



REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES\* ]

The following regulations shall govern the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee").

Article 1: Purposes and Functions

1. The purposes and functions of the Committee are:

- (a) to review the application of the International Health Regulations and other related legislation;
- (b) to recommend amendment to the International Health Regulations as well as additional Regulations where necessary, in particular on diseases not specifically covered by the Regulations;
- (c) to submit recommendations on practice, methods and procedure relating to international surveillance of communicable diseases;
- (d) to advise the Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Director-General on any matter referred to it by them;
- (e) to consider questions or disputes referred to it by the Director-General under Article 93 of the International Health Regulations (1969).

2. Without prejudice and in addition to the purposes and functions referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Committee may:

- (a) review the latest knowledge and expert information relating to international surveillance of communicable diseases and make it available to the Organization;
- (b) make recommendations designed to initiate, stimulate and coordinate research necessary for the fulfilment of its terms of reference.

3. The Committee, unless formally so requested by the Health Assembly, the Executive Board or the Director-General, shall not advise the Organization on questions of the Organization's internal administrative policy.

Article 2: Selection, Appointment and Term of Office of Members

1. The Members of the Committee shall be selected and appointed by the Director-General from amongst the persons serving on appropriate expert advisory panels of the Organization. All such appointments shall be reported to the Executive Board at its next session.

2. In selecting these members, the Director-General shall consider primarily their ability and technical experience. Subject to this primary consideration, he shall also endeavour to secure adequate geographical distribution.

3. The Director-General shall appoint members to serve on the Committee taking note of the need to make available appropriate expert advice on, *inter alia*, international surveillance of communicable diseases, epidemiology, international law, transport and other allied matters, as required for the proper consideration of the items on the agenda of each session. He shall also take note of the need to ensure continuity of thought and action and shall provide to the Committee the technical cooperation and advice of appropriate expert committees and study groups of the Organization.

4. The Director-General shall appoint members to the Committee for a period of two years for the express purpose of considering questions or disputes that may arise under subparagraph (e) of paragraph 1 of Article 1 of these regulations. The first such appointments shall be made upon the entry-into-force of these regulations or as soon thereafter as practicable. The number of members so appointed shall not exceed seven. The Director-General shall similarly appoint additional members to replace members prevented from sitting on the Committee under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 9 of these regulations or for any other reason.

5. For all other purposes the Director-General shall appoint members to the Committee for the duration of the work of a session only.

6. Members appointed to a session which considers a question or dispute shall

\* See Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., 1974, No. 217, pp. 73-75; 1977, No. 240, p. 62.

continue to serve for any further deliberation on such question or dispute until the consideration thereof is terminated.

7. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

8. In accordance with the administrative regulations of the Organization, members of the Committee shall be entitled to a refund of travelling expenses necessitated by their attendance at sessions of the Committee, and also to a daily living allowance during such sessions. These allowances shall not be regarded as remuneration.

#### Article 3: International Status of Members

1. In the exercise of their functions, the members of the Committee shall act in an international capacity serving the Organization exclusively; in that capacity they may not request or receive instructions from any government or authority external to the Organization.

2. They shall enjoy the privileges and immunities envisaged in Article 67(b) of the Constitution of the Organization and set forth in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and in Annex VII thereof.

#### Article 4: Officers

At the beginning of each session the Committee shall elect a chairman to direct its debates, a vice-chairman to replace the chairman in case of resignation, absence or inability to carry out effectively his functions, and shall also elect a rapporteur.

#### Article 5: Secretaryship

1. In accordance with Article 32 of the Constitution, the Director-General is ex officio secretary of the Committee. He may delegate those functions.

2. The Director-General, or his representative, may at any time make either oral or written statements to the Committee concerning any question under consideration.

3. The presence of the Director-General, or of his representative, during the proceedings is necessary to validate any action taken by the Committee.

4. The Director-General, or his representative, shall determine the time and place of each session; he shall convene a meeting of the Committee when he considers it necessary.

#### Article 6: Agenda

1. The Director-General, or his representative, shall prepare the draft agenda for each session and transmit it in reasonable time to the members of the Committee, to Members and Associate Members of the Organization and to other States party to the Regulations.

2. The agenda shall include any subject within the terms of reference of the Committee proposed by the Health Assembly, the Executive Board, or the Director-General on his own initiative or at the request of any State concerned.

#### Article 7: Reports on Sessions of the Committee

1. This part shall not apply to matters dealt with under Article 9.

2. For each session, the Committee shall, with the assistance of its secretary, draw up a report setting forth the Committee's findings, observations and recommendations.

