 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

✓ CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Provisional Agenda item 8.13.1)

In order to give effect to the decision on Programme adopted by the First World Health Assembly,¹ a Conference of delegates of international congresses and associations of Medical Sciences was convened under the auspices of WHO and UNESCO in Brussels in April 1949. As a result of this Conference, which adopted the name of the "Constituent Assembly", a co-ordinating non-governmental body was established: the Council for Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, with legal seat in Brussels.

Thirty-eight international organizations signed the statutes of the Council and several others are expected to join later. The establishment of the Council terminated the preparatory joint UNESCO/WHO activity and the fact that the Council was created with the sponsorship and the active participation of WHO requires a decision as to future relationship and collaboration between WHO and the Council, particularly with regard to assistance requested by the Council.

The Executive Board, at its third session, examined the question and outlined the principles for future arrangements for collaboration, subject to approval by the World Health Assembly.² These principles were brought to the attention of the Brussels Conference which took note of the basis for collaboration envisaged by WHO and empowered the Executive Committee of the Council to make the necessary arrangements with WHO along the lines proposed.³

¹ Off. Rec. World Hlth Org. 13, 323; 12, 54

² Ibid. 17

³ The Board also pointed out that assistance given to congresses by WHO should not include reimbursement of travelling expenses to the scientists attending the congresses. It also decided that the value of the proceedings selected for publication should be given careful consideration.

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, the following draft resolutions are submitted for the consideration of the Second Health Assembly:

1. The Second World Health Assembly

APPROVES the principles laid down by the Executive Board for collaboration of the World Health Organization with the Council for Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, i.e.

(1) that the Council be recognized as a non-governmental organization to be brought into official relationship with the World Health Organization;

(2) that a senior staff member of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization be assigned by the Director-General to represent the World Health Organization at the meetings of the Council in an advisory capacity,

(3) that the World Health Organization assist the Council in its task by giving advice, upon request, to selected congresses of interest to the World Health Organization and by supplying them with material support in the form of reimbursement of a part of the actual expenses for the secretariat (of the Council), technical services (of the congresses) and publication of their proceedings, or where possible, by direct participation in such technical services by the World Health Organization staff;

(4) that adequate justification of the use made of any funds allocated to the Council by the World Health Organization should be regularly furnished by the Council;

(5) that the World Health Organization designate priorities for some of the Council's activities or sponsor some selected congresses. In such cases, the Council should use the funds provided by the World Health Organization in conformity with the latter's decisions;

(6) that arrangements for collaboration be reviewed every year and set up in accordance with the policy and budgetary appropriations of WHO, and

REQUESTS the Director-General to implement the above by making arrangements for collaboration with the Council on the basis of this resolution and within the limits of annual budgetary appropriations.

2. In view of UNESCO's responsibilities in the field of sciences basic to medicine and considering that the resolution of the Third General Conference of UNESCO⁴ emphasizes their interest in the co-ordination of international congresses of medical sciences,

The Second World Health Assembly

DECIDES that UNESCO be consulted on any question of common interest in this field, in the spirit of Article 1 of the Agreement between UNESCO and WHO,⁵ each organization being free to follow its own policy regarding relationship with non-governmental organizations.

⁴ "Jointly with the World Health Organization, to assist in the establishment of a Permanent Bureau (Council) for the co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, and to provide appropriate financial and other aid." (UNESCO Third General Conference, Resolution 3.421)

⁵ Off. Rec. World Hlth Org., 10, 76

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A2/18 Corr. 1
13 May 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES

CORRIGENDUM

Please note that reference to Provisional agenda item
number should be changed as follows:

8.13.1.1

DEUXIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

A2/18 Corr.1
13 mai 1949

ORIGINAL: ANGLAIS

COORDINATION DES CONGRES INTERNATIONAUX
DES SCIENCES MEDICALES

CORRIGENDUM

Prière de noter que l'indication du No de l'ordre du jour
provisoire est modifiée comme suit :

8.13.1.1

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A2/18 Add.1 ✓
17 June 1949

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

✓ CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

(Provisional Agenda Item No. 8.13.1.1.)

For information the Director-General transmits to the
Second World Health Assembly the Protocol and Statutes adopted
by the General Constituent Conference for the establishment of
the Council for Co-ordination of International Congresses of
Medical Sciences, at its meeting in Brussels on 7 April 1949.

A2/18 Add.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CO-ORDINATION
OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Brussels, 4 - 9 April 1949

PROTOCOL

The undersigned members of an Assembly convened by the UNESCO and WHO hereby agree to the formation of the

COUNCIL FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

This Council, which shall not be conducted for profit, shall be registered in Belgium in accordance with the provisions of Belgian Law and shall be governed by such provisions and by the following Articles and Bye-laws.

