



WHA - RESOLVE HANDS
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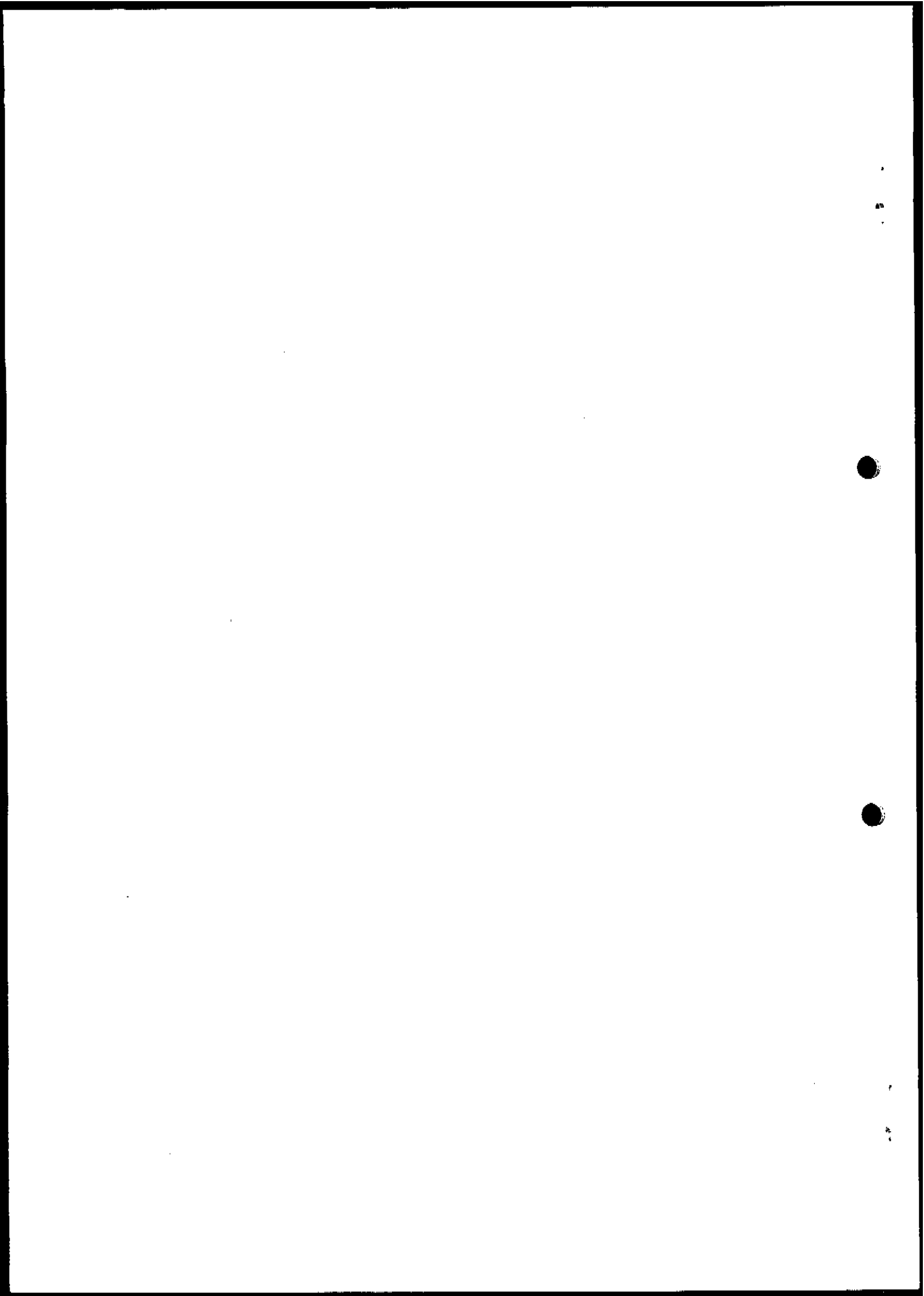
DRAFTING OF RESOLUTIONS

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DRAFTING OF RESOLUTIONS

The following notes have been drafted with resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board particularly in mind. With appropriate modifications, they are also applicable to resolutions of regional committees, expert committees, or other bodies.

General

1. The resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board are the formally adopted expression of the opinion, will, or decision of a constitutional organ of the World Health Organization and may be considered to be legal texts. They therefore require punctilious drafting to ensure that they express no more and no less than the intent of the adopting body and that they do so as briefly as possible and without giving rise to misunderstanding. That intent, however, may need to be expressed in phrasing that provides for the niceties of a compromise.

2. A poorly framed resolution may prove a lasting vexation to governments and Secretariat alike. A well framed resolution is concise, precise, correct and unambiguous in expression, and covers all essential aspects. The following paragraphs are intended to guide members of the WHO Secretariat who may be asked to prepare draft resolutions and to help the secretaries of committees and other bodies in giving drafting assistance to delegations or members of the Executive Board (see Annex I).

