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Animal

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REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Paris (France), 26–28 June 2012

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Derek Belton, acting Head of the International Trade Department, welcomed members and participants to the meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG). Dr Belton confirmed the changes in the Membership of the Working Group, particularly the newly appointed Chair, Dr Abdul Rahman, as announced by the Director General during the 80th OIE General Session, following the retirement of Dr David Bayvel from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand.

Dr Belton also mentioned that, with effect from 1 July, Dr Bayvel would be the new Chief Veterinary Adviser (CVA) for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), in replacement of Dr David Wilkins, who would retire from the Working Group after the AWWG 11th meeting. In this new role, Dr Bayvel will represent the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) on the Working Group. Changes in the Membership also include the appointment of Dr Peter Thornber, as the new member from the Asia, Far East and Oceania (AFEO) Region.

The Working Group agreed to hold a co-chaired meeting, in order to facilitate the handover between the past and the present Chair.

Dr Bayvel introduced Dr Rastislav Kolesar to the Group, as the new Animal Welfare Officer for AFEO Region, at the OIE International Trade Department.

The meeting was also attended in its first and last day by Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) as observer.

Dr Bayvel, former Chair of the AWWG, briefly discussed the following priority issues:

- Standards for livestock production systems and adopted chapters
- How to help and encourage Members in the implementation of standards
- Review of linkages between animal welfare, food safety and food security
- OIE Collaborating Centres
- Future work on standards and priorities
- Status of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies
- The 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

The list of participants and the agenda are attached as [Annex I](#) and [II](#).

1. Working Group 10th meeting report and agreed actions; informal meeting at General Session; teleconferences

The Working Group noted the report of the previous meeting, as well as the minutes of the teleconferences and the informal meeting, held at the General Session.

Dr Mariela Varas gave an update on the recent cooperation agreements signed between the OIE and two organisations, the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA).

Dr Bayvel commented that the approach taken to progress the agreed annual work programme, i.e. regular teleconferences; a side-meeting during the General Session; and electronic exchange of a list of agreed actions, has been very effective, and the Working Group agreed that Agreed Actions will continue to be produced.

It was agreed that OIE Headquarters, through the AWWG Secretariat, would continue to be responsible for the programming of teleconferences and informal meetings, as well as ensuring the update of the work programme and the agreed actions.

2. OIE 80th General Session 2012 outcomes

The adopted Resolutions on animal welfare, food safety, veterinary education and the contribution of veterinary controls to food security were noted.

Dr Bayvel commented on the opinion of the Code Commission, as stated by Dr Thiermann during the General Session, that work on new standards should consider livestock production systems as a priority.

On the same occasion, Dr Thiermann also commented on the importance of supporting Member Countries to implement the adopted animal welfare standards and expressed the opinion that activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services to achieve implementation would be an appropriate focus for the AWWG in 2012–2013.

3. Work of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Working Group noted the reports of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's (AAHSC) meeting of March 2012 and the relevant report from the General Session.

Dr David Wilkins mentioned the existing Animal Welfare Chapters in Section 7 of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the adoption of Chapter 7.4 Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes.

Professor David Fraser raised a concern about the lack of linkage between the AWWG and the AAHSC, in relation to work done on aquatic animal welfare and in the contrast with the relation with the Code Commission. It was noted that the Working Group does not have specific expertise in the aquatic area.

After discussion with Dr Thiermann, the Working Group agreed to refer this question to the AAHSC for consideration.

Professor Fraser took the opportunity to mention that the welfare of crustaceans could be a topic to be addressed by the AAHSC if it decided to pursue further work on the welfare of aquatic animals.

4. Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education January 2012

Dr Varas mentioned the work of the *ad hoc* group on veterinary education and the distribution of the OIE document on the 'Recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') to assure National Veterinary Services of quality'. This document can be found at: <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/veterinary-education/>.

