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FORTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY A47/VR/2  
QUARANTE-SEPTIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE DE LA SANTE 2 May 1994  
2 mai 1994  
PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
Monday, 2 May 1994, at 16h30  
Palais des Nations, Geneva  
President: Mr c. GRTENDAHL (Sweden).  
later: Mr B.K. TEMANE (Botswana)  
COMPTE RENDU IN EXTENSO PROVISIOIRE DE LA DEUXIEME SEANCE  
PLENIERE  
Lundi, 2 mai 1994, a 16h30  
Palais des Nations, Gen3ve  
Prccsident : M. c. 6RTENDAHL (Suiade)  
puis: M. B.K. TEMANE (Botswana)  
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1. FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
PREMIER RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION DES DESIGNATIONS

The PRESIDENT:

The Assembly is called to order. The first item on our agenda this afternoon is the consideration of

the first report of the Committee on Nominations, contained in document A47/ 39. I invite the Chairman

of the Committee on Nominations, Mr Diop, to kindly come to the rostrum and read this report.

M. DIOP (President de la Commission des Designations) :

Monsieur le President, Monsieur le Directeur general, Mesdames et Messieurs, la Commission des

Designations, composee de delegues des Etats Membres suivants :Angola, Australie, Bangladesh, Barbade,

Bolivie, Equateur, Etats-Unis d'Amerique, Federation de Russie, Fidji, France, Islande, Jordanie, Kenya,

Kirghizistan, Maroc, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Republique -Unie de

Tanzanie, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, Senegal et Swaziland, s'est reunie le

2 mai 1994 sous la presidence de M. Assane Diop, du Senegal, elu President de cette Commission.

Conformement aux dispositions de l'article 25 du Reglement interieur de l'Assemblee de la Sante

et a la pratique de rotation regionale suivie de longue date par l'Assemblee a cet egard, la Commission a

decide de proposer a l'Assemblee la designation de M. B. K Temane, du Botswana, pour le poste de

president de la Quarante-Septieme Assemblee mondiale de la Sante. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le

President.

Election of the President

Election du President de l'Assemblee

The PRESIDENT:

Are there any observations? In the absence of any observations, and as it appears that there are no

other proposals, it will not be necessary to proceed to a vote since only one candidate has been put forward.

In accordance with Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure, I therefore suggest that the Assembly approves the

nomination submitted by the Committee and elects its President by acclamation.

(Applause /Applaudissements)

Mr B.K. Temane, Minister of Health of Botswana, is thereby elected President of the Forty-seventh

World Health Assembly and I invite him to take his seat on the rostrum.

Mr B.K. TEMANE (Botswana) took the presidential chair.

M. B.K. TEMANE (Botswana) prend place au fauteuil presidentiel.

The PRESIDENT:

Your excellencies, honourable ministers, ambassadors, delegates, Mr Director-General, I would like

to thank this august Assembly for the trust in electing me as the President of the Forty-seventh World

Health Assembly. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr Claes Ortendahl,

my predecessor, for his contribution to the last Health Assembly. I shall deliver the customary address

tomorrow and we will now continue with our work.

A47/VR/2

REACTIVATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF SOUTH AFRICA  
REPRISE DE LA PARTICIPATION ACTIVE DE UAFRIQUE DU SUD

The PRESIDENT:

As my first duty, it is with pleasure that I request this Assembly to consider the draft resolution on the rights and privileges of South Africa, and I call for comments. I recognize the delegate of Zimbabwe.

Dr STAMPS (Zimbabwe):

Thank you Mr President, and may we take this opportunity of expressing our undiluted pleasure at

your appointment as President for this session of the World Health Assembly.

Max Theiler was a Nobel Prize winner. He should be very happy today. He discovered the viral

nature of yellow fever at a time when it was fairly certain as far as scientific knowledge went that it was

caused by a spirochete and he made possible the elimination of yellow fever in large areas of Africa and

other parts of the world. As a result of the vaccine he developed we can live safely in many parts which

were uninhabitable before. He was born in Pretoria, in South Africa, 95 years ago this month. Thirty years

ago this month, in 1964, this Assembly deprived the Republic of South Africa of effective participatory

rights because of the horrendous aberration of apartheid and its forcible silencing of the needs of the

majority of its people. The effects of this perverse doctrine hampered, distorted and subverted the

development of the whole of the Sub-Saharan African region, not least the country which I have the honour

to represent. Zimbabweans lost 20 years are still having their severe repercussions both in terms of recurrent

expenditures and developmental handicap. As a member of the front-line States we helped forge the

peaceful weapon of economic pressure against the unjust regime. As Chairman of the front-line States this

year it has fallen to Zimbabwe to present this proposal which I hope all will celebrate in the affirmative and,

for those of us whose religion allows, in alcohol later. This is a day for Africa. So often we hear and see

the events in our continent which cause pain. Today we welcome back into our family the nation which has

such great potential in our region to satisfy the economic developmental and health needs of all its people.