3. Three cautionary points may be made at the outset:

(a) Whenever possible, use plain language and avoid phrases that have currently a special or restricted meaning in technical or international usage, unless they are related to a text (report, other resolution, etc.) that explains or defines them. For example, "concerted practical action" was a phrase current in the 1950s with a specific meaning that has now eroded. The framers of EB11.R40, however, ensured that its meaning could still be ascertained in later years by adding an explanatory phrase (underlined in the following):

"2. NOTES the ... programme of concerted practical action in this field, proposed in resolution 535 (VI) of the General Assembly."

(b) Whenever possible, avoid the use of expressions with a wider meaning than that specifically intended - e.g., "basic sanitary services", where only water supply and wastes disposal are meant; "ritual operations", where only certain such operations are meant.

(c) Bear in mind that resolutions must be translated into several languages.¹ The clearer are the thought and wording of the original, the better are likely to be the translations and therefore the less the risk of misunderstandings.

Reference symbol

4. The code letters and numbers attached to resolutions of the Health Assembly and Executive Board identify both the originating body and the session at which the resolution was adopted;

¹ A four-language (E, F, R, S) bulletin on the terminology of resolutions is issued by the United Nations Conference Department as Terminology Bulletin No. 298 (document ST/CS/SER.F/298).

for example, "WHA25.58" indicates the fifty-eighth resolution adopted by the Twenty-fifth World Health Assembly, "EB51.R16" the sixteenth resolution adopted by the Executive Board at its fifty-first session. The numbering of resolutions starts afresh with each session, the numbers being allocated serially by the Secretariat as each resolution is adopted by the Board or at a plenary session of the Health Assembly. Executive Board resolutions bear a capital letter R before the number of the resolution and after the full stop separating that number from the session number;¹ Health Assembly resolutions do not.

Titles

5. The title of a resolution should indicate the main topic considered. In most cases the title will be that of the relevant agenda item or subitem; a modification of the wording may be required, however, to reflect adequately the content of the resolution. Normally no two resolutions adopted at the same Health Assembly or session of the Executive Board should bear the same title; if they relate to the same agenda item, they should be given different titles or distinguishing subtitles (separated from the main title by a colon).

6. The names of organizations, agencies, organs etc. used in titles should always be given in full.

Structure of simple resolutions (see Annex II for models)

7. As a general rule, resolutions of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board are composed of: (a) the title of the originating body; (b) the preamble (if any), reciting the reasons for which action is being taken, a recommendation made, or an opinion expressed; (c) the operative part, stating the action being taken or recommended, or the opinion of the body concerned.

8. Originating body. The title of the body whose opinion or decision is stated stands on a line by itself. Resolutions of the Health Assembly mention the number of the session ("The Twenty-fifth World Health Assembly"); those of the Executive Board do not ("The Executive Board").

9. The preamble. The first letter of each paragraph of the preamble is capitalized, and the first line is indented.

10. Preambular paragraphs are not numbered, but subdivisions may be designated by lower-case letters (*italic in letterpress*), enclosed within parentheses (see Model VI).

11. If reference is made to a particular preambular paragraph, ordinal numbers should be used ("... the second paragraph of the preamble"; "... subparagraph (b) of the third paragraph of the preamble"). The line giving the title of the originating body is excluded when counting preambular paragraphs.

12. The operative part. The operative verb or phrase should begin each paragraph of the operative part and is in capital letters (small capitals in letterpress) - e.g., "DECIDES to ..."; "EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION of ..."; "REQUESTS the Director-General to ..."; "REQUESTS, further, that ...".

13. If there is only one operative paragraph, it is not numbered, and the first line is indented (see Model I).

14. If there are two or more operative paragraphs, they are numbered in sequence, in arabic numerals, the numeral being followed by a full stop. The numeral and full stop are not indented, but the operative verb or phrase is (see Model II).

¹ This is to avoid confusion with the symbol of the document series.

15. If an operative paragraph is subdivided (see Model IV), the first degree of subparagraph is indicated by arabic numerals in parentheses, the second degree by lower-case italic (or underlined) letters in parentheses, and the third degree by lower-case roman numerals in parentheses. Each degree of subparagraphing is indented one degree further from the margin. Thus:

I. RECOMMENDS to Members:

(1) that the following procedures ...
be used:

(a) for international ...:

- (i) the system recommended in ...
- (ii)

(b) for ... within a national
jurisdiction:

- (i)
- (ii)

Note that where in English () are used, in French, Russian and Spanish the closing parenthesis only is required: 1), a), ii).

16. It is generally preferable to express a new idea in a separate operative paragraph, rather than in a subparagraph. Thus:

"The Executive Board

"1. AUTHORIZES ...