Dr Varas also mentioned Resolution 32 on good governance and veterinary education which identifies future priorities the World Assembly of Delegates would like to see addressed in this area. This Recommendation gives the mandate to the *ad hoc* group to develop recommendations on a core/basic veterinary curriculum relevant to the delivery of quality national Veterinary Services for consideration of the Assembly at the 81st General Session (May 2013).

The AWWG noted that the *ad hoc* group on veterinary education would meet in July 2012.

5. Report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

The Working Group noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG).

Dr Guyonnet commented on the membership of the APFSWG and added that representation of industry on a rotational basis, as done within the AWWG, could be beneficial for this Working Group, as well as for others Working Group and *ad hoc* groups.

Dr Thiermann took the opportunity to mention that the International Meat Secretariat would soon nominate a new expert for the AWWG, since the retirement of Prof. Gregory.

6. Report of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

The Working Group noted the report of the working group on Wildlife Diseases.

Dr Wilkins made a presentation for the AWWG and OIE staff on the welfare of wildlife during trade and on the Role of Animal Welfare NGOs. He pointed out that, in his opinion, the OIE had enlarged its mandate as a consequence of the resolutions following the Global Conference on Wildlife, Animal Health and Biodiversity held in February 2011. Issues such as trade (regulated and unregulated), wildlife management and conservation involve both the health and welfare of wildlife. During his presentation, Dr Wilkins asked the OIE to consider nominating an expert on wildlife animal welfare to this working group.

Dr Andrea Gavinelli indicated that in 2011 and 2012, the Commission engaged in a series of regional workshops on animal welfare dedicated to veterinary practitioners working in specific farms and facilities, including the ones working with animals in captivity. The EU legislation in the area, known as the Zoos Directive (Council Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos) does not provide detailed requirements for the welfare of wild animals kept in captivity. Since most of these facilities benefit from the presence of a veterinarian, DG SANCO and DG ENV, together with the support of NGOs, zoos and professional organizations joined efforts and included a session on animals in captivity for each workshop organized in different countries. Through theoretical and practical sessions (zoo visits), highly skilled experts trained the participants on species-specific needs and easy-to-use indicators to evaluate the welfare of animals in their care. The three events organized so far reached over 100 vets working in zoos from 20 EU countries. The demand for knowledge in this area is increasing in particular in relation to the use of animal based measures in assessing welfare in wild animals in captivity. The possibility to develop international standards in this area was discussed in relation to future activities of the OIE AWWG.

7. OIE Collaborating Centres

Joint meeting with the Collaborating Centres

The AWWG meeting was joined by Ms Barbara Alessandrini, representing the Collaborating Centre from Italy and Dr Stella Maris Huertas by teleconference from the CC of Chile/Uruguay. Dr Peter Thornber represented the CC from New-Zealand/Australia. The CCs representatives made a brief summary of their activities during 2011, as also indicated in their annual reports available at the OIE website www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/collaborating-centres/annual-reports/.

- **CC New-Zealand/Australia**

Dr Thornber briefed the meeting on current and planned activities. The NZ/Australia OIE Collaborating Centre is working to support implementation of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for AFEO, especially in capacity building. Key activities include finalisation of a Twinning application with University Putra in Malaysia, delivery of a broad training course in animal welfare concepts and issues, provision of animal welfare advice to OIE as requested and production of a major animal welfare edition on 'Future animal welfare challenges' in 2014 for the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review Series*.

The Twinning project will assist understanding and delivery of the OIE animal welfare standards and build expertise in animal welfare science. The twinning program will involve training and workshops in Malaysia, Thailand, People's Republic of China and Vietnam. There are six funding partners: The Australian Government, The New Zealand Government, The Malaysian Government, University Putra Malaysia, World Society for the Protection of Animals and the European Commission.

Dr Thornber explained that the Collaborating Centre had planned to run a pilot training course in animal welfare concepts and issues at Massey University in New Zealand In July 2012, but it had to be postponed due to a lack of registrations. The Collaborating Centre partners will review the planned content, duration and marketing approach and it was hoped that this course would now be conducted in 2013. It was likely to be shortened in length to 7-10 days and some components may be run by website.