From this point we believe that Africa as a whole has a brighter future, a greater solidarity and a unity of

purpose in health which we were unable to realize before.

I should also express my pleasant surprise that a Nordic European President of the Health Assembly,

not noted for lack of sense of responsibility, who has been kind enough to flex the Rules of Procedure

sufficiently to allow us, as the representative of the African Region, to propose this resolution. As of 15h30

today, 59.2% of the votes counted in the first-ever democratic election in South Africa have accrued to the

African National Council. This is an important fact since it is our sincere hope that as a result a new

Minister of Health for South Africa can very soon be appointed and welcomed here at this Assembly, and

participate fully in our deliberations. I therefore propose the following resolution for the consideration of

the whole Assembly, on behalf of my country, my continent, Africa, and indeed the whole of the peoples

of the world:

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the democratic elections which took place in South Africa from 26 to 29 April 1994 with

a view to the installation of a Government of National Unity to represent the whole population of

South Africa;

Noting further the coming into force of a new Constitution in South Africa on 27 April 19

which now governs governmental actions on all levels;

Considering the desire of South Africa to participate henceforth in the activities of the World

Health Organization and its Assembly and thereby to fulfil its obligations and assume its rights in

accordance with the Constitution of the World Health Organization;

1. RESCINDS resolution WHA17.50; and

. A47/vn/2

2. DECIDES that all rights and privileges associated with full membership of the World Health Organization be granted with immediate effect to South Africa at the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly.

I commend this resolution to this session. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

I thank the honourable delegate of Zimbabwe, and I now recognize the delegate of Nigeria. Dr TAFIDA (Nigeria)

Mr President, honourable ministers, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by congratulating the

newly elected President of the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly. I would also like to take this

opportunity to thank the outgoing President, who has done his work very well and also has magnanimously

agreed to bend the Rules of Procedure of this august Assembly so as to allow us to debate this all-important

issue of allowing South Africa to resume its seat in the community of nations in this august Assembly.

The history of the democratic struggle by the people of South Africa is no doubt well known to the

world at large and in particular to the rest of the African continent. To achieve this democratic process

Africa, and especially South Africa itself, has suffered a great loss of life and property. Unfortunate as it

has been, today we are happy that South African people with the support of democratic forces managed

to succeed in dismantling that abominable inhuman apartheid system. Africans struggle for political freedom

has now been concluded with a democratically elected system now being put in place in South Africa.

This is indeed a very happy moment for the world, Africa and the South African people themselves.

In the field of health most of the South African people, because of the apartheid system, were unable to

enjoy a productive life. The health system was fragmented, which caused untold misery to the majority of

the people of that country. In that regard the international community has a human obligation and duty

to provide the South African people with all the much-needed assistance to enable them to accelerate the

achievement of health for all by the year 2000. Indeed, a lot of this help will be required in the

restructuring of the health system and in providing easy access to the needed health care and services to

the majority who hitherto were denied these services. We in Africa welcome South Africa to the family

of nations and hope they will be encouraged and given support to contribute to their fight against diseases

that plague the continent. We are by duty bound therefore on behalf of the African countries to endorse

the resuscitation of South Africans voting rights, and firmly support the resolution on South Africa as

proposed by the honourable Chief Delegate of Zimbabwe. Thank you very much, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

I thank the delegate of Nigeria, and I recognize the delegate of Samoa.

Mr SALA (Samoa): First I wish to congratulate you, Mr President. I am from a tiny little island in the region of the

Western Pacific and no matter how small or how big our nations are, we come here from different

backgrounds, different social economic standing, different languages, different colour, different religions,

but our coming together today and for so many years in the past is for one purpose: to improve health for

all and the health of the world and our people. Mr President, we have a saying in Samoa which really

means that all the policies and constitutions should be bent for a very valuable decision which we therefore

wish to endorse and to which we give our full support; I hope this Assembly will give the

full endorsement  
immediately to the resolution proposed by our colleague from Zimbabwe. This is another sign of solidarity  
in our Health Assembly. Thank you.  
The PRESIDENT:  
I thank the delegate of Samoa. I now recognize the delegate of Egypt.