"2. REQUESTS ... "

is preferable to

"The Executive Board

"DECIDES:

- (1) to authorize ...
- (2) to request ..."

17. Each operative paragraph (and each paragraph in the preamble) is a distinct entity and should contain no words that are proper to another. Paragraphs should not be linked by "and" or "and further". The word "further" can generally be dispensed with; if it is needed for special emphasis, it should be placed in the paragraph to which it relates and preferably after the operative verb or phrase ("CONSIDERS, further, that ..." rather than "FURTHER CONSIDERS that ...").

18. If reference is made in one operative paragraph to another in the same resolution, it should be referred to by its number, without the use of the word "operative" ("in accordance with paragraph 2"; "the procedures itemized in subparagraph 3 (2) (a)").

Resolutions having two or more main parts (see Models V and VIII)

19. Such resolutions may be convenient when the main facts derive from the same premise or are intimately linked by the same idea. This structure should not be used, however, when

the parts could equally well be presented as separate resolutions (see paragraph 5 above, in this connexion).

20. When it is convenient for a resolution to consist of two or more main parts dealing with closely related aspects of the same subject, each main part should be designated by an upper-case roman numeral centred over the appropriate part of the text. (In established practice, an exception has been made to this rule in the case of the Appropriation Resolution; for its structure, see recent examples in the Handbook of Resolutions and Decisions.)

21. The numerals indicating the part numbers should not normally precede the line giving the title of the adopting body. They should preferably follow the preamble, which should be so drafted as to embrace the reasons for all the succeeding operative parts (see Model V). If the need is felt for two preambles, it may be an indication that there should be two resolutions. However, some subjects are so intimately linked that they require a composite resolution even though individual preambles to the separate parts are also necessary (see Model VIII).

22. The sequential numbering of operative paragraphs is started afresh within each main part of the resolution. Thus:

The ...th World Health Assembly,

Desirous of ...

Bearing in mind ...

Reaffirming ...

I

1. CONGRATULATES ...
2. APPROVES ...

II

1. RECOMMENDS ...
2. INVITES ...

23. According to the context, these paragraphs may be referred to as "paragraph 2 of resolution WHA ..., part I" or as "resolution WHA ..., part I, paragraph 2".

Draft resolutions contained within resolutions (see Model VII)

24. Resolutions of the Executive Board frequently contain the texts of draft resolutions that the Board recommends for adoption by the Health Assembly. Such texts should be self-contained entities that can be adopted without change and they are subject to the same considerations as apply to all other resolutions.

25. The draft resolution is indented one degree below the operative paragraph that recommends it. It is placed within quotation marks in the English, Russian and Spanish versions but not in the French. In the Russian and Spanish versions, the quotation marks are used only at the beginning and the end of the draft resolution; in the English version, opening quotation marks are used at the start of each paragraph (but not subparagraph) and closing quotation marks are used at the end of the whole draft text.

Punctuation

26. The normal rules of punctuation apply to resolutions, which are usually constructed as a single sentence.
27. If there is no preamble, no punctuation is used after the title of the adopting body. If there is a preamble, the title of the adopting body is followed by a comma.
28. If the preamble consists of a single paragraph, it is followed by a comma. If there are two or more preambular paragraphs, each is followed by a semicolon, including the last.
29. In the operative part, there is a semicolon after each paragraph and a full stop at the end - normally the only full stop in the resolution.
30. When a paragraph, either in the preamble or in the operative part, is divided into subparagraphs identified by letters or numerals, a colon is placed after the words that introduce the first subparagraph, and each subparagraph is followed by a semicolon.

Annexed matter

31. If the body adopting a resolution thereby adopts or approves a text other than the resolution itself, that text should (where appropriate) be annexed to, rather than inserted in, the resolution.
32. In a resolution amending the Constitution of WHO, the texts of the amendments in all the official languages are equally authentic and are normally specified as forming an integral part of the resolution, although annexed to it.

Short titles and other abbreviations

33. The names of organs, organizations, offices, committees etc. should be given in full when mentioned in a resolution, and special care should be taken to ensure that they are given correctly. However, in order to avoid excessive repetition or clumsy phrasing, long titles, though they should be given in full the first time they appear, may thereafter be shortened, provided there is no possible ambiguity. Thus:

The Twentieth World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the Director-General's report on the developments concerning the recommendations ... of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies ...,

Recognizing that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee require ...

34. The shortened form of "the World Health Assembly" is "the Health Assembly" (never "the Assembly"). That of "the United Nations General Assembly" is "the General Assembly". (Note that the expression "the General Assembly of the United Nations" is avoided by the United Nations and should not be used in WHO resolutions.)
35. Abbreviations made up of initial letters are out of place in formal texts. They should be resorted to only when the use of the full name or title would cause excessive repetition or awkwardness, and the full title must always be given the first time the body concerned is mentioned in a resolution. An exception may be made for WHO.
36. An exception to the above rules is also made when short titles or abbreviations themselves form part of an official title ("Joint FAO/WHO/OAU Regional Food and Nutrition Commission for Africa").

