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Protecting animals, preserving our future • **World Organisation for Animal Health**

81st General Session • Paris, 26–31 May 2013

Final Report 2013

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List of abbreviations

AGFUND	:	Arab Gulf Program for Development
ASEAN	:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC	:	African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
CAC	:	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CAMEVET	:	Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines
CAN	:	Andean Community
CBD	:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC
CIRAD	:	Center for International Research on Environment and Development
COPA/COGECA	:	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/ General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
DG SANCO	:	The Directorate General Health and Consumers
DIVA	:	differentiating infected from vaccinated animals
EC	:	European Commission
ECCAS	:	Economic Community of Central African States
EFSA	:	European Food Safety Authority
EUFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-ECTAD	:	FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations
FEI	:	Fédération Équestre Internationale
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GARC	:	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
GFSI	:	Global Food Safety Initiative
GF-TADs	:	OIE/FAO Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Animal Welfare
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IETS	:	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFAD	:	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFAH	:	International Federation for Animal Health
IFHA	:	International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
IsDB	:	Islamic Development Bank
ISO	:	International Organization for Standardization
OECD	:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)
OPEC	:	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAAWA	:	Pan Africa Animal Welfare Alliance
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization
PANAFTOSA	:	Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEACFMD	:	South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease
STEC	:	Shiga toxigenic *E. coli*
USDA/APHIS	:	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture
VICH	:	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
VSF	:	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders)
VTEC	:	Verotoxigenic *E. coli*
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHID	:	OIE World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS	:	World Animal Health Information System
WAVLD	:	World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
WFO	:	World Farmers Organisation
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WMA	:	World Medical Association
WSPA	:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO	:	World Trade Organization
WVA	:	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 81st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates[1] of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held on 26 May 2013 at the Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel, from 27 to 30 May at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 31 May at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany), President of the Assembly. Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item I and Dr Jaouad Berrada (Morocco) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item II.

2. Delegations from 146 Member Countries participated in the General Session.

3. Observers from four non-member countries or territories and representatives of 26 international and regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the Session.

4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.

5. Dr Elizabeth A. Lautner (United States of America) and Dr Gardner Murray (Australia) participated in the General Session as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items. Prof. Ian Brown, Head of the EU[2]/OIE/FAO[3] Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease (United Kingdom) also attended the General Session during the special item presented by the Delegate of the People's Republic of China on the avian influenza (virus serotype H7/N9) situation in China.

6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.

7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibe, Dr Romano Marabelli and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti Honorary Presidents of the OIE, participated in the General Session.

8. H.R.H. Princess Haya, H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Thailand) and several Ministers and Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

SUNDAY 26 MAY 2013

Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests participating in the 81st General Session, a musical group was invited to enliven a part of the Opening Session.

10. President Karin Schwabenbauer then welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: H.R.H. Princess Haya, Mr Yukol Limlamthong (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand), and Mr Ismat Abasov (Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan), Mrs Nemesia Achacollo Tola (Minister for Rural Development and Land of Bolivia), Mr Luis R. Rodriguez (Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic), Mr Saramady Touré (Minister of Livestock of Guinea), Mr Asylzhan Mamytbekov (Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mrs Diané Mariame Koné (Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Mali), Mr Tek Bahadur Thapa (Minister for Agricultural Development of Nepal), Mr Milton Von Hesse La Serna (Minister of Agriculture of Peru) and Mr Farid Ahmed Mogawar (Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen). The following were also thanked for their

1 Hereafter "the Assembly"

2 EU: European Union

3 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

presence: Mr João Paixão Lages (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Brazil), Mr David Shervashidze (First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham (Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos), as well as Mr Khalifa bin Isa Al Khalifa (Under-Secretary for Agriculture and Marine Resources of Bahrain), Mr Dejan Krnjaic (Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia), Mr Kombaté Dindiogue Konlani (Head of Cabinet, Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo), Mr Yazgeldi Annayev (President of the State Association "Turkmenatlary" of Turkmenistan), Mr Yong Ho Park (Commissioner – Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency of Korea [Rep. of]) and Mr Chris Elias (President of the Global Development Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).

11. In her address, Dr Schwabenbauer recalled some of the key moments in the history of the OIE since its creation in 1924. She particularly emphasised how the enthusiasm and dynamism of Veterinary Services and the women and men that provide its living force, are vital for combating animal diseases, contributing to the production of healthy livestock and animal food products, thereby preserving human health and working in favour of prosperity for many rural families. Dr Schwabenbauer also called for young men and women to be encouraged to work alongside their elders in order to face the many challenges confronting the Veterinary Services. The globalisation and liberalisation of international trade had made the problems more complex, but new technologies were providing tools for better performance.

12. Dr Schwabenbauer concluded with the hope that the OIE would remain an organisation proud of the heritage left by its founders, and a strong organisation that would add new successes to those already achieved.

13. Following her address, the OIE President handed the floor to H.R.H. Princess Haya, H.E. Mr Yukol Limlamthong, and then to Mr Ismat Abasov, Mrs Nemesia Achacollo Tola, Mr Luis R Rodriguez, Mr Saramady Touré, Mr Asylzhan Mamytbekov, Mrs Diané Mariame Koné, Mr Tek Bahadur Thapa, Mr Milton Von Hesse La Serna, Mr Dejan Krnjaic, Mr Yazgeldi Annayev and Mr Chris Elias.

    Mr Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australia) delivered his intervention by video.

    Using their national strategies as an example, these distinguished officials all emphasised the importance of supporting the Veterinary Services and investing in animal health programmes.

    All these interventions provided a practical illustration of the OIE's slogan *"Protecting animals, preserving our future"*.

    H.E. the Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan announced the hosting of an OIE office in Astana to coordinate foot and mouth disease control programmes in the sub-region.

    The Representative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced the allocation of a fund of USD 2.5 million to support the OIE PVS Pathway.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

14. Dr Schwabenbauer reminded the participants that in 1985 the Assembly had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. She then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2013 to receive the awards: Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) for the Gold Medal and Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo (Botswana) and Mr Alan Randell (Australia) for the Meritorious Service Award.

15. Dr Schwabenbauer commended Dr Messuti and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE, in his capacity as Delegate and President, and to the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. She then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Letshwenyo and Mr Randell and presented them with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.

16. South Africa was announced as the recipient of the 2013 World Veterinary Day prize.

17. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony.

18. Following the ceremony, Dr Schwabenbauer declared open the 81st General Session of the Assembly.

MONDAY 27 MAY 2013

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

19. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as Members or observers, and she gave the floor to Mr Patrick Dehaumont, Director General of Food, representing Mr Stéphane Le Foll, Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry of France, and then Mr Bernhard Kühnle, Director General for Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Germany.

Mr Dehaumont welcomed the participants on behalf of France, the host country of the OIE. He emphasised the importance of worldwide cooperation between countries and organisations, especially in the field of animal health and animal welfare, and the relevance of a multidisciplinary approach – avian influenza control and rational use of antibiotics being good examples. He pointed out that the OIE's support for veterinary authorities to help them strengthen their capacity to implement science-based international standards is essential to fight animal diseases and contribute to human health. He also reaffirmed France's support for the development of the OIE, not simply as the Organisation's host country but also as an actor at the global level in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Mr Kühnle recalled Germany's interest in the activities of the OIE and the support provided for their implementation. He underlined the importance of animal health and animal welfare for ensuring the safety and quality of food for consumers, many of whom are very sensitive on this subject. Coordination between countries is essential for progress and to safeguard the future.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Docs 81 SG/7 and 81 SG/8)

20. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.

21. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 82nd and 83rd General Sessions

22. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 82nd and 83rd General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), an elected Member of the Council, included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

23. The Assembly appointed Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia) and Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), Members of the Council, to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.

24. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President the list of Delegates who, owing to their country's arrears of statutory contributions due to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2012

(Doc. 81 SG/1)

25. Dr Vallat presented the most important points of the report on activities in 2012 contained in the summary of the report, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2012 being presented in the report Doc. 81 SG/1 and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme was carried out within the framework of the Fifth Strategic Plan and in application of the three-year work programme of the Director General adopted by the Assembly in 2010.

26. Dr Vallat highlighted the success of the 80th General Session and of the two Conferences of Regional Commissions (Europe and the Americas) held in 2012 and generously hosted by Germany and Barbados, respectively.

27. At the end of 2012, the OIE had 12 offices around the world (Paris, as well as Bamako, Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Gabarone, Nairobi, Panama City, Sofia, Tokyo and Tunis). The establishment of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels was rendered official with the signing of a Headquarters Agreement with the Belgian Authorities on 14 March 2013. Discussions with the Government of the Russian Federation aimed at establishing a Representation in Moscow had successfully concluded with the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture on 6 March 2013. Furthermore, an official Headquarters Agreement was signed with the Belgian Authorities for the Brussels office, and the Belgian Veterinary Services were now hosting the OIE team in their premises free of charge. The OIE was also in negotiations with Kazakhstan and several countries in the Middle East with a view to setting up Regional Coordination Units for the foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme in 2013.

28. The Director General presented an update on the OIE's continuing active participation in various programmes in partnership with major international organisations (WHO[4], FAO WTO[5]). He placed special emphasis on collaboration with WHO concerning the development of a "One Health" PVS[6] pilot programme. In 2012, three pilot missions were carried out (Costa Rica, Kenya and Philippines) at the request of the OIE Delegates concerned.

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4 WHO: World Health Organization

5 WTO: World Trade Organization

6 PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

29. Dr Vallat then stressed the importance of the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), which had been extremely active in 2012. In particular, he mentioned the annual newsletter sent to all the experts and stakeholders to provide a progress report on the various projects. Relations between WHO and OFFLU have become even more operational since the signing of an official agreement between the Parties.

30. Dr Vallat expressed satisfaction at the successful setting up of vaccine banks for FMD and rabies in Asia. He also informed the Assembly that a similar call for tenders had been issued, and the contract awarded, for a peste des petits ruminants vaccine bank in Africa for implementation of the programme in 2013 and 2014.

31. Dr Vallat then outlined the work undertaken on the global strategy for FMD control and the desired complementarity of FAO activities, especially for implementation of national programmes. He also issued a reminder of the OIE's new role in officially endorsing national FMD control programmes. The OIE Global Conference, co-organised with FAO, on FMD control, which was held in Bangkok (Thailand) in June 2012, was the occasion for the OIE and FAO to present the Global FMD Control Strategy.

32. With regard to rinderpest, and in application of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011, the OIE and FAO set up a Joint Advisory Committee on rinderpest and a joint secretariat to support the Committee. The Committee met twice in 2012 and issued technical guidance advocating and facilitating the destruction and sequestration of rinderpest virus.

33. Dr Vallat also emphasised the usefulness of economic analyses in the animal health field and, taking as an example a forthcoming conference at the OECD[7], indicated his desire for greater OIE involvement in this area.

34. In the field of private standards, the Director General informed the Assembly of the establishment of formal cooperation with international organisations preparing private standards (ISO[8], GFSI[9], GLOBALG.A.P.), constituting a strong signal of their regard for the work of the OIE.

35. The Director General also indicated the draft agreements signed in 2012 and those envisaged with other international and regional organisations.

36. In the field of scientific activities, the Director General briefly reported on the world conferences that had been organised or co-organised in 2012 and the conferences due to be held in 2013 or planned for 2014. He also reviewed the work of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups and collaboration with the network of Reference Centres that provide the OIE with significant support.

37. In particular, Dr Vallat announced that the possibility of recognition based on a status of historical freedom from African horse sickness would be extended by a year until 2014.

38. The Director General mentioned the OIE's commitment to the fruitful implementation of the laboratory twinning programme, and also the work being carried out with a view to recognising official status, in particular for African horse sickness.

39. With regard to support for Member Countries, Dr Vallat confirmed the continued fruitful development of the PVS Pathway and the worldwide programme of capacity building for national Veterinary Services, thanks to the support provided by numerous donors, which he gratefully acknowledged. Dr Vallat backed up his statements with an update on PVS Pathway missions, and he emphasised the development of missions in the field of legislation and veterinary education, a sign of Member Countries' interest and needs in this respect; 150 Member Countries were now involved.

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7 OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

8 ISO: International Organization for Standardization

9 GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative

40. Dr Vallat also reported on the various training workshops for newly appointed Delegates and for national Focal Points that were organised in 2012.

41. Dr Vallat highlighted the importance of standards in the field of veterinary medicinal products. In this connection, he emphasised the work undertaken by the OIE with VICH[10] to encourage more OIE Member Countries to participate in standardisation relating to veterinary medicinal products, and he also underlined the quality and quantity of seminars and world conferences organised on various other priority topics in 2012.

42. Dr Vallat briefly reported on the functioning of the global systems WAHIS[11] and WAHID[12], and the profound changes to the tools, in particular to take into account wildlife diseases. He welcomed the successful launch of the version WAHIS 2 on 27 August 2012. He reminded OIE Delegates of the importance of their notifying animal health events.

43. Lastly, Dr Vallat briefly reported on publication work and the extremely rich documentary database now available on the OIE website. He also informed the Assembly that a communication strategy had been adopted.

44. In response to the Delegate of Norway, who wished to see more attention being given to aquatic animal diseases, the President indicated that this concern would be taken into account during the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan.

45. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

Composition of the Working Groups

46. The Director General presented the composition of the three OIE Working Groups for the period May 2013 – May 2014:

- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
  - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
  - Dr Marc Artois (France)
  - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
  - Dr John Fischer (United States of America)
  - Dr Ted Leighton (Canada)
  - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
  - Dr Yasuhiro Yoshikawa (Japan)

- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
  - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
  - Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO)
  - Dr Steve Hathaway (New Zealand)
  - Dr Selma Doyran (Codex Alimentarius Commission)
  - Dr Koen Van Dyck (European Commission)
  - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (WHO)
  - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)

10 VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

11 WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

12 WAHID: OIE World Animal Health Information Database: http://web.oie.int/wahis/public.php

- Working Group on Animal Welfare
  - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India) (Chairman)
  - Dr David Bayvel (WSPA[13])
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
  - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
  - Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
  - Dr Peter Thornber (Australia)
  - An Expert proposed by the IDF[14]
  - An Expert proposed by the IEC[15] (observer)
  - An expert proposed by the IMS[16] (observer)

47. The Assembly approved the composition of the Working Groups.

Planned Working Programme for 2014

(Doc. 81 SG/6 – Appendix I)

48. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2014, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the members of the Council. It was also announced that this programme could be intensified, particularly in the fields of veterinary education and support for Veterinary Statutory Bodies, if donors were to provide additional support to increase the number of twinning projects.

49. The Planned Working Programme for 2014 submitted to the Delegates for approval was presented at Appendix I of document 81 SG/6.

50. The Assembly approved the Planned Working Programme proposed for 2014.

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security

(Doc. 81 SG/9)

51. Dr Mark Schipp, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Elizabeth A. Lautner, Rapporteur for this Technical Item. He noted that Members share common ground in considering new technologies that may enhance the control and eradication of important diseases such as influenza and FMD. It falls to the OIE to provide and adapt standards and guidelines to enable us all to use a new and broader range of tools against these diseases.

52. Dr Lautner presented her report based on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.

53. In introducing the Technical Item, Dr Lautner indicated that the continued development of new technologies in the sciences of animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare has improved early warning detection and epidemiological response for disease

13 WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

14 IDF: International Dairy Federation

15 IEC: International Egg Commission

16 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

control and eradication. As new technologies are developed and deployed for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases, approaches for integrating these methods into current standards and guidelines will be needed.

The questionnaire was sent to the Delegates of all 178 OIE Member Countries to assess the impact new technologies would have on disease control and eradication in OIE Member Countries. The questionnaire also attempted to determine how these technologies will affect the OIE's role in ensuring that new methods and the best scientific practices are validated and incorporated to improve animal health and welfare and positively impact food security worldwide. Summarised questionnaire responses indicate that the vast majority of OIE Member Countries consider new technologies to be important for controlling and eradicating animal disease. OIE Member Countries have incorporated at least some new technologies into their current national veterinary programmes. Among all countries, FMD, animal influenza and rabies were identified as the priority diseases for developing or implementing new technologies. Diseases impacting aquaculture tended to have lower priority for implementation overall, but were geographically associated with aquaculture production. Lack of infrastructure, resources, and scientific evidence were identified as the most frequent barriers to implementing new technologies. Disease transmission modelling and risk assessments were the technologies that most countries would request assistance in technical capacity building. Vaccine technologies such as DIVA[17] and high potency vaccines are not currently widely available or used, but over three fourths of the countries would support their use. However, prior to the implementation of new technologies, respondents believed there could be a need to update some current OIE standards and guidelines, and provide guidance to OIE Member Countries on their validation and use.

Discussion on the Technical Item I

54. Dr Schipp thanked Dr Lautner and congratulated her for the excellent presentation. Dr Schipp invited the Assembly to comment on the presentation.

55. The Delegate of New Zealand commended the presentation, and further noted the need for an appropriate risk communication process to ensure that non-scientific stakeholders understand the applications and limitations of these often complex new technologies. Considering that they may be particularly sceptical regarding technology-driven food production systems, the Delegate questioned how trust could be built to ensure that the implementation of new technologies is supported by policy-makers and societies at large.

56. Dr Lautner agreed that, as noted in the survey, appropriate communication to non-scientific stakeholders is critical to policy decisions and to public perception and acceptance. The communication of such complex topics should be entrusted to specially trained scientists who can explain clearly the benefits, risks and limitations of new technologies, through open dialogue with both the public and policy-makers.

57. The Delegate of Togo, on behalf of 52 African Member Countries, congratulated Dr Lautner and her co-workers on the quality of the presentation and the research conducted on this very important item. Although Africa agrees with the critical areas identified for the application of newer technologies – FMD and PPR being particularly relevant – some countries may not yet be capable of applying some of the newer animal disease and control technologies. In order to continue to engage in competitive trade, Africa wishes to support the continued use of established and proven traditional means for disease control as an integral part of the OIE's process for setting standards and guidelines.

17 DIVA: differentiating infected from vaccinated animals

58. Dr Lautner thanked the Delegate for the comment and underlined the importance of cost effectiveness, ease of implementation, and use of new technologies. She agreed that some countries may be able to integrate new technologies more quickly than others, and highlighted from her presentation the need to maintain traditional methods as new technologies are being introduced.

59. The Delegate of China (People's Republic of) thanked the Rapporteur for the excellent presentation and the conclusions derived from the data and analyses. Noting the importance of the integration of new technologies into current standards and guidelines, the Delegate proposed that the OIE should set up a practical and feasible protocol to accelerate their incorporation into the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*. The OIE should also continue to advocate the "One Health" concept in addressing important diseases. The delegate further proposed that OIE's Biological Standards Commission should encourage OIE Reference Centres to cooperate with Member Countries' national laboratories in the development of DIVA and high potency vaccines, molecular epidemiological techniques, and nucleic acid-based detection methods. China is very willing to partipicate and to contribute to the development and normalisation of such new technologies.

60. The representative of IFAH[18], speaking on behalf of veterinary medicine and vaccine manufacturers, stated that the animal health industry is impacted by the acceptance of new technologies. Recognising that disease control strategies go hand in hand with acceptance of new technologies, the IFAH would be willing to assist the OIE in this respect.

61. Dr Lautner reiterated that risk communication is of paramount importance. Moreover, when addressing questions from the public, there must be a common message regarding these new technologies, their use, and how they contribute to the public good.

62. Professor Caporale, President of the Biological Standards Commission, thanked the Rapporteur for her presentation. He suggested that most new technology is proprietary, and therefore has inherent financial implications. Professor Caporale cautioned that not only the use, but also the interpretation of new technologies may be in the hands of very few competent individuals; it is therefore critical that very strong capacity building should accompany the incorporation of new technologies. He encouraged the Delegates who are now discussing the need for new technologies to consider changing our existing standards in order to integrate these new technologies into OIE systems.

63. Dr Lautner agreed that new technologies demand a high level of competence. Through its network of international experts and Reference Centres, the OIE has many resources to provide assistance and training, and to continually evaluate the effectiveness and potential uses of these new technologies. She further suggested that, in addition to the ongoing regional training workshops, resources such as Webinars could provide a simple and effective method of dialogue for communication with Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

18 IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

64. Also responding to the comments of Professor Caporale, the Director General of the OIE emphasised the importance of public acceptability of new technologies. He noted that, through the establishment of good communications, the public acceptance of genetically modified vaccines is much less of a problem than for genetically modified foods. It may indeed be feasible to accelerate the adoption of new standards – the elected Biological Standards Commision, which proposes new standards for submission to the World Assembly, may ask the Director General to set up a new *ad hoc* group to address this. The Director General agreed with the Delegate from Togo that certain Member Countries should not be left by the wayside and would certainly be able to maintain traditional technologies as they gradually adopt new technologies. He also addressed the concern of the Delegate of China (People's Republic of) that OIE Reference Centres assist Member Countries' National Laboratories, noting that the 277 OIE Reference Centres are duty-bound to provide capacity building assistance to other Member Countries within their sphere of activity.

65. The Delegate of Italy thanked the Rapporteur for her presentation and also thanked the Director General for his comments. He suggested that transparent communications are essential for the public acceptance of new technologies. In particular, communications must be initiated with food producers, to ensure that they deliver transparently a message that is consistent with the message conveyed by other stakeholders to promote the understanding and acceptance of new technologies.

66. In reference to Professor Caporale's request to consider the need to change OIE standards to incorporate new technologies, the Delegate from Canada reported that a meeting took place last year in Mexico City to discuss the transfer of new technologies. It had been noted that scientific capacities needed to be enhanced to ensure the successful application of these new technologies for animal disease control. She explained that the Americas had engaged in capacity building through the twinning of Reference Laboratories and other information-sharing initiatives. Laboratory capacity building is of critical importance today in view of the rapid evolution of new laboratory technologies.

67. The Delegate of Indonesia thanked the Rapporteur for the presentation. Although the use of high potency vaccines is currently somewhat limited, there is a great need for capacity building for these and for DIVA vaccines.

68. Dr Schwabenbauer highlighted the importance of communication strategies. There is growing acceptance of genetically modified vaccines; however, the acceptance of products from these vaccinated animals is still weak in certain regions of world. With the new OIE slogan, *"Protecting animals, preserving our future,"* and related food security issues, it is important to have a "One Health" approach. The OIE and Member Countries must work together to communicate to the general public and other stakeholders that vaccines and other new technologies can bring great benefits rather than risks to public health and well-being. This is important and achievable if we act together.

69. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Lautner for her presentation and invited the Delegates of Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Indonesia, Italy, New Zealand, Togo, and the representative of IFAH to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE

70. The President reminded the Assembly that presentations at a Plenary Session were made only by intercontinental, international organisations which could address the Assembly every three years, with the exception of WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, the World Bank and the WTO, which could make their presentations every year if they so desired. Regional organisations could make their presentations in principle every other year at the relevant Regional Commission they belonged to.

71. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional intercontinental organisations.

World Health Organization

72. Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director, Food safety and Zoonoses, WHO, commenced his presentation by delivering an apology from Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, for being absent.

73. Dr Miyagishima provided the Assembly with a brief historical excursus of the formation of an international community relating to trade. He then reiterated the importance of the World Trade Organization, established in 1995, and its close linkage with the international standard-setting bodies – the OIE, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the relevant regional organisations operating under the International Plant Protection Convention – for the world trade system.

74. He also stressed the importance of constantly and carefully monitoring diseases worldwide and pointed out that the repeated threats of disease pandemic confirmed this need. Within this context, he explained, it was only logical that the three aforementioned organisations should work together. Their collaboration was further formalised in the Tripartite Concept Note (2010): sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces. Dr Miyagishima reminded the Assembly that the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration had been reiterated at a number of key conferences, such as in Mexico (2012) and in Thailand (2013).

75. The effort to control or eradicate zoonoses through integrated prevention and control was a very good example of cross-sectoral collaboration, he explained. Linked to this, he informed the Assembly that WHO was developing a global strategy for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies with the collaboration of international strategic partners such as FAO and the OIE, but also with the strong participation of stakeholders and civil society groups.

76. In addition to zoonoses, the representative from WHO stated that parasitic diseases also require collaboration among the food safety, veterinary, environmental and community healthcare sectors. In support of this, he reported that most of the current priorities in Codex Alimentarius Commission and WHO's Neglected Tropical Diseases road map appear to coincide, and these include cystic echinococcosis, Taenia solium cysticercosis, and food-borne trematodiases. Athough he did not provide details about the human diseases caused

from Avian Influenza A(H7N9) or the MERS coronavirus, Dr Miyagishima spoke about the collaboration between FAO, the OIE and WHO taking place on a real-time basis in response to these disease outbreaks. He informed the Assembly that the information exchange between the three organisations was very dense and that he believed that it was a good model for repetition at national level.

77. While recognising the importance of disease-by-disease approaches, Dr Miyagishima announced that WHO had joined forces with the OIE to strengthen national health security systems. He informed the Assembly that the main framework for WHO was the International Health Regulations (IHR), which entered into force on 15 June 2007. The IHR are an international legal instrument that binds 194 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of WHO. As per Article 2 of the IHR, Dr Miyagishima stated that the purpose of IHR was "to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade". The IHR requires countries to report certain disease outbreaks and public health events to WHO. Dr Miyagishima accentuated the existence of a perfect parallel between the IHR and the OIE Codes in terms of the overall objectives and the rights and obligations of member states.

78. He remarked that a cornerstone of IHR implantation was the strengthening of national capacities. In relation to this, Dr Miyagishima signalled that WHO has developed tools for core capacity assessment for use by countries. These assessment tools are comparable to the OIE Tools from the OIE PVS Pathway.

79. He affirmed that WHO was happy to continue to engage in projects aimed at building bridges between national human and animal health assessment tools, not only to draw synergies, but also to stress the importance of building long-standing collaborative partnerships and a dialogue between public health and animal health authorities.

80. The WHO representative highlighted that food safety was an area within which WHO had been working together with the OIE for a long time. Since the launch of the new INFOSAN Community website in March 2012, WHO and FAO had sought to enhance the registration of national INFOSAN focal points. While the national emergency contact point is limited to one per country, WHO accepts the registration of several national INFOSAN focal points per country. WHO and FAO welcomed participation from the OIE's national focal points for food safety in this circle and invited them to actively participate in information exchange through the INFOSAN Community website with functionalities such as a discussion forum.

81. Prior to concluding he took the opportunity to reiterate that the collaboration between WHO and the OIE should be continued and be further strengthened in relation to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). He disclosed that AMR generated an enthusiastic discussion at the World Health Assembly last week, and he anticipated that it would be a high priority in WHO's programme and budget for 2014-2015. The OIE's active engagement in the WHO programmes on AMR was more than welcomed and, in return, WHO was pleased to contribute to the OIE activities including the updating of relevant standards on AMR.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

82. Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief, Animal Health Service, FAO, on behalf of the Director General of the FAO, Mr Graziano Da Silva, expressed his gratitude to the OIE for allowing the organisation the opportunity to present to the Assembly.

83. He indicated that his presentation would address three key issues faced today in animal health: the Pressures, the State, and the Response.

84. Via the use of a video, Dr Lubroth commenced with the Pressures or the drivers faced in animal health today. He announced that by 2050 the world's population would grow to 9.3 billion individuals; correspondingly, meat consumption is projected to rise approximately 70% percent by 2050. Not only can the trade and transport of products and goods introduce risks, but he also pointed out that climate change was one of the fastest growing drivers for biodiversity loss. This global situation would result in changed patterns, including land and forest encroachment and the increased contact between humans and animals. He reported that the poor carry the highest burden of zoonotic diseases and have the least access to goods, care and services including for the animals they depend on. These pressures, he argued, could be identified as the main drivers for disease emergence, maintenance and spread for the coming decades. As a result of these pressures, animal diseases were becoming an increasing risk for human health, animal health, and ecosystem health worldwide, as well as a risk to safe trade.

85. Dr Lubroth cited the FAO's core mandate, which is to eradicate hunger, eliminate food insecurity and malnutrition, and ensure the stewardship of limited natural resources. Under this mandate, he announced to the Assembly that he would share certain aspects of the State and ways in which to better Respond.

86. The representative from FAO clarified that he would not address in his presentation the threats of H7N9, H5N1, African swine fever, Foot and mouth disease, Rift Valley fever, Classical swine fever, or other burdens such as parasitic diseases or mastitis, even though the aforementioned were excellent examples of the challenges faced for food security, food safety, and safe trade.

87. A video was shown to demonstrate the dynamic intercontinental transport and movement around the globe over a 24-hour period. Dr Lubroth indicated that on any given day there were approximately 40,000 cargo ships at sea transporting commodities. Within this context, a new emerging disease could be a global risk within 24 hours. The only thing that could travel faster, he claimed, was information for early warning, preparedness and prevention, thus highlighting the importance of reporting.

88. Dr Lubroth went on to show a series of maps illustrating trends in the global trade of poultry from 1987 to 2009, which demonstrated a tremendous growth in the trade and movement of poultry in order to meet demand. He inquired whether countries were sufficiently prepared for the risk of disease introduction given these global trends, and pointed out that similar mappings could be done for dairy products, almonds, cucumbers, soybeans or beef, but not for trade which occurs informally or illegally, including for wildlife.

89. Dr Lubroth claimed that although the CVOs and other interested parties at the World Assembly could not directly influence the global population growth, and although there had been a levelling off in population growth over the past decade, the demand for animal protein had not diminished. Furthermore, even though the rise in the demand for animal protein cannot be changed, he argued that this demand could be guided through improved policies and governance. However, with the pressure of disease drivers, threats to global health would also rise. Feeding the world's cities, which account for more than 50% of the global population, is paramount. Dr Lubroth also asserted that peri-urban agriculture was important and required sound policies; this was also the case for rural development.

90. Given that animal diseases decrease productivity between 25% and 35% (if the animal does not die), Dr Lubroth expressed the need to find a common vision to reduce global health risks while meeting the challenge of the demand. He underlined that the role of veterinarians, veterinary education, veterinary statutory bodies, continued professional development, the OIE, WHO, and FAO were essential in building this vision.

91. As a development and knowledge organisation, FAO's work in capacity development and sharing is vital in every project or programme it implements. Through its vast network of decentralised offices worldwide, rural outreach, and Reference Centres – many of which are shared with the OIE – and other centres of excellence, the FAO provides the opportunity for dialogue across sectors (local, cross-disciplinary and inter-governmental), best practices, and the use of cost-effective technologies. Dr Lubroth further described how the FAO works in partnership with the OIE, WHO, WTO, and other international and regional organisations to advance health for all. In addition, FAO has influenced policies such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and natural resource management through use of the Global Environmental Fund.

92. Another shared concern was compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention and the awareness of the potential of dual-purpose research. Also mentioned by the representative of FAO was conservation and land management through the engagement of specialist groups such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme. He mentioned that FAO assisted in implementing standards at the national and local level through its multimillion-dollar portfolio in agriculture, including fisheries, forests, animal production and health for communities and improved national resiliencies. FAO is a key partner in the application and adaptation of research, as illustrated through its cooperation with universities worldwide, as well as in the promotion of the implementation of OIE standards.

93. Dr Lubroth informed the Assembly that FAO's animal health service had brought in mobile phone technology in reporting disease events and countermeasures, such as those of SMS gateway, digital pen, and hand held devices; this software had also been used in dealing with med fly or desert locust. Advanced point of care diagnostics was another area of work to determine if there was viral activity in a given animal population, such as NSP pen-side tests for FMD detection, in addition to field vaccination of promising pharmaceuticals or vaccines.

94. The representative of FAO proposed that in order to safeguard the complex food chain, it was necessary to identify critical control points for improved surveillance and target interventions as needed in order to ensure health and consumer confidence. Mapping market chains was essential to prevent and control animal diseases, as well as to guarantee safe food and feed. The socioeconomic determinants, he claimed, offered key insights to understanding driving forces and thus required constant consultation and advice from and to the marketers, transporters, and sellers. For this to occur, increased cooperation across countries and across disciplines was needed in order to move from the current State to a more effective Response.

95. Dr Lubroth announced that later in 2013, FAO would publish a new flagship publication, the World of Livestock 2013 "Changing Disease Landscapes: Livestock in Global Health", which will provide an overview of the current situation (Pressures and State) in relation to livestock, as well as what this would signify for the future (Response), including the role of veterinarians. He encouraged those who had not already done so to read and share the previous World of Livestock 2011, which focused on livestock and food security, with financial decision-makers and policy makers.

96. By compiling the 2013 edition of the "Changing Disease Landscape: Livestock in Global Health", FAO signalled to the world's decision-makers that it was not possible to remain in the current State and thus it was necessary to profoundly change certain agriculture and food policies to Respond to future demands; this would also require greater cooperation. He also emphasised that dialogue with the myriad stakeholders – including the private sector, research, policy, academia, and local pastoralists – was essential.

97. In order for FAO to attain its goal of eradicating hunger, he outlined that an enabling, inclusive and efficient livestock sector was required at all levels - local, national and international

98. In view of this, FAO focuses on the establishment of a livestock dialogue through the Global Agenda of Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development. He highlighted that by changing production practices, the world could make better use of natural resources and enhance food security. The wider application of proven but not widely used technologies could generate large production and efficiency gains as well as environmental benefits. He stressed the importance of collaboration; this, he stated, is particularly relevant for the attainment of a true "One Health" approach, through recognition in risk assessment of the interconnectivity between humans, domestic and wild animals, and the environment.

