



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



25th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE **50th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Washington, D.C., 21-25 September 1998

Provisional Agenda Item 6.3

CSP25/24 (Eng.)
15 July 1998
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SELECTION OF TWO MEMBER STATES TO DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHO ACTION PROGRAM ON NATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Nations for Mental Health is an action program launched by WHO to increase public awareness of the effects of mental health disorders and substance abuse on the social well-being and physical health of the world's underserved populations, with a view to creating political momentum towards actions to curtail these problems under the leadership of WHO; to foster and carry out efforts aimed at demonstrating the potential of focused country-based interventions in the field of mental health (so-called "demonstration projects") which will lead to action on a larger scale; and to create an innovative technical framework for action.

Nations for Mental Health is under the overall responsibility of the Director of the Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse and is managed by a program manager. WHO has mandated that Nations for Mental Health should have a management advisory committee (MAC) that includes representation of the Region of the Americas.

The Pan American Sanitary Conference is requested to select two Member States, from among those Member States with which the Program is cooperating, to serve on the MAC for terms of three years.

WHO has launched an action program named "Nations for Mental Health" (hereafter "the Program") that has the overall goal to improve the mental health and well-being of the world's underserved populations. Its objectives are:

- (a) to increase public awareness of the effects of mental health disorders and substance abuse on the social well-being and physical health of the world's underserved populations, with a view to creating political momentum towards actions to curtail these problems under the leadership of WHO;
- (b) to foster and carry out efforts aimed at demonstrating the potential of focused country-based interventions in the field of mental health which will lead to action on a larger scale;
- (c) to create an innovative technical framework for action.

The Program is under the direct authority of the Director, Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse, and is managed by a program manager. WHO has mandated that the Program shall have a management advisory committee (MAC) including representation of two Member States from the Region of the Americas for terms of three years.

The MAC represents the interests and responsibilities of WHO's external partners collaborating in the Program. It acts as an advisory body to the Director-General of WHO, making recommendations on matters related to the policy, strategy, financing, management, monitoring, and evaluation of the Program. It has the following functions:

- (a) to review the program of work and related budget of the Program and make appropriate recommendations to the Director-General;
- (b) to review the arrangements envisaged by the Director-General for financing and managing the Program;
- (c) to review proposed longer-term plans of action and their financial implications;
- (d) to review financial statements of the Program;
- (e) to review periodic reports evaluating the progress of the Program towards the achievement of its objectives and submit its findings and recommendations to the Director-General;
- (f) to recommend ways of improving, as appropriate, coordination between the activities of the Program and of other relevant programs and organizations;

- (g) to consider any other matters relating to the Program referred to it by the Director-General, the Program Manager, or any member of the MAC.

The MAC has the following membership:

- (a) the governments of those countries which contributed funding to the general budget of the Program in the previous fiscal year;
- (b) two Member States from each of WHO's six Regions selected by the respective Regional Committees for three-year terms from among those Member States with which the Program is collaborating (the Pan American Sanitary Conference is requested to select two Members from the Americas);
- (c) international organizations of the United Nations system collaborating in the implementation of the Program's objectives.

The identity of those countries contributing funding in support of the Program's general budget and those providing bilateral support in the above manner, and hence their eligibility for membership in MAC, shall be ascertained annually. The international organizations shall be considered to have permanent seats for as long as they continue to collaborate with the Program.

Two representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are active in implementing country-level technical assistance projects shall be selected by the Director-General, on the recommendation of the MAC, to attend meetings of the MAC for three-year terms. Any Member State or intergovernmental or nongovernmental organization interested in the work of the Program may, on request, be granted observer status.

The MAC meets once a year, or more frequently upon the proposal of either its Chairperson or the Director-General of WHO.

The Program will also have a Technical Advisory Committee.

The Pan American Sanitary Conference is requested to select two Member States from among those Member States with which the Program is cooperating, to serve on the MAC for terms of three years each.