Note that "UN" may not be used as an abbreviation for the United Nations as a whole, but only as part of the abbreviation of one of its organs (UNEP, UNFICYP, UNICEF, etc.), and that "ECOSOC" should never be used.

Note also that, particularly in resolutions, abbreviations for abstract concepts (e.g., MCH, CHP) should never be used.

Supersession of resolutions

37. It has been the practice to consider that a subsequent resolution supersedes the terms of a previous one with which it conflicts. While it may therefore not be strictly necessary to specify that one resolution supersedes another, it may be desirable to do so to avoid any ambiguity or to show that an earlier resolution has not been overlooked. This may be done by including a paragraph either in the preamble ("Notwithstanding the provisions of resolution WHA ...") or in the operative part ("DECIDES that the present resolution supersedes resolution WHA ...").

38. In certain matters, resolutions of the Health Assembly may override those of the Executive Board, either by inference or explicitly; if it is necessary to be explicit, a clause in the preamble to that effect is usually adequate ("Notwithstanding the provisions of resolution EB...R...").

Reference to documents; and footnotes

39. Resolutions frequently make reference to documents (e.g., reports of the Director-General) that have been considered by the adopting body. The identification symbols should not be given in the text of a resolution - and thus made an integral part of it - but relegated to footnotes. When the resolutions are printed in the Official Records, the footnotes may be amended to refer to the appropriate annexes if the documents have been considered of sufficiently lasting importance to warrant publication; otherwise they may be omitted.

40. These footnotes are editorial glosses and acceptable as such. The use of footnotes containing matters of substance, on the other hand, is contrary to the principles of sound legal drafting and should be avoided in a resolution, particularly as such notes may be construed as extending or qualifying the resolution. Such matter should be incorporated in the resolution itself, or in certain cases annexed to it (see paragraph 31 above); or, again, made the subject of another resolution.

41. When reference is made to a specific document in the text of a resolution, the subject with which it deals should be indicated, whether or not it is the same as the title, which is not an integral part of the resolution ("Having considered the report of the Director-General on the assessment of Associate Members"; and not "Having considered the report of the Director-General", nor "... the report of the Director-General on the above subject").

Note, however, that the expression "Having considered a report by the Director-General" may be more appropriate on some occasions (particularly with ephemeral documents or verbal reports) and need not always be followed by an indication of the subject of the report.

Reference to a resolution (WHO or United Nations)

42. Reference in a resolution to the text of the same resolution as a whole may be to "this resolution" if no other resolution is mentioned in the text. If there is mention of another resolution, ambiguity may arise, and the reference should therefore be to "the present resolution".

43. Reference to a resolution adopted at another session of the adopting body or by another body of the Organization is made by quoting the reference symbol preceded by the word "resolution(s)"; if more than one is cited, they are usually given in chronological order ("Recalling resolutions WHA23.44, EB47.R53, and WHA24.52").

Note: The adopting body of WHA resolutions is always a particular Health Assembly, which cannot refer to a resolution adopted by a previous Health Assembly as "its" (e.g., the Thirtieth World Health Assembly cannot recall "its" resolutions WHA10.42 and WHA20.40). This however is not the case of the Executive Board.

44. Resolutions of United Nations organs have hitherto been identified by three elements (see however paragraph 46 below). All three must be given: first the name of the organ, written in full (initials or other abbreviations are not used); secondly, an arabic numeral indicating the serial number of the resolution; thirdly, a roman numeral, in parentheses, indicating the number of the session at which the resolution was adopted. Thus:

"United Nations General Assembly resolution 2975 (XXVII)", or simply "General Assembly resolution 2975 (XXVII)"; and "Economic and Social Council resolution 1921 (LVIII)".

45. In United Nations practice two or more resolutions, each complete in itself, may be grouped under a single resolution number, each resolution being further identified by a capital letter. Reference may be made to all the resolutions, in which case the capital letters are not shown ("General Assembly resolution 2750 (XXV)"), or to one of them specifically, when the appropriate letter should be placed between the arabic and the roman numerals ("General Assembly resolution 2750 C (XXV)").

46. Beginning with the thirty-first session, resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly are numbered in a separate series for each session, instead of consecutively from session to session. Moreover the use of roman numerals has been discontinued. The form of reference to these later resolutions will therefore be: "resolution 31/208", "resolution 31/16 A", "resolutions 31/15 A to E" (in each case preceded by the words "General Assembly").

Note that some United Nations organs issue mimeographed documents giving the provisional text of adopted resolutions, which later appear in final, edited form in the Official Records of that organ. Whenever possible, the symbols of these documents should not be used in reference to resolutions, the final printed version being cited in preference (e.g., A/RES/31/308 is "General Assembly resolution 31/308").

