

respects no national boundaries, that no country in the world, whatever its degree of development, is without its important health problems, and that differences lie only in the relative degrees of priority of problems and in the resources that are available for their solution. Thus there are no restrictions on membership and indeed no provision for withdrawal from the Organization.

STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The WHO functions through three organs:

- (1) the World Health Assembly, the supreme governing body which meets annually and to which all members are entitled to send delegates;
- (2) the Executive Board, the executive body of the Health Assembly, which consists of 24 persons designated by their governments;
- (3) the Secretariat, headed by the Director-General, which implements the decisions of the Assembly and the Board.

The permanent headquarters of the Organization are located in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Planning and execution of field activities are decentralized in six Regional Committees, which serve the Americas, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Pacific and Africa. Their respective headquarters are in Washington, New Delhi, Copenhagen, Alexandria, Manila and Brazzaville. All member states belong to one of the Regional Committees, each of which meets annually to plan a programme of work for the countries in its region. The regional programmes, together with budget estimates, are submitted for inclusion in the Director-General's programme and budget estimates, which he places before the Executive Board and the Health Assembly for approval.

Members of the Executive Board are designated by member states elected by the Health Assembly. Eight states are elected each year for a three-year period. Because the Board is responsible to the Assembly, designated members serve in an independent capacity rather than as representatives of their national governments.

The functions of the Organization fall into two main categories: general international health services and advisory services and assistance to governments. The former, which can be provided only through an international agency, includes:

- (a) the adoption and supervision of regulations to control the spread of communicable diseases through international traffic;
- (b) the collection and analysis of world epidemiological and statistical data on health conditions;