The final text of the aforesaid Articles and Bye-laws shall be prepared by the Executive Committee in conformity with the directions of the Assembly and with the provisions of Belgian Law.

The final text shall be sent as soon as possible to the parties concerned for ratification and signature.

The Council shall be deemed duly constituted when ten or more of the parties concerned shall have ratified and signed the final text of these Articles; and thereafter the officers, committees and officials of the Council shall exercise their full powers in accordance with these Articles and Bye-Laws.

The official text of these Articles and Bye-laws, duly completed and signed at Brussels shall be entrusted to the safe custody of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Council, and the Executive Committee is hereby commissioned to transmit a certified exact copy to each of the signatory parties.

Brussels, April 7th, 1949

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ALLERGISTS

Represented by : Prof. A. GRUMBACH

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF THE B.C.G.

Represented by : Prof. GUERIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. S.C. DYKE

INTERNATIONAL UNION
AGAINST CANCER

Represented by : Prof. J. MAISIN

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF CARDIOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. F.R. VAN DOOREN

INTERNATIONAL SURGERY
ASSOCIATION

Represented by : Dr. L. DEJARDIN

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

Represented by : Dr. W. Carpenter MacCARTY Sr.....

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ORTHOPAEDIC
SURGERY AND TRAUMATOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. DELCHEF

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF CRIMINOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. Y. PORC'HER

INTERNATIONAL DENTAL
ORGANIZATION

Represented by : Dr. M.F. WATRY

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHY

Represented by : Dr. Henri GASTAUT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF EMBRYOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. Alan FISK

INTERNATIONAL AND FOURTH AMERICAN CONGRESS
ON OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Represented by : Prof. J. SNOECK

INTERNATIONAL GASTRO-ENTEROLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Represented by : Dr. G. BROHEE

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF HEMATOLOGY

Represented by : Prof. LAMBIN

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
OF NURSES

Represented by : Mlle M. BIHET

INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY
ASSOCIATION

Represented by : Dr. R. CHAUSSINAND

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION

Represented by : Dr. Montreuil STRAUS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Represented by : Dr. F. SONDERVORST

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
INTERNAL MEDICINE

Represented by : Prof. A. GIGON

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MILITARY
MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

Represented by : Col. Médecin H. GLORIEUX

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF LEGAL
AND SOCIAL MEDICINE

Represented by : Prof. Maurice DE LAET

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
ON INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

Represented by : Prof. L. CAROZZI

WORLD MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

Represented by : Dr. Paul CIBRIE

INTERNATIONAL MEDICO-ATHLETIC
FEDERATION

Represented by : Prof. A. GOVAERTS

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
NEUROLOGICAL CONGRESS

Represented by : Dr. Auguste TOURNAY

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

Represented by : Prof. E.J. BIGWOOD

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY

Represented by : Prof. Edmond VELTER

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. F.C.W. CAPPS

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF CONGRESSES OF COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. Louis GROLLET

INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC
ASSOCIATION AND CONGRESS

Represented by : Dr. R. DEBRE

INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST
VENEREAL DISEASES

Represented by : Dr. L. DEKEYSER

PSYCHIATRIC
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Represented by : Dr. Henri EY

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGY

Represented by : Dr. Ralston PATERSON

WORLD FEDERATION FOR
MENTAL HEALTH

Represented by : Dr. Kenneth SODDY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Represented by : Prof. A. TZANCK

INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST
TUBERCULOSIS

Represented by : Dr. DERSCHIED

INTERNATIONAL UROLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Represented by : Dr. BOUTEAU

ARTICLES OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Preamble

Whereas it is desirable to co-ordinate international congresses of medical sciences, to possess means of disseminating information on all congresses, conferences and meetings held by international scientific associations, and to provide material assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, being Specialized Agencies of the United Nations;

consider that it is desirable to encourage and assist co-operation between scientific bodies which would contribute to the promotion of health and to the exchange of ideas and knowledge;

and together affirm that action should be taken in the international field to attain these ends:

the signatory parties agree to the following Articles of the Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences.

SECTION I - PURPOSES

Article 1

The purposes of the Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences (hereinafter called the Council) shall be to secure the continuity and co-ordination of international congresses of medical sciences, and to give material assistance.