99. He announced that FAO was applying "One Health" at the global level under the tripartite relationship with OIE and WHO. Moreover, he highlighted that FAO was also translating theory into practice through outreach and engagement at the community level with animal health clubs, livestock/farmer schools, and continuing professional education.

100. He concluded his presentation by remarking that true engagement at the national/institutional level was missing for such promising initiatives as "One Health" and the Global Agenda for Action.

World Trade Organization

101. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO, reported on the relevant activities of the WTO SPS Committee for 2012 and the first quarter of 2013.

102. The attention of the Assembly was drawn to the fact that over the period 1995–2012, 344 Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee against SPS measures maintained by other WTO Members. Of these 344 STCs, 40% were related to SPS measures linked to animal health and zoonoses, 30% related to food safety and 24% to plant health. The animal health and zoonoses-related STCs were comprised of: 33% Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs), 34% other animal health concerns, 24% Foot and Mouth Disease and 9% for Avian Influenza. Further information was available in the WTO document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.13.

103. Ms Fall mentioned that in 2012 and the first quarter of 2013, 7 new STCs of relevance to the OIE were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee. Also, several WTO Members used the opportunity of Committee meetings to provide information relating to animal health measures and zoonoses, as well as on their pest or disease status.

104. She disclosed that a total of 1,102 notifications of new or proposed SPS measures were submitted by WTO Members in 2012 and the first quarter of 2013. Of these, 179 identified animal health as the objective of the measure being taken, while 721 identified the protection of humans from zoonoses or plant pests as the objective. Moreover, 149 notifications identified an OIE standard as relevant, by citing either the application of the OIE standard or a deviation from it.

105. Ms Fall recalled that, as agreed in the Second Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement completed in 2005, the Committee has been considering proposals to facilitate the use of ad hoc consultations to resolve trade problems. The latest revision of the draft procedure can be found in the WTO document G/SPS/W/259/Rev.5. A further revision of the draft procedure will be circulated to Members for consideration at the June 2013 SPS Committee meeting.

106. Furthermore, the Assembly was informed that in March 2010, the SPS Committee completed the Third Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement. WTO Members have identified three priority issues so far for further work by the SPS Committee: the cooperation between the SPS Committee and the OIE, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); the improvement of procedures for monitoring the use of international standards; and control, inspection and approval procedures (Article 8 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement). Ms Fall pointed out that the report of the Third Review can be found in the WTO document G/SPS/53.

107. Ms. Fall further highlighted recent developments concerning private standards. An ad hoc working group had proposed 12 actions to the SPS Committee for adoption (G/SPS/W/256); five of those twelve actions were adopted by the SPS Committee in March 2011 relating to the definition of the scope of discussions on SPS-related private standards and to the promotion of information exchange among various entities (G/SPS/55). Members are currently discussing a new draft working definition for private standards (G/SPS/W/265/Rev.2).

108. Ms. Fall informed the Assembly that the WTO Secretariat and the OIE continue to cooperate in providing technical assistance to developing countries, both through the OIE's active participation in WTO-organized training activities, and through STDF-related projects (Standards and Trade Development Facility). She announced that the WTO Secretariat will organize the following two regional training events on the SPS Agreement in 2013: (i) Workshop for French-Speaking Africa in Gabon on 17-20 September; and (ii) Workshop for Arab countries in the United Arab Emirates on 4-7 November. WTO document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.3 contained detailed information relating to all the SPS technical assistance activities planned for 2013, including application information and deadlines for WTO funding. Lastly, Ms. Fall reported on recent relevant STDF activities including the launch in 2012 of a virtual library and a new STDF briefing (number 9) on the main findings of a 2012 seminar on international trade and invasive alien species. Ms. Fall concluded her presentation by flagging that only 8 per cent of approved STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) addressed animal health issues. Applications for PPGs and request for project funding from National Veterinary Services were strongly encouraged.

The World Bank

109. Dr François Le Gall, Livestock Adviser of the World Bank, thanked the President of the OIE, the Director General, and all national OIE Delegates for allowing the World Bank to address the Assembly and to present the World Bank's activities in the field of animal health.

110. Dr Le Gall commenced his presentation by introducing the World Bank staff present at this General Session: Laurent Msellati, Sector manager for agriculture and rural development for Latin America and the Carribean; Stephane Forman, livestock specialist for Sub-Saharan Africa; Caroline Planté, livestock specialist for the Agriculture and Environmental Services Department; and himself, Adviser for the Environmental Services Department,responsible for livestock and food safety support policies within the World Bank.

111. He continued his presentation by summarising the main drivers of increased demand for livestock products. He stated that population growth, expected to reach around 9 billion by 2050, and rapid urbanisation, in combination with higher incomes, particularly in the developing world, were responsible for the steady growth in the demand for meat, milk and eggs. He announced that projections for meat demand by 2050 showed that production would more than double in the developing world, and increase slightly in the developed world. By this date, Dr Le Gall pointed out that global meat output would reach 455 million tons and that the increased production would be composed largely of monogastric (pig and poultry) products.

112. He revealed that although the World Bank's livestock portfolio had declined sharply during the period 1974 to 2006, this latter date corresponded to an inversion, resulting in a gradual rise in the importance of livestock at the World Bank. Notwithstanding, further action was required to accompany this so-called 'livestock revolution'.

113. He announced that the World Bank is currently developing a new Livestock Agenda integrating new global priorities, coupled with the World Bank's priorities. He indicated that these included the following items of particular relevance: Climate Change, Inclusive Green Growth, Sustainable landscapes, Gender, and other specific issues such as continuous pandemic risk, food crisis, under-nutrition and the vulnerability of pastoral communities. Attention was drawn to the fact that World Bank key partners are actively collaborating in the design of this Agenda.

114. The main objective of this Agenda is to build a corporate vision and to establish priorities for the World Bank's livestock-related actions over the next decade. He specified that the Agenda would also include triennial regional plans and focus on three main, interconnected pillars, namely: health, environment and social equity.

115. With reference to the health pillar, the World Bank representative outlined that it would focus on: (i) good governance of Veterinary Services; (ii) "One Health"; (iii) animal health; and, (iv) food safety. He remarked that the Agenda would take stock of lessons learned by both the World Bank and its partners, combining analytical outputs and best practices. Linked to this, the World Bank would use and/or make reference to the expertise, standards and guidelines of its reference organisations and institutions. In support of this, it was underlined that the development of the Agenda had been designed as a collaborative process, incorporating inputs from all sectors and regions of the World Bank, including its key partners. The Assembly was informed that the expected date of finalisation and subsequent dissemination of the Agenda would correspond to the fiscal years of 2014 and 2015.

116. In relation to this, Dr Le Gall announced that the Agriculture and Environmental Services Department of the World Bank had organised a one week learning event from 19 to 23 May 2013 in Costa Rica, to promote a new vision of livestock development for World Bank managers and task team leaders. This event provided a forum for sharing practical examples on ways to address livestock development with a particular focus on environment, health and equity. World Bank's partners participated in this event and contributed to the discussions, which would help to fine-tune the Agenda.

117. He stressed the importance of working in partnership, noting that it was essential for the development and communication of a common vision and a coherent approach to livestock support between the key partners involved. Partnerships not only support the sector more effectively and efficiently, capitalising on both the respective strengths and the comparative advantages, but also attract donors and expand operations to further support the sector. This has led the World Bankto propose a new Global Alliance for a Safer, Fairer and More

Sustainable Livestock Sector; this initiative involves key actors, such as the OIE, FAO, ILRI[19], Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IFAD[20] and the European Union.

118. He drew attention to the fact that the World Bank had developed strong collaboration with the OIE over the past decade. Dr Le Gall pointed out that the World Bank was providing support to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and was itself currently chairing its Advisory Committee. Concerning OIE-World Bank collaboration at the global level, Dr Le Gall pointed out that World Bank representatives were Members of the OIE *ad hoc* Groups on Veterinary Education and on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, and that the World Bank had regularly participated in global conferences organised by the OIE or jointly with the World Bank.

119. The World Bank had also contributed to the production of knowledge; a recent example of this was the coordination of the 2012 Scientific and Technical Review of the OIE by Dr Laurent Mselatti on behalf of the OIE, "Good Governance and financing of efficient Veterinary Services".

120. Significantly, Dr Le Gall took the opportunity to inform the Assembly that the OIE had seconded an officer to the World Bank and that this staff member was supporting, in particular, the development of the animal health pillar of the forthcoming Agenda.

121. In terms of operations, the World Bank considered that PVS Pathway reports were essential tools for the design of their investment projects and had continuously made use of them in various countries that had requested World Bank support for their livestock sector. The OIE also provided guidance and support to the World Bank, when required, on topics such as veterinary education, veterinary statutory bodies, the quality of vaccines and medicinal products.

122. He was pleased to announce that the World Bank had recently awarded a grant to the OIE for a project entitled "National Human and Animal Health Systems Assessment Tools and Bridges Project", which would be implemented jointly with WHO. He took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the European Commission for the funds provided through the Animal and Human Influenza Facility (AHIF); a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank.

123. He closed his presentation by announcing that the World Bank had launched a Global Food Safety Partnership in December 2012; this initiative corresponds to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder private and public partnership focusing on food safety capacity building. He informed the Assembly that the OIE was a key partner in this endeavour.

World Veterinary Association

124. Dr Faouzi Kechrid, President, briefly announced that the role of the WVA[21] is to be a representative of the veterinary profession globally; he indicated that its vision is: one voice, one medicine, one health, one profession and one world.

125. He informed the Assembly that in 1863 Dr John Gangee had convened the first international Veterinary Congress in Hamburg (Germany); this initiative was the first encounter of the current WVA. The Association serves as an umbrella organisation for National Veterinary Associations, as well as for International Associations of Veterinarians, in different areas of veterinary medicine.

19 ILRI : International Livestock Research Institute

20 IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

21 WVA: World Veterinary Association

126. The WVA's mission is to assure and promote animal health and welfare and public health globally, through developing and advancing veterinary medicine and the veterinary profession.

127. He stated that the WVA's vision for the future was threefold: firstly, it wanted to be the voice of the global veterinary profession; secondly, it wanted all countries in the world to have a proper functioning veterinary service that meets the needs of society and is valued by society; and lastly, it hoped for a strong and united global veterinary community, capable of ensuring that Veterinary Services have sufficient resources and qualified veterinarians, properly educated and licensed by the legal authority to practice veterinary medicine.

128. He outlined that the WVA's policy areas include One Health and the strengthening of the veterinary profession. In reference to the latter, he stated that its areas of focus are: Education and Life-Long Learning, Statutory Bodies and Associations, Professional Ethics and Attitude, and strengthening the collaboration between private and public parties.

129. Linked to this, he outlined the WVA Council's recently adopted policy positions on: definition of a Veterinarian; Rabies; the responsible use of Antimicrobials; and Veterinary Statutory Bodies. Future policy positions will address: the control of inappropriately aggressive dogs; Animal Welfare; well-being and ethology; and statutory and regulatory authority for Aquatic Veterinary Medicine.

130. He then presented WVA's activities, pointing out that:

- WVA, together with the OIE, presents the annual World Veterinary Day Award. The theme for 2013 is vaccination. The winner this year is South Africa.
- WVA, together with the OIE, WHO and FAO, is organising the Global Veterinary Summit. He announced that the theme for 2013 is "Global Wellbeing – a partnership of Animal and Human Health";
- WVA aims to strengthen its collaboration with international organisations, such as the OIE, FAO, WHO, WMA[22], the World Bank, WSPA, GARC[23], IFAH and others.
- WVA is in the process of amending its statutes to open up membership to a wider range of veterinary professional organisations.

131. He reminded participants that, since 2000, World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. Moreover, in 2008, the WVA and the OIE agreed to create q specific award to be granted to a national veterinary association. As announced by the Director General during his opening address for the 81st General Session, the South African Veterinary Association was the winner in 2013. He reiterated that the theme for the World Veterinary Day Award in 2013 is vaccination.

132. In closing, he invited the Assembly to actively participate in the 31st World Veterinary Congress scheduled to take place on 17-20 September 2013 in Prague (Czech Republic).

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22 WMA: World Medical Association

23 GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control

World Farmers' Organisation

133. The Executive Director of the World Farmers Organisation, Dr Marco Marzano de Marinis, commenced with a brief overview of the areas which he would discuss in further detail. These included the challenges with which farmers are currently faced, the present and future activities of the WFO[24] and its steps for the future.

134. With regard to the challenges, Dr Marzano de Marinis presented various factors presenting difficulties facing farmers, including access to credit, food security and gender inequality. On the subject of access to credit, for example, he stated that this remains a major obstacle to improving production and eradicating poverty, for smallholder farmers in particular. Uncertainties inherent in the agricultural process, such as dependency on increasingly erratic rainfall and poor agricultural systems, have resulted in growing hesitation among funding bodies to issue loans to farmers for large-scale investments to increase productivity.

135. Dr Marzano de Marinis continued with a brief presentation of the WFO, explaining that it is an organisation of agricultural producers that aims to strengthen the position of farmers within value chains, with a particular focus on smallholder famers.

136. The Members of the WFO were illustrated on a map and shown to the Assembly, demonstrating its engagement on an international scale.

137. In regard to the present and future activities of the WFO, the priority policy areas which were identified encompassed climate change, food security, the value chain, innovation, youth, trade, women, livestock, and cooperatives. It was stressed that three elements are crucial to consolidating the image and international character of the WFO, including a wide array of competencies that the Organisation covers, its proficiency in delivering, and its reliability as a partner.

138. As a mutual area of interest between the WFO and the OIE, livestock, with regard to animal health and welfare, was discussed. Dr Marzano de Marinis indicated that throughout the history of animal husbandry, farmers have naturally sought to ensure the welfare of their animals, to keep them healthy and free from suffering or pain and provide them with adequate conditions. Animals are observed regularly by farmers to ensure that the first signs of disease are detected and appropriate action is taken at the earliest opportunity. It is thus important to work together towards risk reduction strategies worldwide both in animals and humans, reiterating the One Health approach. In addition, Dr Marzano de Marinis stressed that the right tools should be developed and put in place for animal disease prevention detection and control worldwide. The sharing of information and knowledge was also discussed as being key to meeting the challenges and risks of increased globalisation in terms of the movement of animals and travelers across the world. Fair trade science was additionally highlighted as being the foundation of standards and legislation.

139. With particular concern to animal welfare, it was emphasised that support of science-based animal welfare standards should be adopted and harmonised internationally through the OIE, and that a basic acceptable level of animal welfare worldwide should be ensured without creating barriers to trade. Moreover, the guiding principles for animal welfare, as outlined in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* should be supported. The WFO requested that farmers be represented in the OIE Animal Welfare Group.

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24 WFO: World Farmers Organisation

140. Regarding partnerships for growth, Dr Marzano de Marinis disclosed that since 2012, the WFO has been signing various partnership agreements (an average of one Memorandum of Understanding per month) with the relevant multilateral agricultural stakeholders. This has enabled the WFO to establish dialogues and collaboration with all entities working on farmer-related issues. Among its partners and members, including the FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) and the OIE, the WFO has extended its partnership to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Meteorogical Organization (WMO), the WTO and various regional organisations.

141. Furthermore, Dr Marzano de Marinis revealed that the Livestock Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare of the WFO would be established to secure dialogue and coordination among farmers worldwide, and to share views, knowledge and information. The Committee would facilitate a professional political strategy in the areas of concern, monitor and influence the work of relevant stakeholders, and represent the WFO at international level.

142. Areas of further collaboration with the OIE were additionally stated, which included the identification of research needs in animal health and welfare, and the encouragement of collaboration among research centres. It was underlined that expertise on specific animal health and welfare issues of other international organisations, animal production sectors, industry and consumer groups be provided, and awareness of animal welfare in academia be improved. In addition, equivalent standards of animal welfare in international trade as a non-competitive issue should equally be promoted.

143. Finally, the future steps proposed by the WFO in terms of its Members would be to enlarge its platform and target countries, and strengthen its presence in existing regions. The WFO also foresees to consolidate its substantive expertise and fields of action, and continue expanding its network of excellence. It also hoped to become a discussion forum, a "point of reference" where the most relevant challenges for farmers and agriculture would be addressed.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

144. Although the Secretariat CBD[25] was unable to attend the 81st General Session, a short video was sent to the OIE and screened at the OIE's 81st General session that conveyed its activities and collaboration with the OIE.

145. The video began with a message from Mr Braulio F. de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, explaining that the CBD is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near-universal participation among countries.

146. Recognising that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 global targets (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) is a comprehensive framework for relevant international organisations, the OIE and the Secretariat of the CBD have signed a Cooperation Agreement in January 2013 to become partners in order to apply a "One Health" approach to manage the risks to humans, livestock and wildlife from animal diseases and zoonoses.

147. Mr de Souza Dias indicated that the activities, which will make a direct contribution to the global achievement of "Aichi Biodiversity Target 9" (invasive alien species), are central to CBD's collaboration with the OIE. With regard to Target 9, he revealed that the

25 CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

Conference of the Parties to the CBD welcomed the OIE's Guidelines for Assessing the Risk of Non-native Animals Becoming Invasive at its eleventh meeting in 2012. Furthermore, he also disclosed that the OIE, together with other international organisations, is participating in a new initiative, the "Collaborative Partnership for Wildlife".

148. Working with partners, the CBD strives to catalyse and provide support to developing countries. Strengthening their capacity to implement the Convention and its strategic plan are critically important for the world to achieve sustainable development. Mr de Souza Dias added that this could be best achieved through mutual collaboration in capacity development processes at regional and subregional levels.

149. Mr de Souza Dias concluded by stating that the CBD looks forward to continued close collaboration with the OIE on further developing international standards and guidance with regard to the international trade in live animals and animal products, in addition to capacity development in countries whose environmental sectors are eagerly anticipating the contribution of Veterinary Services for guidance on the management of biodiversity.

TECHNICAL ITEM II

Benefits and challenges posed by the worldwide expansion of equestrian events – new standards for the population of competition horses and equine disease free zones in countries

(Doc. 81 SG/10)

150. Dr Jaouad Berrada, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Gardner Murray, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

151. Dr Murray presented his report on the urgent need for veterinary regulatory authorities and equine industries to work together to develop OIE standards relating to the temporary international movement of *High Health High Performance* (HHP) horses.

There is significant worldwide expansion of the competition horse industry bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits. However there are a number of challenges that impede the free and safe international movements of competition horses as well as the expansion of the equine industry, including inconsistent approaches to the application of standards, regulations and biosecurity that have seen a number of major quarantine breakdowns. The OIE, in collaboration with the FEI[26], the IFHA[27] and other experts, is developing international biosecurity standards and conditions that will apply to the sub-population of HHP horses that move temporarily to compete in international equestrian events and racing. The critical importance of Veterinary Services and Competent Authorities in supporting international horse movements in accordance with OIE standards need to be emphasised, as well as the importance of establishing constructive working arrangements with equine industry and other relevant groups. The Assembly is asked to endorse action to address the clear and urgent need to develop OIE Standards relating to the temporary international movement of HHP horses, and re-affirm the critical importance of veterinary regulatory authorities and equine industries working together to implement agreed OIE standards and biosecurity arrangements.

26 FEI: Fédération Équestre Internationale

27 IFHA: International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities

Discussion on the Technical Item II

152. Dr Berrada thanked Dr Murray and congratulated him on the excellent presentation, and invited comments from the Assembly.

153. On behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, the Delegate of Zimbabwe congratulated Dr Murray on his presentation and indicated that Africa wished to support this OIE initiative and the work of the *ad hoc* Group. During the 80th General Session, Africa requested the OIE to consider the inclusion of the concept of temporary movement of horses in the relevant equine disease chapters of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and was pleased to see that progress has been made in this regard. It is however, essential for Africa that the approach used for inclusion of the concepts of temporary movement, HHP horses and equine disease-free zones be compatible with existing trade, facilitating concepts already in the *Terrestrial Code* such as compartmentalisation, so as not to confuse Delegates on the application of these concepts.

154. The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) thanked Dr Murray for a very thought-provoking presentation. He noted that compartmentalisation with respect to HHP is indeed feasible, and asked whether this concept is applicable only to OIE-listed diseases, or also to other equine diseases.

155. The Delegate of France thanked Dr Murray and the OIE for this excellent presentation. He announced that France would be hosting the World Equestrian Games in 2014. Within this framework, coordination with the relevant professionals had been put in place to ensure animal health management during the Games, in particular by implementing strengthened biosecurity measures at the event site. He noted that the health requirements for equidae entering France were of paramount importance to ensure animal health protection. European regulations relating to the importation of equidae already took into account the high health status of these competition horses by proposing an easing of measures for such horses temporarily admitted to the European Union. Lastly, he emphasised the important role of the Veterinary Services and their public/private sector partners in these arrangements. He concluded by saying that France strongly supported the work of the OIE, which took into account the true health status of certain animal populations and was ultimately aimed at protecting animal health. To this end, France offered to help draft the relevant OIE resolutions.

156. The Delegate of the United Kingdom congratulated Dr Murray and offered support to the OIE for this initiative. As it will demand many resources, public–private sector partnerships are essential. In agreement with the Delegates of China and France, he acknowledged that there are challenges posed by specific diseases, particularly those that are vector-borne, but noted that the goal is ultimately achievable with the assistance of public–private sector partnerships.

157. Endorsing the comments and commendations of the Delegates of France and the United Kingdom, the Delegate of Oman emphasised that the *ad hoc* Group should develop the relevant OIE standards, particularly with respect to zoning and disease-free status.

158. Acknowledging the excellent presentation, the Delegate of Bahrain noted that there should be harmonisation between recommendations made by the OIE and other international organisations such as FEI. For example, Bahrain has experienced difficulties as a result of conflicting recommendations regarding the equine influenza vaccination schedule. The Delegate also noted that the OIE *Terrestrial Code* currently does not contain a reference to temporary equine importation, which inherently involves parameters that differ from those for permanent importation. In particular, consideration should be given to quarantine

requirements as they may severely compromise the training status of competition horses. He recommended the development of a template for temporary importation. This should also allow countries to add additional requirements appropriate to their particular circumstances.

159. Thanking Dr Murray for the informative presentation, the Delegate of Australia highlighted the high socio-economic costs that Australia had experienced with the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza, before it was successfully eradicated. For this reason, Australia wished to maintain its current regulations. Australia has a high interest in the development of these new standards, but reserves the right to maintain its own rules for their appropriate level of protection.

160. The Delegate of Singapore conveyed its congratulations for the thought-provoking presentation, and supported the initiative. Highlighting the importance of equine influenza and West Nile virus, he reiterated the challenge such diseases could present when attempting to create a disease-free zone. He proposed using the China experience as a model when creating a framework and guidelines for an equine disease-free zone.

161. The Delegate of Indonesia thanked Dr Murray for the presentation highlighting the various challenges involved in the safe international movement of equines. He emphasised the importance of biosecurity and recommended that quarantine experts be included in the *ad hoc* Group.

162. The Delegate of the United States of America congratulated the speaker, and commended the OIE for this initiative. Having hosted the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010, the Delegate emphasised the importance of biosecurity, and affirmed the Australian Delegate's comment that countries must also be allowed to maintain their own rules of protection. Additionally, he shared Bahrain's concern that horses in quarantine need to be properly exercised and this posed an additional challenge.

163. Dr Murray thanked the Delegates for their positive and constructive comments, noting that the African region had been advocating for some time the much-needed development of OIE standards relating to the temporary international movement of horses, and welcomed the participation of African Delegates in the *ad hoc* Group. This *ad hoc* Group, which was also referred to by the Delegates from Oman and Bahrain, consists at the moment of 17 participants with a wide range of professional skills and industry knowledge. However, as the scope of the discussion evolves, it may be appropriate to solicit additional expertise.

He reminded the Assembly that the Delegate of China raised an important point regarding diseases, which might be recognised when establishing a disease-free zone: in addition to the OIE-listed diseases, there are others, including cross-species diseases, that must be considered. In this respect, the list of diseases highlighted for disease-free zones must be customised accordingly. Likewise, as the Delegate of the United Kingdom pointed out, additional risks posed, for example by vector-borne diseases, must be addressed through appropriate risk assessment and risk mitigation measures.

Responding to questions raised by the Delegate of Singapore, Dr Murray stated that while feasible, it is not easy to establish zones for multiple diseases. He advised that the specific needs of each region must be articulated, ensuring regional cooperation and planning, along with a flexibility in professional judgement.

Dr Murray agreed with the Delegate of Bahrain that differences in the equine influenza vaccine protocol are indeed a critical issue. He assured the Delegation that the *ad hoc* Group is currently addressing this in an attempt to achieve consistency in the recommended protocol.

Dr Murray affirmed the observations made by the Delegates of Australia and the United States of America that the WTO respects the sovereign rights of a country to apply its own animal importation regulations for their appropriate level of protection, provided that such measures are science-based and take into account the OIE standards.

164. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Murray for his presentation and invited the Delegates of Australia, Bahrain, China (People's Rep. of), France, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

165. Dr Berthe, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), opened his presentation with a statement about the passing of a good colleague and friend, Dr Pierre de Kinkelin. Dr Berthe said that Pierre had been a pioneer of veterinary medicine in the field of aquaculture production. He really made an important contribution, not only by his tireless work but also by his character and his charisma. Pierre was a member of the the Fish Diseases Commission from 1975 to 1988. On behalf of the OIE, Dr Berthe mourned the sad loss of a colleague and friend.

166. Dr Berthe then reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the newly elected Commission held its first meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 24 to 28 September 2012. The Commission met again from 11 to 15 March 2013 to consider Member Country comments on the report of its September 2012 meeting and to identify issues that should be presented at the General Session. The items and comments on texts that are not being submitted for adoption at this General Session and that could not be dealt with during the March 2013 meeting will be discussed at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission in October 2013, together with new Member Country comments on the report of the March 2013 meeting as well as those received at this General Session.

167. Dr Berthe expressed his gratitude to the members of the Commission, Dr Huang Jie (Vice-President), Dr Victor Manuel Vidal (Vice-President), Dr Ingo Ernst, Dr Brit Hjeltnes and Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Members) for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission. He expressed appreciation for the regular contribution of Dr Melba Reantaso (FAO) and Dr Rohana Subasinghe (FAO), and the experts of the Commission's various *ad hoc* Groups, as well as the many individual experts who provided scientific assistance. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Berthe gratefully acknowledged the resolute support of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Aquatic Animals Commission by members of staff at OIE Headquarters, especially Dr Derek Belton, Dr Gillian Mylrea and Ms Sara Linnane.

Dr Berthe thanked those Member Countries that submitted comments for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and encouraged all Member Countries to contribute to this work.

168. Dr Berthe noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, all Member Countries' comments were considered by the Commission. Dr Berthe

encouraged Member Countries to refer to explanations provided in previous reports when preparing comments on longstanding issues. He also reminded Delegates that the reports of *ad hoc* Groups, provided as annexes to the Commission reports, included important information and he encouraged Member Countries to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.

Dr Berthe noted that the OIE would continue to provide a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. Dr Berthe also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including annexes to the report, on the OIE public website. This is an important communication channel to inform organisations and the general public of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and to inform their contribution to that work.

Dr Berthe noted that the Delegates' bags contained a memory stick with the complete reports of the September 2012 and March 2013 meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission, including annexes with *ad hoc* Group reports. The folder distributed at the General Session contains only the introductory text and annexes containing texts for adoption from the March 2013 report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Dr Berthe advised Delegates that detailed comments on proposed new and amended texts should be submitted by mid-August each year for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its September/October meeting and by mid-January each year for the February/March meeting. He advised that the deadline for comments is always provided in each meeting report. He reminded Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission could not examine comments submitted in the period between the Commission's February/March meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February/March meeting during the discussion at the General Session. The Commission will address these comments at its October 2013 meeting.

169. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Berthe emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding chapters of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (*Aquatic Code*) and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (*Aquatic Manual*) to ensure alignment. He reminded the Assembly that modifications to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* will be detailed in two Resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

170. Dr Berthe presented the following texts of the *Aquatic Code* to the Assembly for adoption. He informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 3 to 10 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS4 B.

171. **Glossary**

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to add a new definition for 'aquatic animal health professional'. This definition describes what the person is given the authority to undertake and allows for the wide variation in qualifications required, according to the needs and capacity of each Member Country. He noted that the tasks under the responsibilities and direction of the Competent Authority include the work provided by the private sector.

Dr Berthe noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed that should the definition for 'aquatic animal health professional' be adopted, the words 'or veterinary paraprofessionals' would be deleted from the definition for *Aquatic Animal Health Services* because this term is neither defined nor used in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe also noted that the Commission proposed that should the definition for 'aquatic animal health professional' be adopted, the word 'other' would be deleted from the phrase 'veterinarian or ~~other~~ aquatic animal health professional' in Chapters 6.3. and 6.4.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment to consider amending the definition of 'disease' in the *Aquatic Code* to the definition used in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Berthe emphasised that the definition for 'disease' in the *Aquatic Code* had been developed to ensure that measures in the *Aquatic Code* apply to infection with the aetiological agents of listed diseases, regardless of whether there is clinical manifestation. The Aquatic Animals Commission considered that the current definition, which has been in place since 2002, remains functional at this time. The Commission did however acknowledge that it would be appropriate to reconsider a change to the definition at a time when the transition of disease names in the *Aquatic Code* to 'infection with [aetiological agent]' has been completed.

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that defined terms are always italicised when used in the *Aquatic Code* and that it is necessary to refer to the Glossary to ensure correct understanding of text including defined terms in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the proposed new definition of aquatic animal health professionals and recommended that the term be italicised in the amended definition for Aquatic Animal Health Services.

A member of the Canadian Delegation commended the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work over the past year. Canada did not support the proposed amendment to delete the text 'is under the responsibility and direction of the Competent Authority'. She considered that any professional authorised to carry out tasks on behalf of the Competent Authority must be responsible to the Competent Authority. In addition, she considered that the Competent Authority is responsible for providing guidance and direction to all professionals administering aquatic animal health tasks within its territory. Canada proposed that the definition retain the wording 'is under the responsibility and direction of the Competent Authority'. In this way, the definition would not limit professionals to only those working as part of the Competent Authority.

The Delegate of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the adoption of the new definition.

The Delegate of Norway, followed by the Delegate of Chile, supported the new definition of aquatic animal health professional.

The Delegate of Turkey did not support the definition and wished to note his agreement with the intervention by Canada.

Dr Berthe explained the rationale for the proposed amendment: this definition was developed to reflect the wide range of professions involved in the Aquatic Animal Health Services. He reiterated that the definition clearly states that the 'authorisation system' is under the control of the Competent Authority.

The revised Glossary was adopted with one vote against (Canada) and one abstention (Turkey).

172. **Notification of Diseases and Epidemiological Information (Chapter 1.1.)**

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed the chapter with a view to improving consistency between the relevant chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*. He noted that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and also amendments proposed by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to the equivalent Chapter 1.1. in the *Terrestrial Code*. To ensure alignment of the two *Codes*, the Aquatic Animals Commission only considered comments specific to the aquatic situation and referred comments relevant to both *Codes* to the Code Commission for consideration at its September 2013 meeting. The Aquatic Animals Commission will review these amendments at its next meeting in October 2013.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the proposal, based on the intention to achieve closer alignment of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, commented that the wording of the final sentence of Article 1.1.3. was not clear. He requested that the Commission define what is meant by 'events of epidemiological significance'.

Dr Berthe undertook to discuss the point raised by the Delegate of Burkina Faso with the Terrestrial Code Commission for harmonisation purposes in September 2013.

The revised Chapter 1.1. was adopted unanimously.

173. **Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that the mechanism for listing emerging diseases had been in place in the *Aquatic Code* since 2005. He noted that this mechanism was developed in response to the need to respond to the rapid emergence of new and damaging diseases of aquatic animals and that this need remains. The Commission agreed that this mechanism is functional and it has not proposed to amend this approach at this time.

Dr Berthe reiterated that the text proposed in the new Article 1.2.1 was proposed in response to Member Country requests for the *Aquatic Code* to better describe the obligations for diseases listed under the existing Article 1.2.2.

Dr Berthe noted that both the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) are undertaking work to clarify the definition and reporting expectation for emerging diseases in the *Terrestrial Code*. He informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission would follow this work and review any proposals that are relevant to the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, said that the EU supported the revised text in principle. He stated that the EU position on the listing of emerging diseases remained unchanged. He recommended that the position on emerging diseases be reviewed in light of the conclusions of the Code Commission on this issue.

The Delegate of Norway supported the comments of the Delegate of Denmark regarding the adoption of the chapter. She also noted that the OIE is undertaking an important review of the entire concept of 'emerging disease' in the context of the *Terrestrial Code*, and requested that aquatic animals be included in this review process.

The President of the OIE proposed adoption of the proposed text with the commitment that the Aquatic Animals Commission will participate in the review of the concept of emerging diseases.

The revised Chapter 1.2. was adopted unanimously.

174. **Listing of Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant as an emerging disease (Article 1.3.2.)**

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that all Member Countries commenting supported the listing of Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant as an emerging disease.

Dr Berthe clarified that as this disease is proposed for listing as an emerging disease (as per criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease in the existing Article 1.2.2.), no disease-specific *Aquatic Code* chapter would be developed. However, given that an *Aquatic Manual* chapter for Infection with ostreid herpesvirus 1 (Chapter 2.4.9.) had been adopted in 2012, the Commission proposed amendments to the *Aquatic Manual* chapter to ensure alignment with this proposal. Dr Berthe indicated proposed amendments to the *Aquatic Manual* chapter would be discussed later in his report.