Quotation of adopted resolutions

47. Resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board are edited and printed in the official languages in the Official Records as soon as possible after the closure of the session.¹ As the editing sometimes entails slight modifications in one or more languages, quotation of the whole or part of the resolutions should always be from the final printed version and not from that distributed as a document.

48. If a resolution is to be annexed to or quoted in an official letter to be sent before the printed volume is published, the originator of the letter should ascertain from the Office of Publications (PUB) or the Office of Language Services (TRA) whether any amendment has been made.

49. When resolutions or parts of resolutions of WHO or other organizations are reproduced, the wording and style of the original - including spelling, capitalization, italics, and punctuation - should be retained.

¹ The majority of them are later printed in the Handbook of Resolutions and Decisions as well.

Reference to Member States, Associate Members, and members of the Executive Board

50. The Members and Associate Members of the Organization are, respectively, States and territories, not their governments. The States Members (correct, but rather old-fashioned) or Member States (more frequently used) designate persons to serve on the Executive Board, who are then members (lower-case initial letter) of that Board. The expressions "Member(s)", "Associate Member(s)", "State(s) Member(s)", "Member State(s)", "governments of the States Members", "governments of Member States", and "member(s) of the Executive Board" are acceptable. "Member Government(s)", "Associate Member State(s)", and "Member(s) of the Executive Board" (unless at the start of a sentence) should not be used.

Reference to executive heads of organizations and to the Secretariat

51. When reference is made to the Director-General or to the Secretariat in resolutions adopted by one of the WHO legislative bodies it is not usually necessary to add "of the World Health Organization" unless there is a possibility of confusion with the Director-General or the Secretariat of some other organization.

52. However, if the executive head or Secretariat of another organization is referred to, the name of that organization should be given ("the Secretary-General of the United Nations"; "the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva").

53. When "the Secretariat" is used to mean the third organ of the Organization as specified in Article 9 of the Constitution, it takes an initial capital letter; when the expression refers merely to members of the staff, individually or collectively, the initial capital is not used - e.g., when referring to the staff servicing a meeting (the secretariat of the Health Assembly may be distinguished from the Secretariat of the Organization).

Annex I

MECHANICS OF PRODUCING RESOLUTIONS

Stage at which drafted

1. Any staff member drafting a document for the Health Assembly or the Executive Board must be prepared, if necessary, to draft a resolution on the subject of the document. Not all discussions culminate in the adoption of a resolution, of course; but resolutions may crop up in unexpected places (for example, a list of appointments to expert advisory panels, of which the Executive Board would normally take cognizance, can give rise to a resolution on the age or geographical distribution of panel members).

2. An Executive Board or Health Assembly document states in its introductory note whether action is required from either body - "action" in this case meaning a decision in some form or other, though not always in the form of a resolution. There are various possibilities:

(1) A simple "decision" (cf Official Records No. 242, p. 10). This is used for decisions that do not record policy or require action on the part of WHO or Member States, i.e., do not need to be incorporated into the body of resolutions. Examples: elections; date and place of organizational meetings; award of prizes; appointments; reports submitted merely for information, etc.

(2) Resolutions of a non-controversial nature. These can be inserted at the end of the document to be discussed, with a suitable introductory phrase, e.g.: "The Executive Board may wish to adopt a resolution along the following lines: ...".

(3) Resolutions on subjects where the outcome of the debate is uncertain. In this case the neutrality of the Secretariat precludes the addition of a draft resolution to the document to be discussed. However, it is wise to prepare notes or an outline of the matters discussed and on which agreement appears to have been reached in order to assist the Rapporteurs at such time as they are asked to produce a draft. It should be borne in mind that it is not always a simple matter to decide whether a given issue is or is not "controversial" and that an apparently non-controversial matter may in the course of debate prove to be the contrary.

(4) Resolutions presented from the floor by one or more delegations or members. Staff members are often asked to help in drafting such resolutions, and they should do their best to ensure that WHO house-style is followed.

Note: Resolutions presented from the floor should carry a sub-heading: "Resolution submitted by the delegations of ..." or (in the case of the Executive Board) "Resolution submitted by Dr Fulano".

Reproduction

3. Since draft resolutions are usually required urgently in the course of a debate, those not already incorporated in documents are reproduced in the anteroom to the meeting as "conference papers" (symbols - EB61/Conf. paper/2; A30/B/Conf. paper/6). Sponsors of resolutions pass their texts to the secretariat for processing in the same way.

Translation

4. Draft resolutions are circulated to the deliberating body in all working languages; the time required for translation must therefore be kept in mind. The same type of background material as is provided for any other documentation to be translated should also accompany a draft resolution.