Professor David Mellor was leading the finalisation of the major animal welfare publication and Dr Bayvel and Dr Thornber had met with Annie Souyri and Professor Paul Pierre Pastoret in May during the General Session to agree on the final content and proposed authors and manuscript topics for the monograph.

- **CC from Italy**

Dr Alessandrini explained how the Istituto G. Caporale of Teramo (ICT) reviewed at the beginning of 2012 its strategic guidelines, confirming that the international activities carried out in the framework of its mandate as OIE collaborating centre are one of the core areas.

The 2012-2017 strategy for animal welfare is focused on the achievements of the following goals: (a) research, development and training based on available technologies, promoting innovative solutions; (b) multidisciplinary and intersectorial approach to AW, facilitating cultural integration of the different disciplines (c) empowering services provided in AW, through improved scientific skills, networking, collaboration and cooperation.

The ICT mandate, at an international level, is to build a common culture, to assure human-animal-environment health and safe relationships, whereby animal welfare – animal health – food safety are part of a sustainable integrated system.

The most successful initiatives are implemented with a scalable and sustainable approach based on repeatable models, and are in the field of knowledge economy on animal welfare. They are based in Europe and in third countries, and are being carried out in largely established networks. Some of them are appropriately delivered through web based systems and are intended to maximise the efforts of producing, developing, and disseminating science-based knowledge on animal welfare.

During the last year, ICT developed research studies in the field of livestock animals, with particular reference to animal welfare during long distance transportation and to the use of Control Posts, sustaining a profitable cooperation with the most relevant international research institutes.

ICT is currently involved in several EU funded projects such as the DG SANCO projects named "Renovating and promoting high quality control posts in the European Union" and "Promoting high quality control posts: development of scientific basis of certification schemes for animal transport". ICT is also partner of the VII Framework Programme research ANIHW ERA-NET, aiming at assessing the research gaps on animal health and welfare and to increase cooperation and networking of research programmes on farm animal health and welfare.

Companion animal protection and welfare also represent a key research area. ICT has a consolidated experience in urban veterinary hygiene, dog population management (DPM) and animal traceability. Currently, ICT is involved in a project for the control of free-roaming dog population in Chile, aiming at assessing male dog behaviour before and after chemical and surgical neutering. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.

A project on definition, management, and evaluation of stray dog and cat phenomenon in urban environment is being carried out in collaboration with IRTA and the University of Barcelona (Spain), and VierPforten International (Austria).

At present, ICT is also participating in the EU VII Framework Programme “Companion Animals Multisectorial Interprofessional Interdisciplinary Strategic Think Tank on Zoonoses” (led by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and involving nine partners), providing expertise in epidemiology, education, knowledge management, and animal welfare, and managing the project dissemination system (CALLISTO- www.callistoproject.eu).

With the aim of promoting responsible dog ownership in Europe, ICT manages the CAROdog Website (www.carodog.eu), in partnership with the VierPforten/Four Paws International.

Each year, ICT experts participate in Animal Welfare meetings and conferences all over the world, providing their technical expertise (last participation: “Animal Welfare Congress: progress and strategies for the future of livestock”, organised by the OIE CC of Chile/Uruguay, in Montevideo on July 10-11, 2012).

In 2012, ICT is continuing its work for the Directorate General SANCO of the European Commission, delivering training courses on various AW issues (www.sancotraining.izs.it). Until today, about 800 official veterinarians from EU Countries, Candidates and selected Third Countries have been involved in those training events.

In 2011, ICT became the first eLearning provider of the European Commission, for the management of training courses for official veterinarians and other professionals selected by the National Competent Authorities of Member States, Candidate States and Third Countries. ICT was contracted by EAHC, upon public evidence procedure, to develop a web based eLearning platform and to produce 5 eLearning courses addressed to official veterinarians on: Animal Welfare, HACCP, TSE, RASFF, Food contact materials. The module on animal welfare will be available in October 2012.