The Delegate of New Zealand commented that New Zealand did not oppose the proposal. However, he referred to the case definition in the *Aquatic Manual* for this complex pathogen and the need for advanced diagnostic techniques, which are not available to all countries. Understanding the distribution of the pathogen and its evolution will continue to be a challenge. He emphasised the importance of avoiding unjustified trade barriers in response to notifications on the presence of the ostreid herpesvirus and urged the Commission to monitor this aspect.

The Delegate of Japan did not oppose the listing of this disease. However, he reported that the microvariant causes no mortality in Japan and urged the Commission to continue examining the factors that contribute to disease following infection with the ostreid herpesvirus, including the relationship between host or environmental factors and mortalities caused by the virus.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the adoption of the text but also supported the intervention by the Delegate of New Zealand.

Dr Berthe thanked Member Countries for their transparency in reporting this emerging disease prior to its listing and for the engagement of experts to help improve the understanding of this disease.

The proposal to list Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant as an emerging disease was adopted unanimously.

175. **Listing of Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus**

Dr Berthe noted that several Member Countries requested clarification on the issue of reporting and notification with regard to the proposed listing of Infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) (HPR0 or HPR-deleted; HPR = highly polymorphic region). He clarified that, if the proposed amendment is adopted, both variants (HPR0 and HPR-deleted) would be notifiable. He also clarified that if adopted, Member Countries would be able to report the status of both HPR0 and HPR-deleted genotypes to WAHIS.

Dr Berthe clarified that notification obligations for each of HPR0 and HPR-deleted ISAV genotypes would be in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe noted that to further clarify this obligation, the Commission had amended the proposed name in Article 1.3.1. to 'Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus'. This is also in line with the current OIE approach to naming diseases on the basis of their causative agent.

In response to several Member Country comments that differentiation of ISAV variants based solely on the highly polymorphic region of segment 6 is too narrow, Dr Berthe noted that all virulent variants of ISAV have deletions in the HPR region of the HE gene and they have either an insertion or the Q266L mutation in the F gene. Dr Berthe clarified that HPR0 and 'non-HPR0' (i.e. HPR-deleted) variants included all possible genotypes of the virus.

In response to some Member Country comments on the risk of mutation of HPR0 ISAV, Dr Berthe highlighted the conclusions of the October 2011 Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Pathogen Differentiation for Aquatic Animal Diseases, further supported by the 2012 EFSA[28] opinion, indicated that the risk of emergence of virulent ISAV from HPR0 is low but not negligible.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission also proposed amendments to both the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters on ISA to ensure alignment with this proposed amendment and noted these would be discussed later in this report.

The proposal to list Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus was adopted with one vote against (Norway).

176. **Listing of Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)**

The Commission noted that the proposed name change, Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome), was supported by Member Countries.

Dr Berthe reported that no additional technical information had been provided by Member Countries on the epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) assessment (against the criteria in Article 1.2.1.), and that the EUS *ad hoc* Group had concluded that EUS should remain as an OIE listed disease.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission also proposed amendments to both the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters on EUS to ensure alignment with this proposed amendment and indicated that these would be discussed later in this report.

The proposal to list Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) was adopted unanimously.

177. **Listing of Infection with salmonid alphavirus**

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that no technical comments had been provided by Member Countries opposing the proposal to list infection with salmon pancreas disease virus.

28 EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission agreed with the comment made by several Member Countries that the name be amended to 'Infection with salmonid alphavirus' because that is the commonly used scientific name.

Dr Berthe clarified that if the listing is adopted, chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* will be developed for this disease. He noted that in the interim, a Disease Card for infection with salmonid alphavirus would be uploaded onto the OIE website.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Chile supported the proposed listing and thanked the Commission for its work, recalling that Chile had requested listing of this disease in 2009, and viewed this as an important step in the control of this disease.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the listing of this disease and encouraged the OIE to draft chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual,* including recommendations on safe commodities.

The Delegate of Norway supported the EU position and comments.

The proposal to list Infection with salmonid alphavirus was adopted unanimously.

The revised Chapter 1.3. was adopted unanimously.

178. **Import risk analysis (Chapters 2.1. and 2.2.)**

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that in response to Member Country comments at the 2012 General Session to harmonise the import risk analysis chapters between the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code,* the Commission asked the International Trade Department to review the relevant chapters in the two *Codes* and provide an amended text for its consideration. As a result Dr Berthe explained that it is proposed to merge chapters 2.1. (General Considerations) and 2.2. (Import Risk Analysis) into a revised Chapter 2.1. (Import Risk Analysis) to align with the equivalent Chapter 2.1 Import Risk Analysis in the *Terrestrial Code*. He also noted that a new Chapter 5.X. 'OIE Procedures Relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization' is proposed to align with the equivalent horizontal chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had reviewed the draft chapters and agreed to propose them for adoption without circulating them for comment as the proposed text is identical to that used in the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* except for the addition of the word 'aquatic' in front of animals or animal products.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, expressed general support for adoption of these texts. However, the Delegate recommended the deletion of the reference to the SPS Agreement in Article 2.1.1., as this would be covered with the adoption of the new Chapter 5.X.

The Delegate of Australia supported the proposed adoption of these texts but commented on the importance of providing Member Countries with an opportunity to comment on new and revised text, regardless of whether the proposals related to existing text in the *Terrestrial Code* or the *Aquatic Code*.

A member of the Canadian Delegation supported the comment of the Delegate of Australia regarding the process for circulating texts.

The revised Chapters 2.1. and 5.X. were adopted unanimously.

179. **Killing for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.4.)**

Dr Berthe reported that in response to a Member Country comment at the General Session in 2012, the Commission proposed to replace the words 'pain or distress' with the word 'stress' throughout this chapter. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had agreed that the concept of pain in fish is subject to scientific debate, whereas, 'stress' is measurable and its use fits the intent of this chapter.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, opposed adoption of the revised chapter. He stated that there are many scientific findings and references on the topic of pain in fish and that the EU has provided relevant references to the OIE. He considered that the proposal to replace 'pain, distress and suffering' with 'stress' was fundamental and, if adopted, would change the intent of all three chapters on the welfare of farmed fish. The Delegate stated that the avoidance of pain, distress and suffering is an essential feature of animal welfare and urged the Commission to maintain the use of these terms consistently in all three chapters, as they are directly relevant to fish as well as terrestrial animals.

The Delegate of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the EU position on this proposed amendment.

The Delegate of Norway stated that pain and stress in fish can be documented scientifically and she supported the comments of the Delegate of the United Kingdom and the Delegate of Cameroon.

Dr Berthe informed the World Assembly that the issue of pain in fish is the subject of considerable scientific debate. Noting the opposition to this proposal, he agreed that the proposed text amendment would be further considered.

The proposal to adopt the revised Chapter 7.4. was withdrawn.

180. **Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (Chapter 10.2.)**

Dr Berthe explained that for consistency with the proposed name change in Chapter 1.3., the Commission proposed to amend 'epizootic ulcerative syndrome' to 'infection with *Aphanomyces invadans'* throughout the chapter, where relevant.

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered a Member Country comment regarding the difficulty of achieving self-declaration of freedom under the provisions of point 2 of Article 10.2.4. when there is an absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression of infection with *A. invadans*. The Commission had noted that this circumstance is only one of many that would lead to the application of this pathway for self-declaration of freedom. The Commission proposed to delete the example in this point, because it may lead to misinterpretation of this pathway.

Dr Berthe noted that given that many species are susceptible to infection with *A. invadans* and the known host range is increasing as the disease spreads into new geographical areas, the Commission proposed to delete the words 'the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. are present but' in point 1 of Article 10.2.4. The Commission considered the text to be too restrictive for infection with *A. invadans,* because the disease is regularly reported in species that have not previously been identified as susceptible.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 10.2. was adopted unanimously.

181. **Infectious salmon anaemia (Chapter 10.5.)**

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Pathogen Differentiation, the Aquatic Animals Commission, in February 2011, agreed that infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) should be recognised as having HPR0 and HPR-deleted variants. Dr Berthe noted that several approaches to address the different levels of risk presented by HPR0 and HPR-deleted ISAV have been provided to Member Countries for comments. These approaches presented different levels of risk management to facilitate the safe international trade in aquatic animals and their products with respect to ISAV. He explained that although a draft chapter had been circulated among Member Countries on several occasions and subsequently presented for adoption at the General Session in May 2012, the Assembly could not reach consensus for adoption at that time. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had again received a considerable volume of comments from Member Countries that were reviewed at its March 2013 meeting.

Dr Berthe clarified to Delegates that the current *Aquatic Code* chapter on ISA clearly applies to the virus species ISAV, which includes both HPR0 ISAV and HPR-deleted ISAV. This is the correct interpretation of the current *Aquatic Code* chapter on ISA that should be applied by Member Countries.

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed that the different levels of risk presented by HPR-deleted ISAV and HPR0 ISAV, and the possibility of three levels of health status with respect to ISAV, warrant differentiation of HPR-deleted ISAV and HPR0 ISAV for trade measures and reporting requirements. He clarified that HPR0 and 'non-HPR0' (i.e. HPR-deleted) variants include all possible genotypes of the virus.

Dr Berthe explained that the proposed chapter includes three possible options for disease status with respect to ISAV based on combinations of the presence or absence of all genetic variants classified under HPR0 and HPR-deleted forms. These are:

(i) HPR0 ISAV and HPR-deleted ISAV free;

(ii) HPR0 ISAV endemic (but HPR-deleted ISAV free);

(iii) HPR0 ISAV and HPR-deleted ISAV endemic.

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed that this approach would best manage the different levels of risk presented by HPR-deleted ISAV and HPR0 ISAV. This approach would allow recognition of three levels of health status and assist Member Countries with differing health status to trade safely. Dr Berthe emphasised that the current *Aquatic Code* chapter does not provide this level of discrimination because it treats HPR-deleted ISAV and HPR0 ISAV as equal risks.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Chile, speaking on behalf of Latin American Member Countries, thanked the Commission for its work and supported adoption of the revised chapter.

The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) expressed concerns. He stated that Chinese experts have reported technical difficulties in the differentiation of HPR-deleted ISAV and HPR0 ISAV as detailed in the *Aquatic Manual*. Chinese experts consider that sequencing is the only preferable criterion for differentiation. However, this requires technology and costly equipment that may not be available to all countries. The Delegate also raised concerns with some of the concepts in Articles 10.5.1. and 10.5.11. and asked the Commission to clarify these.

The Delegate of Norway thanked the Commission for its work on pathogen differentiation and for taking some of her previous concerns into account. She stated that Norway could not support adoption of the chapter. Pathogen differentiation in aquatic animals should follow the same principles as those used in OIE standards for terrestrial animals. The Delegate considered that avirulent and low virulence viruses should be handled differently to virulent viruses, as with other diseases of aquatic and terrestrial animals. As HPR0 is non-pathogenic, Norway saw no justification for listing this strain.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported adoption of the chapter. However, he expressed support for the concerns of Norway and urged countries not to impose trade restrictions on account of reports of infection with HPR0 unless they had first proved freedom from HPR0 ISAV.

The Delegate of Canada supported adoption but requested clarification of the text in Article 10.5.5. point 1) regarding the absence of susceptible species and the declaration of freedom from HPR-deleted ISAV.

Dr Berthe thanked all Delegates for their input. He undertook to consider the comments on the *Aquatic Manual* chapter. Dr Berthe acknowledged that there is still some misunderstanding about the inclusion of HPR0 ISAV. He explained that the known tendency for these viruses to mutate and become virulent is part of the case definition and rationale for listing by the OIE. As this is the first time that the OIE *Aquatic Code* has distinguished between virus strains on the basis of virulence, Dr Berthe stressed that Member Countries should be prudent in the application of the revised chapter. He also acknowledged that the declaration of freedom from HPR0 may be technically challenging.

Dr Berthe acknowledged the comment made by the Delegate of Canada and assured her that it would be considered at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

The revised Chapter 10.5. was adopted with one vote against (Norway).

182. ***Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

Dr Berthe reported that the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* had been adopted at the General Session in May 2012 with the exception of the chapter on infectious salmon anaemia. Publication had been delayed, but an updated online version is available. At present, a new edition of the *Aquatic Manual* is published every three years. To avoid the peak workload associated with simultaneous publication of the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Manuals*, the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed to delay publication of the next edition of the *Aquatic Manual* to 2014.

Dr Berthe informed the Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had confirmed a previous agreement to identify annually a limited number of chapters for updating, rather than attempt to update all chapters at one time. He noted that the online version of the *Aquatic Manual* will therefore remain the most up-to-date version.

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed Chapter 2.3.2. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome and Chapter 2.3.5. Infectious salmon anaemia, which had been amended by experts to ensure consistency of nomenclature with the corresponding amended *Aquatic Code* chapter for these diseases. The proposed amendments to Chapter 2.4.9. Infection with ostreid herpesvirus 1 aligns with the proposed listing of infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant in the *Aquatic Code*.

In addition, Dr Berthe informed the Delegates that the Commission reviewed Chapter 2.3.11. Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy, which had been updated by the experts. The Commission reviewed this chapter and noted that although this is a de-listed disease, it remains in the *Aquatic Manual* to provide information for Member Countries.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported adoption of all four chapters but wished to raise some comments on chapter 2.4.9. Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant. The Delegate stated that this strain of ostreid herpesvirus has caused serious mortalities. In addition, the text is inconsistent in that it references both OsHV-1 and OsHV-1 microvariant throughout. The Delegate also noted that the abbreviation 'μvar' is used in some places in the text and urged the Commission to use the term 'microvariant' consistently throughout. Finally, the Delegate asked that all comments submitted previously to the Commission be taken into account in future.

The Delegate of Japan requested the following amendments be made to Chapter 2.4.9.: in the first sentence of section 2.2.2., the word 'may' be added after 'OsHV-1 infection' because mortality is not caused by all OsHV-1 microvariants. In addition, he recommended that the abbreviation 'OsHV-1var' be removed from section 2.1.1. and section 4.3.1.2.3.1. to avoid confusion.

The Delegate of Japan informed the Assembly that an inactivated vaccine for viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) had just been approved in Japan. He proposed to delete the second sentence of Section 2.4.1. Vaccination of Chapter 2.3.11., "Nevertheless there are no commercially available vaccines at present." and replace it with "Recently, an inactivated RGNNV vaccine against VER of seven-band grouper was commercialised in Japan."

Dr Berthe agreed with the proposals by the Delegate of Japan to amend Chapter 2.4.9., sections 2.1.1., 2.2.2., and 4.3.1.2.3.1., and Chapter 2.3.11., Section 2.4.1.

He stated that the points raised by the EU would be considered by the Commission at its next meeting. The Commission would continue to work on the *Aquatic Manual* to ensure that it provides the best guidance and advice to Member Countries.

Adoption of Chapter 2.3.5. Infection with infectious salmon anemia virus was opposed by the Delegate of Norway.

The revised Chapter 2.3.2. was adopted unanimously. The revised Chapters 2.4.9. and 2.3.11. were adopted with amendments unanimously. The revised Chapter 2.3.5. was adopted with one vote against (Norway).

183. **OIE Reference Centres**

Dr Berthe reported that there had been no new applications for Reference Centre status. He reported that the OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious salmon anaemia had requested that Dr Knut Falk replace the designated expert, Dr Birgit Dannevig, at the National Veterinary Institute, Sentrum, Oslo, Norway.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that this vacancy had arisen following the premature death of Dr Birgit Dannevig in September 2012. He wished to acknowledge the significant contribution she had made to the work of the OIE having been the OIE Expert at the Reference Laboratory since its designation in 1999.

Dr Berthe advised that the Commission had reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert and is satisfied that he has the appropriate expertise. Dr Berthe presented this nomination to the Assembly.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that annual activity reports for 2012 had been received from all but one of the 43 Reference Laboratories and from the two Collaborating Centres for aquatic animals. He noted that the new annual report template had been used by the Reference Laboratories for the first time. Dr Berthe reported that 55% of laboratories did not maintain a quality management system that had been certified according to international standards. He also reported low levels of international networking and participation in inter-laboratory proficiency testing. Dr Berthe emphasised to Delegates that a certified quality management system, proficiency testing, and participation in international scientific collaborative studies are all essential OIE Reference Laboratory activities. He urged those Delegates of Member Countries hosting an OIE Reference Laboratory to provide the assistance needed for these laboratories to fulfil their Terms of Reference.

The President of the OIE emphasised the need for Delegates to ensure that Reference Laboratories in their countries maintain good laboratory quality systems as this is an integral part of the terms of reference for an OIE Reference Laboratory.

184. **OIE Procedure for Registration of Diagnostic Kits**

Dr Berthe reported that the dossier on 'IQ Plus™ WSSV Kit with POCKIT System' had been submitted according to the OIE Procedure for Registration of Diagnostic Kits. He explained that the evaluation of this dossier had been completed and a final report received from the panel of experts. Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Commission, based on the report of the panel of experts, agreed to propose the 'IQ Plus™ WSSV Kit with POCKIT System' for inclusion in the OIE register as fit for the diagnosis of white spot disease in target tissues (shrimp tissue of ectodermal and mesodermal origin) of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and for the following purposes: 1. To certify freedom from infection (<10 virions/reaction) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes; 2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs); 3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control).

Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that according to the OIE procedure, each kit included on the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. Dr Berthe reported that the diagnostic kit 'IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System' required renewal, and in accordance with the procedure, the appropriate OIE experts had been consulted and recommended that its registration be renewed. The Aquatic Animals Commission agreed with this recommendation.

Dr Berthe proposed that the diagnostic kit 'IQ Plus™ WSSV Kit with POCKIT System' be added to the OIE Register and that registration of the 'IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System' be renewed.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

185. **Update of the Aquatic Animals Commission work programme**

In concluding his report Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Commission's work programme was provided in the Commission's March 2013 report.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered the structure and scope of Chapter 6.1. including consideration of comments previously received from Member Countries. It agreed that the text should address general principles for the control of hazards in aquatic animal feed, that biological hazards of aquatic animal health relevance in aquatic animal feed should be a strong focus of any revised chapter, and that the chapter should align with relevant Codex Alimentarius standards on food safety. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission will review the structure and content of this chapter to meet these objectives at its October 2013 meeting.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission has developed a new draft Chapter X.X. 'Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals to specific pathogenic agents' for the *Aquatic Code* based on the criteria developed by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Assessing the Criteria for Listing Aquatic Animal Species as Susceptible to Infection with a Specific Pathogen. He explained that these criteria will be used to ensure consistency in the way susceptible species are listed in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters. Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that the Commission had circulated this new chapter in its March 2013 report and invited Member Countries to provide comments prior to the 30 August 2013 deadline, for consideration at its October 2013 meeting.

186. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

187. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the activities of the Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Commission meetings held in August 2012 (Doc. 81 SG/12/CS3 A) and February 2013 (Doc. 81 SG/12/CS3 B). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Groups on the Evaluation of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Status of Member Countries; on the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Risk Status Evaluation of Member Countries; on the Evaluation of African Horse Sickness (AHS) and of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Member Countries; the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology; the *ad hoc* Group on the Inclusion of Classical Swine Fever (CSF) on the List of Diseases with Official Status; the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Honey Bees; the *ad hoc* Group on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR); the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis; and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. A total of 18 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and one Working Group were convened during the year under the auspices of the Commission. During each of the regular meetings of the Commission, a combined meeting was held with the Scientific Commission and representatives of the Code Commission to promote the harmonisation of approaches between the two Commissions.

188. Dr Brückner expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Scientific Commission, for the support provided by Dr Vallat and the staff at the OIE Headquarters. He noted especially the efforts of the Director General to ensure continuous support to the Commission in the light of the increase in the number of diseases on the list for official recognition of Member Country disease status. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases for their supporting role.

189. **Review of the annual work programme**

During its meetings in August 2012 and February 2013, the Commission reviewed the agendas and terms of reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2012–2013 period in support of the work programme and priorities of the Commission. The Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 80th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included the better understanding of the interaction between the environment, wildlife and livestock in relation to disease control and recognition of disease-free areas; the development of generic guidelines for disease control; the ongoing finalisation of the Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance; a revision of several chapters in the *Terrestrial Code,* namely FMD, CSF, PPR, Brucellosis and BSE, and the ongoing revision and updating of the chapters relevant to diseases of honey bees and antimicrobial resistance. Once the amended chapters on PPR and CSF are adopted by the World Assembly, it will pave the way for official recognition of status for these two diseases and, in the case of PPR, it will also initiate a Global Control Strategy for a disease that is becoming of increasing importance in Africa and other neighbouring regions. The Commission also recognised the importance of finalising the harmonisation of the chapters on vector-borne diseases (bluetongue, AHS and epizootic haemorraghic disease [EHD]) to promote a consistent approach to disease and vector control. For the years 2013 and 2014, dates have already been set for meetings of *ad hoc* Groups to consider updating the chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* on Tuberculosis, Glanders and Rift Valley Fever, as well as for a meeting of an *ad hoc* Group on the International movement of horses, responsibility for which will be shared between the Scientific and Code Commissions. After consultation with OIE experts, an *ad hoc* Group will also be convened to develop a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).

190. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

a) Review of chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*

The Commission requested the Director General to convene additional meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on FMD to finalise the review of the current chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*. Inputs during the review process were also received from the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology. The final review was undertaken by the Commission at its meeting in February 2013 and the amended chapter has now been circulated for comments by Member Countries with the aim of possible adoption of the chapter during the 82nd General Session. The main amendments were related to:

– The role of wildlife in the epidemiology of the disease;

– The process to be followed when a country/zone free with vaccination wishes to be recognised free without vaccination;

– Establishment of compartments, which could be free with or without vaccination;

– The criteria for the withdrawal of the approval of the containment zone;

– The recovery of free status for a zone/country (possibility for a country previously free without vaccination to recover free with vaccination);

– The risk management of border areas between a free country/zone/compartment and an infected area (truly infected or undefined status).

The Commission agreed to all amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group to the chapter on FMD, except for the proposed requirement for additional guaranties in the border areas between a free country/zone/compartment and an infected area (truly infected or undefined status). The Commission considered this an unnecessary burden as the maintenance of free status already requires strict preventive measures. The

Commission also did not agree with the proposal to differentiate between serotypes of FMD virus when importing from countries where vaccination is applied as such a requirement could have trade implications. The Commission also discussed the duration of the period during which the status of a country or zone could remain suspended and the period for which a containment zone could be implemented. The Commission decided not to indicate a prescriptive duration but amended the corresponding text in the chapter to indicate that the duration of these periods should be limited in time.

b) OIE/FAO initiative for a global FMD control strategy

Several members of the Commission attended conferences on regional activities related to the global FMD control strategy and noted with appreciation that following the recommendations of the OIE/FAO Global Conference on FMD Control, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2012, good progress has been made in formulating regional strategies for FMD control. During several of these regional conferences, the need was expressed for more transparency in sharing information on circulating field FMD viruses. Resolution No. 15 (Sharing of foot and mouth disease viral material and information in support of global foot and mouth disease prevention and control) will be presented during this General Session for adoption to encourage transparency by Member Countries in sharing this information vital to the global control of FMD.

c) Applications of Member Countries for endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD

The Commission noted with appreciation that more and more Member Countries are now taking the step to apply for endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD. However, several of these applications had to be referred back to the applicant countries due to non-compliance with the requirements of Article 8.5.48 or non-submission of the convincing evidence required in Article 1.6.8 of the *Terrestrial Code*. It was evident to the Commission that regional structures could assist as a filtering mechanism to guide Member Countries in assessing their level of compliance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* before applying for endorsement of their national control programmes for FMD.

d) Expert missions to Member Countries

Members of the Commission undertook expert missions to two Member Countries during 2012 to assist these Countries in moving towards compliance with the requirenents for zonal freedom from FMD. Three further missions to Member Countries are scheduled in 2013. In discussions with the Director General, expert missions will be extended to assess compliance by Member Countries with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for other diseases listed for official recognition of status, such as BSE, CBPP and AHS.

e) OIE/FAO network of FMD Reference Laboratories

The President of the Commission acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network from the Pirbright Institute and reported briefly on the evolution and current FMD situation worldwide. He emphasised the need for different control strategies to be adapted to regional needs and the importance of using high quality and tailored vaccines for effective control. There had been increased activity of serotypes Asia 1 in the Middle East and SAT-2 in the east of North Africa during the year 2012.

FMD virus serotype O was still the dominant FMD virus (40% of the 650 samples submitted in 2012 from 25 countries) followed by serotype A (23%). During 2012, serotypes C and SAT3 were not detected. The President of the Commission also indicated that vaccine-matching tests had produced an acceptable result for serotype O, but matching results for serotype O-Manisa revealed poor to no matching in some areas; this was also the case for serotype Asia 1 (India and Shamir) and A Iran 05. Serotype Asia 1 is on the increase, although still with limited spread, while the situation on the occurrence of serotype SAT-2 in the east of North Africa and the Middle East is of concern and needs to be closely monitored.

f) Post-vaccination monitoring (PVM) for FMD

The President informed the Delegates that following an initiative by the FAO in consultation with a number of virologists, diagnosticians, epidemiologists, statisticians and field veterinarians to establish guidelines on post-vaccination monitoring (PVM) for FMD, the Commission had discussions with the FAO on this matter and it was decided to establish an expert panel for PVM under the auspices of GF-TADs[29], instead of convening an OIE *ad hoc* Group for this pupose. A draft guideline on PVM for use by Member Countries will be reviewed by an expert panel that will be coordinated jointly by FAO and OIE. Before being finalised, the guideline will be validated through pilot implementation in countries. The Scientific Commission will also be represented on the expert panel.

191. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**

As reported during the 79th General Session, the Commission requested recommendations from the authors of the BSurvE surveillance model for BSE on possible alternatives to accommodate the surveillance needs of Member Countries with a small bovine population to enable them to meet the criteria of the *Terrestrial Code* for classification of their BSE risk status. The response received from the authors was reviewed and discussed in detail by the *ad hoc* Group, which subsequently recommended that the Scientific Commission amend Article 11.5.22 to provide for the needs of those countries with small cattle populations. The amendment to the chapter will be proposed for adoption during this General Session.

The Commission agreed that the current procedure for official recognition of BSE risk status had been conceived with a focus on classical BSE. In respect of atypical BSE, the Commission noted the main differences with classical BSE and suggested that an *ad hoc* Group review the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE to assess if a change to the current chapter on BSE would be acceptable (e.g. as was done for atypical scrapie).

In addition, the Commission noted that the notion of "compartment" was not applicable to official BSE risk status and agreed to recommend to the Code Commission that the word "compartment" be deleted throughout Article 1.6.3.

192. **Classical swine fever (CSF)**

Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* was finally reviewed and amended by an *ad hoc* Group of experts to provide for official recognition of disease status by the OIE taking into consideration concerns raised by both Commissions on the initial draft chapter proposed by the *ad hoc* Group. The draft chapter has been circulated for Member Country comments and will be presented for adoption (after having been modified to take these comments into account) at this General Session.

29 GF-TADs: OIE/FAO Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

193. **Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)**

The Commission noted the need for Member Countries to have the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on PPR revised to provide for official disease status recognition as well as for a Global Control Strategy for PPR. The development of this strategy would be coordinated by the Working Group under the GF-TADs for FMD. In addition, the Commission was informed of a Bill & Melinda Gates' Foundation project to establish a pilot protocol for different vaccination strategies, establishing a PPR vaccine bank and strengthening the vaccine quality control system in Africa.

The main issues discussed in amending the *Terrestrial Code* chapter included the questionnaire on official recognition of disease status and the relevance of recognition of free status with the involvement of wildlife in the epidemiology of PPR. The Commission noted that there was published scientific evidence that suggested that wildlife did not play a significant role in maintaining PPR infection. However, the *ad hoc* Group had indicated that sampling animals other than the target population (domestic and captive wild sheep and goats) could be useful for sentinel surveillance purposes. The Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group by electronic consultation to clarify what actions should be taken when positives were found in wildlife in a free country or zone.

The Commission harmonised the amended chapter with other disease-specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and proposed several amendments. Two members of the *ad hoc* Group had also been responsible for the revision of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on PPR. The *ad hoc* Group provided comments on the revision of the requirements for vaccines and vaccination. The Commission recommended that this information be shared with the Biological Standards Commission.

The amended chapter was circulated to Member Countries for comment and possible adoption during this General Session.

194. **Brucellosis**

The *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis had restructured the *Terrestrial Code* draft chapter on Brucellosis in accordance to the comments received from Member Countries, and both the Scientific and Code Commissions. The three pathogens, *Brucella abortus, B. melitensis* and *B. suis* were kept under the same multispecies chapter, but the provisions in the chapter were made species specific. This way, the concept of disease-free status at the country or zone level was considered for cattle, sheep and goats, camelids and cervids, but not for pigs. Disease-free status with vaccination was currently possible only for cattle, sheep and goats, as there was not an appropriate vaccine for camelids or cervids. The *ad hoc* Group had also harmonised the language throughout the chapter.

The Commission recognised that the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group to the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Brucellosis would facilitate its use by Member Countries and endorsed the report. The amended chapter was circulated for comments by Member Countries for possible adoption at the 82nd General Session.

195. **African horse sickness (AHS)**

Taking into consideration the increasing difficulty in provivg seasonal freedom for AHS, the Commission requested the *ad Group* to re-consider the provision of self-declaration for AHS for seasonal freedom from disease in Article 12.1.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*. After careful consideration, this Article and all references within Chapter 12.1 to seasonal freedom will be proposed for deletion during this General Session. This change in the AHS chapter would also be on par with the other chapters on official recognition of status where there is no provision for self-declaration of disease freedom.

196. **Diseases of honey bees**

The *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Honey Bees finalised chapters 9.1. to 9.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* based on comments received from OIE Member Countries. The Group also finalised a general introductory text on honey bees and honey bee diseases that highlights their specificities in comparison with the more classic domestic animals and animal diseases, in particular in the context of trade. The Commission recommended that the explanatory text be published on the OIE website, as a stand-alone document, under the heading *Our scientific expertise* once chapters 9.1. to 9.6. had been adopted by the Assembly. The *ad hoc* Group also reviewed the current OIE list of bee diseases, based on the new criteria adopted by the Assembly in May 2012, and concluded to keep the current listed bee diseases and not to propose new additions to the list.

At its February 2013 meeting, the Commission received from the Code Commission additional Member Country comments on *Terrestrial Code* Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. The Commission sought, by correspondence, the *ad hoc* Group's views, finalised the chapters accordingly and forwarded them to the Code Commission.

The amended Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. will be proposed for adoption during this General Session.

197. **Antimicrobial resistance**

The Commission endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, which had addressed Member Country comments on *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.10. The *ad hoc* Group also updated the list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance. The Commission endorsed the list, which will be proposed for adoption at this General Session (Resolution No. 16). The amended Chapter 6.9. was also endorsed by the Commission and will be proposed for adoption at this General Session. Following proposals by the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission suggested additions to the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* on the definition for Veterinary Medicinal Products, and to incorporate those regulatory functions covering veterinary medicinal products currently undertaken by regulatory entities other than the Veterinary Services, into the definition of *Competent Authority*.

198. **Application of the concept of compartmentalisation**

To facilitate a better understanding of the application of the concept of compartmentalisation, the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology has developed, on the request of the Commission, a generic checklist for the practical application of compartmentalisation, which also included the salient features of the existing checklist for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The checklist was forwarded to the Code Commission for a final review and was published on the OIE website under the heading *Our scientific expertise* in November 2012.

199. **Guidelines for animal disease control**

To assist Member Countries in considering the most relevant aspects in planning disease control strategies, including emergency response to disease outbreaks, the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology was similarly requested to develop such guidelines that, after review by both the Scientific and Code Commissions, were published on the OIE website under the heading *Our scientific expertise* in November 2012. A draft chapter on the same subject for publication in the *Terrestrial Code* has also been finalised by the Commission and circulated for Member Country comment.

200. **Schmallenberg virus (SBV)**

Following the presentation to the Assembly during the 80th General Session on the evolution of Schmallenberg virus (SBV) in several European countries, and the publication of a Technical factsheet on SBV on the OIE website, several Member Country comments were received that were considered by the Commission. The Technical factsheet was subsequently updated at the last Commission meeting in February 2013 in view of the latest experimental evidence of SBV genome detection in cattle semen. For this reason, a negative genome test of semen by an approved RNA-extraction method and RT-qPCR (real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) system can be performed independently of serology testing. The risk of transmission would be negligible for semen batches that give negative results to this test, whether there has been a serology test or not, and independently of the serology test result. The other options would be, as specified in the factsheet, to choose semen batches collected before the 31 May 2011 or those that came from seronegative animals tested 28 days after collection.

201. **OIE Collaborating Centres**

The Commission recommended acceptance of the following new application for OIE Collaborating Centre status:

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health*
EpiCentre and the mEpiLab, Massey University, Palmerston North, NEW ZEALAND.

This Centre would be included in the Resolution proposed by the Council.

Following review of the re-submitted dossier, the Commission agreed to change the title and remit of the existing OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Emerging, Re-Emerging and Transboundary Diseases of Animals in the Caribbean and Central America, located in Cuba. The new title is: OIE Collaborating Centre for the Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health.

202. **Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance**

Satisfactory progress had been made with this much-needed handbook, which would be a practical guide for veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals. The final draft of the handbook has now been reviewed by the Commission with a view to publication by the OIE.