Final text

5. A resolution that has been agreed by the meeting is then circulated in final form. For the Executive Board this is on blue-headed paper. Resolutions approved by committees of the Health Assembly form part of the committee's report. Once they have been adopted by the plenary meeting, they are circulated in final form on yellow-headed paper.

6. Resolutions of both the Assembly and the Board are printed as part of the proceedings of the conference. Most of them are subsequently reproduced in the Handbook of Resolutions and Decisions.

Annex II

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS

HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Model I

WHA29.1 Admission of a new Member: People's Republic of Angola

The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly

ADMITS the People's Republic of Angola as a Member of the World Health Organization, subject to the deposit of a formal instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 79 of the Constitution.

Model II

WHA30.12 Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which may invoke the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution

The Thirtieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Executive Board¹ on Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which may invoke the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution;

Having noted that Bolivia, Chad, Democratic Kampuchea, the Dominican Republic, and Grenada are in arrears to such an extent that it is necessary for the Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the voting privileges of these Members should be suspended;

Noting the payments now being made by Bolivia;

Noting further that Chad and Grenada have made payments in 1976 since the last Health Assembly;

Recognizing the efforts made by these three countries to liquidate their arrears:

Noting that the Dominican Republic has made no payment to the Organization in respect of its assessed contributions since August 1975, and that as a result the Dominican Republic is in arrears for the balance of its 1972 contribution and its full contributions for the years 1973 to 1976, as well as for annual instalments for the years 1972 to 1975 in respect of consolidated arrears of contributions for the period 1965 to 1970;

1. DECIDES not to suspend the voting privileges of Bolivia, Chad, Democratic Kampuchea and Grenada at the Thirtieth World Health Assembly;
2. URGES all these Members to intensify the efforts now being made in order to achieve regularization of their position at the earliest possible date;
3. DECIDES to suspend the voting privileges of the Dominican Republic at the Thirtieth World Health Assembly;
4. URGES the Dominican Republic to regularize its position at an early date and to implement arrangements for settlement of its arrears as accepted by the Twenty-fifth World Health Assembly, thus enabling the Dominican Republic to resume its full participation in the work of the Health Assembly;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to communicate this resolution to the Members concerned.

WHA30.22 Biennial programme budget: Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly

The Thirtieth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing the need to adapt the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly to the decision taken in resolution WHA30.20 to adopt a biennial budget cycle in WHO,

ADOPTS the following additions and amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly:

Introductory note: insert: "Financial period"—to a period of two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even-numbered year."

Rule 5, paragraph (c): delete and replace by:

"any items pertaining to the budget for the next financial period and to reports on the accounts for the preceding year or period;"

Rule 97: in the opening phrase, delete the words "at each regular session";

in paragraph (a) replace "year" by "period";

in paragraph (b) replace "year" by "period";

in paragraph (c) delete the word "annual"; replace "the report of the auditor" by "reports of the auditor"; replace "year" by "year or period".

Model IV

WHA30.51 The role of the health sector in the development of national and international food and nutrition policies and plans

The Thirtieth World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed in detail the background document for the Technical Discussions on the importance of national and international food and nutrition policies for health development, and having reviewed the report of the Technical Discussions held on this subject at the current session;

Recognizing that malnutrition is one of the major health problems in the world, becoming all the more evident as some communicable diseases are being controlled; and that dietary deficits in the developing countries and excesses and imbalances in developed countries continue to affect adversely the health of large sectors of the population in both groups of countries;

Recognizing the need also for improved quality and safety of food, particularly in relation to the process of industrialization;

Concerned at the inadequate attention and commitments being given by the health and other sectors in a great number of countries to improve this critical situation;

1. EXPRESSES its general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations that have emerged from the Technical Discussions;

2. URGES governments:

- (1) to give higher priority to food and nutrition problems within their health programmes;
- (2) to further develop multisectoral programmes specifically oriented to improve the nutritional situation of the population, and to improve the quality of food;
- (3) to consider the food and nutritional implications of their development policies and plans;
- (4) to give to these actions greater political, technical and financial support than heretofore;
- (5) to pay attention to both qualitative and quantitative aspects of nutrition;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to take the additional necessary steps to strengthen the WHO nutrition programme in order that the Organization may play its legitimate role in the development and implementation of national and international food and nutrition policies and plans, with the aim of:

- (a) providing the necessary stimulus and technical cooperation to Member countries for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their health services in health-related nutritional programmes;
- (b) strengthening the research capacity and education and training in nutritional programmes, with priority in the developing countries;
- (c) eliminating the florid forms of malnutrition such as kwashiorkor, marasmus and keratomalacia as public health problems at least by the turn of this century;
- (d) identifying problem areas such as the interaction between malnutrition on the one hand and infection and productive capacity on the other, and hence integrating relevant action programmes;
- (e) determining the most vulnerable population groups (groups at risk) in relation to the programmes for protecting the health of mothers and children and of the working population;
- (f) establishing priorities in regard to health-related nutritional problems, according to the particular conditions of the country;
- (g) developing systems for nutritional surveillance as a basis for action programmes and for their evaluation;
- (h) developing systems for the control of contamination of foodstuffs by pesticides, mycotoxins, and other toxic substances;
- (i) supporting ministries of health in their efforts to introduce nutritional objectives in the national development plans, and to develop and implement multisectoral food and nutrition policies and programmes;

(2) to consult with Member States and relevant national and international agencies in order to obtain assistance in the development of intensified nutrition programmes, including the technical and financial aspects;

(3) to report on the progress being made on the implementation of this programme to the sixty-first session of the Executive Board and to the Thirty-first World Health Assembly.