SECTION II - FUNCTIONS

Article 2

In pursuit of its purposes, the functions of the Council shall be assistance and compilation of information, co-ordination and dissemination, in particular:

Information and Co-ordination

- (a) To compile information about all national and international organizations of a medical or related character and congresses which they organize, including their present and future programmes, dates, subjects studied and names of principal contributors;
- (b) to suggest to international medical bodies appropriate dates and plans for their congresses, and, in particular, to seek to group together related professional disciplines;
- (c) to study the technique of conducting Congresses and provide information thereon;

Assistance

- (d) to give material assistance in respect of specialized conference services and to facilitate the travel of congress participants;
- (e) to study methods of facilitating the transfer of funds required by Congress participants;
- (f) to give financial assistance to the scientific work of congresses and make grants to participants whose presence at the Congress is particularly desirable;
- (g) to make grants in order to enable representatives invited from other professional disciplines to take part in the Congress;

Dissemination

- (h) to disseminate scientific information received from medical or other related organizations;
- (i) to collaborate in publishing the proceedings of congresses;
- (j) to study and promote the social aspects of congresses.

SECTION III - MEMBERSHIP

Article 3

All non-governmental medical organizations with a world-wide membership open to all shall be eligible for membership of the Council, i.e. organizations devoted wholly or in major part, whether in study or in practice, to:

- (a) the promotion of health;
- (b) the encouragement of scientific research into the principles underlying health and into the causes of disease;
- (c) the study of methods of prevention and cure.

Article 4

Those organizations included in the list attached to these Articles duly represented at the initial conference may become Members of the Council by signing the present Articles.

Article 5

Organizations not acquiring membership under the terms of Article 4 may become members of the Council when their application has been approved by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Article 6

International non-governmental organizations not eligible under the terms of Article 3 and international organizations of a regional character, may, upon application, be admitted by the General Assembly as Associate Members without the right to vote, by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. The rights

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and obligations of such Associate Members shall be determined by the General Assembly.

SECTION IV - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 7

The authority of the Council shall be vested in the General Assembly composed of duly accredited representatives of all the Member Organizations, which shall each appoint a delegate and substitutes. The maximum number of representatives shall be determined by the Bye-laws.

Article 8

The General Assembly shall meet ordinarily every third year at a place to be decided upon by the Executive Committee at least one year previously. The General Assembly shall also meet in such special sessions as may be necessary. These extraordinary meetings shall take place on the premises of the Council, and shall be convened by the Executive Committee either at its own discretion or if required by the majority of the Members of the Council.

Article 9

The General Assembly shall elect its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries at the opening of each Assembly.

Article 10

The General Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 11

The functions of the General Assembly shall be:

- (a) to determine the policy of the Permanent Council and to elect the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee;
- (b) to receive and approve the reports of the Executive Committee.
- (c) to fix the level of subscriptions; to determine the financial policy of the Council; to consider and approve the budget.

SECTION V - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 12

The Executive Committee shall consist of 9 members. The General Assembly shall designate Member Organizations from which a delegate or his substitute shall serve on the Executive Committee. These members shall serve for three years, and one third of the Committee shall retire each year. The order of retirement shall be determined by lot, and members shall be eligible for re-election.

Article 13

The Executive Committee shall meet during each session of the General

Assembly and at least once a year at the office of the Council. It shall elect its Chairman from among its Members and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 14

The Executive Committee shall exercise on behalf of the General Assembly the powers delegated to it by the Assembly.

SECTION VI - VOTING

Article 15

Each delegate to the General Assembly, whether he represents one or more than one Member Organization, shall have only one vote.

Article 16

Except where otherwise provided in these Statutes, decisions of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and other committees of the Executive Council, shall be taken by a simple majority of the Members present and voting; the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

SECTION VII - SECRETARIAT

Article 17

The offices of the Secretariat need not be at the headquarters of the Council. The Secretariat shall consist of the Executive Secretary and such staff as may be required.

Article 18

The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article 19

The Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and of all other Committees, but may delegate his responsibilities.

Article 20

The Executive Secretary shall prepare annual balance sheets and estimates of expenditure for submission by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly.

Article 21

The Executive Secretary shall appoint the staff of the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions taken by the Executive Committee.

SECTION VIII - BUDGET AND FINANCES

Article 22

The expenses of the Permanent Council shall be met by the subscriptions of the Member Organizations, by grants from official bodies and by voluntary contributions.

Article 23

The General Assembly shall fix the level of subscriptions of Member Organizations.

Article 24

The Executive Secretary with the approval of the Executive Committee, may accept gifts and legacies.

SECTION IX - RELATIONS

Article 25

The Executive Committee may make suitable arrangements for co-operation with both governmental and non-governmental international organizations.

Article 26

Agreements shall be concluded with the two Organizations designated in the preamble which shall determine, in particular, the representation of these organizations on the Council.

SECTION X - LEGAL CAPACITY

Article 27

The legal capacity of the Council shall be determined by an agreement to be concluded between the Council and the Government of the country of domicile of the first Chairman of the Executive Committee.