203. **Work of *ad hoc* Groups still in progress**

The President of the Commission informed Delegates of tasks assigned to *ad hoc* Groups that were still in progress and that would be presented for consideration at the 82nd General Session in 2014:

Brucellosis: Finalisation and adoption at the 82nd General Session pending Member Country comments.

Foot and mouth disease: Finalisation and adoption at the 82nd General Session pending Member Country comments.

Antimicrobial resistance Chapter 6.10: Finalisation and adoption at the 82nd General Session pending Member Country comments.

204. **Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the excellent work done by the Working Group in support of the objectives of the Commission and the OIE. The Commission also noted with appreciation the contribution of members of the Working Group in support of the training of designated OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife. The Commission

supported the involvement of members of the Working Group in the establishment of an OFFLU group focused on influenzas in wildlife. The Commission also supported the proposal to dedicate a day, at the next meetings of the Working Group, to a brainstorming session with representatives from a range of relevant international organisations engaged in wildlife, biodiversity management and health. The Commission noted the reference to and importance of Appendix III of the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Disease Notification from July 2008 providing the basis for the current version of the list of pathogens in wildlife for voluntary reporting. The Commission suggested that the OIE provide easy access to this Appendix III and the current list on the OIE website. The Commission requested the Working Group to address, at its next meeting in November 2013, Member Country comments on relevant articles of draft disease-specific chapters in relation to the implication of wildlife and surveillance (e.g. Article 1.4.6., update of Chapter 14.8. on PPR, and revision of Chapter 15.2. on CSF of the *Terrestrial Code*). The Commission further requested the Working Group to explore possible ways for the OIE to address the challenges of the management of trans-frontier conservation areas related to disease status and animal movements, and to provide its view to the Commission.

The Commission was informed by the Scientific and Technical Department of the current status of training programmes for National Focal Points for Wildlife. It was indicated that the third cycle of this training would start in November 2013 and that the focus could be on risk assessment, *WAHIS-Wild* and validation of diagnostic tests. This could provide an opportunity to Member Countries to develop more specific priority-setting approaches based on needs and concerns in order to provide a better focus in their surveillance activities.

The President of the Commission invited Delegates to take note of emerging and noteworthy wildlife disease occurrences reflected in the report of the Working Group.

205. **Evaluation of Member Country applications for official recognition of disease status**

a) Evaluation of Member Country status for Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated 14 dossiers. Of these, seven were for recognition of disease status; two were for recovery of status in countries that had experienced an outbreak of FMD, and five dossiers were for endorsement of official control programmes for FMD.

Evaluation of the requests from four Member Countries for the establishment of a zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications from four Member Countries for the establishment of an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised. The applications from two Member Countries were not approved by the Commission. One of these applications was referred back to the Member Country for consideration of the provisions provided in Article 8.5.4. In the case of the second application, the Commission, after discussions with the Director General, decided to apply the provisions of Resolution No. 14 of the 80th General Session and requested the Director General to mandate an expert mission to the country to enable the Commission to make an informed decision, taking into account the findings of the mission.

In the case of the application from Peru, the Commission concluded that the zone without vaccination in the regions of Lima, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Ancash and parts of Piura and Cajamarca, fulfilled the conditions to be considered an FMD free zone without vaccination, in accordance with Article 8.5.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*, with the understanding that this new zone would be merged with the existing zone as recognised in Resolution No. 14 adopted at the 80th General Session, to constitute a single free zone where vaccination is not practised.

In the case of the application from Argentina, the Commission concluded that the zone without vaccination in the summer pasture zone in the province of San Juan fulfilled the conditions to be considered an FMD free zone without vaccination, in accordance with Article 8.5.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Evaluation of the requests from three Member Countries for the establishment of a zone free from FMD where vaccination is practised

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications from two Member Countries for the establishment of an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.

In the case of the application from Bolivia, the Commission concluded that the zone where vaccination is practised in the regions of Chaco and the part of Valles in Bolivia fulfilled the conditions to be considered an FMD free zone with vaccination, in accordance with Article 8.5.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In the case of the application from Peru, the Commission concluded that the zone where vaccination is practised in the regions of Tumbes and parts of Piura and Cajamarca in Peru fulfilled the conditions to be considered an FMD free zone with vaccination, in accordance with Article 8.5.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In the case of the third application, the Commission, after discussions with the Director General, decided to apply the provisions of Resolution No. 14 of the 80th General Session and requested the Director General to mandate an expert mission to the country to enable the Commission to make an informed decision, taking into account the findings of the mission.

Evaluation of the requests from two Member Countries for the recovery of their previously recognised status

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the recovery of the FMD free status without vaccination of Bulgaria, which had a suspended status since January 2011. After an electronic consultation, the Commission also endorsed on 17 October 2012 the recovery of a free zone where vaccination is practised in the region of Thrace, in Turkey, which had a suspended status since September 2011.

Evaluation of the requests from five Member Countries for the endorsement of official control programmes for FMD

The Commission considered and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group that the Assembly endorse the official control programme for FMD of Bolivia, but unfortunately could not recommend for endorsement the applications from four other Member Countries and referred these applications back to the respective Member Countries for re-consideration.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos. 17 and 18**.**

b) Evaluation of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status of OIE Member Countries

One application was received from one Member Country for the evaluation and official recognition by the OIE of its CBPP status. The Commission considered and endorsed the recommendation of the electronic evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group. The Commission, after discussions with the Director General, decided to apply the provisions of Resolution No. 14 of the 80th General Session and requested the Director General to mandate an expert mission to the country to enable the Commission to make an informed decision, taking into account the findings of the mission.

Endorsement of the existing list of Member Countries free from CBPP was submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 19.

c) Evaluation of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status of OIE Member Countries

The Commission considered and supported the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the BSE risk status of nine Member Countries and agreed to recommend that the Assembly, at this General Session, officially recognise the following Member Countries as having a **negligible risk status for BSE**:

Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Slovenia and United States of America.

The Commission agreed to recommend that the Assembly, at this General Session, officially recognise the following Member Countries as having a **controlled risk status for BSE**:

Bulgaria and Costa Rica.

The Commission unfortunately could not recommend the application from one Member Country and referred this application back to the Member Country for re-consideration.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 20.

d) Evaluation of the African horse sickness (AHS) status of OIE Member Countries

Following the adoption of the amended Chapter 12.1 during the 80th General Session making provision for the official recognition of the AHS status of Member Countries, the Commission, for the first time, evaluated applications from Member Countries. A total of 63 applications were received, 62 of which were evaluated during the *ad hoc* Group meeting and one evaluation was done electronically; of these, 60 were for recognition of historical freedom from AHS and inclusion on the baseline list of AHS free countries; two applications were for recognition of country freedom from AHS in accordance with Article 12.1.2, and one application was for the recognition of zonal freedom from AHS in accordance with Article 12.1.2. The Commission considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and agreed to recommend the listing of 58 of the 60 country applications for historical freedom and two countries (Spain and Portugal) for country freedom. The applications of two Member Countries for historical freedom and one Member Country for zonal freedom from AHS were not approved and were referred back to the respective countries for reconsideration.

The final list proposed will be subject to fulfilment of the conditions regarding payment of the costs outlined in Resolution No. 26 adopted in May 2012 or of an official commitment to pay these costs.

Dr Brückner informed the Assembly that following requests from several Member Countries, it was decided to extend the deadline for applications by Member Countries for historical freedom from AHS for another year, expiring at the end of 2013, to allow more time to secure funds and complete the application dossier.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 21.

206. **Future work programme of the Scientific Commission**

The Commission identified the following issues that needed to be attended to and/or finalised during the coming year:

- Finalisation of the Guide for Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance.
- Update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Rift Valley fever.
- Update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Tuberculosis.
- Development of a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS).
- Update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Glanders with the possibility of adding the disease to the list for official status recognition.
- Harmonisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on viral diseases of pigs in respect of control measures relative to management practices.
- Harmonisation of the vector surveillance and vector control strategies for bluetongue, African horse sickness and Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD).
- Consider the introduction of endorsement of national control programmes for CBPP in Chapter 11.8 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

207. After the presentation of the report of the Scientific Commission, the President opened the floor for discussion.

208. The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the addition of PPR to the list of diseases with an officially recognised status. PPR was a priority in Africa because of its impact on food security and on livelihoods on the continent. The official recognition process favoured the development of a global control programme for PPR with the guidance of GF-TADs as well as the continental control strategy in which AU-IBAR was already engaged. The Delegate thanked the OIE and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the pilot initiatives that would provide high quality vaccines through the vaccine bank. The proposal to set up an *ad hoc* Group on Rift Valley fever (RFV) was welcomed and he suggested that the proposed *ad hoc* Group consider the recommendations of the RVF inter-regional conference for East Africa and Middle East, held in November 2012 in Mombasa, Kenya. Finally, the Delegate informed the Assembly that the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU/PANVAC), mandated by the African Union Member States, acquired a Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory to ensure the safe custody of Rinderpest virus-containing materials received from African Union Member States. The Centre currently secures in this facility Rinderpest vaccine seeds and 1.5 million doses of Rinderpest emergency vaccine stock. Furthermore the Centre developed the required Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the safe destruction of Rinderpest virus held by African Union Member States.

209. The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, recognised the extensive work done by the Scientific Commission on the scientifically based revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters, and on the official recognition of disease status, as well as endorsement of official control programmes. The European Union wished to continue its participation in the *ad hoc* Groups that operate under the mandate of the Scientific Commission. The European Union acknowledged the effort of the *ad hoc* Groups to report in detail the scientific justification for their recommendations and requested that the reports of the Scientific Commission be equally detailed, where appropriate, particularly when a consensus was not reached by the *ad hoc* Groups. Finally, owing to the increased workload of the Commission, especially in regard to the planned inclusion of new diseases for official status recognition, the European Union suggested that the Scientific Commission meetings be extended in time or frequency.

210. The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, thanked the Scientific Commission for taking into consideration their previous comments on disease surveillance in wildlife, and for requesting the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases to explore possible ways for the OIE to address the animal health challenges of the management of trans-frontier conservation areas related to disease status and animal movements, which was of great importance to Africa.

211. The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) commented on the conclusions regarding BSE risk status evaluations. First, the Delegate suggested that the OIE facilitates the exchange of information among Member Countries by providing access to dossiers upon request and under a condition of confidentiality. Secondly, the Delegate commented on the lack of consensus during the *ad hoc* Group meetings and asked that the evaluation of BSE risk mitigating measures not be compared among countries, as some countries had indigenous BSE cases and others did not.

212. The Delegate of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, thanked the Scientific Commission for convening the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Honey Bees, as it was of economic importance in Africa where many people depended on this subsector for their livelihoods.

213. The Delegates of Chinese Taipei and China (People's Rep. of) supported the comments made by the Delegate of Korea (Rep. of).

214. Dr Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission, thanked the Delegates for their comments. He reminded the Delegates that the Scientific Commission was elected by the Assembly and thus had also to report to the Assembly, which contributed to the transparency of the process related to country status evaluations. The Scientific Commission is mandated to take decisions on disease status applications in compliance with OIE standards and is not necessarily bound by the views of *ad hoc* Groups. In response to the Member Countries' request to share the information contained in the dossiers of countries with a positive status evaluation outcome, Dr Brückner indicated that this matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the Scientific Commission and with the Council. Finally, he mentioned that further efforts will be made to present even clearer and more transparent reports of the Scientific Commission meetings.

215. Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, replied to comments of Member Countries in relation to the process of official disease status recognition. The OIE has been carrying out this process for almost 20 years with a well established procedure. Specialist Commissions are elected by Delegates and develop their recommendations alone or in consultation with scientists, experts and *ad hoc* Groups before proposing them to the Assembly. For confidentiality purposes, only those applications that result in a positive outcome are released for Member Country comment at least 60 days before the General Session. A country wishing additional information on the outcome of other countries' evaluations should first interact directly with the applicant country concerned. Such consultation led to good results in the majority of cases. Then, if necessary, the OIE could provide a detailed answer based on the discussions with *ad hoc* Groups or the Scientific Commission.

216. Dr Schwabenbauer asked Member Countries not to modify the procedure for official status evaluation as the procedure functioned well as it stood and the workload of the Scientific Commission was already high.

217. The Delegate of South Africa acknowledged with appreciation the amendment of the BSurvE surveillance criteria for countries with small cattle populations but questioned whether the current chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* provides sufficient guidance on collecting samples from high risk animal populations, which were very rare in his country.

218. Dr Brückner replied that the OIE *Terrestrial Code* also contains a chapter on general surveillance standards as well as specific surveillance recommendations for some diseases and that they should be used together when conducting surveillance activities. In the future review of the BSE chapter, the surveillance standards it contains could once again be assessed to ascertain if they fully address the concerns raised by the Delegate.

219. The Assembly adopted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Sharing of foot and mouth disease viral material and information in support of global foot and mouth disease prevention and control

220. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 15 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance

221. The Delegate of Australia expressed concern on the way the list had been drafted. He suggested that more consultation would have yielded a more robust list of antimicrobial agents used in veterinary medicine. He noted that the issue of antimicrobial resistance was very important for the veterinary profession, and that there were responsibilities in this area that the profession must accept and manage conscientiously.

222. Dr Vallat replied that the list had initially been drafted in response to the list of antimicrobial agents developed by WHO and relevant to human health, which was not necessarily the same for veterinary medicine. The initial OIE list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance had been adopted by Resolution No. XXXIII in May 2006. The list had been updated by an *ad hoc* Group, including WHO and FAO representatives, after a scientific assessment, and had also been endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

223. Dr Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head and Acting Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, informed Delegates that the previous list was already available on the website and had just been updated. The criteria for listing were clearly explained in the online document and had not been changed. She confirmed that WHO and FAO representatives were part of the *ad hoc* Group that had worked on this update.

224. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries

225. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Endorsement of official control programmes for foot and mouth disease of Member Countries

226. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Recognition of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia disease status of Member Countries

227. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Recognition of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy risk status of Member Countries

228. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The resolution was adopted with one abstention (Korea [Rep. of]). The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Recognition of the African horse sickness status of Member Countries

229. Dr Vallat confirmed the extension of the short deadline for applying for AHS historical freedom for one more year only. The list of countries proposed for adoption was established according to the recommendations of the Scientific Commission and was also dependent on the fulfilment of the financial obligations of Member Countries. The OIE has exceptionally accepted a signed commitment from those countries that have not yet complied with their financial obligations that states that payment would be received by the OIE before March 2014 and would be delisted if no payment was made within this deadline. The names of Member Countries that have not yet paid or signed the commitment to pay by March 2014, either because they were absent or because they could not engage in the undertaking, will not appear on the list despite having a favourable evaluation.

230. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

Follow-up to the Recommendations of Conferences

231. **FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control (Thailand, June 2012)**

At the FAO/OIE World Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 29 June 2012, 38 recommendations were approved.

Several of the recommendations remain highly relevant and have been the subject of specific or more cross-cutting actions by the OIE. The Director General summarised them, and in particular those relating to:

– The need to address in a fully coordinated manner the three components of the Global Strategy (Recommendations Nos 3, 34, 35), namely:

  • the quality of Veterinary Services,

  • foot and mouth disease control,

  • prevention and control of other major diseases of livestock.

– The key role of the Veterinary Services, including of public-private partnerships, within the framework of good governance and a level of political and budgetary support commensurate with their missions, especially in the field of prevention and control of transboundary diseases and zoonoses; these activities are recognised as a global public good (Recommendations Nos 6, 7, 8, 23, 35).

– The ability to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by the OIE, including endorsement of official national FMD control programmes (Recommendation No. 5) and use of vaccine banks currently managed by the OIE (Recommendation No. 16).

The Director General then summarised the actions undertaken by the OIE in response to these recommendations, such as the standardisation activities of the OIE Specialist Commissions, status recognition for several countries and endorsement of national control programmes, organising and taking part in regional coordination meetings (South-East Asia, Middle East, Central Asia, the Americas), continuing support for Veterinary Services (PVS pathway) and setting up a regional vaccine bank for Asia. Some of these actions were implemented with FAO, supported by the GF-TADs FMD working group.

232. The Delegate of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of African Union Member States, stated that the Global Strategy, comprising these three components, had been accepted, as well as the action plan. He stressed the need to help countries to prepare the application dossiers for OIE endorsement of national control programmes before their official submission to the OIE. The African countries also encouraged the use of articles of the *Terrestrial Code*, in particular those concerning zoning and compartmentalisation, protection zones and commodity-based trade, in order to improve market access. The Delegate of Rwanda stated that Africa was also pleased with the decision that the next global conference on FMD would take place in Africa and he presented an application for his country to host the event.

233. The Delegate of Bhutan emphasised the importance of a coordinated approach to the implementation of control programmes and noted that South Asia did not benefit from regional programmes such as those of South-East Asia. He proposed the creation of a working group to tackle this subject. He also insisted on the need to use only quality vaccines and proposed that the specialist agencies concerned, such as the OIE and FAO, take appropriate steps.

234. The IFAH representative pointed out that the laboratories could not produce vaccines within very short deadlines. This therefore had to be planned in advance and any new strains to be incorporated in vaccines should be made available in good time.

235. The Director General of the OIE replied point by point to questions and comments:

– He confirmed that countries wishing to submit control programmes for OIE validation could obtain support in order to better prepare their dossiers for submission. The SEACFMD[30] programme experts in Bangkok, for example, could intervene, as could those to be assigned shortly to the planned OIE FMD unit, in partnership with FAO, in Kazakhstan and in a Gulf state currently being selected.

– He also supported the proposal for a regional approach for the South Asia region and suggested that the SAARC[31] regional organisation should perhaps develop a programme similar to that of the SEACFMD.

– The Director General considered that the issue of vaccine quality was critical and that vaccines should comply with OIE standards. He also stressed the importance of developing the concept of regional vaccine banks, based on OIE standards, as implemented by the OIE.

– Lobbying of economic partners in countries should continue in order to increase investment in FMD control.

30 SEACFMD: South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease

31 SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

236. The President of the OIE added that, for the forthcoming international FMD conference, it would be necessary to establish significant advances in certain countries or regions. This would make it possible to demonstrate that the Global FMD Control Strategy could be successfully implemented, making it easier to justify devoting further efforts to this control programme.

237. **Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Malaysia, November 2012)**

At the third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 6 to 8 November 2012, 10 of the recommendations adopted were addressed to the OIE. All have been addressed, at least in part, and the Director General provided a brief summary of how OIE has responded to date.

The key points noted by the Director General included: progress with new animal welfare chapters for the *Terrestrial Code*; support and capacity building for Member Countries through the OIE PVS Pathway, seminars for animal welfare Focal Points, and the forthcoming Regional Conference (Americas) on Animal Welfare and International Trade; promotion of veterinary education, including the training in animal welfare, in the forthcoming OIE Global Conference; continuing collaboration with ISO to promote the development of ISO animal welfare technical specifications that comply with OIE standards; support for twinning and collaboration projects in veterinary education and animal welfare; progress in the development and implementation of regional animal welfare strategies and a global animal welfare strategy; and nomination of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) as a new Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre for the Americas on Laboratory animal welfare and science.

238. The President thanked the Director General for his report and invited comments and questions.

239. The Indonesian delegate expressed his appreciation for the update on the recommendations of the third global conference on animal welfare, and his support for effective implementation of animal welfare practices. Additionally, Indonesia wished to emphasise that implementation of animal welfare based on OIE standards should be viewed as an integral part of the religious requirements in some countries.

240. The President thanked the Indonesian Delegate for his supportive comments, and there being no further comments, closed the session.

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2013

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

241. **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Dr Alejandro Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) had held its twelfth meeting at the OIE Headquarters on 20–22 November 2012. He noted that the full report, including the work programme for 2013, was appended to the report of the February 2013 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to OIE Delegates and published on the OIE website.

242. Dr Thiermann summarised the key points raised at the APFSWG meeting.

The APFSWG had noted that in April 2012 the Codex Committee on General Principles agreed to establish an electronic working group (eWG) on Codex/OIE Cooperation to provide guidance to better take into account relevant work that had been undertaken or was in progress by the two organisations and to identify means to consistently reference each other's standards and guidance. The APSFWG agreed that this work provided another opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the OIE and Codex. The APFSWG provided comments for the OIE submission to the eWG on cross-referencing of standards, continued collaboration on the development of standards, planning work for standard development and coordination at the national level.

The APFSWG supported the proposed draft texts on Trichinellosis (Chapter 8.13.) and Echinococcosis/hydatidosis (Chapter 8.4.) that had been circulated to Member Countries in the report of the September 2012 meeting of the Code Commission. The APFSWG also supported the OIE work on veterinary education and agreed that the draft Model Core Curriculum document covered the essential core curriculum relevant to the training of a veterinarian, including food safety and food hygiene.

The APFSWG examined an updated literature review on the control of *Salmonella* spp. in food-producing animals other than poultry with the purpose of reducing foodborne illness, with the emphasis on the feasibility of applying measures at the farm level. The APFSWG proposed that the paper be published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* as it provides very valuable information. Given the need for a whole food chain approach to salmonella risk management in such food-producing animals and the diversity of global animal production systems, the APFSWG considers that a co-ordinated approach between the OIE and Codex is essential to significantly improve salmonella risk management in these animals. The APFSWG agreed that should Codex initiate new work on *Salmonella* spp. in food-producing animals other than poultry then it would encourage OIE participation to ensure a whole food chain approach.

243. The Delegate of Uruguay commended the progress that has been achieved by the APFSWG, with particular reference to collaboration with the WHO and the CAC[32]. He considered that the current electronic Working Group on Codex/OIE standards provided an opportunity for closer collaboration between the OIE and the CAC, and asked Dr Slorach for his views regarding toxigenic *E. coli* and what could be done to avoid problems with respect to food safety and the meat export trade.

244. Dr Slorach, chair of the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group, replied that contamination with pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (also called STEC[33] or VTEC[34]) is known to cause food safety problems and problems for international trade. He reminded the Assembly that in 2010 the Working Group had requested a literature review on the control of VTEC in food-producing animals. The draft report had been discussed in 2011 but the Working Group considered that it did not adequately address the aspect of on-farm intervention. The Working Group was waiting to receive a revised paper and the issue was on the work programme for 2013. Dr Slorach indicated that he has discussed this matter with the EFSA and other relevant organisations to ensure a good basis for the coming

32 CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission

33 STEC: Shiga toxigenic *E. coli*

34 VTEC: Verotoxigenic *E. coli*

discussion. He reminded Member Countries of the need to consider the entire food chain, and therefore a need for coordination with the CAC. Dr Slorach also commented that this issue is relevant to the 'One Health' concept. For effective control of toxigenic *E. coli*, Veterinary Services, human health services and environmental health and safety authorities must work together. Dr Slorach undertook to present recommendations to the Code Commission following the Working Group meeting in October 2013.

245. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Animal Production Food Safety

246. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 22 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

247. **Animal Welfare Working Group**

The Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) held its eleventh meeting at the OIE Headquarters on 26–28 June 2012. The full report was appended to the report of the September 2012 meeting of the Code Commission, and the AWWG draft work programme for 2013 was distributed to Delegates as an annex to the report of the Code Commission's February 2013 meeting. Both documents have been published on the OIE website.

The following key points were raised and discussed at the eleventh AWWG meeting:

– Changes in the membership of the Working Group, particularly the newly appointed Chair, Dr S. Abdul Rahman, as announced by the Director General during the 80th OIE General Session, following the retirement of Dr David Bayvel from the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries. Dr Bayvel, as the new Chief Veterinary Adviser for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) replaces Dr David Wilkins on the Working Group.

– The recent cooperation agreements signed between the OIE and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA).

– OIE 80th General Session outcomes regarding the adopted Resolutions on animal welfare, food safety, and good governance and veterinary education.

– The importance of supporting Member Countries to implement the adopted animal welfare standards, along with activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services to achieve implementation, were discussed as an appropriate focus and priority for the AWWG in 2012–2013. A writing group was established to develop an Animal Welfare Working Group guideline document on pathways for implementing OIE animal welfare standards.

– The report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission meeting of March 2012 and the relevant report from the 80th General Session were examined. The AWWG proposed consideration to be given to the welfare of crustaceans in the future.

- The report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, which had reviewed the draft report on "Scientific evidence on the relationship between animal welfare and animal production food safety" and had agreed that this paper could inform possible future work on the issues of relevance to animal welfare and food safety.

- A successful joint meeting held between the AWWG and representatives of the OIE Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare in Italy, Chile/Uruguay and New Zealand/Australia.

- 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.

- The status of Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) development in each OIE region. An update on the proposed cooperation project between the Collaborating Centre of New Zealand/Australia and the University of Putra, Malaysia, was provided.

- It was agreed that the welfare of working animals would be an area of priority for the AWWG during 2013.

- The importance of contributions from OIE Member Countries to the World Fund, in particular donations from Australia and New Zealand for the RAWS implementation in their Region and the Improved Animal Welfare Programme as well as the contribution from the European Commission for global conferences and seminars.

- The OIE discussion paper on Animal welfare related provisions of Islamic Law, published on the OIE website (http://www.oie.int/en/animal-welfare/future-developments/).

- The proposed development of an application by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) to be recognised as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science was noted and supported.

248. A member of the delegation of Chile provided an update on the development and implementation of animal welfare legislation in his country. He also commended the development of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas and noted the agreement of Chile to host the fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

249. The President of the OIE thanked Chile for this intervention and for the invitation to host the fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

250. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Animal Welfare

251. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

252. **Report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

Dr Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE Headquarters from 4 to 13 September 2012. The Commission had met again from 19 to 28 February 2013 to examine reports of *ad hoc* Group meetings, as well as Member Country comments on the report of its September meeting and to identify issues which should be presented at the General Session. The items and comments on texts that were not being submitted for adoption at this General Session and that could not be dealt with during the February meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2013, together with any new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2013 meeting as well as those received at this General Session.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Code Commission (Drs E. Bonbon, J. Caetano and T. Tsutsui and Profs S. Hammami and S.C. MacDiarmid) for their expertise and dedication and commitment during the entire year. Dr Thiermann thanked Dr Derek Belton, Dr Masatsugu Okita and other staff of the OIE International Trade Department for their work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

Dr Thiermann considered that it had again been a productive year for the OIE, with 38 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption. Dr Thiermann thanked Member Countries for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage further contribution from Member Countries, especially from developing countries.

Dr Thiermann noted that Member Countries had commented on translation issues and discrepancies between the Spanish and English texts of the *Terrestrial Code* and the report of the Code Commission meeting. He informed Delegates that the OIE would continue to undertake a systematic review of the *Terrestrial Code* in French and Spanish with a view to better alignment with the English text in the coming year. He assured Delegates that the OIE would make continuous efforts to resolve these linguistic issues and to expedite the distribution of the Code Commission reports in all three official languages.

Dr Thiermann also thanked Delegates for respecting the OIE convention regarding the submission of comments, i.e. suggested modifications shown as <u>double underline</u> and ~~strike through~~ and the provision of a scientific justification for the proposal. He reminded Delegates that if comments were resubmitted without modification or new justification the Code Commission would not, as a rule, repeat previous opinion. Dr Thiermann encouraged Member Countries to refer to the explanations provided in previous reports in formulating their comments. Dr Thiermann also reminded Delegates that the Code Commission reports should be examined in conjunction with the reports from the Scientific Commission, which provide complementary information on the scientific justification of the drafts being presented.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. Since September 2010, the report and all its annexes had been posted as Microsoft Word documents on the OIE Delegates' website to facilitate the process of providing comments. Dr Thiermann also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, as annexes to the report, on the OIE public website. This was important in order to inform organisations and the general public on the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards and to give them the opportunity to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Delegates' bags contained a memory stick with the complete report of the September 2012 and February 2013 meetings of the Code Commission, including annexes with Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports. The folder distributed at the General Session contained only the Introductory Part and Part A (containing texts for adoption) of the February 2013 report of the Code Commission, due to the volume of material.

Dr Thiermann advised Delegates that detailed comments should be submitted by mid-August each year for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting and by the beginning of January each year for the February meeting. He reminded Delegates that the Code Commission could not examine comments submitted in the period between the Commission's February meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February meeting during the discussion at the General Session. The Code Commission would address these comments at its September meeting.

253. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the Assembly that a modification to the text of the *Terrestrial Code* would be detailed in a resolution submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

254. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption.

255. **Glossary**

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had proposed to add two new definitions, i.e. 'veterinary medicinal product' and 'good manufacturing practice' in the Glossary based on the advice of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and supported by the Scientific Commission.

He also noted that the Code Commission had amended three existing definitions i.e. 'surveillance', 'veterinary statutory body' and 'veterinarian' based on the advice of the Scientific Commission and several *ad hoc* Groups and the comments of Member Countries and a Regional organisation of veterinarians.

The definition of 'emerging disease' was also revised to include both infection and infestation.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported adoption of the revised text.

The Delegate of Argentina suggested a modification to the definition of 'veterinarian' to reflect that this should be a person duly trained, holding a university diploma and complying with the legal requirements of his or her country for the practice of veterinary medicine. The Delegate considered that the modification of the definition in this manner would better reflect the work of the OIE in veterinary education, including twinning of veterinary education establishments.

The Delegate of Rwanda, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, considered that there was no need to add the phrase 'with appropriate education' when defining a 'veterinarian', as a veterinary statutory body (VSB) is expected to only register a veterinarian with appropriate education. Furthermore, this is covered in Chapter 3.2. in the requirements for VSBs.

Dr Thiermann asked the Delegate of Argentina to provide the proposed new text in writing and made the commitment that the Code Commission would review the Argentine proposal at the Commission's September 2013 meeting. The Delegate of Argentina agreed to provide a written copy of his proposal.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the Code Commission's proposal.

The Delegate of Saudi Arabia expressed his support for the Delegate of Argentina's proposal. He considered it important that the definition of veterinarian clearly indicate the achievement of a college degree or university education.

The Director General noted that the proposals of Rwanda and Argentina were at variance and suggested that OIE Member Countries adopt the text as proposed, pending a review of the definition of 'veterinarian', which would be further considered by the Code Commission in light of written proposals from Argentina or other Member countries.

The revised Glossary was adopted unanimously.

256. **Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that with respect to Member Countries' suggestions to clarify the definition and reporting expectation for emerging diseases, a task force at the OIE Headquarters had drafted a proposal to amend the definition of 'emerging disease' and some relevant provisions in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission would review the proposal jointly at their September 2013 meeting.

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed the chapter with a view to improving consistency between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code*; for instance 'and their aetiological agents' was added after 'disease', where appropriate.

Also, point 4 of Article 1.1.2. and points 1 and 2 of Article 1.1.3. were amended in accordance with Member Countries' suggestions to improve the clarity and precision of the language.

Dr Thiermann highlighted that, in point 2 of Article 1.1.3., the text 'it becoming endemic' had been replaced with 'the situation has become sufficiently stable', as either being eradicated or becoming endemic were not the only reasons to warrant cessation of weekly follow-up reporting.

He also noted that a new clause had been added to the end of Article 1.1.3. in response to Member Countries' suggestions.

In addition, Dr Thiermann explained that Article 1.1.5. had been amended to align it with the other articles of this chapter and current reporting practice, while Article 1.1.6. had been deleted as it was obsolete.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the proposed text and emphasised the need for Member Countries to inform the OIE of events of epidemiological importance. He considered that this was consistent with the EU position that reporting obligations for listed diseases (mandatory) should be clearly distinguished from voluntary reporting. This should be reflected in WAHID, to encourage OIE Member countries to meet their obligations.

The Delegate of Swaziland, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, asked whether the detection of an aetiological agent in an animal product (e.g. milk or meat) was considered to be included in the reference to 'detection in an animal'. He suggested that 'or products of animal origin' be added after 'animal'. He also commented that the formulation 'animal health events of epidemiological significance' is not clear and that this should be replaced by 'animal health events', or this concept should be defined in the Glossary.

The Delegate of Botswana supported the intervention of the Delegate of Swaziland.

In response to these interventions, Dr Thiermann proposed to adopt the following text:

'this means that the detection of the aetiological agent of a listed disease should be reported even in the absence of clinical disease'.

The Delegate of the United States of America raised concerns with Dr Thiermann's proposal, as this could mean that a country would be obliged to report the presence of a listed disease agent in an imported product, leading to the country being considered as infected with the disease, even though the agent had only been found in the imported product.

The Delegate of Ireland and the Delegate of New Zealand shared the concerns of the USA.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the intention of the Code Commission was to clarify the notification obligations and to encourage Member Countries to comply with them. He explained that the term 'inform' had been used to clarify the distinction between voluntary and mandatory reporting. With respect to an event of epidemiological significance, the Delegate should decide what is significant and what information should be sent to the OIE.

The Delegate of Swaziland requested clarification of the meaning of 'significant epidemiological event'.

The Delegate of Canada considered that the English version of the text was acceptable but recommended a review of the French text as the two versions were not consistent.

Dr Thiermann proposed to delete 'of epidemiological significance' and to continue working on this text to address the concerns raised by Member Countries.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, was concerned that Dr Thiermann's proposal was too broad.

The Delegate of Tunisia drew attention to the fact that information on the state of infection of animals is generally based on laboratory testing. He considered that there was some confusion between the reporting of disease with signs as opposed to reporting based on laboratory testing in the absence of disease, as this depends on the interpretation of diagnostic tests performed in laboratories and the interpretation of such results varies from country to country. He encouraged the Code Commission to consider this carefully.

The Director General of the OIE proposed the following modified texts.

Article 1.1.2. point 4:

'Il en decoule que la détection de l'agent étiologique d'une *maladie listée* chez un *animal* doit être notifiée même en l'absence de formes cliniques de la *maladie*'.