Moreover, ICT is responsible for the planning, development, validation and delivery of 4 eLearning courses targeted to official veterinarians, staff members of control posts and transport companies to ensure Animal Welfare at the control posts (EC funds).

Two ICT experts are seconded at the Animal Welfare Unit of the Directorate General SANCO of the European Commission and at the Animal Health and Welfare Unit of EFSA.

- **CC from Chile-Uruguay**

Dr Huertas commented that, as indicated by the mandate given by the OIE, during 2011, several activities related to extent links with other institutions and with the other Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare (AW) were performed, through personal interviews or teleconferences, in order to increase the cooperation between them.

Dr Gallo, from Chile, participated actively with the National Veterinary Services (Animal Welfare Program SAG) developing the first three regulations on the new Animal Welfare Law (Law 20380 of 2009).

In Uruguay, Dr Huertas actively participated in the implementation and regulation of the Animal Welfare Law (18 471/2009) working closely with the Ministry of Livestock in this issue.

During 2011, the CC participated in lectures and courses at different Latin American countries related to good management practices and animal welfare issues.

In relation to knowledge transfer, several slaughter plants in both countries (Chile and Uruguay) and in the region have been advised and their staff has received training in good handling practices and animal welfare by both coordinators of the CC and their staff.

Laboratories of Veterinary drugs in Uruguay and Brazil, which use animals for their activities, requested advice from the AWWG to carry out the facilities to work with animals and the personnel were trained by Dr Huertas and her group.

The CC also organised in 2011 several training courses for professionals, both in Chile and Uruguay.

Both the Animal Welfare Program of Chile and Uruguay are working actively in publications and dissemination of information related to the OIE standards. They are also developing training materials for stockpersons, meat and milk producers, transporters, slaughterhouses and food industry in all animal welfare issues.

At the end of the joint meeting, it was clarified that all Collaborating Centres could provide services in all regions, regardless of their region of origin.

Council decision on Collaborating Centres: three new groups: production animals, companion animals, laboratory animals

Prof. Fraser referred to the Working Group's proposal submitted to the Director General in 2011, which included details of the type of specialisations that could be envisaged within the overall subject of animal welfare. The new OIE policy on Collaborating Centres, notably the decision to approve one Collaborating Centre per region in one of the following areas: companion animals, production animals, and animals used in research and education, was confirmed.

Update on the application of Mexico and Sweden

The Working Group reviewed the application of Mexico and gave its support for the Code Commission to consider. The Working Group also noted the status of the application of Sweden and it was agreed to provide specific recommendations to the Code Commission when the application is complete.

8. Other business

• Future work of OIE *ad hoc* Groups on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems

The Working Group acknowledged the adoption of Chapter 7.9 Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production Systems and of Article 7.1.4 General principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems.

Professor Fraser expressed concern about some amendments made during the General Session prior to the adoption of Article 7.1.4 regarding the suitability of animals introduced into new environments. Dr Thiermann suggested that text amendments could be provided for the Code Commission to address in its meeting in September.

As mentioned by Dr Thiermann, the priority will focus on production systems, continuing with Broiler Chickens Production Systems and commencing with dairy cattle production systems. Membership of this *ad hoc* group was discussed by the Working Group and it was decided to provide a list of additional experts for the OIE to consider.

• Third Global Conference on Animal Welfare

The Working Group noted that the programme with the speakers had been published on the OIE website.

It was agreed hold an informal meeting in the evening of 5 November prior to the Global Conference commencing.

- **OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy: update on the situation of each Region**

Dr Bayvel mentioned that implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) in the Asia, Far East and Oceania (AFEO) is well advanced and that the RAWS-Coordination Group held its third meeting in April in Bangkok. He indicated that it was agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the Coordination Group back to back with the OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare that is planned for 6–8 November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. He also indicated that the strategy and implementation plan will be reviewed and updated over the next few months.