3. This report shall be approved by the Committee before the end of the session.

4. If the Committee is not unanimous in its findings, any member shall be entitled to express his personal opinion; this opinion shall be given in an individual or group report, which shall state the reasons why a divergent opinion is held and shall form part of the Committee's report.

5. The Committee's report shall be submitted by the Director-General to the Assembly.

6. If in case of urgency the Director-General takes action upon the report prior to its submission to the Health Assembly, he shall report upon such action to the Health Assembly at its next session.

7. The Health Assembly may, within its discretion, authorize publication of the report.

8. The text of the report may not be modified without the Committee's consent.

Article 8: Rules of Procedure

1. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be of a private character. They cannot become public except by the decision of the Committee, with the consent of the Director-General.
2. Two-thirds of the members of the Committee attending the session shall constitute a quorum.
3. In respect of decisions other than on questions or disputes, such decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.
4. In respect of decisions on questions or disputes, such decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present, each member casting an affirmative or negative vote. If the votes are equally divided, the chairman shall, in addition, have the casting vote.
5. Parts of a resolution or motion shall be voted on separately if any member of the Committee so requests.
6. If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Committee shall first vote on the one which is furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the one which is the next furthest removed in substance, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote.
7. Where an amendment revises, supplements or reduces the scope of a resolution or motion the amendment shall first be put to the vote. If it is adopted, the revised resolution or motion shall then be put to the vote.
8. During the discussion of any question, a member may raise a point of order, and the chairman shall immediately give his ruling on the point of order.
9. During a discussion of any matter, a member may move the adjournment of the debate. Such motions shall not be debated but shall immediately be put to a vote.
10. The Committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker.
11. At any time a member may move the closure of the debate, whether or not any other member has signified his wish to speak. Subject to paragraph 9 of this Article any such motion shall have priority in the debate. If permission to speak

against closure has been requested, it may be accorded to not more than one member. The motion for closure shall then be put to a vote.

12. The working languages of the Committee shall be English and French. Speeches made in Russian and in Spanish shall be interpreted into both working languages; speeches made in either of the working languages and, at the request of any member, into Russian and/or Spanish. If requested, arrangements shall be made, if possible, for the interpretation of any other language.

Article 9: Consideration of Questions or Disputes under Article 93 of the International Health Regulations

1. If a question or dispute is referred to the Committee for consideration under Article 93 of the International Health Regulations (1969) and subparagraph (e) of paragraph 1 of Article 1 of these regulations, the procedure shall be as follows:

(a) The Director-General shall forthwith communicate with the States concerned informing them of such reference and inviting them to submit, within a prescribed period, any observations they may think desirable.

(b) As soon as a reply or replies are received, or if no reply which would put an end to the question or dispute is received within the prescribed period, the Director-General shall convene the Committee appointed in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 2 of these regulations. No member who is a national of any State concerned with a question or dispute may sit on the Committee for this purpose.

(c) The States concerned shall be informed that they may appoint one or more representatives in order to state their case to the Committee. The expenses involved shall be the responsibility of these States. Should two or more parties be presenting a common case, they shall, for the purposes of this paragraph, be considered as one party only. In case of doubt the Committee shall decide.

(d) The Director-General may request any State or intergovernmental organization, whether interested in the question or dispute or not, to place at

the disposal of the Committee any written information in its possession concerning the subject of the question or dispute.

(e) The Director-General, taking into account the nature of the problems involved in the consideration of the question or dispute, may at the request of the Committee or on his own initiative appoint one or more technical experts to advise the Committee in their specialized technical fields. Such technical experts shall normally be drawn from the expert advisory panels of the Organization. They shall not have the right to vote.

(f) When the Committee is convened, it shall endeavour to secure a settlement. If it succeeds a procès-verbal shall be drawn up showing the terms of settlement which shall be sent to the States concerned. If it fails it shall give a reasoned opinion and specify any recommendations which it deems appropriate. The Director-General shall communicate the Committee's opinion, including any recommendations made, to the parties concerned, and shall invite them to state within a prescribed period whether they accept the conclusions of, and any recommendations made by, the

Committee. Members of the Committee who dissent either from the decision or the reasons given shall be entitled to append their dissenting opinions.

Article 10: Participation of  
Other Organizations

1. This Article shall not apply to matters dealt with under Article 9.

2. The Director-General shall invite the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations to designate representatives to attend the Committee if the subjects on the agenda so require.

3. Such representatives may submit memoranda and, with the consent of the chairman, make statements on the subjects under discussion. They shall not have the right to vote.

Article 11: Entry-into-force

1. These regulations and any amendments thereto shall apply as from the date of their approval by the Health Assembly.

2. These regulations may be amended by the Health Assembly after consultation with the Committee. No such amendments shall apply to a question or dispute under consideration.