Model V

WHA28.69 Method of work of the World Health Assembly

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Executive Board concerning the method of work of the Health Assembly;¹

Believing that the measures recommended will contribute towards the further rationalization and improvement of the proceedings of the Health Assembly without detriment to its efficiency or its value both to Member States and to the World Health Organization as a whole;

Considering further that the adoption of biennial budgeting called for in resolution WHA26.38 will provide an increased opportunity of improving the efficiency of the Health Assembly and reducing its length,

¹ Resolution EB55.R46.

I

1. DECIDES that as from 1976 the opening meeting of the World Health Assembly should take place at 3 p.m. on a Monday, followed by the meeting of the Committee on Nominations to submit its proposals in accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, to permit elections to take place the following Tuesday morning;
2. DECIDES that the Health Assembly undertake as from 1977
 - (1) in odd-numbered years a full review of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium and a brief review of the Director-General's report on the work of WHO for the preceding year;
 - (2) in even-numbered years a full review of the Director-General's report on the work of WHO for the past biennium, and also a brief review of the changes in the programme budget for the second year of the biennium;
3. DECIDES that Committee A should examine the proposed programme budget in detail prior to recommending the amount of the effective working budget;
4. RESOLVES to maintain the practice of scheduling the awards of the foundations with a view to interfering to the minimum extent possible with the other work of the Health Assembly, due consideration being given to the convenience of the recipients of awards, and to hold the meetings of the General Committee, in so far as practicable, after the regular working hours of the Health Assembly and the main committees;

II

1. DECIDES that one main committee shall meet during the general discussion in the plenary meetings of the Health Assembly on the reports of the Executive Board and the report of the Director-General on the work of WHO, and that the General Committee, whenever it deems it appropriate, may schedule meetings of one main committee during plenary meetings of the Health Assembly at which other agenda items are considered;
2. DECIDES that the Technical Discussions shall continue to be held on Friday and Saturday morning of the first week of the Health Assembly, during which time neither the Health Assembly nor the main committees will meet;
3. DECIDES further that paragraphs II.1 and 2 above shall supersede paragraph 2 of resolution WHA26.1;

III

1. AUTHORIZES the General Committee to transfer items of the agenda from one committee to another;
2. RESOLVES that the reports of all committees established to consider items of the agenda shall be submitted by these committees directly to a plenary meeting;
3. RESOLVES that the General Committee, in nominating Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board, shall by secret ballot draw up a list of not more than fifteen and not less than ten Members, and shall recommend in such list the ten Members which, in its opinion, would provide, if elected, a balanced distribution of the Board as a whole;
4. ADOPTS the following amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly in order to give effect to the decisions in paragraphs III.1, 2 and 3 above: . . .

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Model VI

EB57.R26 Development of the antimalaria programme

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolution WHA28.87 whereby the Executive Board was requested to continue to give close attention to the development of the antimalaria programme on a global basis;

Having examined the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Malaria and the recommendations contained therein;

Noting the special attention devoted to malaria by the regional committees at their latest sessions, the resolutions they adopted on the subject, and also the contents of Appendix 2 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report;

Conscious of the seriousness of the present world malaria situation and of the danger of further extension and entrenchment of the disease;

Emphasizing the urgent need for prompt and vigorous action to inject a new international cooperative spirit, and introduce more flexible approaches into the global antimalaria programme; and

Realizing that the pursuance of the global antimalaria effort until its definitive culmination in the eradication of the disease depends on:

- (a) WHO's promotional and coordinating activities at both national and international levels;
- (b) the governments' determination to pursue the antimalaria efforts on a more realistic basis, and provide the national priority required on a continuing basis;
- (c) the national health authorities' role in the delivery of the antimalaria service within the total health services, with the full cooperation of other relevant departments dealing with socioeconomic development and environmental improvement, and with the active participation of the community,