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The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Are there any further observations? I see none. Therefore, having listened to observations and comments, especially the resolution on the privileges and rights of South Africa as moved

by Zimbabwe, seconded by Nigeria and others, I take this opportunity to invite the Assembly to adopt the

resolution on the rights and privileges of South Africa.

In the absence of any objections, the resolution is adopted.

(Applause/Applaudissementc)

I recognize the delegate of South Africa.

Dr MGIJIMA (South Africa):

I thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting. Mr President, may I at the outset take the

opportunity to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of this Assembly. South Africa

pledges its full support to you in the execution of your important task. It is a remarkable coincidence that

an African today presides over the proceedings that restore South Africa's full rights and privileges in the

Health Assembly.

Mr President, the opportunity to reassume all our rights in this august body is a momentous one for

two reasons. First, South Africa is poised to celebrate the results of its first fully democratic elections.

These elections have been dubbed a victory for peace and they epitomize the fulfilment of the ideals of all

those South Africans who have struggled for a non-racial democracy. Secondly, the 26-29 April 1994

elections have finally laid apartheid to rest. A free, non-racial, representative and democratically elected

government of national unity is about to be installed. These events explain the presence of the South

African delegation to participate in this Forty-seventh World Health Assembly and offer me the singular

honour of addressing you on behalf of our country and people. The demise of apartheid and the electoral

process have been marked by a spirit of reconciliation which has surpassed all expectations. Signalling a

new beginning, South Africans in their millions stood in endless queues across colour lines determined to

register their stamp of approval for the emerging democracy. Neither bombs, nor bullets, nor administrative

lapses could deter them. They were all united in their conviction on the importance of steering the country

in a new direction.

The pressing challenge for all of us in South Africa now becomes the need to sustain and harness that

enthusiasm. There is a clear consensus in our country that the first step in this direction is that of laying

a solid foundation for addressing the socioeconomic expectations of the hitherto deprived communities.

As we South Africans embrace our freedom and embark on the adverse road of nation-building, we are

inspired by the knowledge that Member States of this august body, which has sustained us through difficult

times in the past, will be with us again in the future. We thank you for your principal support in our

struggle for democracy. We shall draw strength from that support and undertake to ensure a solid

contribution to the development of effective global action in the World Health Organization's programmes.



By a remarkable coincidence, the World Health Assembly provides the first opportunity for South Africas incoming government of national unity to resume its full participation in an international organization. What more fitting opportunity than the Assembly of a body dedicated to the health and welfare of the worlds peoples? We recall with pride that South Africa was one of the first signatories to the Constitution of WHO, on 7 August 1947. The World Health Assembly declared its rejection of apartheid in 1964, taking away South Africas right to vote through passing resolution WHA17.50. South Africa subsequently suspended its participation whilst remaining a Member. Since 1966 the South African Government has not participated in the Health Assembly. However, WHOs determination for justice in South Africa ensured growing cooperation with the liberation movements and the people of southern Africa at large. Today, the South African delegation, which again takes up its seat, does so with the blessing of the countrys transitional Executive Council. This is a body which since December 1993 has had the task of levelling the political playing-field as well as endorsing major policy decisions. The delegation has also been endorsed by the National Health Forum, a body comprising a wide variety of role-players in the health sector, bound by a common vision of constructing a better health system for all South Africans. Common threads which will underpin future policy have emerged within and amongst the organizations represented in the National Health Forum. There is agreement that the underlying philosophy of our new health system must be the primary health care approach which WHO advocated and endorsed at the historic Alma-Ata conference. The concrete application of this approach is not going to be without difficulty, especially given the reality of the severe resource constraints and the historical inequities of our recent past. We are, therefore, requesting the international community to continue to provide material and technical support in the reconstruction of our social services, so that equitable health can be provided to all our people. We have in the meantime produced a national health plan as a guideline to the reconstruction and development of a new national health system in our country. Finally, Mr President, allow me to extend a word of gratitude to the women and men of the entire world who stood by us in our struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. On: gratitude also goes to the World Health Organization and the Director-General, Dr Nakajima, the Regional Director for Africa, Dr Monekosso, and his office at large, for their unwavering support for the health of our people. In the past three years, Dr Monekosso personally intervened in the formation of the National Health Forum inside our country. He also helped by giving technical support to the planning process for a new national health system. Lately, he has facilitated the arrangement of South Africas entry into the activities of WHO and its African Region. A special word of gratitude goes to the front-line States, which have until recently borne the brunt during our march to freedom. We thank you all.