Article 1.1.3. (last paragraph):

'Although Members are only required to notify listed diseases, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other important animal health events.'

The President of the OIE indicated that these texts would be reviewed in the light of experience and that modifications could be made in future as may be required.

The Delegate of Haiti supported the recommendation of the Director General. He recalled that when teschen disease appeared in Haiti, it was notified immediately, although the disease was not considered to be important in his country.

The revised Chapter 1.1., modified as outlined above, was adopted unanimously.

257. **Criteria for the inclusion of diseases and infections on the OIE List (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Thiermann thanked Delegates for their active participation in reviewing the diseases proposed for delisting by the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents. He informed Delegates that considering the extensive comments and concerns expressed by Member Countries, the Code Commission had decided to propose only the delisting of swine vesicular disease, vesicular stomatitis and infection with equine rhinopneumonitis (EHV-4) on the grounds that no Member Countries had opposed delisting these diseases based on the listing criteria.

Dr Thiermann noted that in accordance with the proposed delisting, deletion of Chapters 8.15. (vesicular stomatitis) and 15.4. (swine vesicular disease) was presented for adoption.

In addition, Dr Thiermann noted that some Member Countries had pointed out that some diseases had been proposed to be delisted on the basis that vector transmission was not included as one of the factors for international spread. The Code Commission decided to address this issue by amending point 1 of Article 1.2.2.

Dr Thiermann explained that a Member Country's suggestion to change the numbering had not been accepted because the structure was clarified by the revised decision tree in Article 1.2.2. bis.

Dr Thiermann noted that some disease names in Article 1.2.3. had been amended in line with the policy to use the pathogen name rather than the disease name.

He also pointed out that, in accordance with the proposed amendment in Chapter 10.4. (Infection with avian influenza virus) the listing name of this disease had been modified.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised Chapter 1.2. together with the deletion of Chapters 8.15. and 15.4. to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Japan proposed to retain vesicular stomatitis (VS) and swine vesicular disease (SVD) and place them 'under study', as he considered that these diseases met the criteria for listing. According to the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* and some textbooks, high mortality rates have been observed in pigs affected by a strain of VS virus; in addition, SVD can also manifest severe vesicular conditions depending on the virus strain. The Delegate asked the Code Commission to clarify the meaning of 'significant morbidity and mortality' and to reconsider if the two diseases meet the OIE criteria.

The Delegate also urged caution in delisting diseases when they have been effectively contained within certain countries or areas. He commented that many countries have put a lot of effort into attaining and maintaining free status from these two diseases based on the *Terrestrial Code*. The Delegate encouraged the Code Commission to modify the criteria so that the listing of such diseases could be retained. Finally he indicated that Japan would submit a proposal for consideration by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Guatemala, speaking on behalf of the Americas, opposed the delisting of VS because this would cause problems in receiving appropriate funding for epidemiosurveillance of vesicular diseases and could jeopardise the surveillance of these diseases in future.

The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) asked the Code Commission to retain SVD and VS on the list, stating three points of justification for this position. First, these diseases are endemic in some parts of the world; secondly, these diseases pose serious risks to Africa and Asia (where they are exotic) and, thirdly, the two diseases comply with the listing criteria.

The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, expressed support for the OIE in this field of work. He offered to provide expertise of the European Union to support the *ad hoc* Group on emerging diseases. The Delegate indicated that the EU generally supported the adoption of the revised text but did not support the inclusion of diagrams (e.g. the flow chart) as these could cause confusion. He reminded that the requirements are already described in the text and that the diagrams are therefore not necessary and recommended they be deleted.

The Delegate of France reported that the EU recommended that the reference in Article 1.2.3. point 6 to 'infection with avian influenza viruses' and 'infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds other than poultry' be modified by adding the phrase 'including wild birds' for consistency with Chapter 10.4. (Avian influenza).

The Delegate of France thought that VS and SVD did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the OIE list.

The Delegate of Nigeria, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the proposed delisting of the three diseases and agreed with the Delegate of France regarding the modification of Article 1.2.3. point 6 for consistency with Chapter 10.4.

The Delegate of Russia commented on the position of some countries in the region to list certain diseases for precautionary reasons. The Schmallenberg virus has been detected in cattle in Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The necessary legal base for preventing the spread of this disease is lacking and the Delegate called for attention to this matter.

The Delegate of Russia also supported the interventions made by other Delegates on SVD and VS and commented on the need to continue collecting information on these diseases.

The Delegate of New Zealand noted the importance of decisions on disease listing and delisting, and called for scientific rigour and transparency in making these decisions. Noting the diversity of opinion, he considered that more transparency was needed on the scientific basis for recommendations regarding disease listing and delisting.

The Delegate of Uruguay commented that, given the diverse views expressed by Member Countries, SVD and VS should not be delisted. He called for a further review of the disease listing criteria in order to avoid this type of disagreement in the future.

The Delegate of Peru supported the comments made by the Delegate of Uruguay.

The Delegate of Jamaica and the Delegate of India supported other Delegates who opposed the delisting of VS and SVD.

The Delegate of Norway offered to contribute to a review of the criteria for listing and delisting decisions that would be made in the future.

The Delegate of Switzerland supported the comments of the Delegate of France.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, commented on Schmallenberg virus. The EFSA report confirms that the virus has had low impact at the national and regional levels, despite the fact that this vector-borne virus continues to spread within Europe. Most infected animals do not show clinical signs, but losses occur in some situations, for example with the synchronisation of oestrus in flocks that become infected in early pregnancy. A high level of immunity may be achieved at the population level. New data will soon be published indicating that the virus has quite limited and transient impact in cattle herds. The Delegate reminded the Assembly that the OIE had previously determined that the listing of Schmallenberg virus was not warranted. Nonetheless, the presence of the virus in Europe is giving rise to disproportionate disruption of international trade. The Delegate confirmed that the EU Members would continue to meet their reporting obligations, but also urged OIE Member Countries not to impose non-scientific trade barriers with respect to this virus and others of the Simbu virus group, which are known to be present in various countries and which, should the listing of SBV be re-assessed by the OIE, should also be included in that re-assessment.

The Delegate of Israel called for a further review of diseases, especially vector-borne diseases. While Schmallenberg virus may have a minor effect in Europe, the effect may be more significant in other countries.

The Delegate of Belarus supported the proposal of the Delegate of Russia regarding the listing of Schmallenberg virus. He stated that in countries of the Customs Union and in the Ukraine, diseases such as PPR and bluetongue have been introduced via EU countries and that these diseases present a risk to other countries. The Delegate called on the Code Commission to consider this matter in more detail and opposed the delisting of VS and SVD.

The Delegate of Somalia, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the EU position expressed by Ireland.

The Delegate of Haiti commented that all delisting decisions should be considered very carefully. His country has seen a need for regional solidarity in the struggle against animal diseases. When a disease is not listed by the OIE, it is difficult to maintain international solidarity.

Dr Thiermann accepted the recommendations regarding the addition of the reference to vector-borne diseases and to make the reference to avian influenza consistent with Chapter 10.4. He also agreed that the diagram could be removed from the chapter and perhaps maintained on the OIE internet page for the information of Member Countries. The President of the Code Commission reminded the Delegates that the consultation that had been carried out during the past 12 months and the delisting of VS and SVD had attracted very little comment from Member Countries. He reminded Delegates that a disease that is delisted does not loose importance for a given country. Control and eradication efforts can continue, as well as measures to prevent introduction or spread. Recommendations on its diagnosis continue to be published in the *Manual*. The only thing that changes is the

obligation to monitor the presence and the mandatory notification to the OIE. Dr Thiermann accepted the proposal of the Delegate of Russia for review of the Schmallenberg virus according to the OIE criteria for disease listing. In light of the foregoing, Dr Thiermann proposed the adoption of the text, as presented.

The Director General supported Dr Thiermann's comments. He reminded Delegates of the hard work that had concluded with the unanimous adoption of revised disease-listing criteria in 2012. The proposal by the Code Commission to delist SVD and VS was entirely consistent with the adopted criteria. With respect to the Schmallenberg virus, Dr Vallat noted that the main point of discussion related to the impact of the virus. He informed Member Countries that the questions relating to Schmallenberg virus would be discussed as from September, with a comprensive review by experts from Europe and other regions.

The Delegate of Uruguay commented that this is not an easy subject to resolve. Although the criteria had been adopted, he pointed out that the problems emerge when the criteria are actually applied. Therefore, he supported deferring adoption.

The Delegate of Australia opposed the removal of the diagram (flow chart). He considered that it was useful and he preferred that it be maintained.

The Delegate of Japan expressed concern about the fact that opinions of Member Countries at the General Assembly were largely divided and proposed to postpone the adoption of the text for pursuing further discussion.

The Delegates of Argentina and Brazil supported the intervention of the Delegate of Uruguay.

The Delegate of Guatemala also supported the intervention of the Delegate of Uruguay. He noted that VS causes major damage in tropical countries and stated that he had seen 100% losses of animals in affected farms.

The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) supported the position of Japan and the comments of the Delegate of Uruguay.

The Delegate of Nigeria, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the decision to delist the three diseases.

The Delegate of Russia pointed out that the problem with emerging diseases is that they are unpredictable. Importing countries are applying measures on a precautionary basis and are being blamed for imposing excessive measures. The request to consider listing of Schmallenberg virus was based on the fact that trade measures should normally be applied only to listed diseases. However, in the case of an emerging disease, precaution is warranted. The Delegate urged the Code Commission to consider the listing of Schmallenberg virus with reference to the listing criteria.

The Delegate of Ireland reaffirmed the support of the 27 EU Member States for Dr Thiermann's proposal.

Following consultation with the Director General and the President, Dr Thiermann proposed to modify Article 1.2.3. by adding a reference to 'wild birds' for avian influenza. The delisting of SVD and VS would be put 'under study'. Member Countries should provide the scientific rationale for retaining the two diseases. Finally, Dr Thiermann proposed that the diagram (flow chart) be moved to the end of the chapter. In view of this, Dr Thiermann advised that Chapters 8.15. and 15.4. would not be deleted.

The revised Chapter 1.2. with the amendments described above was adopted with twenty votes against (Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominican Rep., Guatemala, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay) and two abstentions (Morocco and South Africa).

258. **Support for Veterinary Services**

a) Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services, at its meeting in July 2012, had reviewed the chapter with a view to updating Article 3.2.12. (Evaluation of veterinary statutory body). He noted that in February 2013, the Code Commission had made further amendments to this article to address Member Country comments and improve clarity.

Dr Thiermann noted that the *ad hoc* Group also amended Article 3.2.14. to include the text on post-graduate and continuing education.

Dr Thiermann proposed the revised text for adoption.

The revised Chapter 3.2. was adopted unanimously.

b) Veterinary legislation (Chapter 3.4.)

Dr Thiermann noted the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation had met in September 2012 and addressed comments submitted by Member Countries and an international organisation with an official agreement with the OIE.

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to the *ad hoc* Group's request, the Code Commission decided to delete the definition of veterinary legislation in the chapter because the term is already defined in the Glossary.

He also noted the *ad hoc* Group had made further amendments to address Member Country comments and for improved clarity which were endorsed by the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented the new revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 3.4. was adopted unanimously.

259. **Semen and embryos**

a) Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.6.)

Dr Thiermann reported that points 3 and 4 of Article 4.6.7. had been amended based on Member comments.

Dr Thiermann noted that a Member Country's request to delete the requirement for permanent identification in point 4 of Article 4.6.7. had not been accepted because the identification of straws containing sex-sorted sperm was required to ensure sanitary conditions are met, given that a straw might contain seminal plasma from more than one animal.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 4.6. was adopted unanimously.

b) Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.7.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the note under point 2 of Article 4.7.5. had been converted to new subpoint e) in accordance with a Member's suggestion.

Dr Thiermann noted that, based on advice from the IETS[35], atypical scrapie had been added to the list of category 3 diseases in point 3 of Article 4.7.14. and he indicated that this is not an OIE-listed disease. Dr Thiermann reiterated that this is an established practice adopted by the World Assembly previously.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia expressed his concern about the OIE practice of automatically adopting IETS recommendations. He disagreed with the proposed classification of scrapie and did not agree with the inclusion of non-listed diseases such as atypical scrapie in the *Terrestrial Code*. He requested that the Code Commission obtain the scientific rationale of the IETS decisions and provide these for the information of OIE Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the Delegate was proposing a change of the procedures with respect to the IETS and that there was no proposal to amend the submitted text.

Dr Thiermann agreed that the procedure for incorporation of IETS procedures into OIE standards, including consideration of Member Countries' comments and review by the Commissions, would be discussed further.

The revised Chapter 4.7. was adopted unanimously.

260. **Biosecurity procedures in poultry production (Chapter 6.4.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had moved the sentence on antimicrobial resistance from subpoint 2) o) of Article 6.4.5. to new subpoint 1) f) of the same article, following Member Country comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Spain, on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported the proposed text.

The revised Chapter 6.4., modified as described above, was adopted unanimously.

261. **Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Chapter 6.9.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance had carried out a complete revision of the chapter with a view to clearly describing the responsibilities of all stakeholders. He also noted that Member Countries had been given two opportunities to submit comments.

In particular, Dr Thiermann highlighted that the Code Commission had restructured Article 6.9.3. and introduced a new article on the responsibilities of animal feed manufacturers, based on the *ad hoc* Group's advice to address Member Country comments.

35 IETS: International Embryo Transfer Society

Dr Thiermann also noted that a Member Country's suggestion to refer to WHO's list of critical antimicrobial agents was not accepted because the OIE's own list was regularly updated taking into account the WHO's list.

The Code Commission accepted a number of other suggestions from Member Countries to improve clarity and avoid ambiguity.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented, with reference to point 10 of Article 6.9.3., that it is not a responsibility of Veterinary Services to control the advertising of veterinary products.

The Delegate of Austria, on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported the adoption of the revised chapter. However, he asked the OIE to maintain the *ad hoc* Group so that it could continue its valuable work. The coordination of work with WHO and Codex is very important.

The Delegate of Mali, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the adoption of Chapter 6.9. and commended the *ad hoc* Group for its good work.

The Delegate of Argentina recommended, with respect to Article 6.9.3. point 1, paragraph 7, concerning the authorisation of marketing of veterinary products, the modification or deletion of the sentence "Member Countries are encouraged to apply the existing guidelines established by…".

With respect to Article 6.9.3 point 9,a) concerning the prescription of veterinary medical products containing antimicrobial agents, the Delegate requested clarification of the text, as his understanding is that this is the exclusive role of veterinarians.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, called for a further review of the chapters on the use of antimicrobial products. He understood that many of the comments submitted by the EU had not yet been considered by the Code Commission and stated that these comments had been resubmitted for review by the *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate also called for closer collaboration with WHO and offered technical support to the OIE for work on the chapters relating to antimicrobial resistance. He restated the support of the EU for adoption of the modified chapter.

The Delegate of Norway supported the comments of the Delegates of Ireland and Austria. She also called for the inclusion of the concept of good farming practice in the future development of this chapter.

The Delegate of Guatemala asked if there was an error in the Spanish version of the text in Article 6.9.4.

Dr Thiermann replied to these interventions as follows. With reference to the point raised by the Delegate of the United States of America, he agreed that it may not be possible for the Veterinary Services to control advertising practices. Regarding the VICH guidelines, he agreed that the wording of the text could perhaps be modified at a later date. With respect to the role of the veterinary profession in prescribing antimicrobial drugs, he indicated that the Commission had seen a need to acknowledge the situation in some Member Countries, where prescription is done only under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The Delegate of Saudi Arabia called attention to the earlier discussion on the definition of a veterinarian. He considered that the act of prescribing antimicrobial drugs should be done by a veterinarian or under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Dr Thiermann proposed the adoption of the text as presented, on the understanding that the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission would further consider Member Country comments to produce an improved text in September.

The revised Chapter 6.9. was adopted unanimously.

262. **Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates (Chapter 6.11.)**

Dr Thiermann explained to the Assembly that the Code Commission had inserted new text reading 'sourcing in accordance with Article 7.8.7.' in Article 6.11.1., based on the suggestion of several Member Countries.

He also noted that some minor changes had been made in tables in this chapter for improved clarity.

Finally, Dr Thiermann recalled that a Member Country had made an intervention at the last General Session, in May 2012, to reconsider the inclusion of detailed information on diagnostic tests in this chapter and advised that this comment had been referred to the Biological Standards Commission for consideration.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Serbia, on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported the adoption of the chapter.

The revised Chapter 6.11. was adopted unanimously.

263. **Animal welfare**

a) Draft new Chapter on Animal welfare and broiler production systems (Chapter 7. X.)

Dr Thiermann explained that although the draft chapter had been circulated among Member Countries on several occasions and subsequently presented for adoption at the General Session in May 2011, the Assembly could not reach consensus for adoption at that time. Since then, the chapter has been revised by the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Broiler Production Systems, taking into consideration Member Countries' comments and some principles of the newly adopted *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (Chapter 7.9.).

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had again received a considerable amount of comments from Member Countries, which were reviewed at its February 2013 meeting. The Code Commission accepted them when sufficient rationale had been given and the Commission was convinced that the text would be improved in clarity or in harmonisation with Chapter 7.9.

Dr Thiermann noted that Member Countries' requests to reinstate 'backyard flock' had not been accepted given the specific exclusion of backyard flocks from the revised definition of 'broiler' for this chapter.

Dr Thiermann noted that the scope of the chapter (Article 7.X.2.) had been revised to include the definition of types of production systems, which were originally described in the following article.

Dr Thiermann noted that in Article 7.X.3., the introductory paragraph had been revised to align it with Chapter 7.9.

Dr Thiermann explained that in Article 7.X.4., outcome-based measurables of individual topics had been revised based on Member Countries' comments. A number of clauses throughout the chapter had been revised to improve clarity and precision.

Finally, Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that all citations would be removed from the document upon adoption of this new chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United States of America raised a problem with point 2.k of Article 7.X.4., which deals with the choice of broiler strain as he considered that the need is to balance genetic selection with good management practice. He proposed that broilers should stem from broad breeding programmes that balance health, welfare and productivity. The Delegate agreed to give a detailed proposal for a text to the OIE International Trade Department.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported adoption of the chapter, but requested that the Code Commission consider comments previously provided by the EU.

Dr Thiermann proposed to delete the double underlined sentence 'For example, broilers selected…procedures' and to take the United States of America proposal into consideration at the Code Commission's September 2013 meeting.

A member of the United Kingdom Delegation considered that the United States of America proposal had merit. She requested that the sentence be retained with the indication 'under study'. Dr Thiermann agreed to put the proposed new sentence 'under study'.

The new Chapter 7.X., amended as described above, was adopted with two abstentions (Costa Rica and Guatemala).

b) Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Chapter 7.1.)

With respect to the existing chapters on animal welfare, Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission decided to focus on reviewing Member Country comments on the amendment proposed at its September 2012 meeting and deferred review of other chapters to its meeting in September 2013 due to time constraints.

Dr Thiermann noted the changes proposed at the September 2012 meeting had been generally supported by Member Countries and only one minor amendment had been made at the February 2013 meeting.

Dr Thiermann presented the new draft text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Norway, on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported adoption of the chapter.

The revised Chapter 7.1. was adopted unanimously.

c) Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (Chapter 7.9.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission amended the text in point 1.b) of Article 7.9.5. to avoid dragging non-ambulatory cattle, following a Member Country's suggestion.

Dr Thiermann explained that, based on a Member Country comment, which was supported by a scientific opinion of the EFSA, a new text had been introduced in point 2.f) of Article 7.9.5. regarding slatted floors.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the text on tethering in point 3.i) of Article 7.9.5. had been amended for clarity and based on Member Countries' suggestions.

Dr Thiermann presented the new draft text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 7.9. was adopted unanimously.

d) Use of animals in research and education (Chapter 7.8.)

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had amended the first paragraph of Article 7.8.10. at its meeting in September 2012 to make reference to the general provisions in Chapters 7.3. and 7.4., and to allow, depending on the situation, the transportation of laboratory animals even if their welfare was compromised.

He noted that a Member Country comment suggesting deletion of these changes had been rejected because, while references to Chapters 7.3. and 7.4. had value, provisions for exemption were justified for specialised uses of laboratory animals.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of France, on behalf of the 53 European Member Countries, supported adoption of the revised chapter. He also commented that this was the first General Session at which the 53 OIE Members Countries in the European region had spoken with a single voice.

The revised Chapter 7.8. was adopted unanimously.

264. **Zoonotic parasites**

a) Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* (Chapter 8.4.)

Dr Thiermann noted that this chapter, together with the draft new chapter on infection with *E. multilocularis* had been circulated for Member Country comments on three occasions.

He explained that, in response to Member Countries' comments, offal had been defined in Article 8.4.1. and 'processed fat' had been added to the list of safe commodities in Article 8.4.2.

In addition, Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had amended the treatment time for animals prior to embarkation in Article 8.4.5. from 'between 48 and 72 hours' to 'between 24 and 72 hours', noting that the newly added point 2 requires precautions to avoid reinfection between treatment and embarkation.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission accepted other Member Country comments, which had significantly improved clarity.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 8.4. was adopted unanimously.

b) Infection with *Echinococcus multilocularis* (new Chapter X.X.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended this chapter with a view to harmonising it with Chapter 8.4. to the extent possible. Such amendments included new Article X.X.1 bis on safe commodities.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter X.X. was adopted unanimously.

c) Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.13.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the revision of this chapter had been made in accordance with the OIE's ongoing collaboration with the CAC. In response to the CAC's request to consider an alternative pathway to achieving a negligible risk compartment, which was less dependent on the on-going verification of farms, the Code Commission had made amendments to Article 8.13.3.

Dr Thiermann also noted that requirements listed in Article 8.13.4. might not be relevant in all situations, hence 'as applicable' had been added. In addition, point 5 of that article was deleted following a Member Country comment.

He noted that the Code Commission had revised point 3 of Article 8.13.5. to provide for countries with already established herd surveillance programmes and current and historical information to demonstrate negligible risk.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, commented on Article 8.13.6., on the importation of meat and meat products, that there is too much emphasis on the creation of compartments and he considered that alternative risk mitigation measures should be given more consideration.

The Delegate of Japan supported adoption of this chapter, but proposed that the enforcement of Article 8.13.6., on the importation of meat or meat products of domestic pigs, be delayed for two years to avoid serious implications for the international trade in pig meat, based on his understanding that no country has yet established a compartment according to this Article.

The Delegate of Chile commented on point 2b of Article 8.13.3., on periodic visits by approved auditors, and recommended that the term 'auditor' be replaced by 'authorised personnel' because the term auditor has a different meaning in Spanish.

The Delegate of the United States of America, on behalf of the Americas, supported adoption of the chapter. However, in light of a recent meeting of the International Commission on Trichinellosis, he suggested a modification to Article 8.13.5. to provide for alternate risk management measures. For herds of controlled risk, surveillance can be an acceptable alternative to auditing.

The Delegate of Australia considered that the chapter was not ready for adoption. First, it should make provision for country/zone free status or negligible risk status. One of the OIE criteria for listing a disease is that at least one country is free, therefore provisions for free countries should be given. He was also concerned about references (in Articles 8.13.6. and 8.13.7.) to Codex provisions that have not yet been finalised.

The Delegate of Brazil supported the comments made by the Delegate of the United States of America and the Delegate of Chile, noting the importance of pig production for his country.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported adoption of the chapter and noted that the CAC supported the adoption of a standard on trichinellosis by the OIE.

Dr Thiermann encouraged Delegates to consider that the definition of compartment in the *Terrestrial Code* Glossary includes a single establishment; therefore, a farm under control with a biosecurity plan could be considered as a compartment for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*. In response to the Delegate of Japan, he agreed that compartments are not yet officially established. However, he indicated that it is unnecessary to request additional time before the enforcement of compartments, as the provisions between importing countries and exporting countries are already undertaken after mutual agreements on the biosecurity of the establishments from which products are being traded. This newly adopted chapter would only improve the recommendations as to how to apply and monitor the biosecurity measures on farms under "controlled management conditions".

In response to the Delegate of Chile, Dr Thiermann agreed that an alternate word to 'auditor' could be used in the Spanish version. He considered that auditing was only one part of the control system and that surveillance was equally important.

In reply to the Delegate of the United States of America, Dr Thiermann said that the text would continue to be modified and improved, especially in light of the collaboration with the CAC.

In reply to the Delegate of Australia, Dr Thiermann pointed out the public health significance of trichinellosis and indicated that most countries have the pathogen at least in wildlife and it will be difficult to describe criteria and to present evidence for country freedom. However, it is feasible to demonstrate *Trichinella* freedom in commercial swine and thereby obtain important safeguards to public health. Dr Thiermann agreed that the *ad hoc* Group would, at its next meeing, consider criteria for country freedom. He saw a need for the OIE to adopt this chapter to support further work by CAC on trichinellosis.

The Delegate of Argentina accepted the explanations of Dr Thiermann and reminded the Assembly of the need to use the term 'infestation' rather than 'infection' in the context of trichinellosis.

The Delegate of Uruguay emphasised the need for coordination between the OIE and the CAC and considered that the adoption of this chapter would pave the way for better collaboration.

The revised Chapter 8.13., modified as described above, was adopted with one abstention (Saudi Arabia).

265. **Infection with rabies virus (Chapter 8.10.)**

Dr Thiermann explained that following joint work on a Global Strategy for Rabies Control in dogs in collaboration with other key partners, draft Article 8.10.1. bis on the control of rabies in dogs had been added. He clarified that the purpose of this article was to encourage

countries with infected dog populations to implement a structured control strategy for eradication of canine rabies. He further clarified that this article had no link to the disease status of a country, but was only intended to assist in the control and eradication of canine rabies.

In conjunction with the proposed new article, the requirement for a stray dog population control programme with reference to Chapter 7.7. was moved from Article 8.10.1. to Article 8.10.2.

With these modifications, Dr Thiermann presented the chapter to the Assembly.

The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) proposed to delete the word 'canine' from the title of Article 8.10.1 bis.

The Delegate of Italy, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the implementation of stray dog control strategies as an adjunct to rabies eradication, but could not support the amendments relating to rabies-free countries, specifically, the addition of Article 8.10.2. point 4 as it does not compensate for the deletion of the final clause of Article 8.10.1. The Delegate was concerned that countries would be obliged to have implemented and maintained for at least two years, a stray dog management programme as a prerequisite for declaring rabies freedom.

The Delegate of Ghana, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the inclusion of the new text as he considered that this would help African countries in their efforts to eradicate rabies. However, he opposed the inclusion of point 4 in Article 8.10.2. as this could restrict the ability of countries to obtain rabies freedom due to the absence of a stray dog management programme. He pointed out, for example, that a country might not have a stray dog problem.

In response to the interventions of Delegates, Dr Thiermann agreed to delete point 4 in Article 8.10.2. and to remove the word 'canine' from the title of Article 8.10.1. bis.

The revised Chapter 8.10., modified as described above, was adopted unanimously.

266. **Infection with rinderpest virus (Chapter 8.12.)**

Dr Thiermann recalled that, at the 80th General Session, the Assembly had adopted Resolution No. 33 'The OIE Role in Maintaining World Freedom from Rinderpest', which recommended that the Code Commission complete the necessary revisions to the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and that these texts be submitted to the Assembly for consideration at the 81st General Session. Dr Thiermann explained that, in line with this resolution, and supported by the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission had decided to present the revised chapter for adoption, despite some Member Countries having expressed concerns about proceeding with adoption without a clearly defined 'international contingency plan'.

Dr Thiermann noted that points 2 and 4 of Article 8.12.5. had been amended with a view to clarifying the required actions step by step in accordance with the correct sequence of events. He also noted that point 5 of the same article had been amended to specify the relevant articles for legal certainty.

In addition, a new point 7 was added to Article 8.12.7. on the basis of a Member Country comment supported by the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann added that in response to a Member Country comment on Article 8.12.9., text had been amended to accommodate Member Countries which host more than one institution holding rinderpest virus-containing material.

Dr Thiermann presented the chapter to the Assembly, adding that, once adopted, this chapter would replace the existing chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Somalia, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported adoption of the modified chapter but proposed a modification to the final sentence in Article 8.12.6., as follows: 'the country or zone should be considered free only after the OIE has accepted the submitted evidence' (instead of the evidence submitted to it). The Delegate noted that this comment only applies to the English version, as the French version is correct.

The FAO representative took the floor to encourage Member Countries to continue to reply to the OIE/FAO Questionnaire that seeks information on the holding of rinderpest virus by each country.

The revised Chapter 8.12. was adopted unanimously.

267. **Review of chapters on bee diseases**

a) Official health control of bee diseases (Chapter 4.14.)

Dr Thiermann reported that, in response to a Member Country comment, reference to 'other Competent Authority' had been added, as appropriate, when the Veterinary Authority was mentioned.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 4.14. was adopted unanimously.

b) Bee disease chapters (9.1. to 9.6. inclusive)

Dr Thiermann noted that, throughout the six bee disease chapters:

- the chapter titles had been modified for consistency;
- a reference to compartments had been deleted based on expert advice;
- a reference to 'other Competent Authority/ies' had been added, as appropriate, when the Veterinary Authority was mentioned; and
- safe commodities had been reviewed based on expert advice and a risk analysis conducted by a Member Country.

c) Infestation of honey bees with *Acarapis woodi* (Chapter 9.1.)

Dr Thiermann explained that in accordance with the revised article on safe commodities, Article 9.1.6. had been deleted.

He noted that the Code Commission, while agreeing with a Member Country's comment that it is difficult to conduct surveillance of wild or feral bees, considered it necessary to maintain this provision for the establishment of pest- or disease-free areas.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.1. was adopted unanimously.

d) Infestation of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae* (Chapter 9.2.)

Dr Thiermann explained that, for the sake of clarity, the Code Commission had agreed to reinstate in Article 9.2.1. the sentence 'However subclinical infections are common and require laboratory diagnosis.'

Dr Thiermann explained that the reason for adding new Article 9.2.9. was because honey products for human consumption would pose a remote risk for free countries. He noted that this reason also applied to Article 9.3.8.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.2. was adopted unanimously.

e) Infestation of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius* (Chapter 9.3.)

Dr Thiermann explained that in accordance with the revision of safe commodities, the Code Commission had reinserted 'eggs' into Article 9.3.6.

Dr Thiermann also mentioned that the requirement for destruction of the pathogen by irradiation had been modified (10 kGy → 15 kGy) in accordance with a Member Country comment. He noted that the scientific literature supporting this change had been given in the report of the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.3. was adopted unanimously.

f) Infestation with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle) (Chapter 9.4.)

Dr Thiermann noted that in accordance with the revision of safe commodities, articles on trade recommendations for various products had been reorganised. He added that the procedures for destruction of *A. tumida* were based on expert's advice and IPPC standards.

Dr Thiermann also mentioned that in response to a Member Country comment, the maximum pore size of filters for honey had been specified in Article 9.4.8. bis.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Brazil recommended that the title of Chapter 9.4. in Spanish be amended to make it consistent with the English version.

Dr Thiermann confirmed that the title of Chapter 9.4. would be modified to read ESCARABAJO DE LAS COLMENAS below the title.

The revised Chapter 9.4., modified as described above, was adopted unanimously.

g) Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp. (Chapter 9.5.)

Dr Thiermann noted that in accordance with the revision of safe commodities, articles on trade recommendations for various products had been reorganised. He added that the procedures for destruction of *Tropilaelaps* spp. were based on expert advice and IPPC standards.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.5. was adopted unanimously.

h) Infestation of honey bees with *Varroa* spp. (Chapter 9.6.)

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to a Member Country comment pointing out the ambiguity in the previous case definition, the Code Commission had endorsed the revision made in Article 9.6.1. by the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on Bee diseases.

Dr Thiermann also noted that in accordance with the revision of safe commodities, articles on trade recommendations for various products had been reorganised. He added that the procedures for destruction of *Varroa* spp. were based on expert advice and IPPC standards,

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.6. was adopted unanimously.

268. **Infection with avian influenza viruses (Chapter 10.4.)**

Dr Thiermann explained that in response to comments from several Member Countries, the Code Commission had reviewed the terminology used in the chapter with the aim of improving clarity with the least change, while retaining the scientific content of the chapter, its focus on poultry and the notification requirement for high pathogenicity influenza A viruses in all birds.

More specifically, he explained that the term 'avian influenza' was redefined and the term 'notifiable avian influenza' was removed. In addition, all previous abbreviations denoting pathogenicity and notifiability of avian influenza had been replaced by the appropriate words.

Dr Thiermann also noted that figures given at the end of the chapter had been amended in accordance with the amendments in the text.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Brazil, on behalf of the 30 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, supported the modification of the chapter but requested a clarification. In modifying the title of the chapter, he sought reassurance that avian influenza continues to be notifiable. This is an important issue for certification and international trade.

The Delegate of Rwanda, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the modification of the chapter as this would help to resolve confusion that existed in the past.

Dr Thiermann confirmed that avian influenza remains a notifiable disease, regardless of the modification to the chapter. He reminded Delegates that the case definition has been clarified in Article 10.4.1. and that Article 10.4.2. clearly establishes that AI is notifiable in the entire territory.

The revised Chapter 10.4. was adopted unanimously.

269. **Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.9.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that point 7 of Article 10.9.1. was aligned with the comparable clause in Chapter 10.4. for consistency with notification obligations.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 10.9. was adopted unanimously.

270. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Chapters 11.5. and 1.6.)**

Dr Thiermann explained that in line with the revised Chapter 2.1. adopted at the 80th General Session, the term 'release' had been replaced by 'entry' in Chapters 11.5. and 1.6.

In addition, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had agreed with the change in surveillance points targets proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and supported by the Scientific Commission relating to countries with small cattle populations.

Dr Thiermann also added that the reference to 'compartments' in Article 1.6.3. had been deleted following advice from the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, commented on Article 11.5.22., regarding the selection of samples.

The Delegate of Chinese Taipei commented that BSE has been brought under control globally, but in recent years there have been over 60 cases of atypical BSE in countries that practise intensive surveillance. Atypical BSE may pose a greater risk to human health than classical BSE. The Delegate looked forward to receiving further advice from the Scientific Commission on atypical BSE.

The Delegate of Brazil, noting concerns about atypical BSE, offered to provide scientific support to future work of the Code Commission on this topic.

The revised Chapters 11.5. and 1.6. were adopted unanimously.

271. **Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (CBPP) (Chapter 11.8.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the title of the chapter had been modified in response to Member Countries' comments and in line with the previously agreed policy to use pathogen names instead of disease names.

Dr Thiermann explained that, based on a suggestion from the OIE International Trade Department, the Code Commission had modified the chapter to clarify the situation regarding compartments for CBPP. He reiterated that the OIE does not provide official recognition for compartments for any OIE-listed disease.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had relocated Article 11.8.16., with modification, and had amended several other articles to reflect the distinction between official OIE recognition of free countries and zones, and national self-declaration of free compartments.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Namibia, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the proposal but asked that the OIE develop an article on official disease control programmes for CBPP, as had been done for FMD.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the adoption of the revised chapter, and the intervention of the Delegate of Namibia.

The President of the OIE noted the need for additional resources to support the OIE activities in the expanded work programme, which would justify raising the level of contributions from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the issue raised by the Delegate of Namibia is already on the work programme of the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission.

The revised Chapter 11.8. was adopted unanimously.

272. **Diseases of horses**

a) Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission supported the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries and endorsed by the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission made further amendments to the text to align it with the established *Terrestrial Code* chapter format and to harmonise the ording with that of other chapters on vector borne diseases.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

A member of the Australian Delegation requested that the proposed deletion of text on seasonally free zones not take effect and that this text be retained until the *ad hoc* Group on harmonisation of chapters on bluetongue, African horse sickness and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) holds its meeting. Australia is concerned that the removal of this text has 'flow on' effects and noted that the draft chapter on EHD already reflects this modification.

The Delegate of Nigeria, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the proposed modifications. He welcomed the deletion of the reference to self declaration and added that the concept of seasonal freedom for African horse sickness and bluetongue is debatable on scientific grounds, including the definition of start and end dates for seasonal freedom.

The Delegate of Italy, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, pointed to an inconsistency between points 2 and 5 of Article 12.1.2. on African horse sickness free country or zone and stated that the EU has already sent written comments to this effect to the OIE. The Delegate explained that this inconsistency has been noted in the context of the questionnaire on annual reconfirmation of African horse sickness status. He recommended that the Code Commission review this aspect and modify the questionnaire accordingly.

Dr Brückner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission, commented that the points raised by Australia and Italy were valid and warranted further discussion. He also considered that recommendations on the distances between vector-free and vector-infected zones need further discussion. Regarding the text on seasonal freedom, Dr Brückner agreed that the proposed deletion of text should be deferred to allow for the *ad hoc* Group to consider the issue at its next meeting (July–August 2013).

Dr Thiermann summarised that the points raised by the Delegates of Italy, Australia and Nigeria would be considered by the *ad hoc* Group on harmonisation. In the meantime, Chapter 12.1. would not be proposed for adoption.

The revised Chapter 12.1. was not proposed for adoption.

b) Infection with equine arteritis virus (Chapter 12.9.)

Dr Thiermann explained that, in response to a Member Country comment, the Code Commission had added a new article on recommendations for importation of embryos based on advice from the IETS.

Dr Thiermann noted that a Member Country's previous comment on Articles 12.9.2. and 12.9.4. with respect to the age at which an animal is subjected to a test for equine virus arteritis had not been accepted by the Scientific Commission, based on expert advice. Dr Thiermann encouraged Delegates to refer to the report of the Scientific Commission for further explanation of this point.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 12.9. was adopted unanimously.

273. **Infection with *Chlamydophila abortus* (Chapter 14.5.)**

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had amended Article 14.5.4. and proposed a new Article 14.5.5. on the importation of embryos based on an import risk assessment conducted by an OIE Member Country, taking into consideration another Member Country's suggestion to add 'prior to collection' as appropriate to specify the timeframe for complying with the requirements.

Dr Thiermann also noted that reference to goats had been added where relevant.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 14.5. was adopted unanimously.

274. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Chapters 14.8. and 1.6.)**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Code Commission had reviewed the revised Chapter 14.8. proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on peste des petits ruminants with a view to including the disease among those for which the OIE provides official recognition of disease status. He explained that the draft revised chapter, however, had been sent back to the *ad hoc* Group for further revision due to the need to clarify epidemiologically important susceptible species, and risk-based trade recommendations for certain products.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended the new revision of Chapter 14.8. and draft questionnaire for Chapter 1.6. to align them with established format for a *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Senegal, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, supported the revision of the chapter.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, did not support adoption unless the comments that had been sent to the OIE were addressed. He stated that the EU had recommended the deletion of the sentence in Article 14.8.1., 'A Member Country should not impose bans…is implemented.' because species other than domestic

small ruminants can be infected with PPR. The presence of infection in other ruminants should be regarded as an indicator of probable occurrence in domestic ruminants and should lead to investigations in domestic sheep and goats.

The Delegate indicated that the EU recommended that point 2 in Article 14.8.2. be deleted, as it is in contradiction with the concept of safe commodities, given that the conduct of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection is a risk mitigating measure. In addition, PPR virus is known to remain infective for many days in chilled meat of infected animals.

The Delegate considered that Articles 14.8.16. to 14.8.18. (inclusive) should be reinstated and 'susceptible animals' replaced by 'domestic sheep and goats' in line with the principles set out in Article 14.8.1. He also recommended that Article 14.8.24. bis be amended in line with the recommendations of an EFSA report, which identifies treatment both with NaCl and phosphate supplemented NaCl at or above 20°C, *inter alia*, for the effective inactivation of PPR virus.

The EU urged the Code Commission to consider the comments previously sent by the EU to the OIE. Finally, the EU wished to acknowledge the increased workload that the official recognition of PPR status represents for the OIE and recommended that no other diseases be considered for official recognition pending due consideration of the OIE's capacity to undertake this additional work.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported the EU position on the deletion of point 2 in Article 14.8.2. until more scientific information is available.

Dr Thiermann agreed to give further consideration to the EU comments at the Commission meeting in September 2013 and proposed to amend the text as follows:

In Article 14.8.1., delete the third last paragraph reading "A Member Country should not impose bans on the trade in domestic sheep and goat *commodities* in response to information on the presence of PPRV in other ruminants, provided that Article 14.8.3. is implemented".

In Article 14.8.2., the deletion of point 2.

Create new Article 14.8.16. as follows:

Recommendation for importation of fresh meat and meat products from sheep and goats

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of *meat* comes from *animals* which:

1) showed no clinical signs of PPR within 24 hours before *slaughter*;

2) have been slaughtered in an approved *abattoir* and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results.

The revised Chapter 14.8. modified as described above, and Chapter 1.6. were adopted unanimously.

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE (contd)

275. The President informed the Assembly that the international organisation which was unable to make its presentation during the second plenary session was invited to address the Assembly during this plenary session.

International Dairy Federation

276. Dr Nico van Belzen, Director General IDF, provided a brief summary of the Federation, explaining that it represents the global dairy sector and ensures that the best scientific expertise is used to support high quality milk and nutritious, safe and sustainable dairy products.

277. Founded in 1903, IDF is a non-profit private sector organisation, which oversees over 75% of milk production throughout the world. Among its employees, Dr van Belzen highlighted that IDF worked with more than 1200 experts and that it had 18 standing committees and task forces working to support the activities of IDF. He announced that, in 2002, IDF was the first private agri-food sector organisation to formally collaborate with the OIE.

278. He informed the Assembly that IDF had identified animal health and welfare as key for sustainable milk production, considering that animal diseases, zoonoses and vector-borne infectious diseases have a high economic and consumer impact. Furthermore, there are increasing consumer expectations regarding animal welfare.

279. For its Standing Committee on Animal Welfare, IDF counts the participation of 79 experts from 28 IDF Member Countries, in addition to the FAO and the OIE.

280. IDF provides many of its publications in various languages in order to improve accessibility to its documents. The diverse range of publications encompasses different spectrums of the dairy sector. He drew attention to the fact that the IDF Bulletin focused on topical issues, such as: the Effects of Foot-and-Mouth Disease on the Dairy Industry; Suggested Interpretation of Mastitis Terminology; and, Towards a Reference System for Somatic Cell Counting in Milk.

281. The subject of antimicrobial resistance was additionally addressed, notably the prudent use of antibiotics as a vital component in disease control and assuring milk quality in most successful dairy management schemes. He pointed out that studies had illustrated that after four decades of antimicrobial drug use in dairy cows, there is no apparent progression of antimicrobial resistance in mastitis. On behalf of IDF, Dr van Belzen vowed that the Federation would continue to monitor and report new research results, and would put forward appropriate and coordinated responses should an emergence of antimicrobial resistance among mastitis pathogens be confirmed.

282. He announced that the animal health and welfare priorities of IDF for the period 2013–2014 were to monitor and provide inputs to the OIE animal welfare studies regarding dairy cattle, as well as those of ISO concerning animal welfare standards. Moreover, the IDF Guide to Good Animal Health in the Dairy Sector, in collaboration with the OIE, and guidelines for the use and interpretation of bovine somatic cell counts in the dairy industry, would be developed. He stated that IDF would also continue to monitor and report dairy animal health issues in its Member Countries.

283. In efforts to share global dairy expertis, information was provided on the IDF World Dairy Summit in 2013 on the theme of Rediscovering Milk. The Summit will take place on 28 October until 1 November 2013 in Yokohama, Japan. During this event, he announced that there would be specific sessions on animal health and animal welfare with keynote speakers from the OIE.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

284. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 12 to 14 September 2012 and from 20 to 22 February 2013, were presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Commission (Docs 81 SG/12/CS2 A and B). He thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Chen Hualan, Vice-President, Dr Rodolfo Rivero, Vice-President, Dr Beverly Schmitt, Dr Paul Townsend and Dr Peter Daniels. He expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participant, Prof. Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, have been unstinting in their support.

285. **OIE Reference Centres**

The Commission recommended acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Centre status:

– *Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines:* African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, ETHIOPIA.

– *Swine streptococcosis:* Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), Branch of Swine Streptococcosis Diagnostic Laboratory (BSSDL), Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF).

– *Ovine theileriosis:* Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Vector and Vector-borne Diseases Control Laboratory (VVBDC), Lanzhou, Gansu Province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF).

– *Q fever:* Anses (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail), Laboratoire de Sophia-Antipolis, Unité de Pathologie des Ruminants, Sophia-Antipolis, FRANCE.

– *Cell Cultures:* Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER), Brescia, ITALY.

– *Foot and mouth disease:* Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER), Brescia, ITALY.

– *Japanese encephalitis:* Rabies Research Laboratory, Division of Viral Disease, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (QIA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Gyeonggi-do, KOREA (REP. OF).

– *Swine influenza:* Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, Weybridge, UNITED KINGDOM.

At its September meeting, the Commission observed that nominations for replacement experts at OIE Reference Laboratories were most often received from the Head of the Institute housing the laboratory. Given that the designated expert is a key element in the approval of an OIE Reference Laboratory application, the Commission asked the Council if the Delegate, who is responsible for submitting the initial application, should not also be

responsible for notifying all changes at the Reference Laboratory, including proposals for changes of experts. In follow up, Prof. Caporale reported that the OIE was in the process of both formalising the role of the OIE Delegate in the procedure to replace experts at OIE Reference Laboratories and streamlining the procedure itself. Under the proposed procedure, nominations that had been endorsed by the Commission would receive final approval by the Council at one of its three annual meetings. New experts could be approved and the on-line list of OIE Reference Laboratories updated after each Council meeting rather than waiting for approval at the General Session in May of each year. A Resolution on the process is proposed by the Council for adoption.

A number of Delegates had notified changes in the designated expert at OIE Reference Laboratories in their countries. In each case the Commission reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names of the seventeen new experts were presented by Prof. Caporale to the Assembly for adoption by Resolution.

Over 30 OIE laboratory twinning projects were underway and eight had been completed. Demand and interest in OIE Laboratory Twinning remained high, with at least 10 applications in the pipeline.

Annual reports were received from 189 out of 193 Reference Laboratories and from all 39 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. A new annual report template had been used by the Reference Laboratories for the first time. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission (p. 5). All annual reports would shortly be made available on line.

Finally, Prof. Caparole informed the Assembly that the third International Conference of the OIE Reference Centres would be held in Seoul, Korea (Rep. of) from 14 to 16 October 2014, but that funding was still being sought. The agenda for the Conference would be finalised at the next meeting of the Commission in September 2013.

286. **Past *ad hoc* Group meetings**

Prof. Caporale summarised the outcomes of the following *ad hoc* Groups. Details are found in the Reports of the Commission and their annexes.

a) *ad hoc* Group on Vaccine Quality related to Rabies (see page 3 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 A; the updated vaccine section of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on rabies was circulated for Member Country comment and is one of the texts proposed for adoption by Resolution).

b) *ad hoc* Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories (see Annex 3 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 A).

c) *ad hoc* Group on Validation of Diagnostic Assays (see Annex 4 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 A).

d) *ad hoc* Group on Vaccine Quality related to Classical Swine Fever (see Annex 6 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 B).

e) *ad hoc* Group on Rift Valley Fever (see Annex 3 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 B).

f) *ad hoc* Brainstorming Group on New Approaches to Diagnosis: Applied Genomics (see Annex 4 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 B).

g) *ad hoc* Group on Validation of Diagnostic Tests for Wildlife (see Annex 5 of Doc. 81 SG/12/CS2 B).

287. **Proposed *ad hoc* Groups**

Following receipt of a large volume of Member Country comments on the proposed *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on managing biorisk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities, it was agreed that the *ad hoc* Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories should be reconvened. Prof. Caporale reported to the Assembly that the Commission had identified the following topics that could be addressed by *ad hoc* Groups:

a) High throughput sequencing and bioinformatics and computational genomics (HTS-BCG).

b) Shortening the vaccine registration process when simply updating and incorporating relevant strains in equine influenza vaccines.

288. **International standardisation/harmonisation**

a) Diagnostic tests

Prof. Caporale reminded the Assembly of the decision to include a table in the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* that lists the diagnostic methods available for the disease in question alongside the purpose for which the assay has been validated. Each chapter that has been updated since this proposal was approved has included such a table; the first of these chapters will be proposed for adoption at this General Session. Prof. Caporale stated that given that the table better reflects testing purposes and practices, it should gradually replace the current list of prescribed and alternative tests that can be found in both the *Terrestrial Manual* and the *Terrestrial Code*.

Following consultations with an expert on test validation and with the OIE expert and author of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on Bovine genital campylobacteriosis, the Commission agreed that a monoclonal antibody-based antigen capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for detection of *Campylobacter fetus* in preputial washings and other diagnostic samples should be included in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The developers were asked to provide the OIE expert with a step-wise protocol in the *Terrestrial Manual* style, for inclusion in the chapter in the next revision cycle.

A query from a Member Country regarding the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for contagious equine metritis (CEM) had been referred to the OIE experts for advice. The experts felt that the PCR could be included, in due course, in the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter as a suitable test for animal movement but they were uncertain if there were currently sufficient validation data.

b) OIE Procedure for Registration of Diagnostic Kits

Prof. Caporale reminded the Assembly that according to the OIE procedure, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. Prof. Caporale reported that the diagnostic kits 'BioChek Avian Influenza Antibody test kit' and 'Prionics AG – Check Western' required renewal, and in accordance with the procedure, the appropriate OIE experts had been consulted and recommended that their registration be renewed. The Commission agreed with this recommendation. A third kit, which would soon be reaching the end of the 5-year term, was still under evaluation.

Prof. Caporale proposed that registration of the diagnostic kits 'BioChek Avian Influenza Antibody test kit' and 'Prionics AG – Check Western' be renewed.

289. **OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)**

In accordance with the approved procedure for updating the *Terrestrial Manual*, a meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and Selected Experts ('Enlarged Bureau Group' [EBG]) had been held prior to each Commission meeting, and the Commission reviewed the recommendations of these EBG meetings. In March 2013, 21 chapters that had been reviewed by the EBG and approved by the Commission for circulation to Member Countries were made available online for consultation as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption.

Prof. Caporale presented these revised chapters to the Assembly for adoption. If adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE web site.

290. **Liaison with other Commissions**

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission.

291. **Update on OFFLU**

OFFLU – the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza – held two Executive Committee meetings to review and coordinate the progress of ten technical activities. One of the technical activities run at Friedrich-Loeffler Institute, Germany (OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza) achieved its objective by developing a universally usable RNA for H5 avian influenza virus targeted PCR assays. In September 2012, the WHO Meeting on Vaccine Composition in the Northern Hemisphere was held in Beijing (China [People's Rep. of]); the OFFLU network contributed 118 H5 sequences and 17 H9 sequences to help WHO in pandemic preparedness. OFFLU swine influenza virus group paper on "Review of influenza A virus in swine worldwide" was accepted for publication in the journal *Zoonoses and Public Health*. An editorial highlighting the OFFLU research agenda was due for publication in the journal *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*. OFFLU developed a *modus operandi* document detailing the Terms of Reference for the various committees and different positions within its structure. The OFFLU Annual Newsletter for 2012 compiling the achievements for the year had been prepared.

292. **OIE Seminar on New Approaches to Diagnosis: Applied Genomics, 7 June 2013, Berlin, Germany**

Prof. Caporale reminded the Assembly that a 1-day OIE Symposium would be held on 7 June 2013 during the WAVLD[36] Symposium. The theme of the Seminar was: New Approaches to Diagnosis: Applied Genomics. The Commission had finalised the programme and the list of speakers.

293. **Work plan and activities (as of February 2013)**

The Commission felt that the service it provides to the OIE could be extended beyond reviewing Reference Centre applications and updating the *Terrestrial Manual*. Following discussion, the Commission identified three areas on which it proposed to focus:

a) Evaluating the mandated activities of the OIE Reference Laboratories.

b) Laboratory PVS.

c) Coordinating the interactions between the Focal Points for Laboratories and the OIE Reference Laboratories.

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36 WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

Details are found in the Report of the February 2013 meeting of the Commission. The Commission emphasised its willingness to support the work of the OIE in these three areas, and in any other area identified by the OIE Headquarters.

294. The President of the OIE thanked Prof. Caporale for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor to discussion.

295. The Delegate of Chile thanked Prof. Caporale for his excellent presentation. He requested that the chapters that would be presented for adoption by resolution be made available before the General Session to give the Member Countries enough time to provide comments.

296. The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, congratulated the Commission for its essential work and, in particular, its continued efforts to modernise and update the *Terrestrial Manual*. The EU wished to continue its participation in the Enlarged Bureau Group and those *ad hoc* Groups that are convened under the auspices of the Biological Standards Commission. The EU thanked the Commission for taking account of its comments on the proposed *Terrestrial Manual* chapters and supported their adoption. The EU noted that certain disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* contain a case definition, e.g. the current chapter on Newcastle disease and the proposed chapter on dourine. The EU was in agreement with the Code Commission that case definitions should rather be included in the *Terrestrial Code*, whereas the *Terrestrial Manual* should contain references to the case definition in the *Terrestrial Code*, when necessary, to avoid inconsistencies between the two OIE publications that might lead to trade difficulties. The EU was of the opinion that a case definition for dourine should be developed for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. The EU invited the Commission to specifically review the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters on American foulbrood of honey bees and Varroosis of honey bees, taking into account the recent revision of the corresponding chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. Finally, with regard to the future of prescribed and alternative tests, the EU strongly suggested that the Commission collaborate closely with the Code Commission so as to agree on a coordinated approach for both OIE Standards.

297. The Delegate of Zimbabwe stated that there did not appear to be simple standardised tests to facilitate assessment of imported marine-derived materials for animal feeds with regard to ciguatera toxins and asked if the Commission could provide assistance. She stated that there is a need to address adulteration of meat from species that are not traditionally in the food system and asked if the sequencing technology identified by Prof. Caporale as a future area of activity for the Commission could be used for this purpose.

298. Prof. Caporale, President of the Biological Standards Commission, agreed with the Delegate of Chile that ample time should be given to Member Countries to provide comments on texts that would be presented for adoption. He pointed out that the Commission had recently reviewed the procedure such that Member Countries now receive the texts, a second time, 60 days before the General Session to make comments. In response to the EU's comment on case definitions, he said that the Biological Standards Commission was already working with the Scientific and Code Commissions and that this collaboration would continue. Case definitions are essential for disease diagnosis and surveillance. Regarding the two chapters on diseases of honey bees, Prof. Caporale assured the EU that they had already been identified for update. For the question of prescribed and alternative tests, he was of the opinion that it would be better to use the concept of a test that is fit for purpose, including for international trade, as this is a scientifically sound approach. In reply to the Delegate of Zimbabwe, Prof. Caporale stated that meat adulteration was a day-to-day problem that the OIE should address.

299. The President of the OIE gave the floor to Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE. Dr Vallat commented that the OIE would organise an evaluation of the twinning programme when the time was right to review and improve the OIE policy in this area in collaboration with the Commission. He went on to state that the selection criteria for twinning projects were not only scientifically based but also took into account other geostrategic priorities (regional or global coverage). On a different matter, Dr Vallat stated that the future *ad hoc* Group on equine influenza vaccines was a priority for the OIE. On the subject of OIE Reference Laboratory quality management systems, Dr Vallat supported the position of the Biological Standards Commission's and its President and was of the opinion that the Commission should propose for delisting those Reference Laboratories that did not maintain a quality system. He also supported the involvement of the Biological Standards Commission in the training of the OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories and in the laboratory component of the PVS Pathway. In response to the Delegate of Chile, Dr Vallat assured the Assembly that all texts that would be proposed for adoption are sent to Member Countries at least 60 days before the General Session; in the event of accidental non-reception of texts, Delegates are invited to contact the OIE Headquarters. In response to the EU, Dr Vallat supported the development of case definitions in all chapters of the *Terrestrial Code,* which was already underway. Dr Vallat stated that he would ensure that the Specialist Commissions continue to work in collaboration. Finally, in response to the Delegate of Zimbabwe, Dr Vallat mentioned that toxicity of animal products used in feed was addressed by the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group, which works in collaboration with Codex Alimentarius. He added that while to date, this Group has focused on pathogens, it could consider the issue raised if requested by the Member Countries.

300. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Terrestrial Animal Diseases

301. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 24. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Adoption of the new or revised texts for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

302. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 25. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE

303. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 26. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

THURSDAY 30 MAY 2013

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Report on Animal Health Status Worldwide in 2012 and the beginning of 2013

(Doc. 81 SG/2)

304. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, summarized the animal health status worldwide in 2012 and early 2013. He commented that the OIE Council had suggested to change, starting from this year, the content of the report by presenting important diseases in the form of trends instead of a detailed description of exceptional disease events, and also to present the actions undertaken by the OIE to improve transparency and to ease disease notification by Countries as well as the evaluation of their reporting. He also highlighted that starting from this year the detailed report on wildlife diseases worldwide would not be presented anymore, since the information collected would be publically available in the near future on the OIE website through WAHIS-*Wild* Interface.

Dr Ben Jebara indicated that he would start by presenting the new set of functionalities implemented in the second version of WAHIS. He would then present a number of analyses performed to evaluate the transparency and timeliness of reporting by Member Countries, with a presentation of trends in animal disease reporting by OIE Region between 2005 and 2012 for both immediate notifications and six-monthly reports, and an analysis of submission times of six-monthly reports by region and for the entire world. Finally, he would review the disease situation regarding a certain number of selected animal diseases, including the low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N9 recent event in China (People's Rep. of) [stating that this part was not included in the report on the animal health situation and was added recently because of the international concern caused by avian influenza A (H7N9) in humans in China (People's Rep. of)], foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), rabies, Schmallenberg virus and white spot disease.

305. **New functions added to the second version of WAHIS**

Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that the second version of WAHIS was launched in August 2012, six years after the initial implementation of WAHIS. He presented the new set of functionalities incorporated in the second version of WAHIS, including the total separation between the six-monthly report for terrestrial animals and the one for aquatic animal diseases, so that whichever report was completed first could be submitted immediately without having to wait for the other one; a better identification of affected wildlife species (taxonomic family and Latin names); the possibility for countries to report on a monthly basis on selected diseases present during an on-going six-month period and finalise the rest of the requested data at the end of the six-month period; the possibility to upload information on disease outbreaks extracted from national databases, for the purpose of follow-up reports and six-monthly reports (countries using this new functionality would substantially reduce the time taken to enter data into the system); control, prophylaxis and prevention measures that were now predefined for each disease according to its epidemiology, to reduce the risk of errors; the inclusion of a newly developed section to notify the Annual Wildlife Report, which replaced the annual Excel questionnaire used to collect data from 1993 onwards, and a fully-fledged application allowing voluntary notification of specific wildlife diseases; information on OIE-listed diseases in wildlife species already entered in the six-monthly reports was now automatically transferred into the draft Annual Wildlife Report (this avoided the need for data entry on a massive scale).

Dr Ben Jebara indicated that data received on non-OIE-listed diseases in wild animals in the questionnaire returns since 2008 were processed in WAHIS and would be displayed through the *WAHIS-Wild* interface, a newly developed interface due to be launched in July 2013. He pointed out that the collected data was mainly to serve as an early warning for human health and production animal health and to monitor the animal health of wild animals for selected diseases and non-infectious diseases, this being relevant for monitoring biodiversity.

306. **Transparency and timeliness of reporting**

Dr Ben Jebara presented evaluations of the transparency and timeliness of reporting, in order to assess the evolution of the reporting since the launch of WAHIS, 8 years ago.

Dr Ben Jebara indicated that whenever an important epidemiological event occurred in a Member Country, the Member Country had to inform the OIE by sending an immediate notification. He pointed that more than 1 300 exceptional epidemiological events involving 101 diseases were notified to the OIE between 2005 and 2012. He indicated that he would present the animal diseases most frequently reported through immediate notifications to the OIE between 2005 and 2012.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the main reported diseases by OIE Region for the period 2005 to 2012, and the corresponding number of notifications. He stressed that FMD and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were among the diseases most often reported through immediate notifications and were frequently reported in almost all OIE regions: Africa, Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the Americas and the Middle East for FMD and Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East for HPAI.

Dr Ben Jebara stated that the other most frequently reported diseases were bluetongue in Africa, Europe and the Middle East; Newcastle disease in the Americas, Europe and the Middle East; and LPAI in the Americas, Europe and Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Lastly, Dr Ben Jebara indicated that some diseases were reported quite often in one region only, such as: African swine fever (ASF) and Rift Valley fever in Africa; classical swine fever and vesicular stomatitis in the Americas; porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome and pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) in Asia, the Far East and Oceania; anthrax in Europe; glanders in the Middle East.

Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that six-monthly reports provided information on the presence and/or absence of OIE-listed diseases and the prevention and control measures applied. He commented that in 2012, the OIE list comprised 91 terrestrial animal diseases and 26 aquatic animal diseases. He stated that countries were requested to provide information for as many OIE-listed diseases as possible, but some countries might not have had the resources to assess the situation for all of them. He indicated that he would present the animal diseases for which information had been reported to the OIE by the highest and the lowest number of countries through six-monthly reports, between 2005 and 2011.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the distribution of the number of countries providing information on OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases, by semester, between 2005 and 2011. It illustrated the exhaustiveness of the information collected on these diseases. He highlighted that the general trend was for an increase in the number of countries providing information. Thus, in 2010, information on some key diseases was provided by 180 reporting countries, which was more than the number of OIE Member Countries. This

demonstrated that the OIE was collecting information on these diseases in a quasi-exhaustive manner. In the same year, no fewer than 120 reporting countries provided information on every OIE-listed terrestrial animal disease, which could be considered as an encouraging result.

Finally, Dr Ben Jebara highlighted that the leading diseases on which information was reported remained largely unchanged during the years, these diseases being mainly anthrax, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, FMD, HPAI, new world screwworm, Newcastle disease, PPR, rabies and rinderpest. The diseases on which fewer countries provided information were mainly bee diseases (about 125 countries in 2011), leishmaniosis (132 countries in 2011), trichomonosis (124 countries in 2011) and turkey rhinotracheitis (114 countries in 2011). He added that additional surveillance efforts should be undertaken to generate more information on these diseases, which should then be reported to the OIE, thereby improving knowledge of the situation for each of these diseases.

Then Dr Ben Jebara presented the distribution of the number of countries providing information on OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases by semester, between 2005 and 2011. As for terrestrial animal diseases, the general trend was for an increase in the number of countries providing information. In 2010, information on some key diseases was provided by about 115 reporting countries, representing an equivalent to 65% of the number of OIE Member Countries.

Dr Ben Jebara mentioned that in 2010 no less than 80 reporting countries provided information for every aquatic OIE-listed disease (an equivalent to 45% of the number of OIE Member Countries). He stressed that countries should pursue their efforts to be able to provide information on aquatic animal diseases in a more exhaustive manner.

Finally, Dr Ben Jebara highlighted that the leading aquatic animal diseases on which information was reported remained largely unchanged during the years, consisting mainly of diseases such as epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, epizootic ulcerative syndrome, infectious haematopoietic necrosis, infectious salmon anaemia, spring viraemia of carp and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia. Information on a crustacean disease, namely white spot disease, was also extensively provided.

Dr Ben Jebara mentioned that the diseases on which fewer countries provided information were mainly crustacean and mollusc diseases, such as infection with abalone herpes-like virus, infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*, infectious myonecrosis and white tail disease. Information on amphibian diseases, infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and infection with ranavirus, which were included on the OIE list in 2009, was only provided by a small number of countries.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the OIE-listed diseases with the highest number of countries providing information (priority diseases or exotic diseases for which preventive measures were implemented).

Dr Ben Jebara stated that for some diseases, a large number of reporting countries provided information in almost all the OIE Regions. These diseases were mainly FMD, rabies and HPAI among OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases and epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, spring viraemia of carp, and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia among OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases. Other diseases were more specific to certain regions, such as infection with *Marteilia refringens* and red sea bream iridoviral disease for Africa, heartwater, lumpy skin disease (exotic disease) and yellow head disease for the Americas, brucellosis due to *Brucella abortus* and Koi herpesvirus disease for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and ASF and bovine tuberculosis for Europe.

Dr Ben Jebara then commented that a similar situation was observed with the OIE-listed diseases with the lowest number of countries providing information (diseases for which surveillance could be strengthened). Some diseases were common to all OIE Regions, such as small hive beetle infestation and turkey rhinotracheitis, whereas others were more specific to certain regions, such as fowl cholera, leishmaniosis and ovine epididymitis (*B. ovis*) for the Americas, varroosis of honey bees for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and avian infectious laryngotracheitis and bronchitis, bovine viral diarrhoea, enzootic abortion (chlamydiosis), equine influenza and salmonellosis (*S. abortusovis*) for Europe.

Dr Ben Jebara added that for OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases, almost all diseases with the lowest number of countries providing information were diseases of molluscs and crustaceans.

307. **Analysis of submission times of six-monthly reports for 2005 to 2011 by region and for the entire world**

Dr Ben Jebara presented an analysis of the fastness of countries in submitting their animal health data to the OIE. It could be evaluated by analysing the time taken to submit their six-monthly reports to the OIE.

Dr Ben Jebara stated that overall there was an improvement in submission times at the global level. He highlighted that all regions followed the general trend, with submission times coming closer to the maximum time period recommended by the OIE for submitting the six-monthly reports, namely 30 days after the end of the semester. He added that in 2006, year of the launch of WAHIS, the median submission time of countries sending the six-monthly report was around 9 months for the first semester and around 4 and a half months for the second semester.

Dr Ben Jebara commented that in 2007, submission times dropped sharply in all regions. This fall might have been a reflection of the adaptation period in 2006 when Member Countries were familiarising themselves with using WAHIS. Between 2008 and 2011, both medians and dispersions were more stable.

In 2011, the global median was 84 days for the first semester and 79 days for the second semester, respectively about a third and a half of the times observed for the equivalent semesters in 2006. The median submission time of countries in Europe was shorter (i.e. a better result) than the global median, while the median submission time of countries in the Americas was longer. Median submission times of countries in Africa, Asia, the Far East and Oceania and the Middle East were comparable to the global median.

Dr Ben Jebara concluded by stating that countries with large territories and a high level of livestock production might have difficulty in meeting the OIE's objectives for the submission time of six-monthly reports, but he added that making the information available as soon as possible minimised the time needed for the OIE to make the information available to countries' trade partners. In some countries, local provinces had the autonomy to organise the collection of some animal health data. The OIE encouraged these countries to raise awareness among regional and local Veterinary Services of the importance of shortening data collection processes. Some countries also experienced difficulties resulting from political instability.

Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that the OIE was aware that collection and centralisation of surveillance data from the field to hierarchical administrative levels may have taken some time in certain countries and that the target of 30 days was not always suitable for all situations, though it was clearly achievable for a number of countries. He stressed that, since 2006, the OIE had always received a number of reports within the recommended submission deadline. To ensure that it could provide regularly updated information, the OIE constantly assisted its Member Countries and encouraged them to submit their reports in a timely fashion.

Then, in the second main part of his presentation, Dr Ben Jebara reviewed the disease situation regarding a number of selected animal diseases.

SELECTED OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL DISEASES

308. **Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) due to strain H7N9 in poultry in China**

Dr Ben Jebara started with the presentation of the situation regarding low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) due to strain H7N9 in poultry in China (People's Rep. of).

On 31 March 2013, the Chinese Public Health Authorities notified the World Health Organization (WHO) of three laboratory confirmed cases of human infection with an influenza A (H7N9) virus not previously reported in humans. As of 29 May 2013, a total of 132 confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus had been reported to WHO by the China National Health and Family Planning Commission and one case by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) of Chinese Taipei. Most of the cases were observed in middle-aged and older men, but have been also reported in women, young men and occasionally in children. Thirty-six people had died.

Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that human cases had been detected in 10 provinces, namely Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Beijing, Henan, Shandong, Jiangxi, Fujian and Hunan.

Just after the first identification of human cases, the Ministry of Agriculture of China (MOAC) immediately issued an emergency notice to all provinces instructing them to investigate the situation in animals, and to try to identify the source of the virus isolated in the affected human cases and the route of transmission, which had still not been elucidated.

On 3 April, the MOAC deployed expert working teams to support local Veterinary Services conducting H7N9 avian influenza surveillance in affected zones. Sampling surveillance mainly targeted live animal and poultry markets, intensive production farms as well as backyard farms.

Dr Ben Jebara commented that the occurrence of LPAI virus strain H7N9 in birds was notified to the OIE by the Chinese Veterinary Services on 4 April 2013. He pointed out that at that moment there was no evidence of real sustained human-to-human transmission. There was a genetic similarity between the virus that affected humans and the virus detected in birds. The source and potential reservoirs of human infection with influenza A (H7N9) virus were still under investigation. The OIE expert mission to China (People's Rep. of) revealed that wholesale live bird markets seemed to play an important role in virus amplification and that the source of infection in poultry was most likely to be asymptomatic subclinically infected birds that have contaminated the environment in the markets.

Dr Ben Jebara informed the Assembly on requirements on OIE Member Countries notifying LPAI to the OIE. He commented that under the terms of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* 2012 (Article 10.4.1.), LPAI viruses of H5 and H7 subtypes identified in poultry were notifiable to the OIE and that LPAI due to virus strain H7N9 should therefore continue to be notified to the OIE when it occurs in poultry. He added that any occurrence of avian influenza due to virus strain H7N9 in animal species other than poultry (i.e. wild birds, swine, etc.) should, in view of its proven zoonotic impact, be notified to the OIE as an emerging disease (new pathogen) as per chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the situation in animals as per the notifications of the disease in birds. He presented the maps with the location of outbreaks/cases of infection according to the date of the report submitted to the OIE since the start of the event. He reported that China (People's Rep. of) notified the OIE of the detection of a new strain of LPAI virus (H7N9) in poultry, on 4 April 2013. Samples were taken from birds in a live bird market, in Shanghai following the appearance of human cases of influenza A (H7N9) in the area. Seven chickens and a pigeon were found to be positive following laboratory tests undertaken in Harbin Veterinary Research Institute. The animals did not present any clinical sign. Control measures were subsequently implemented, in particular stamping out (more than 20 000 animals in the affected market were culled), disinfection and movement control inside the country. The next day, an additional five positive result from samples taken in nearby live bird markets in Shanghai was reported. Similar control measures were applied.

Dr Ben Jebara stated that positive laboratory results continued to be reported. On 10 April 2013, positive animals were found in three new surrounding Provinces of Shanghai, namely Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. On 16 April 2013, more animals, from live bird markets in Zhejiang, were reported to have tested positive. Also, for the first time during this event, a wild bird was also reported to be positive, in Jiangsu; the affected bird was a wild pigeon found dead by a resident who sent it to the Local Animal Disease Control Centre. On 22 April 2013, one positive pigeon for consumption was found in a farm in Jiangsu, and all 340 birds in the farm were culled. On 24 April 2013, another Province was reported affected, with cases were reported in a live bird market for the first time in Henan. On 26 April 2013, another positive animal, namely a chicken, was reported in Zhejiang. On 5 May 2013, animal cases were reported in three more Provinces, including Shandong and two more southern Provinces, Guangdong and Jiangxi. On 9 May 2013, an additional outbreak was reported in Fujian, another contiguous Province. On 21 May 2013, 47 days after the start of the event, an outbreak was reported in another live bird market in Guangdong. It brought the number of outbreaks to 21 in nine Provinces from eastern China (People's Rep. of), with a total of 26 animals having tested positive.

Dr Ben Jebara informed that further investigations were on-going.

309. **Foot and mouth disease**

Dr Ben Jebara presented the main trends regarding the foot and mouth disease (FMD) worldwide situation. He presented a map showing the FMD distribution, with the countries and zones affected in 2012 and early 2013. He stated that the border between Sudan and South Sudan appearing on the map, as well as on the following maps, had not yet been officially validated by these two countries.

Dr Ben Jebara recalled that there were seven known immunologically distinct serotypes of FMD virus, and presented their recent geographical distribution around the world, as reported to the OIE in 2012 and early 2013. He said that serotypes A, O, SAT 1 and SAT 2 were reported present in Africa. Serotypes A, O and SAT 2 were reported present in Asia, while only serotype O was reported present in the Americas.

In Africa, 26 countries/territories reported the presence of FMD during this period. According to the exceptional epidemiological events reported between January 2012 and April 2013, Botswana, Libya, South Africa and Zambia notified the reoccurrence of FMD. In 2012, Egypt notified serotype SAT 2 as a new FMD strain.

In Asia, 30 countries/territories reported the presence of FMD during this period. According to the exceptional epidemiological events reported between January 2012 and April 2013, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Israel and Russia notified the reoccurrence of

FMD. In 2012, Chinese Taipei notified serotype O, Palestinian Autonomous Territories notified serotype SAT 2 and Kazakhstan notified serotype A as new FMD strains. In early 2013, China (People's Rep. of) and Russia notified serotype A as a new FMD strain.

Finally, in the Americas, Paraguay had reported the reoccurrence of FMD on 3 January 2012. The event had been declared closed on 9 January 2012. However, at that moment, no six-monthly reports for 2012 had been submitted by Venezuela, thus enabling to confirm or invalidate the absence of FMD in the region since the last occurrence of the disease in Paraguay in January 2012.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the percentage of reporting countries that were affected by FMD in each semester between 2005 and mid-2012. He stressed that the overall trend during this eight-year period was an increase in the percentage, rising from 27% in 2005 to 32% in 2012.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the FMD situations of countries/territories between 2005 and 2012, by OIE Region. It could be noted that few reports were missing in all regions, every year, generating a lack of information for these countries. Also, for certain countries and years (especially in Africa and Asia), no information regarding FMD was provided in the six-monthly reports. This might have been due to a lack of diagnostic resources, even though in these regions clinical diagnosis could be sufficient to identify the disease and report it.

Some countries reported FMD suspected across the years (especially in Africa and Asia), but without being able to confirm the presence of the disease.

Some countries in Africa and in Asia reported FMD as present, but without identifying the corresponding serotype(s).

Dr Ben Jebara informed that other countries reported the disease present, and provided information on the serotype. He explained that identification of serotypes was very important since it was helpful for ascertaining the source of the virus and its distribution, vaccine matching, if vaccination was foreseen to combat the disease, etc. He highlighted that the number of countries being able to identify the serotype of the disease increased progressively in Africa and in Asia. In the Americas and in Europe, the nature of the serotypes involved was always provided. Finally, he indicated that the disease has been reported absent by a certain number of countries in all regions.

Dr Ben Jebara commented that the quality of the information provided by countries/territories had consistently improved across the years, with an observed increase in reporting the nature of the incriminated serotype(s). This was mainly due to an improvement in the diagnostic resources now available to countries/territories and increased collaboration between laboratories within and between regions.

Dr Ben Jebara concluded by stating that the presented analysis showed the importance of having good quality data from affected countries. He commented that monitoring worldwide FMD situation aimed at helping countries and zones currently free from the disease from any reintroduction and at having enough data to better design control strategies to combat the disease in countries where its presence was sporadic or endemic. He stressed that the information provided on FMD serotypes contributed to the epidemiological knowledge of the disease, helping to identify the source and the linkages between the different events and situations, particularly within regions. Yet another goal was to gradually increase the number of free countries/zones worldwide by implementing new control programmes that could be officially recognized by the OIE and strengthening existing control programmes where the disease was sporadic or even endemic with a view to its progressive control. Dr Ben Jebara recalled that these programmes would depend on the resources of each country and the impact of livestock on its economy and that however, it was necessary to find ways to engage all countries, since all countries should contribute to the worldwide effort to combat FMD.

310. **Peste des petits ruminants**

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the situation regarding peste des petits ruminants (PPR). He explained that PPR was an acute contagious disease, mainly affecting sheep and goats. In its acute form, PPR could cause herd mortality of between 80% and 100%.

Dr Ben Jebara presented a map summarising the evolution of PPR in Africa, the Middle East and Asia between 2005 and early 2013 with the number of years of presence of the disease.

Dr Ben Jebara recalled that PPR was described for the first time in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942 and was long considered to be confined to West Africa, but was later described throughout Africa, as well as in the Middle East and some parts of Asia. He added that recent field and laboratory data showed that PPR was spreading, with recent incursions reported in the Tibet region of China (People's Rep. of) and in Bhutan, and that it was moving fast towards Southern and Eastern Africa, where it already affected a wide belt of countries.

In North Africa, the PPR epizootic that occurred in Morocco in 2008 extended the disease's geographical distribution to the south-west Mediterranean.

Dr Ben Jebara presented a map summarising routine vaccination programmes reported to the OIE for 2012. It could be observed that in endemic areas, the virus was currently controlled through vaccination. In some non-affected countries, vaccination was prohibited. He presented the percentage of reporting countries that were affected between 2005 and mid-2012 and it could be noted that this percentage had regularly increased during the past eight years.

Dr Ben Jebara stated that, despite the huge socio-economic impact of PPR, the lack of interest paid to the disease since its discovery was largely responsible for its spread. He pointed out that its spread was also probably related to the end of the progressive control and eradication programme for rinderpest, a programme that led to the first global eradication of an animal disease.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the PPR situation in Regions. He mentioned that between 2005 and early 2013, 58 countries/territories in Africa, the Middle East and Asia reported PPR present or suspected at least once. For the years 2011 and 2012, 175 countries/territories reported information to the OIE on PPR: 47 countries (27%) declared the disease present or suspected, 111 countries (63%) notified that the disease had never been reported and 17 countries (10%) notified that the disease had been absent between 2011 and 2012.

Dr Ben Jebara indicated that in Africa, 37 reporting countries had been affected by PPR during the past eight years and the disease was endemic in many countries. In 2012 and early 2013, eight immediate notifications on PPR were submitted to the OIE by African countries. Reoccurrences were reported by Algeria (in the region of Ghardaia in March 2012 and later in January 2013), Comoros (in the region of Grande Comore in September 2012), Egypt (in the regions of Al Qahirah and Al Isma'iliyah in August 2012) and Tunisia (in the region of Sidi Bouzid in April 2012, and later in several regions of the country, including Sidi Bouzid and the neighbouring regions of Ariana and Gafsa in August 2012). A first occurrence was reported by Angola (in Cabinda in October 2012). An unexpected increase in morbidity and mortality of PPR was reported by Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) in January 2012. In the Middle East and Asia, 21 reporting countries have been affected by PPR at least during the past eight years.

In conclusion, Dr Ben Jebara stated that the distribution of PPR had expanded throughout the past eight years. He commented that it was now present over a large part of Africa, in the Middle East and part of Asia, and threatened the food security and livelihood of

smallholders by affecting the development of the small ruminant sector as a result of the high mortality and morbidity it had been causing over a long period. He indicated that the cost of vaccines and their administration as well as logistical issues made vaccination campaigns problematic in some regions. He concluded that despite these difficulties, all countries should undertake surveillance to allow prompt disease reporting, especially given the availability of sensitive and specific diagnostic tools for PPR.

311. **Rabies**

Dr Ben Jebara addressed the situation regarding rabies. He explained that rabies was an important viral zoonosis, considered by the WHO to be a neglected zoonosis in developing countries where over 99% of human deaths due to rabies occurred.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the percentage of reporting countries that were affected by rabies in each semester between 2005 and mid-2012. Overall, it could be observed, from notifications to the OIE, that there had been a decrease in the percentage of countries affected, from 64% in 2005 to 56% in 2012, but the most recent data needed to be interpreted with caution, since they might have been biased due to incomplete data. The reason for this decrease was, firstly, the recent notification by some non-member countries reporting rabies absent and, secondly, the improvement of the situation in several previously affected countries, which were now reporting rabies as absent.

Dr Ben Jebara explained that, to understand the dynamics of rabies transmission, it was important to have a good knowledge of the role played by dogs, since they were considered to be the main source of exposure and a primary vector for this virus, and they were consequently the focus of most strategies. He added that the strategy followed across the regions varied depending on the epidemiological situation of the disease. Thus, in many countries, the most important strategy adopted was focused on mass vaccination of dogs to reduce/eliminate the infection in domestic dogs; other countries targeted the monitoring of stray dogs' populations with the aim of reducing their numbers. These strategies had been followed in several regions; and good results have been obtained, particularly in certain areas of Europe, the Americas and Asia. There was some discussion on whether this strategy might not be applicable in some regions of Africa, particularly with a view to achieving the target of a 70% vaccine coverage, which was considered to be sufficient to stop the transmission of rabies in canine population (i.e. the critical proportion of the population).

Dr Ben Jebara presented the map showing rabies distribution, with countries and zones affected in 2012 and early 2013. Rabies was reported present in all regions over large territories. For 2012 and early 2013, only 45 countries and territories reported the disease absent, and 17 countries and territories, mainly islands, never reported rabies. One hundred countries and territories reported rabies present during this period, in domestic species and/or wildlife.

Dr Ben Jebara stated that the role of wildlife could not be ignored since it could contribute to sustaining the infection of rabies; furthermore, underreporting in wildlife populations was very likely.

Dr Ben Jebara stressed out that with the implementation of the new version of WAHIS, countries were prompted to enter data on the family and species of wildlife affected by rabies. This improvement in WAHIS allowed the OIE to collect more precise information on the occurrence of rabies, which would contribute to a better understanding of the role of wildlife species and of reservoirs in the epidemiology of this disease. He explained thus that with the information provided on rabies occurrence in wildlife through WAHIS in 2012, a number of species that typically appeared to be affected by this pathogen had been identified. He recalled that all mammals were susceptible to rabies, but only a limited number of species also acted as reservoir hosts, including Canidae (dogs, jackals, coyotes, wolves, foxes and raccoon dogs), Mustelidae (e.g., skunks), Viverridae (e.g., mongooses), and Procyonidae (raccoons), as well as members of the order Chiroptera (bats).

Dr Ben Jebara mentioned that, through WAHIS, 13 different species of bats were reported to act as reservoirs of the virus, and that a wide range of other wild species were affected by the disease, mainly carnivores, reported in different parts of the world.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented through a map the distribution of some of the species affected and rabies reservoirs according to the region where cases were reported.

Dr Ben Jebara concluded by stating that the control of rabies needed to be based on encouraging dog owners to vaccinate their dogs, on the management of stray dog populations according to OIE standards and on the implementation of an effective animal surveillance programme, aimed at early detection and better reporting of cases (in domestic animals and also in wild animals, when the latter were affected). He added that for this purpose, it was necessary to implement active surveillance strategies and improve diagnostic facilities; and to identify the reservoirs of the disease, thereby contributing to a better understanding of the epidemiology of rabies across the Regions and to adapt a relevant control strategy to prevent humans from being bitten by rabid animals in many countries.

312. **Emerging disease: Schmallenberg virus**

Dr Ben Jebara addressed the situation regarding Schmallenberg virus. He started by recalling that the causal agent of Schmallenberg virus infection was detected for the first time in Germany in November 2011 and that it affected ruminants, but antibodies against the virus had also been detected in other species (such as alpaca, bison, fallow deer, mouflon, red deer and roe deer).

Dr Ben Jebara explained that in adult animals, the virus caused mild clinical signs while the infection in pregnant animals could lead to abortions, stillbirths and births of malformed newborns. These malformations could affect the vertebral column and they could also affect the skull and brain of aborted foetuses.

Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that diagnostic procedures for the detection of Schmallenberg virus were developed very quickly after the virus was discovered. He added that virus confirmation could be done by identification of the agent (real-time RT-PCR and cell culture isolation) and/or by serological tests (ELISA commercial kits, indirect immunofluorescence and neutralisation test).

Dr Ben Jebara presented a table compiling information on the countries affected by Schmallenberg virus, and by information source.

Nine countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands and United Kingdom) reported the presence of Schmallenberg virus by sending an immediate notification through WAHIS, citing “emerging disease” as the reason for the notification. Following discussions on the subject at the 80th OIE General Session, it was considered that Schmallenberg virus, which had originally been considered as an emerging disease in Western Europe, no longer fulfilled the criteria for notification in the countries having already notified a great number of outbreaks. Consequently, Member Countries stopped notifying Schmallenberg virus through WAHIS. However, to support the OIE’s expressed views on the need for clarification regarding the concept of emerging diseases and their notification requirements, 11 additional countries (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Sweden) informed the OIE, by letter (instead of through WAHIS, as they should have done), of their first detection of Schmallenberg virus.

According to other publicly available information sources, Schmallenberg virus had also been present in the following European countries: Denmark, Finland, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Dr Ben Jebara commented that the exact impact of Schmallenberg virus on production was still uncertain, the characteristics of the disease made it difficult to quantify the associated losses: in several countries the number of affected animals/herds was low in comparison with the total number of animals/herds suggesting low rates of morbidity and mortality caused by Schmallenberg virus. However, this position had been contested, particularly by some farmers, and further studies were needed to fully assess the impact of the disease (percentage of infected herds, percentage of abortions by susceptible species in infected herds, infertility in males and females, etc.).

Dr Ben Jebara concluded by outlining that current information indicated that there was no specific treatment or commercial vaccine available. The control of biting midges was one of the potential measures suggested, but as the midges were widespread, this control measure was unlikely to be fully effective to prevent the spread of the disease. A vaccine should be available in the fall.

SELECTED OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE

313. **White spot disease**

Dr Ben Jebara concluded his presentation with the situation regarding white spot disease. He explained that the virus first emerged in North East Asia in the nineteen's and said that between 1999 and 2012, the disease was reported to the OIE by 31 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Dr Ben Jebara informed that a total of 118 countries reported information to the OIE on white spot disease for 2011 and 2012: 63 countries (53%) notified that the disease had never been reported in the country and 27 countries (23%) notified that the disease had been absent during this period. Twenty-eight countries/territories (24%), in Africa, the Americas and Asia, declared the disease present or suspected, while the disease was absent in Europe and Oceania. However, at that moment (29 April 2013, date of the report), 60 countries had not provided information on the disease for 2011 and 2012.

In Africa, the disease was notified as present for the first time in Mozambique in September 2011, and eight months later, in May 2012, it was notified in Madagascar.

In the Americas, 11 reporting countries had been affected by WSD during the past 14 years, either in zones or in the entire country.

In Asia and the Far East, 18 reporting countries had been affected by white spot disease during the past 14 years.

Dr Ben Jebara presented the countries that notified the presence of white spot disease and the period of reporting to the OIE between 2005 and 2012.

In the Americas, the disease had been reported during this period by Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and the United States of America.

In Africa, white spot disease had been reported by two countries, namely Madagascar and Mozambique. However, the detection of the disease was more recent, since Madagascar was the first African country to report white spot disease in 2011.

Finally, in Asia, white spot disease had been reported present in zones or in the entire country/territory by 18 countries/territories, namely Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (SRA-PPRC), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the percentage of reporting countries affected by white spot disease between 2005 and 2012 and pointed out that this proportion has regularly increased.

Dr Ben Jebara explained that global aquaculture production, including crustaceans, had continued to grow since the turn of the century, albeit at a slower rate than in the 1980s and 1990s. Over the past 50 years, aquaculture had expanded from being almost negligible to the point where was fully comparable with capture production in terms of world food production.

Dr Ben Jebara concluded by stating that the rise in aquaculture production of crustaceans carried an increasing risk that producing countries would become affected by white spot disease. This emphasised the importance of improving importation requirements, crustacean disease surveillance systems and laboratory diagnostic capabilities.

314. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer opened the floor for questions after the presentation on animal health status worldwide in 2012 and early 2013.

315. The Delegate of New Zealand thanked the President and the Animal Health Information Department (AHID) team for the presentation and the report. He spoke on behalf of the Quad Group of countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America). He expressed their support for, and stressed the importance of reporting animal health status information to OIE. However, he pointed out that the reporting requirements had become increasingly time-consuming, even more so with the implementation of WAHIS-*Wild*, relative to the benefits derived from this information.

316. He remarked that the current reporting requirements were not aligned with those mandated in the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes* (*Codes*). He affirmed that the AHID blurred the distinction between reporting requirements which were mandated in the *Codes*, and had thus been formally adopted by the World Assembly, and non-mandated reporting imposed by the AHID itself. He considered that non-mandated reporting requirements were placing an unwarranted burden on national notification systems. He referred in particular to the reporting demands for non-listed diseases, for listed diseases in wildlife species of no epidemiological significance, for the associated control, prophylaxis and preventive measures for these diseases in wildlife, and for quantitative data relating to diseases known to be endemic in the country.

317. He queried whether the AHID appreciated the resource implications when additional information was sought from Member Countries. He stated that the Quad Group Countries were calling for the 81st General Session to recommend that the AHID explicitly clarify on the WAHIS website which data elements were compulsory, having been agreed by the OIE Assembly, and which were optional, representing a decision taken only by the AHID.

318. He added that, regarding the benefits expected from animal health status reporting, the AHID should analyse the data reported by Member Countries, in order to portray spatial and temporal trends that the OIE and Member Countries should be aware of. He stressed that this process of turning surveillance data into information for action should always be a fundamental driving force in international and national surveillance systems.

319. The Delegate of Sudan thanked the President, Dr Ben Jebara and the AHID. He commented that in order to improve the quality and timeliness of reporting it would be helpful to provide training for a second focal point in the country, given that it is better to have two trained persons in case one of them is not present at some point.

320. The Delegate of Indonesia thanked the President and Dr Ben Jebara and stressed the importance of the availability of data on FMD serotyping for FMD control and for the choice of vaccine. He encouraged countries to provide data on serotyping and also urged the OIE and the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific to promote the identification of FMD serotypes.

321. The President then thanked the Delegate of Indonesia for this suggestion and stated that improving FMD serotyping was one of the resolutions to be adopted during this 81st General Session.

322. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Ben Jebara and his team for the presentation and for their efforts during the year. He emphasised that the responsiveness of the AHID team whenever they were approached for advice was appreciated.

323. Speaking on behalf of the Quad group (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America), the Delegate of Australia suggested a further improvement to WAHIS. He recalled that earlier that week a number of Delegates suggested that country dossiers, submitted successfully for official status recognition, be placed on the OIE website where other countries can access them. He proposed that the OIE also place a list of countries that had made self-declarations for OIE listed diseases on the WAHID site. Ideally, the dossiers with supporting information, such as surveillance data, would also be made available on the site. He pointed out that any implication that these self-declarations had OIE approval could be avoided by placing a clear disclaimer on the page. The Delegate of Australia then affirmed that there was a gap in the animal health information on WAHID. He outlined that it was only possible to see that countries had not reported a disease for a number of semesters or years, but that this was not the same as having information on self-declaration, which required a higher level of evidence including surveillance information. He drew attention to the fact that a side benefit of this approach would have an educational element and that Member Countries could learn from each other's approaches to self-declaration. Finally, the Delegate of Australia affirmed that this proposal would enhance transparency in animal health information, but as it needed to be studied, and he proposed that it would be considered in the context of the 6th Strategic Plan.

324. In his reply to the Delegate of New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the QUAD group, on his comment on reporting of diseases of wildlife that are not OIE-listed and for which notification is not mandatory but is requested by AHID itself, Dr Ben Jebara explained that it is not the AHID that decided the notification of these diseases but rather it is implementing the work agreed by the OIE and its Member Countries. He explained that, from 1993, an Excel questionnaire had been used to collect information on a list of wildlife diseases and its composition had been decided by the members of the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife disease Notification itself. This list was discussed and very few new diseases were introduced by the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. Dr Ben Jebara indicated that the *ad hoc* Group collected and analysed the data but then the Council changed the Terms of Reference of the *ad hoc* Group, called it the Working Group on Wildlife diseases (WGWD) and broadened the Terms of Reference. In 2008, the AHID was instructed to take over the work of collection and analyses of the collected data. He stressed that the work of AHID follows the *Codes*, and if there are any concerns or questions that need clarification the composition of the list of non-OIE listed diseases, they could be addressed through WGWD and in consultation with Member Countries. He stressed that those diseases subject to voluntary reporting are treated under these terms by the AHID and the decision to report these diseases or not remains with the Member Countries.

325. Concerning the intervention from Sudan, Dr Ben Jebara emphasised that the training for focal points was designed for capacity building within countries and has contributed to the improvement of the notification process. He explained that the possibility exists to have a second person from a country attend. However, the country in question would have to pay the expenses of the second person. He reminded the Delegates that the focal points attending seminars have the responsibility of training and passing on the information learned to other focal points and colleagues.

326. Regarding the comment from Indonesia, Dr Ben Jebara admitted that there has been an improvement in the reporting of FMD serotypes, partially due to the support from FAO and OIE Reference Laboratories in the developing countries on the submission of samples for serotyping by FMD Reference Laboratories. In many cases countries receive information on sampling results from OIE Reference Laboratories, but they do not use it in their OIE reports.

327. Concerning the intervention from the Delegate of Australia on behalf of the Quad Group, Dr Ben Jebara indicated that the information on the official OIE disease status recognition is available on the OIE website and pointed out that for self-declaration the AHID reviews the documents submitted by countries and verifies whether their content complies with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code*. He indicated that more resources would be necessary to implement this; he expressed his willingness to explore new suggestions to improve the way the information is provided. He stressed that there should not be any confusion between the official OIE disease status recognition and self-declaration, responsibility for which lies with the countries; for this reason the OIE uses a disclaimer.

328. Dr Bernard Vallat supported the positions expressed by Dr Ben Jebara and reminded the Delegates that, as General Director, he was ultimately responsible for the decision made concerning animal disease reporting. He emphasised that OIE aims to support Member Countries to improve their veterinary capabilities to enhance the knowledge of the animal health situation in their territory, including for wildlife. He reminded the Assembly that one of the OIE's dreams is to disseminate very complete information on the animal disease situation. He stressed that the way information is provided and processed had improved considerably over the past ten years, as there is now an online system with 178 countries and the OIE has invested extensively in capacity building for national Focal Points. He also informed the Assembly that the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission are working on a clearer definition of what constitutes an emerging disease and revision of the chapters on diseases, incorporating where appropriate the epidemiological link with wildlife, which would justify compulsory notification when it appears in wildlife. Dr Vallat also mentioned that the OIE is working to improve reporting in the different regional organisations, allowing Member Countries to submit in a single report with the information going to the regional data system and WAHIS at the same time, differentiating between the information according to regional and global requirements; he provided the example of the work done by EC and ASEAN[37]. He remarked that with the current resources from the World Fund, the OIE could only train a single Focal Point per country, but he agreed with the comment from the Delegate of Sudan concerning the advantage of having more than one Focal Point trained per country and the need to find resources for this.

329. Dr Vallat thanked Indonesia for its intervention and encouraged the Member Countries to submit samples for FMD serotyping to OIE Reference Laboratories. He supported the idea of the Delegate of Australia of publishing on the OIE website the Member Country self-declarations, putting a disclaimer to explain that the OIE is not responsible for these communications. This question should be included in discussion concerning the Sixth Strategic Plan.

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37 ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

330. The Delegate of the United States of America thanked the President, Dr Vallat, and Dr Ben Jebara, and his team for their valuable work and expressed his support of the request made by New Zealand to provide clarification on what the OIE understands and what the Member Countries understand regarding notification, making clear what is compulsory and what is optional.

331. Dr Ben Jebara explained that after the recent launch of the second version of WAHIS, the main objective of the AHID was to communicate more with Member Countries on the OIE notification system, including for wild animals, in order to clarify what notification is compulsory and what is optional. He reminded Delegates that it is compulsory to notify only OIE-listed diseases and emerging diseases.

332. The President stated that it would be better to carry on the discussion elsewhere and she proposed that the Council continue the discussion with the AHID. She expressed her satisfaction with the way the presentation has changed compared with previous years and thanked Dr Ben Jebara for taking on board the comments made by the Council. She finished by thanking and congratulating the AHID team.

Update on the influenza A (H7N9) situation in China

333. **Overview of H7N9 avian influenza control and prevention in China**

On 31 March 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission announced that human infections with influenza A (H7N9) virus had occurred in the Shanghai and Anhui provinces. This was the first H7N9 human case in China (People's Rep. of). To 28 May, 132 human cases have been identified in ten provinces and cities, of which 37 cases were fatal. To investigate the possible origins of the H7N9 viruses causing these human infections, the Ministry of Agriculture launched the Emergency Surveillance Program for H7N9 in Animals. The programme categorised different provinces into core, key and ordinary surveillance zones. By the end of May, about 900 thousand samples had been tested, 78% from core zones, 10% from key zones, and 12% from ordinary zones. Chicken, waterfowl, wild birds, pigs and relevant environments were sampled. To date, 53 positive virological samples and 35 positive serological samples have been found. Among the 53 positive virological samples, 52 are from live bird markets. All 35 positive serological samples are from chickens: 25 chicken samples are from nine live bird markets, and the other 10 are from four back-yard farms. Research carried out by the Harbin Veterinary Institute shows that viruses isolated from chickens cause no pathology in ducks and mammals, with zero intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI). Viruses isolated from humans have a higher pathological effect in mammals than those isolated from poultry. H7N9 virus can be transmitted horizontally among chickens, while transmission rates are low among ducks. The Chinese government gave a timely report of H7N9 surveillance results to the OIE and other international organisations. In addition, China invited OIE experts to conduct a joint investigation of H7N9 surveillance in China, in collaboration with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture. In conclusion, to date, H7N9 viruses were only found in chicken, duck and pigeons, but not in pigs or other animals. All virologically positive animals were found in live bird markets and no virologically positive samples have been found in farms.

334. **H7N9 Avian influenza international preparedness**

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer invited Prof. Ian Brown, Director of EU/OIE/FAO International Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease, United Kingdom, to briefly update the Assembly on technical and research aspects relating to H7N9 avian influenza in China (People's Rep. of).

Subsequent to the reports from China of infection with H7N9 in both humans and domestic animals, the OFFLU network has focused on preparedness at an international level to ensure that the veterinary health sector is provided with appropriate tests and tools and knowledge relating to this newly emergent strain. Methodologies that have been demonstrated as fit for purpose for the reliable detection of the H7N9 virus should it emerge outside of China in animal populations has rapidly been distributed amongst partners. In addition, this has included evaluation of suitable serological screening tests appropriate for the detection of antibodies to this strain of virus. The OFFLU network has also conducted a certain amount of urgent research essentially to look at the impact of infection with these viruses on a range of poultry species and pigs. Details will be provided in the presentations on the profiles, but productive replication and consistent infection can be obtained in chickens even though the virus is characterised as a low pathogenicity strain. The context of all of this work relative to the global preparedness for veterinary institutes and relevance to competent authorities was presented.

335. The Delegates of Canada, Morocco, Japan, Singapore, Uruguay, Bhutan, Indonesia and Sudan along with the Director General of OIE and the President of OIE congratulated the presenters and expressed their appreciation to the Delegate of China for the efforts that had been made to share information about the H7N9 outbreaks in a timely and transparent manner. They recognised China's rapid response to contain outbreaks, and the collaboration within the international community and OFFLU.

336. The Delegate of Morocco asked if there were differences in molecular characteristics between H7N9 viruses isolated from humans and animals.

337. The Delegate of Japan requested that OIE continually advocate robust active surveillance and implementation of effective containment measures, including appropriate culling of affected poultry, targeted at important infectious diseases..

338. The Delegate of Uruguay asked whether the information provided in the presentations would be available electronically. He also complemented the international organisations for their rapid and collaborative response, which was a good example of the 'one health' concept.

339. Dr Karim Ben Jebara (Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department) noted that as part of the effort to contain H7N9 viruses, Chinese authorities had closed live bird markets. He asked what considerations were given to the future strategy as, for reasons of cultural practices, these markets could probably not be kept closed indefinitely.

340. The Delegate of Singapore noted that laboratory research studies had demonstrated that the H7N9 virus was well adapted to gallinaceous poultry and showed poor transmission in ducks. He asked if this had implications for wild bird surveillance.

341. The Delegate of Bhutan informed the Delegates that Bhutan was taking preparedness measures for H7N9 viruses seriously because it shares borders with China. Bhutan had mobilised staff, with support from FAO, to carry out surveillance. The Delegate expressed a committment to collaborate with the international community.

342. The Delegate of Sudan asked about the location and environment in which human H7N9 cases occurred, and about risk factors for human infection with H7N9.