SECTION XI - AMENDMENTS

Article 28

Amendments to these statutes shall only be effective after adoption at a regular or extraordinary session of the Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting; provided that at least three months notice of any such amendment to be considered be given to each Member Organization.

SECTION XII - INTERPRETATION

Article 29

The text of these statutes shall be published in French and in English, but the French text alone shall be deemed authoritative.

SECTION XIII - TEMPORARY CLAUSE

Article 30

The first Executive Committee shall consist of the Member Organizations of the Organizing Executive Committee plus four Members to be elected.

SECTION XIV - ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 31

These Articles shall become effective when they shall have been accepted by ten Organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 4 and 5.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL
FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Brussels, 4 - 9 April 1949

BYE - LAWS

I. Members and Observers

1. In agreement with the Belgian Government and at the invitation of the Organizing Committee of the General Assembly for the Establishment of a Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and the World Health Organization (WHO), any non-governmental international organizations engaged in medical activities, in connexion either with research or with the practice of medicine, may send delegates to the General Assembly.
2. Other non-governmental international organizations not within the provisions of Bye-law I, and international organizations of a regional character, may, upon application, be admitted by a two-thirds majority to take part in the General Assembly's work as associate members without the right to vote.
3. Organizations shall submit to the Organizing Committee the names and credentials of delegates and observers officially appointed by them to take part in the General Assembly.
4. The head of any delegation may appoint any member of his delegation to participate in the work of the plenary sessions or the various commissions and committees. The head of each delegation may be accompanied at each session by as many members of his delegation as he deems necessary to help him in his work, on the understanding that any particular commission or committee may impose restrictions on numbers on account of limited space or material difficulties.

II. Organization of the Assembly

5. The Assembly shall be opened by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Assembly. In order to carry out its work, the Assembly shall elect a Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen by a majority vote of the delegations present and voting and shall set up such bodies as are necessary for the conduct of its business. The Chairman shall take the chair at plenary meetings. The officers shall hold office until the close of the Assembly.
6. The Chairman shall appoint one of the Vice-Chairmen to take his place in the event of his absence for a meeting or part thereof.

III. Secretariat of the Assembly

7. It shall be the duty of the Secretariat, under the direction of the Executive Secretary

to receive, translate and distribute documents, communications and resolution presented by delegates; provide translations, draft and circulate after the Assembly the records of the meetings, and perform all other work which the Assembly may require.

IV. Languages

8. The working languages of the General Assembly of the Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences shall be English and French.
9. All the documents and records of meetings shall be issued in both of the working languages.
10. At plenary sessions and at meetings of commissions and committees, speeches shall be interpreted from English into French and from French into English.
11. Delegates and observers may also speak in any other language, but they must themselves provide for interpretation of their speeches into either English or French, according to their choice. The Secretariat shall provide for interpretation into the other working language.

V. Records

12. Summaries of the meetings shall be circulated to all the delegates and observers in the appropriate working language.

VI. Admission of the Public

13. All the plenary sessions of the Assembly shall be held in public.

VII. Conduct of Business

14. The Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
15. When a motion is under discussion at a plenary session, any delegate may rise to a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the Chairman. An appeal may be made, through the Assembly, against the Chairman's decision.
16. Draft resolutions and amendments shall be submitted to the Executive-Secretary who shall circulate copies to delegates.

VIII. Voting

17. Each member organization represented at the General Assembly shall have one vote.
18. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.
19. A two-thirds majority of delegations present and voting is required for the admission of new members to the Council.

20. Observers may take part in the discussions, without the right to vote.
21. For the purposes of the present Bye-laws, the term "members present and voting" shall mean members who record an affirmative or negative vote, and shall not include members who abstain from voting.
22. Voting shall normally be taken by a show of hands or by standing.
23. When the result of a vote by show of hands or by standing is in doubt, the Chairman may take a second vote by roll-call and shall do so at the request of one member made to the Chairman of the meeting before or immediately after a vote by show of hands or by standing. At the request of one member, any vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

IX. Voting on Amendments

24. When both a proposal and an amendment to that proposal are before the General Assembly, the amendment shall be voted on first. If two or more amendments to a proposal are before the Assembly, the motion which the Chairman considers to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first. The motion next furthest removed from the original proposal shall then be voted on, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote.
25. A motion shall be considered as an amendment to a proposal if it implies only an addition to it, a deletion from it or the alteration of any part of it.

X. Adoption of Bye-Laws

26. The present Bye-Laws shall be submitted to the General Assembly for the Establishment of a Council for the Co-ordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences during its first regular session. They may be altered by a decision of the Assembly taken by a majority of the members present and voting.