Dr Molomo and Dr Wilkins reported that the suggestion of a sub-regional initiative from SADC Countries had not been progressed. The Working Group noted that discussions will continue and will involve the whole Region. It was agreed that a strategy would need to be driven from Africa. From the OIE's point of view, it is expected that the peer pressure of successful development and implementation of RAWS in other regions will help to drive that.

Prof. Aidaros mentioned that RAWS for the Middle East was included in the agenda of the Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Lebanon in October 2011. Dr Varas stated that the Focal Point Seminar, programmed for the first week of December 2012 in Lebanon, will be a good opportunity to follow-up the advancement of the project.

Regarding the situation in the Americas, Dr Wilkins reported that an outline proposal for a RAWS had been circulated for comments amongst Members of the Region. These comments should be received by August 2012 and the proposal placed on the agenda for the 21th Regional Commission Conference to be held 26–29 November in Barbados.

Dr Gavinelli mentioned the OIE Seminar for National Focal Points that was held in Kiev (Ukraine) which was co-funded by the EU and was specifically dedicated to non-EU countries as the 27 EU Member States are far more advanced in terms of animal welfare than the rest of Europe. The level of implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare in Eastern Europe countries is rather low. National animal welfare priorities, as indicated by the participants, concerned transport, slaughter of animals and dog population management. The need for education, legislation, awareness was clearly expressed, as well as the need for a mapping of the existing information, materials, tools, centres of expertise available in the region. Attendees also discussed about a regional platform/hub for animal welfare aiming at sharing experience, knowledge and existing tools with a view to assisting the countries in the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare.

The Working Group encouraged all OIE Regions to continue to give priority to strategy development.

- **OIE Technical Mission to Indonesia**

Dr Bayvel updated the meeting on the background to, and outcomes of a fact-finding mission he undertook to Indonesia, over the period 25 to 31 April, on behalf of OIE Headquarters.

The mission related to the implementation of the Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP) and the training role to be played by the OIE in relation to OIE standards. Meetings were held with all key stakeholders and the mission was the subject of a detailed Mission Report.

- **Twinning between the Collaborating Centre of New Zealand-Australia and the University of Putra, Malaysia**

Dr Thornber provided an update on the status of this project and mentioned that it should be finalised by the end of July. He added that all costs would be covered by the CC.

Dr Varas mentioned the ongoing work of the *ad hoc* group on veterinary education as per the development of a Guide to OIE Certified Veterinary Educational Establishments Twinning Projects, based on the existing Guide for twinning between Laboratories.

- **FAO electronic consultation – working animals; future OIE standard on working animals**

Drs Mariela Varas, Rahman and Gavinelli attended the 2011 meeting held by FAO and The Brooke following the electronic consultation on the Role, Impact and Welfare of Working Animals. The Working Group noted that a draft report had been sent to the attendees during the AWWG meeting and acknowledged the recommendations to the OIE, as per the ‘OIE should develop Standards for working animal welfare and include them in its *Terrestrial Code*’ and, along with FAO, should ‘raise awareness and provide guidance to their Members on the importance of working animals and their health and welfare to livelihoods and national economies’. Dr Rahman mentioned the recommendations of the Accra Conference and the need to constitute a working group on welfare of working animals.

It was agreed that the welfare of working animals would be the third area of priority of the OIE to address.

- **Global Fund**

Contributions from OIE Member Countries to the World Fund were mentioned, in particular donations from Australia and New Zealand for the RAWS in their Region and the IAWP, as well as the contribution from the EC for Global Conferences and Seminars.

- **World Halal Forum**

Professor Aidaros and Dr Rahman briefed the Working Group regarding their participation at the World Halal Forum held in April 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. It was confirmed that the Halal Integrated Forum which organised the forum is an independent organisation engaged in Halal awareness among the Islamic community. The various stakeholders who participated in the meeting showed keen interest in the welfare issues of animals involved in food production especially the OIE standards on land transport and slaughter for human consumption. The issue of stunning was discussed in detail with the majority of participants opposing stunning as a prerequisite for slaughter. However, the stakeholders agreed that there was cruelty to animals during transport and at slaughter in many countries of the world. Dr Rahman stressed the role of OIE in addressing issues of welfare in Islamic countries such as sensitizing religious leaders about the cruelty to animals especially during slaughter.