The PRESIDENT:

I thank the delegate of South Africa.

### 3. SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

#### DEUXIEME RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION DES DESIGNATIONS

The PRESIDENT:

I now invite the Assembly to consider the second report of the Committee on Nominations. I ask

the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, Mr Diop, to read the second report of the Committee, contained in document A47/40.

M7. DIOP (President de la Commission des Designations) :

J c vous remercie, Monsieur le President.

Monsieur le Directeur general, Mesdames et Messieurs, au cours de sa premiere seance tenue le

2 mai 1994, la Commission des Designations a decide de proposer a l'Assemblee de la Sante, conformement

a l'Article 25 du Reglement interieur de l'Assemblee, les designations suivantes :

Vice-Presidents de l'Assemblée : Dr Pico (Argentine), Dr Fattah El Makhzangi (Egypte), Dr Voljc

(Slovenie), Dr Ourairat (Thaïlande), Dr Rajpho (République démocratique populaire lao).

Commission A : Président - Dr Rai (Indonésie).

Commission B : Président - Dr Asaad (Arabie saoudite).

En ce qui concerne les postes de membres du Bureau à pourvoir par voie d'élection, conformément

à l'article 31 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée, la Commission a décidé de proposer les délégués des

dix-sept pays suivants : Bahreïn, Burkina Faso, Cap-Vert, Chine, Cuba, États-Unis d'Amérique, Fédération

de Russie, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinée, Iran (République islamique d'), Israël, Japon, Nigeria,

Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, et Venezuela.

Election of the Vice-Presidents

Election des cinq vice-présidents de l'Assemblée

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Diop. I now invite the Assembly to pronounce in order on the nominations proposed

for its decision. We shall begin with the election of the five Vice-Presidents of the Health Assembly. Are

there any comments or observations? I see none and I therefore propose that the Assembly declare the

five Vice-Presidents elected by acclamation.

(Applause/Applaudissements)

The PRESIDENT:

I shall now determine by lot the order in which the Vice-Presidents shall be requested to serve should

the President not be available to act between sessions.

The results are as follows, and the Vice-Presidents will act in the following order: the first will be

Professor Vannareth Rajpho of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic; the second, Dr A. Abdel Fattah

El Makhzangi of Egypt; the third, Dr A. Ourairat of Thailand; the fourth, Dr B. Voljc of Slovenia, and

the fifth, Dr A.L. Pico of Argentina. I now request the five Vice-Presidents to come to the rostrum and

take their places there.

Election of the Chairmen of the main committees

Election des présidents des commissions principales

The PRESIDENT:

We now come to the election of the Chairman of Committee A. Are there any comments on the proposals of the Committee on Nominations? There being no comments, I invite the Assembly to declare

Dr N.K. Rai (Indonésie) elected Chairman of Committee A by acclamation.

(Applause/Applaudissements)

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now proceed to elect the Chairman of Committee B. Are there any comments? There being no objections, I invite the Assembly to declare Dr M.S.E. Asaad (Arabie saoudite) elected Chairman

of Committee B by acclamation.

(Applause /Applaudissements)

A47/VR/2

Establishment of the General Committee

Constitution du Bureau de l'Assemblée

The PRESIDENT:

In accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Nominations has proposed

the names of 17 countries the delegates of which, added to the officers just elected, would constitute the

' General Committee of the Assembly. These proposals provide for an equitable geographical distribution

of the General Committee. If there are no observations, I declare those 17 countries elected. Thank you.

Before adjourning this plenary meeting I would remind you that the General Committee of the

Assembly will be meeting immediately in Room VII. The members of the General Committee are the

President and the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the Chairmen of the main committees, and the

delegates of the 17 countries you have just elected, and whose names I shall now repeat: Bahrain, Burkina

Faso, Cape Verde, China, Cuba, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel,

Japan, Nigeria, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States

of America, Venezuela.

. The next plenary meeting will be held tomorrow at 9h00. The meeting is now adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17h22.

La Séance est levée à 17h22.