



**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

Regional Office
for the Eastern Mediterranean

مَنْظَمَةُ الصَّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

المكتب الإقليمي
لشرف البحر المتوسط

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTE**

Bureau régional
de la Méditerranée orientale

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC31/12
July 1984

Thirty-first Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 18(b)

PARTICIPATION OF NATIONALS IN
WHO MEETINGS, COURSES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
ACTION TO IMPROVE COOPERATION	2
Steps to be taken by WHO	2
Steps to be taken by Member States	3
Participation of nationals in WHO sponsored meetings and courses in the capacity of consultants or temporary advisers to the Organization	4

PARTICIPATION OF NATIONALS IN
WHO MEETINGS, COURSES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

INTRODUCTION

The Organization, from time to time, sponsors various inter-country meetings, workshops and training courses. The majority of these activities are held in national institutions.

A major objective of these meetings and training courses is to promote and augment further the Organization's collaborative programme with its Member States in developing and strengthening national capabilities in various fields of health development. One or more of the following factors have tended to diminish the effectiveness of individual activities.

1. The nominations from Member States are often delayed, arriving well after the deadline given in the letter of invitation; sometimes no nominations are received.
2. Sometimes the national(s) nominated are not dealing with or have no responsibility for the programme area connected with the meeting.
3. In some instances the same nationals are nominated repeatedly for many meetings on different subjects.
4. Most meetings involve a presentation by nationals, usually a kind of situation analysis dealing with the subject of the meeting. This is considered an important national input into future programme development, both at country and inter-country level. However, it has been repeatedly found that participants come to meetings poorly briefed about the objectives of the meeting and not at all informed about the situation in their country relating to the subject of the meeting.
5. Another important aspect deriving from these meetings and training courses is implementation of recommendations, which is the whole purpose for which the activity is organized. Logically the participating nationals should have a key role to play in following up the implementation. However,

if they are not directly involved with the programme area concerned, or if they are moved from job-to-job frequently, an effective follow-up cannot take place.

6. In view of the growing importance of inter-sectoral collaboration in health development, and specifically in attaining the global objective of HFA/2000, it is necessary to have representatives present at some of meetings or training activities which deal with topics of an inter-sectoral nature from sectors other than health.

ACTION TO IMPROVE COOPERATION

In order to overcome the above constraints, and to render the WHO sponsored meetings and courses more effective, the certain steps should be taken by the Organization and Member States, respectively.

Steps to be taken by WHO

1. Before the end of each year, a provisional list of various training courses and meetings to be held during the ensuing year should be compiled and sent to the Member States. This list will include a summary of the objectives of the meetings or training courses, the criteria for selecting participants and a provisional list of countries to be invited.
2. Letters of invitation for those meetings or training courses on the provisional list that are confirmed will be sent 3 to 4 months in advance of the meeting. These letters of invitation must provide final and fairly detailed information about objectives, criteria for nominating participants, and the contribution to the meeting and the anticipated follow-up expected of those participants.

The Organization would appreciate being informed in case Member States feel that the letters of invitation need to be further elaborated and, if so, in which particular area.

The WHO Representatives and Programme Coordinators, where available, will be kept fully informed and can be of help in clarifying matters that may be unclear.

Steps to be taken by Member States

1. Soon after receiving the provisional list of meetings, Governments should convey to the Regional Office their interest in participating in certain meetings or training courses.
2. Once the formal invitation to a meeting or training course has been received, every attempt should be made to expedite the nomination(s), following careful selection of the most suitable national(s). He or they should be:
 - (a) in a responsible position in the programme area with which the meeting or course is concerned;
 - (b) able to contribute to the deliberation of the meeting or benefit from the course;
 - (c) on return, able to play an important role in the implementation of the recommendations;
 - (d) unlikely to be transferred to a new post soon after return.
3. The nominated national(s) should be thoroughly briefed on the subject of the meeting or training course; the Ministry will naturally facilitate the collection of necessary information and data for making country presentations where these are required.
4. As the Governments and participants receive formal reports of the meetings some 3 to 5 months after they are held, a formal debriefing of participants on their return home, including the submission of a written report, should be made mandatory.
5. In meetings of inter-sectoral nature, the Ministry of Health should consult with other appropriate Ministries and should facilitate the nomination of a suitable national from a sector other than the health services.

Participation of nationals in WHO sponsored meetings and courses in the capacity of consultants or temporary advisers to the Organization

With the increasing availability of well-trained manpower in countries of this Region, resource persons for various WHO sponsored activities are now being recruited from within the Region. Most of these experts are well known to the Governments and to the Organization for their scientific standing and contribution to health development. Some of these experts have participated as their Government's nominee in past WHO meetings and training courses.

Member states, as part of their collaboration with WHO, and in the spirit of TCDC, are expected to make this expertise available to the Organization and other countries. It is therefore requested that Governments kindly facilitate the release of such experts when their services are required.