The Working Group noted that the discussion paper on ‘Animal welfare related provisions of Islamic Law – OIE Discussion Paper’ written by Professor Aidaros and Dr Rahman, had been published at the OIE website: <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-welfare/future-developments/>.

- **Religious Slaughter**

The AWWG noted that this topic was included in the programme of the 3rd Global Conference on Animal Welfare and further discussion will be undertaken at that time.

It was agreed to continue to focus on the approach outlined in the above Discussion Paper, to consolidate what has been achieved so far, and to concentrate on constructive dialogue with Religious Authorities and opinion leaders.

- **Stamping out systems**

It was agreed that Dr Guyonnet would review the extensive documentation received by the OIE on this subject and provide feedback to the AWWG. The Group will then submit comments to the Code Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

- **Animal welfare and trade**

Dr Gavinelli confirmed that the EC will hold a second Animal Welfare and Trade Colloquium in October 2013 in Uruguay, as a follow-up to the meeting held in Brussels in 2009.

This meeting is planned to be held back to back with the programmed Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare for the Americas region.

- **ILAR**

Dr Bayvel confirmed that an application to recognise ILAR as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Medicine, Science and Welfare is currently being prepared and is supported in principle by the US Delegate. This opportunity was first identified by Dr Vallat during discussions with the laboratory animal welfare ad hoc group in 2010.

- **Alan Sheridan Internship**

Dr Thornber briefed members on a development award to Dr Allan Sheridan from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Dr Sheridan will be sponsored to spend up to three weeks at the OIE Central Bureau in October 2012, assisting in the development of guidelines and material to support implementation of the OIE animal welfare guidelines on slaughter.

- **Standards Implementation**

Dr Bayvel raised the mandate from the 80th General Session that the Animal Welfare Working Group consider pathways to assist Member Countries to implement OIE welfare standards. Members asked Dr Thornber to chair a small writing group to develop an Animal Welfare Working Group guideline document on pathways for implementing OIE animal welfare standards.

Dr Thornber will be supported in the drafting group by Prof. Fraser, Dr Molomo, Prof. Aidaros and Dr Guyonnet. The outcomes of the OIE 3rd Global Conference on Animal Welfare in November will be considered in the finalisation of this document. Once endorsed by the AWWG, it will be submitted to the OIE Headquarters in January 2013 for consideration by the Code Commission at its meeting in February 2013.

- **Animal Welfare Chapters Organisation**

Dr Thiermann informed the Working Group that some Member Countries had complained about the formatting of the Animal Welfare Chapters and that it is impractical to make reference to a whole paragraph instead of a precise article.

It was agreed to ask the OIE Headquarters to liaise with an editorial expert and explore the possibilities of simplifying the existing text, without losing the content on the tables.

The OIE welcomes any suggestions from the AWWG for improvements that facilitate the use and implementation of the Animal Welfare Chapters of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

- **Technical Item**

The Working Group agreed to have further discussion on this subject during the Global Conference, in order to present a draft Item during the teleconference programmed for January 2013.

- **Private Standards**

Dr Guyonnet, representing the International Egg Commission and as a full Member of the Working Group at this meeting, expressed his view on the role of the industry in setting private standards on animal welfare. He stated that here is a risk of AW being used as a “marketing tool” by big retailers and standards imposed and applied for the wrong reasons. He recommended that the OIE approaches the Consumer Goods Forum, an organisation made up of the CEOs of all the big retailers.

Dr Thiermann observed that, in absence of agreed governmental animal welfare standards, industries are entitled to set private standards. Nonetheless, when OIE standards exist, those private standards should take note of OIE standards.

Dr Fraser indicated that some companies have established their standards with no scientific background and that there is a possible opportunity for the OIE, through the AWWG, to provide guidance of how to produce science-based standards.