1. URGES governments of countries where malaria constitutes a major public health problem to establish a national malaria committee to ensure realistic planning, interdisciplinary cooperation, and adequate financing of antimalaria programmes;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General, taking into account the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and the discussion in the Board:
 - (1) to assist countries to develop more realistic and flexible approaches in antimalaria programmes adapted to the different epidemiological and socioeconomic conditions;
 - (2) to intensify coordination with other international organizations and bilateral agencies for the mobilization of the necessary resources in support of antimalaria activities in countries in need of such assistance;
 - (3) to emphasize and assist in the extension of training in malariology at both national and international training institutions and in developing various training courses in this field suitable for all public health workers serving in malarious countries;
 - (4) to assert the Organization's leading role in developing overall plans for the development, production, and distribution of antimalarials and insecticides; and
 - (5) to report to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly on the promotional and coordinating efforts of WHO in the global antimalaria programme and in related research activities;
3. THANKS the Ad Hoc Committee for its work and for its report; and
4. ENDORSES the report and decides to include it in the report of the Executive Board to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly.

EB59.R10 Reimbursement of travelling expenses and payment of per diem for members of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolutions WHA22.5 and WHA28.38;

Believing that the reorientation of the Organization's programmes and the consequent necessity for implementing all possible rational economies in accordance with resolution WHA29.48 justify a change in travel standards;

Having reviewed the matter of travel for members of the Executive Board, and the desirability of members arriving at the place of meetings of the Board, its committees and working groups in advance of the opening day to allow opportunity for acclimatization and adequate preparation;

RECOMMENDS to the Thirtieth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

" The Thirtieth World Health Assembly,

" Noting the discussions in the Executive Board at its fifty-ninth session with regard to travel and per diem payments for members of the Executive Board;

" Recalling resolutions WHA22.5 and WHA28.38;

" 1. DECIDES that, with effect from 1 January 1978, members of the Executive Board be reimbursed for their actual travelling expenses between their normal residence and the place of the meeting of the Executive Board, or its committees, the maximum reimbursement to be restricted to the equivalent of one economy/tourist return air ticket from the capital city of the Member to the place of the meeting, except that reimbursement of actual travel expenses for the Chairman of the Board will continue to be on the basis of a first-class air ticket;

" 2. DECIDES that per diem payments to members of the Executive Board will, in addition to covering periods of necessary travel to and from the place of the meeting and attendance at the place of the meeting, include an additional day's per diem for those members who arrive at least one full day before the opening of the meeting and up to two additional days' per diem for those members for whom the scheduled flight time to the place of the meeting exceeds eight hours and who make a stop-over during travel or arrive at least two full days before the opening of the meeting. "

Model VIII

EB60.R7 Documentation and languages of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of its Ad Hoc Committee on Documentation and Languages of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board, established in accordance with resolution EB59.R17;

I

Recognizing that the concept of official languages in WHO relates at present to interpretation of speeches made in those languages, whereas the concept of working languages relates essentially to translation and is applied on a pragmatic basis, taking into account the specific requirements of Member States, the Health Assembly and the Executive Board;

RECOMMENDS to the Health Assembly:

(1) that, as regards the official languages of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board, the present practice, whereby interpretation from and into those languages is on the basis of complete parity, should be maintained;

Annex II

(2) that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish should continue to be the working languages, the practices and decisions extending or limiting their use in varying degrees being allowed to remain, except for such decisions as may be taken by the Health Assembly with regard to the verbatim and summary records (consequent upon part III of this resolution), and subject to any further modifications which may result from agreements negotiated between the governments concerned and the Organization;

II

Conscious of the need to cut down all avoidable and non-essential expenditure in accordance with resolution WHA29.48;

Being informed that certain savings could be achieved by issuing in non-serial form the volumes that at present form the *Official Records* series, since this would make possible a less extensive free distribution outside the Organization;

Convinced that the issue of a number of separate volumes would fulfil the same purpose as the *Official Records* series, and would continue to meet the needs of Member States;

RECOMMENDS to the Health Assembly:

- (1) the replacement of the present *Official Records* series by a number of separate volumes;
- (2) the consequent amendment of Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, by the deletion of the words: "in the *Official Records* of the Organization";

III

Being of the opinion that to publish in four languages the whole of the verbatim records of the Health Assembly and the summary records of the Executive Board and the main committees of the Health Assembly would absorb funds that could be utilized for the Organization's programmes of technical cooperation with developing countries, following resolution WHA29.48;

RECOMMENDS to the Health Assembly:

- (1) that the provisional verbatim records of the Health Assembly should continue to be produced and circulated as hitherto, but that the definitive verbatim records should be published in a single edition containing the text of each speech in the working language in which it was delivered, the text of each speech made in a working language other than English being followed by a translation into that language;
- (2) that the provisional summary records of the Executive Board and of the main committees of the Health Assembly should be circulated in the language of drafting, i.e. English, the summaries of statements delivered in working languages other than English being accompanied by a translation of the English summary into the language in which the speech was delivered; and that the definitive summary records should be in the same form as the provisional records;
- (3) that the consequent amendments should be made to the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly and of the Executive Board.