Dr Rahman stated that the OIE Delegates, in each of the 178 Members Countries, played a key influencing role and that such Guidance could be beneficial for them in their relationship with the private sector.

The AWWG mentioned the official agreement signed between the OIE and ISO in 2011. It was noted that at its meeting in Kenya in April 2012, the ISO Technical Committee 34 (Food Products) agreed to the formation of a Working Group to consider next steps in the development of Technical Specifications on animal welfare in primary production, transport and slaughter, based on the OIE animal welfare standards.

- **Concepts in Animal Welfare**

Dr Wilkins comment on the DVD developed by WSPA 7 years ago for teaching animal welfare to veterinary students. He explained that WSPA is seeking for the OIE to endorse the material, now that it's being updated.

Dr Belton confirmed OIE's interest and indicated that, although endorsement per se is unlikely, a specific module introducing the OIE will be added.

- **Rabies**

Dr Rahman mentioned that he had been invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to write the Chapter on Dog Population Control for their WHO Consultation Document which is undergoing a review. He informed the members that the final draft was ready and he wanted the OIE to comment on his draft before the meeting in Geneva in September.

- **Presentation of Permanent Working Group Reports at the World Assembly**

The OIE Council will re-consider at the next Council meeting whether there is sufficient time on the agenda for the AWWG Chair to present a report at future World Assembly meetings.

12. Work programme 2013

Members reviewed the current work programme with the view to updating it for 2013. It was agreed that Dr Varas and Dr Rahman would circulate the draft proposed 2013 Work Programme by 1 November 2012.

All Members were encouraged to give careful attention to the draft work programme to ensure that it includes all key initiatives and regional priorities.

13. Dates of next meeting

It was agreed that the next full meeting would be held on 18–20 June 2013.

A Working Group teleconference will be scheduled in early January to provide input to the winter meetings of the Code and Aquatic Animals Commissions.

.../Annexes

MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 26–28 June 2012

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MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 26–28 June 2012

Adopted agenda

Introduction and priorities / Dr Bayvel

Introduction of participants and welcome to Dr Rasto Kolesar/ Dr Peter Thornber

Administrative arrangements / Dr Belton

27 June 2011 - 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm: Joint Session with Representatives of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres

1. AWWG 10TH Meeting Report, agreed Actions, Informal Meeting at GS & Teleconferences
2. OIE General Session 2012 Outcomes
 - General Session Report/ Resolutions
 - Resolution on Animal Welfare
 - Other Issues Raised: adoption of Chapter 7.9 on Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production Systems – Future of Chapter on AW and Broiler Chicken Production Systems
3. Work of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
4. Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education January 2012- Feedback from MV
5. Report of the Working Group on Food Safety
6. Report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
7. Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Climate Change
8. Joint session with Collaborating Centres (including full annual reports)
9. Council decision on Collaborating Centres: three new groups: production animals, companion animals, laboratory animals – Update on the application of Mexico, Italy and Sweden
10. Other Business
 - Future work of *ad hoc* Groups on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems
 - 3rd Global Conference on Animal Welfare
 - OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy: update on the situation of each Region
 - RAWS/AFEO Coordination Group report
 - OIE Technical Mission to Indonesia
 - Future OIE work on AW
 - FAO report on working animals
 - Annual Reports of Collaborating Centres (Italy, Chile/Uruguay, NZ/Australia)
 - Twinning Malaysia update
 - Presentation on Wildlife
 - Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars

Annex II (contd)

- ILAR–update and Conference in Brazil
 - Technical Item for 2013
 - Meeting World Halal Forum
 - Rabies
 - Technical Item for 2014
 - AW Chapters organization
 - Alan Sheridan internship
 - Feedback from Code Commission on Work Programme 2011
 - *Scientific and Technical Review 2014*: Publication coordinated by D. Mellor and D. Bayvel
11. Work programme 2012–2013
 12. Meeting report
 13. Next Meeting
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