343. The Delegate of Indonesia, citing surveillance data, encouraged compliance with standardised procedures for serological and virological surveillance, and highlighted the work that Indonesia had done in carrying out avian influenza surveillance in live bird markets.

344. The Delegate of China responded to the questions from Delegates. He explained that genetic analyses showed that H7N9 viruses that had been isolated from humans and poultry showed high genetic similarity, with some genetic mutations. Responding to the request from the Delegate of Uruguay, he agreed to share the presentation with Delegates. He explained that the Chinese government had permanently closed live bird markets in major cities; all live bird markets had been closed in Beijing following the 2008 Olympic Games. Other major and medium-sized cities would also close or consider closing live bird markets. If trade did take place in live bird markets, regulatory measures would be enforced. The Chinese government would also promote the sale of frozen poultry meat. Mainland China provides live poultry to Hong Kong and H7N9 virus had not been detected in these birds.

He explained that there appeared to be a geographical association between human H7N9 infections and the Yangtze River, and hypothesised a possible link with migratory birds. Current poultry surveillance findings showed that H7N9 infections in poultry were concentrated to live bird markets in one specific area of the country. There had not yet been evidence of infection on poultry farms. He noted that there are still uncertainties about how the virus had been introduced to poultry and about the route of transmission to humans.

345. The OIE Director General said that during the press conference of the General Session, he had recieved a question about whether 'environmental samples' that were positive for H7N9 had come from food. The Delegate of China responded by saying that H7N9 virus had not been detected in food or poultry meat.

346. Professor Brown added that low pathogenicity avian influenza H7N9 did not result in systemic infection in poultry and that the virus showed high tropism to the respiratory tract and replicated to a lesser extent in the intestinal tract of infected birds. He explained that a likely hypothesis was that wild birds had, at some point, introduced the H7N9 virus to poultry populations. The virus had then adapted to poultry species, and during this adapatation changes occurred, which also made it more likely for the virus to infect humans. The likelihood of the H7N9 being transmitted back to, and maintained, in wild bird populations was low. Therefore he felt that wild bird surveillance was less useful than poultry surveillance.

347. The President of the OIE stressed that the international community had learned much from high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 and was well prepared for a rapid response to H7N9. She congratulated China for their transparency and timely sharing of information.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2012 and the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2012 and the Beginning of 2013

348. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. 1. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

349. **Infection with classical swine fever virus (Chapters 15.2. and 1.6.)**

Dr Thiermann recalled that both the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had agreed, at their February 2012 meeting, that the purpose of the revision was to provide for official recognition of classical swine fever free status based on the principles in the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended the revised Chapter 15.2. and draft questionnaire for Chapter 1.6. to align them with the established *Terrestrial Code* format.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of New Zealand asked Dr Thiermann if the chapter will make provision for the recognition of historical freedom from classical swine fever (CSF).

The Delegate of the United States of America raised some concerns about the definition of infection with CSF, insofar as this relates to identification of viral antigen and virus-specific antibodies. He considered that the use of these methods presents a risk of erroneous classification of countries as CSF affected due to the finding of false-positive results.

The Delegate of the Seychelles, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, thanked the two Commissions for the review and finalisation of this important chapter, which was long due for update. He noted with appreciation the emphasis on domestic and captive wild pigs for trade purposes. As requested previously by the Delegates of African Member Countries, the Delegate hoped that Chapter 15.1. (African swine fever) would be reviewed and amended following the same approach as for CSF. It is accepted that the epidemiology of the two diseases might be different, but the same approach could still be applied by differentiating between domestic and captive wild pigs and wild pigs as defined in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Gabon, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, expressed support for the revised chapter and called for a similar review of Chapter 15.1. (African swine fever).

The Delegate of Chile, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, expressed satisfaction that the OIE had decided to make provision for official recognition of CSF status. He stated that this is an important chapter and that it would have been preferable for Member Countries to receive a draft document after the Commission meeting in September 2012. With respect to the case definition in Article 15.2.1., more explanation was needed. The Delegate also proposed a text amendment in Article 15.2.28., as follows:

> 'The objective of a surveillance programme is to demonstrate that infection by CSF virus is not present in domestic, wild or feral pigs or, if present, to evaluate the situation.'

The Delegate of Chile considered that the provisions in Article 15.2.28. on the interpretation of diagnostic results should correspond with the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Finally, the Delegate requested that the implementation of the official recognition procedures be started only after the Code Commission has addressed all proposals made by Member Countries and the revised chapter has been adopted in 2014.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, stated that the EU generally supported adoption of the chapter but requested modification of several points, as follows. The Delegate stated that the EU could not support point 1 of the proposed case definition, as it implies that the demonstration of the presence of RNA using assays such as PCR on its own would be sufficient and automatically lead to the declaration of an outbreak of CSF, without need for further investigations or links to confirmed or suspected outbreaks.

The Delegate noted that it is well accepted and experience has shown that false-positive results in RNA detection assays cannot be excluded, for example due to contamination of samples at any point. Therefore the detection of viral RNA should only define CSFV infection if there is an epidemiological link to a confirmed or suspected outbreak.

The Delegate thanked Dr Thiermann on behalf of the EU for his agreement to take the EFSA report on casings into consideration and noted that this report is also relevant to CSF, as has been stated by the EU in its written comments to the OIE.

The Delegate indicated that the EU would like clarification on how the chapter would be implemented after adoption as regards the official disease status recognition and ensuring that surveillance requirements in free countries are proportionate to the risk. In particular, what will be the proposed procedure in the 12 months following this session?

Finally, the Delegate stated that the EU supported the addition of CSF to the list of diseases subject to official recognition. However, as already stated, the procedures for recognition of official disease status should be consolidated successfully before adding any new diseases in the future.

The Delegate of Norway supported the comments made by the Delegate of Denmark and stated that she could not support adoption of the chapter if the EU comments were not taken into account.

Dr Thiermann acknowledged that it had not been possible to distribute the draft text to Member Countries until after the Code Commission meeting in February 2013, given the pressing demand from Member Countries; he then responded to the Delegates' interventions.

The comment on historical freedom has been recognised by the Scientific Commission, including the fact that the chapter, as written, would be in conflict with the provisions in Chapter 1.4. on historical freedom. This point is on the workplan for the meeting of the two Commissions in September 2013.

Dr Thiermann stated that the Delegates of the United States of America, Chile and Denmark had raised similar points. The EU proposal is the simplest way to resolve the issue of case definition. Dr Thiermann proposed to modify the case definition along the lines suggested by the EU but not to make any other text modifications at this time. He undertook that the comments of Member Countries would be addressed in September 2013, when the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission would discuss the chapter.

In response to the request from African countries, Dr Thiermann stated that the Commission continues to review chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and to place emphasis on clearer case definition, better identification of host species of epidemiological significance, whether domestic or wild, and the application of mitigation measures that are proportionate to risk.

Dr Thiermann then read out the text amendment that was proposed for application to Article 15.2.1., points 1 and 2.

The Director General noted the request of the African Member Countries to update the chapter on African swine fever, as well as deferral of the procedure for official disease status recognition until after adoption of a new text in 2014.

The revised Chapter 15.2. was adopted with one abstention (Saudi Arabia).

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text of Chapter 1.6. to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Colombia identified an error in the first paragraph of Chapter 1.6., in the Spanish version, where a reference to foot and mouth disease had been overlooked.

The revised Chapter 1.6. was adopted unanimously.

350. **Update of the Code Commission work programme**

Dr Thiermann drew Delegates' attention to several important *Terrestrial Code* chapters, including User's Guide, foot and mouth disease, brucellosis and risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance, as well as new draft chapters on disease control, epizootic haemorrhagic disease and animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems that had been circulated for Member Country comments. He gratefully acknowledged the active participation of Member Countries in the OIE standard-setting process and encouraged all Delegates to increase their participation through provision of written comments to the OIE.

Dr Thiermann also highlighted the continuing close collaboration between the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission in developing and updating the *Terrestrial Code*. In this regard, he noted recent and anticipated work of *ad hoc* Groups on tuberculosis (convened in April 2013), PRRS (scheduled for July 2013), harmonisation of African horse sickness, bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease chapters (scheduled for August 2013) and antimicrobial resistance (scheduled for August 2013), and advised that the Code Commission would participate in these *ad hoc* Group meetings as appropriate.

In addition, Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that, to meet Member Countries' request to clarify the definition and reporting expectations of emerging diseases, the Code Commission would hold a joint discussion with the Scientific Commission in September 2013.

With respect to the Code Commission's work on animal welfare, Dr Thiermann noted that a new draft chapter on animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems had been circulated for Member Country comment. He also mentioned that revisions of Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. aimed at streamlining the structure of chapters in Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code* had been circulated for Member Country comment. He drew Delegates attention to the 3 June 2013 deadline for submission of written comments so that they can be reviewed at the June meeting of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group.

351. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Aquatic Animal Diseases

352. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Adoption of four updated draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

353. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 27 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

354. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

355. The Director General explained to Delegates that Resolution No. 29, which is presented for adoption, dealt with the report of the Code Commission excepting Chapter 15.2. on classical swine fever and Chapter 1.6. on procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE.

356. The Delegate of France proposed making a correction to the form of the French version of Resolution No. 29.

357. Dr Thiermann pointed out two corrections as follows: in item 2.2 (b), replace 24th with 25th, and in Item 2.7. (c) replace 'Veterinary Authority' with 'Veterinary Authorities'.

358. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report. In the subsequent discussion, it was agreed to note that, during the adoption of amendments to Chapter 1.2. "Criteria for the inclusion of diseases and infections on the OIE List" (see point 257), 20 countries had voted against and two countries had abstained.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
Designation of OIE Reference Centres

359. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
Withdrawal of OIE Reference Centres

360. Following an explanation by the Director General of the background and the reasons for the Resolution, the President submitted Draft Resolution No. 33 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Replacement of OIE designated Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories

361. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 34 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 35
Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security

362. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 35 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 36
Benefits and challenges posed by the worldwide expansion of equestrian events – new standards for the population of competition horses and equine disease free zones in countries

363. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 36 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions (contd)

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30
Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of a national official control programme

364. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolutions No. 31 and No. 44
First and Second addendum to Resolution No. 26 of 24 May 2012: "The cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for foot and mouth disease"

365. The Delegate of New Zealand requested clarification on the difference in the costs to be covered by Member Countries applying for official recognition of their status with regard to peste des petits ruminants (5000 euros) and classical swine fever (9000 euros).

366. Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, reminded the Delegates that the recognition of PPR official freedom was part of a Global Control Programme, which meant that PPR was considered a global public good. He further emphasised that PPR was mainly a problem of developing countries having fewer ressources and this had been discussed and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and the Council.

367. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

368. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 44 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 44 at the end of this report.

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs 81 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

369. Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 81 SG/11B AF).

370. He also presented the recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Lomé, Togo, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

371. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Lomé.

Regional Commission for the Americas

372. Dr John Clifford (United States of America), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 81 SG/11B AM).

373. He also presented the recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 26 to 29 November 2012.

374. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Bridgetown.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

375. Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 81 SG/11B AS).

376. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

377. Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 81 SG/11B EU).

378. He also presented the recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Fleesensee, Germany, from 17 to 21 September 2012.

379. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Fleesensee.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

380. Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 81 SG/11B ME).

381. The Assembly noted the report.

Dates of the 82nd General Session (May 2014)

382. The Assembly decided that the 82nd General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 25 to Friday 30 May 2014. The Director General stated that the 82nd General Session would also be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 82nd General Session (May 2014)

383. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen the previous year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Council:

– Recommended Criteria and Factors for the Categorisation and Prioritisation of Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Diseases for Official Diseases Control Programmes

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

384. Further to a previous decision of the Council, the second Technical Item for 2014 (without a questionnaire) would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February prior to the 82nd General Session, to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Technical Items for the 83rd General Session (May 2015)

385. The Assembly confirmed the Technical Item, which had been chosen from among the topics proposed by the Regional Commissions and examined by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and was presented by Dr Modisane (South Africa):

– The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting, surveillance and emergency response

386. Further to a decision of the Council, there will not be a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2015, due to the elections to be held for the Council, the Specialist Commissions and the Regional Commission.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health status

387. The OIE Members listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Former Yug. Macedonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay.

Endorsement of an official national FMD control programme

388. Bolivia was awarded an OIE certificate endorsing its official national FMD control programme.

FRIDAY 31 MAY 2013

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2012

(Doc. 81 SG/3)

389. Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, management, human resources and regional actions, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2012 and the distribution of Member Countries by contribution category.

390. She went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE Headquarters premises, now comprising two buildings.

391. She emphasised the importance of strengthening budgetary and financial management at a time of growth in the activity of the Organisation.

392. The Delegate of Zimbabwe requested that the report to be presented next year mention statistics on the ratio of men to women within the OIE teams.

393. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2012)

(Doc. 81 SG/4)

394. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

(Doc. 81 SG/17)

409. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor and adoption of the Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year

(Docs 81 SG/15 and 81 SG/16)

414. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Messuti (Uruguay) and Dr Kawashima (Japan) and the report of the Registered Auditor appointed by the OIE. Dr Messuti strongly encouraged Delegates to raise the awareness of the authorities to honour the payment of arrears or to consider an increase of contributions.

415. The Assembly noted the reports of the External Auditor.

416. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Members and Intergovernmental Organisations that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings

417. The Director General conveyed his warmest thanks:

- To the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America;
- To the European Union;
- To the following private organisations: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the World Society for the Protection of Animals;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2012;

- To the Governments of Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine and Vietnam

for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2012.

418. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 4. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

419. The Director General also conveyed his warmest thanks to France for its voluntary contribution, and to Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and also to the Latin-American Poultry Association, for their exceptional contributions in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, designed to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. He informed the Assembly that the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) had paid a contribution at the beginning of 2013 and that several other Member Countries had also indicated their intention to participate in the subscription. The subscription remained open with a view to building modernisation, purchase of the part of the building not yet placed on sale and early repayment of the bank loan currently being repaid partially from rental income.

420. Draft Resolution No. 10 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

Nomination of the External Auditor

421. The President proposed that the Assembly nominate Mr Didier Sellès as External Auditor of the OIE, as Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier could no longer fulfil this function following her promotion.

422. The Assembly warmly thanked Mrs Cordier for the recommendations she had made to the OIE during these past 9 years, which had enabled the OIE to significantly modernise budgetary monitoring and the accounting procedures.

423. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

2013 Budget

(Doc. 81 SG/5)

424. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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Proposed 2014 Contributions Scale and 2014 Budget Estimates
(Doc. 81 SG/6)

429. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Council

436. The President recalled the commitments she had made at the time of her election, and then commented on document 81 SG/18, which summarised the activities of the Council between May 2012 and May 2013. She emphasised that the work carried out during the year had in large part focused on staff policy, especially with regard to staff in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, budgetary and accounting management of the Organisation following the changes being introduced to modernise procedures, and relations with international partners such as FAO and WHO, monitoring the network of Reference Centres (Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres), the launch of the new WAHIS system with improvements to notification procedures. Special attention was given to the declaration of wildlife diseases via WAHIS-*Wild*.

437. The Council had also examined various aspects of the implementation of the Fifth Strategic Plan, including changes to the administrative management of the OIE for greater budgetary efficiency. In this connection, the Council approved the revision work undertaken by the OIE Directorate General regarding the Organisation's autonomous old age pension fund.

438. In accordance with the commitments undertaken, the Council also worked on developing a procedure for examining applications for accession to the OIE to be submitted to the Assembly.

439. The President informed the Delegates of her travels to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled her to see the many achievements of the OIE. She reiterated the importance and relevance of involving the younger generation and women in the work of the OIE.

440. The President thanked Canada for its voluntary contribution, which had enabled an extraordinary meeting to be held in October 2012.

441. The Assembly adopted the report on activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 81 SG/18).

442. The Delegate of New Zealand expressed his satisfaction with the feedback from the Representatives of the region to the Council. The Delegate noted the Council's discussion of themes for forthcoming issues of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*. He praised the high quality and relevance of this publication and inquired how Members could become more involved in the identification and selection of themes. The Director General explained the role of the *Review*'s Scientific Advisory Board and that of the Council and invited Members to submit any ideas they may have on the subject.

Procedure for examining applications for accession

(Doc. 81 SG/19)

443. At the request of the President, the Director General recalled the context that had led the Council to work on this topic with the support of the Legal Counsel to the OIE and in light of current practices in the other international organisations. Considering that the conditions for accession to the OIE are not specified in the Basic Texts and in the absence of formalised, detailed procedures for examining applications for accession, the Council considered it legitimate to establish an accession procedure specific to the OIE and decided to submit a proposal to this effect to the World Assembly of Delegates. The proposal was to create a procedure involving the three decision-making levels of the Organisation, namely the Assembly, the Council and the Director General.

444. The Legal Counsel to the OIE emphasised that this procedure did not make any changes to the Basic Texts of the OIE and merely clarified how it operates. Consequently, the Assembly was invited to give its decision by a simple majority vote.

445. The Director General strongly emphasised that this procedure would only apply to new applications and does not concern existing OIE Members.

446. The Delegate of Australia pointed out that member status continues not to be applicable to organisations.

447. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

Regulations governing the Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund

(Doc. 81 SG/20)

448. The Director General informed the Assembly of the provisions regarding the Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund for OIE staff working at the Headquarters, which depends on the Headquarters Agreement signed with the French Government in 1977 and, more specifically on the agreement concluded with the French social security services with regard to retirement pensions. Thus, as a consequence of amendments made to French law, in particular with regard to retirement age, it has become necessary to adapt the regulations governing the OIE pension fund.

449. It was emphasised that these adaptations would have no effect on the OIE budget since they would modify neither the amount nor the distribution of contributions (between the employer's share and the employee's share), nor would they modify the procedures for calculating benefits. They principally concerned pensionable age (i.e. later) and measures to take the evolution in family situations into account with regard to entitlement to a reversionary pension in the event of the death of a beneficiary.

450. The Assembly was informed that, in consequence, some adjustments would need to be made to the staff rules to bring the provisions referring to retirement age into line.

451. The Delegate of New Zealand suggested that the Administrative Report SG/3 should also indicate the distribution of OIE staff members by length of service.

452. Draft Resolutions Nos 12 and 13 were adopted unanimously. The texts appear as Resolution No. 12 and Resolution No.13 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)

(Doc. 81 SG/21)

453. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), approved by the Council.

454. Draft Resolution No. 37 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 37 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the African Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC-AU)

(Doc. 81 SG/22)

455. The Director General presented the Agreement with the African Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC-AU), approved by the Council.

456. Draft Resolution No. 38 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 38 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

(Doc. 81 SG/23)

457. The Director General presented the Agreement with the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), approved by the Council.

458. Draft Resolution No. 39 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 39 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Renderers Organization (WRO)

(Doc. 81 SG/24)

459. The Director General presented the Agreement with the World Renderers Organization (WRO), approved by the Council.

460. Draft Resolution No. 40 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 40 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

(Doc. 81 SG/25)

461. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), approved by the Council.

462. Draft Resolution No. 41 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 41 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO)

(Doc. 81 SG/26)

463. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO), approved by the Council.

464. Draft Resolution No. 42 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 42 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

(Doc. 81 SG/27)

465. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), approved by the Council.

466. The Delegate of New Zealand indicated that this agreement could provide an opportunity to discuss how the precautionary principle adopted by the CBD contrasts with the OIE's application of risk analysis in the context of the WTO SPS Agreement, to assist Members' activities in relevant areas and improve stakeholder understanding.

467. Draft Resolution No. 43 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 43 at the end of this report.

Election of Members of the Council

468. Following the termination of office of Dr Brian Evans (Canada), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for the Americas, the Assembly elected Dr John Clifford (United States of America), as Member of the Council.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows (107 votes cast out of 110 Delegates present)

Yes:	87%
No:	8%
Abstentions:	5%

469. Following the termination of office of Dr Nasser Eddin Al Hawamdeh (Jordan), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, the Assembly elected Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi (Oman) as Member of the Council.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows (105 votes cast out of 110 Delegates present)

Yes:	84%
No:	5%
Abstentions:	11%

Election of a President and a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas

470. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for the Americas for the elections for the positions within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

President:	Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil
Vice-President:	Dr Miguel Angel Azañón Robles (Guatemala)
Vice-President:	Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General:	Dr Glen Halze Hodgson (Peru).

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

471. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for the Middle East to fill the vacancy for the position of Vice-President of the Commission.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President:	Dr Osama Mahmoud Ahmed Slim (Egypt)

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Africa

472. The President reminded Delegates of the proposal by the Regional Commissin for Africa to fill the vacancy for the position of Vice-President of the Commission.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President:	Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

473. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report is printed in two documents (the Technical Sessions and then the Administrative Sessions).

474. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.

475. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the Draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2013** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to have been adopted in its final form.

Closing Session

476. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. She congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional Representations, the translators, the messengers, the photographer and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. She also thanked the interpreters and ended her address by declaring the 81st General Session closed. She wished the Delegates a safe journey home.

477. She invited the Delegates to return for the 82nd General Session in May 2014.

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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE during its 81st General Session

26 – 31 May 2013

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

No. 1 Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2012 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2012 and the Beginning of 2013

No. 2 Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2012

No. 3 Approval of the Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2012)

No. 4 Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the organisation of OIE Meetings

No. 5 2013 Budget modification

No. 6 OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 88th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2014)

No. 7 Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2014

No. 8 Work programme for 2014

No. 9 Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor

No. 10 Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries that helped the OIE in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

No. 11 Procedures for examining demands for accession to the OIE

No. 12 Modification of the Internal Rules of the OIE Pension Fund

No. 13 Modification of the OIE Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

No. 14 Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Aquatic Animal Diseases

No. 15 Sharing of foot and mouth disease viral material and information in support of global foot and mouth disease prevention and control

No. 16 List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance

No. 17 Recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries

No. 18 Endorsement of official control programmes for foot and mouth disease of Member Countries

No. 19 Recognition of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia disease status of Member Countries

No. 20 Recognition of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy risk status of Member Countries

No. 21 Recognition of the African horse sickness status of Member Countries

No. 22 Animal production food safety

No. 23 Animal welfare

No. 24 Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Terrestrial Animal Diseases

No. 25 Adoption of the new or revised texts for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

No. 26 Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE

No. 27 Adoption of four updated draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

No. 28 Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

No. 29 Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

No. 30 Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of a national official control programme

No. 31 First addendum to Resolution No. 26 of 24 May 2012: "The cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for foot and mouth disease"

No. 32 Designation of OIE Reference Centres

No. 33 Withdrawal of OIE Reference Centres

No. 34 Replacement of OIE designated Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories

No. 35 Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security

No. 36 Benefits and challenges posed by the worldwide expansion of equestrian events – new standards for the population of competition horses and equine disease free zones in countries

No. 37 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Horse Authorities (IFHA)

No. 38 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the African Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)

No. 39 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Farmer's Organisation (WFO)

No. 40 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Renderers Organisation (WRO)

No. 41 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

No. 42 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO)

No. 43 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

No. 44 Second addendum to Resolution No. 26 of 24 May 2012: "The cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for foot and mouth disease"

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RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2012 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2012 and the beginning of 2013

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2012 (81 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2012 and the beginning of 2013 (81 SG/2).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 2

Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2012

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2012 (81 SG/3).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 3

Approval of the Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2012)

In application of Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Financial Report for the 86th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2012) (81 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 4

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2012 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2012,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China (People's Rep. Of), Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America;

   To intergovernmental organisations: the European Union (European Commission);

   And to the private organisations: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), Saint Jude Children's hospital and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA);

   for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2012.

2. The Governments of Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (People's Rep of), Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine and Vietnam;

   for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2012.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2013 Budget

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 6

OIE budgetary income and expenses for the 88th financial year (1 January to 31 December 2014)

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2014

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 8

Work Programme for 2014

CONSIDERING

The Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2011-2015 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

To approve the 2014 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Appendix I of document 81 SG/6).

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the general budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other subsidies to support the OIE activities.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of her mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To appoint for a period of one year Mr Didier Sellès as OIE External Auditor.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and donors that helped the OIE, in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

CONSIDERING

The Resolution No. XI of 30 May 2008 giving the Director General a mandate for the acquisition of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony,

Having noted the additional voluntary contributions received by the OIE within the framework of the subscription launched with Member Countries or other donors to contribute to this acquisition,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

- The Governments of Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. Of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom for their voluntary contributions to support the extension of the Headquarters so that it corresponds to the development of the objectives of the Organisation,

- And the Latin American Poultry Association.

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains open until a new order for the other Member Countries or potential donors to finalise the acquisition and the refurbishment work of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed to the total or partial reimbursement of the bank loan granted in 2009 to acquire for the first part of the building.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 11

Procedure for examination of new applications for accession to the OIE

In accordance with the Article 6 of the International Agreement,

In accordance with the Organic Rules, particularly the article 3 designating the organs in charge of the functions of the Organisation, and the article 5 stating that the OIE is under the authority and the control of the Assembly,

In accordance with the General Rules, particularly the article 1 stating that the Assembly is the highest authority of the OIE and that its wishes shall be expressed by Resolutions, as well as the article 50 stating that, except as elsewhere provided in the Organic Rules or in these General Rules, decisions shall be based on a simple majority,

Recognising the need for a procedure for examination of applications for accession to the OIE,

Accepting that this procedure will only apply to the Countries not yet Members to date,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. A procedure for examination of all applications of Countries for accession to the OIE applicable to the applications received by the Director General of the OIE from the 31 May 2013 is established as following:

   - The preliminary examination of the application by the Council, which consults – especially, – the Director General of the OIE,

   - In case of a favourable decision of the Council, which is expressed by a two thirds majority, a draft Resolution to approve the application for membership is submitted for approval by the Assembly at the next General Session. The proposal shall be sent to all Members Countries at least 60 days prior to the commencement of the General Session.

2. The third paragraph of article 50 of General Rules is modified as following: "Except as elsewhere provided in the Organic Rules or in these General Rules, and except for decisions related to the applications for accession received by the OIE from 31 May 2013 which are based on a two thirds majority, decisions or elections shall be based on a simple majority, that is, more than one half of the votes cast."

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 12

Modification of the Internal Rules of the OIE Pension Fund

Having regard to the Organic Rules, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Having regard to the decision of the International Committee of the OIE, meeting in Paris from 9 to 14 May 1960 on the occasion of its XXVIII General Session, approving the creation of an Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund for the benefit of the scientific, technical and administrative staff employed at the Headquarters of the Organisation,

Having regard to the Staff Regulations, adopted by Resolution of the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 1983, and in particular Article 6.2. thereof, instituting the principle of contribution to a retirement benefits fund,

Having regard to the Staff Rules approved by Resolution of the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 1983, and in particular Article 60.5. (b) thereof, relating to the Pension Fund,

Considering the need to update the provisions of the Internal Rules of the Pension Fund,

THE ASSEMBLY

APPROVES

The version of the Internal Rules of the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund, as presented in document 81 SG/20.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Modification of the OIE Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Having regard to the General Rules, and in particular Article 27 thereof,

Having regard to the Staff Regulations, and in particular Article 11.2. subparagraph 3,

Having regard to the Staff Regulations, adopted by Resolution of the International Committee on 27 May 1983, applicable to the staff members of the OIE Headquarters, and in particular Article 8.7. thereof, relating to retirement age,

Having regard to the Staff Rules, approved by Resolution of the International Committee on 27 May 1983, applicable to the staff members of the OIE Headquarters, and in particular Article 30.11 (b) thereof, relating to the deduction from salary payments of contributions to the Pension Fund, and Article 80.5 thereof, relating to retirement,

Considering the need to align the provisions of the Staff Regulations and Rules with the provisions governing the management of the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

The wording of Article 8.7 of the Staff Regulations is amended as follows: "The Director General of the OIE may decide on the compulsory retirement of an officer at any time after the said officer meets the conditions laid down in Article 8 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund adopted in May 2013."

The wording of Article 30.11 (b) (i) of the Staff Rules is amended as follows: "contributions to the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund, calculated on the basis of Article 3 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund adopted in May 2013."

The wording of Article 80.5 of the Staff Rules is amended as follows: "The Director General of the OIE may decide on the compulsory retirement of an officer at any time after the said officer meets the conditions laid down in Article 8 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Autonomous Old-Age Pension Fund adopted in May 2013."

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Aquatic Animal Diseases

CONSIDERING

1. That Article 7 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that '… the OIE Expert is responsible for the implementation of the technical aspects of the Terms of Reference and may delegate specific responsibilities to other experts on an *ad hoc* basis. Experts associated with OIE Reference Centres exercise their function within the rules applicable to OIE Experts',

2. That the OIE designated Expert at an OIE Reference Laboratory is selected on examination by the relevant Specialist Commission of his or her curriculum vitae that includes documented proof of international recognition of his or her expertise, e.g. publications in peer-reviewed journals, awards, membership in high-profile academic boards, etc.,

3. The need to ensure continuity in the implementation of technical aspects of the Terms of Reference of Reference Laboratories by the high-level expert designated to this effect,

4. That nominations had been submitted by the head of the establishment to the Director General through the OIE Delegate of the country of location of the Reference Laboratory; the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission assessed the qualifications of nominated replacement experts and recommended their acceptance by the Council (Docs 81 SG/12/CS4 A and 81 SG/12/CS4 B),

5. That the Council approved the proposed replacement OIE Experts that had been endorsed by the relevant Specialist Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Expert at an OIE Reference Laboratory and add him to the list of experts in the OIE Reference Centres (available on the OIE web site):

Infectious salmon anaemia
Dr Knut Falk to replace Dr Birgit Dannevig at the National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, NORWAY.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Sharing of foot and mouth disease viral material and information in support of global foot and mouth disease prevention and control

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a global problem that poses an on-going threat to animal health and to international trade,

2. The OIE and FAO have been mandated to launch and implement the Global Strategy for control of foot-and-mouth disease,

3. FMD is a transboundary disease that has the ability to spread rapidly across countries and continents. An outbreak of FMD in any one country is a threat to the whole international community,

4. OIE Member Countries must notify outbreaks to the OIE using the WAHIS mechanism,

5. It is paramount that any changes in the circulating field viruses and in virological characteristics of FMD viruses resulting in increased risks to animal health are detected early,

6. All information about FMD viruses that can lead to the development of more effective prevention and control policies is a global public good and should be put into the public domain without delay,

7. Countries reporting outbreaks of FMD are responsible for sharing material and data with the international scientific community in a timely manner to assist in the implementation of the Global Strategy,

8. Genetic information about current circulating field viruses is needed for the early development and production of FMD vaccines, for the adaption of the vaccination strategy, and for facilitation of accurate laboratory diagnosis,

9. OIE Reference Laboratories for FMD drive and coordinate diagnostic and research activities at the international level and participate in the initiatives taken within the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratories network. This network promotes the establishment of a reference laboratory for each of the virus pool regions,

10. The 2nd FAO/OIE Global Conference on FMD Control recommended that applied research should be conducted to improve vaccines, diagnostics and the understanding of infection and transmission mechanisms, to develop better spread models and to determine the presence of virus in products destined for commodity trade,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries report outbreaks of FMD to the OIE, while sharing FMD viral material and information about FMD viruses with OIE Reference Laboratories to enable timely vaccine matching and monitoring of the spread and emergence of new virus strains.

2. OIE Reference Laboratories enhance inter-laboratory collaboration through the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratories network and contribute to the advancement of the knowledge on FMD in the international scientific community by depositing genetic data within 3 months of receiving an isolate into a public database designated by the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratories network.

3. The actions taken by Member Countries as above be recognised in subsequent publications, and any benefits arising from the use of biological material or data that they have submitted to OIE Reference Laboratories be strongly acknowledged.

4. Members Countries be urged to use vaccines that comply with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual* and that have undergone the appropriate tests before use. In certain situations, OIE vaccine banks represent a very useful mechanism for providing high quality appropriate vaccines to eligible Member Countries.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 16

List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance

CONSIDERING THAT

1. At the 74th General Session of the OIE in May 2006, the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) adopted Resolution No. XXXIII. This Resolution allowed the publication of a preliminary List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance based on the list compiled by the OIE from the answers received to the questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries, and requested the OIE Director General to further refine the list and consider breaking it down into subcategories according to type of usage,

2. At the 75th General Session of the OIE in May 2007, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXVIII which approved the List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance (OIE List) and mentioned that the OIE List will be regularly updated in accordance with new scientific information,

3. *Antimicrobial agent* is defined in the Glossary of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* as "a naturally occurring, semi-synthetic or synthetic substance that exhibits antimicrobial activity (kill or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms) at concentrations attainable *in vivo*. Anthelmintics and substances classed as disinfectants or antiseptics are excluded from this definition",

4. The revised version of the OIE List was prepared by the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and endorsed by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases at its February 2013 meeting to be proposed for adoption to the World Assembly of Delegates during the next General Session,

5. Recommendations were adopted at the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals, held in Paris (France) in March 2013, that make specific reference to the OIE List.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance including the accompanying recommendations.

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted OIE List on the OIE website.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases,

3. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania
Australia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Estonia
Finland
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Lesotho
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Montenegro
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Poland
Portugal
Romania
San Marino
Serbia[38]
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Vanuatu

38 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

2. The Director General publish the following Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries having FMD free zones[39] where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

   the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

   Bolivia: one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2011;

   Botswana: one zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2010, with the exclusion of the containment zone as designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2011;

   Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;

   Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department),

   one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andres and Providencia);

   Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

   Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

   Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;

   Peru: one zone consisting of three merged zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004, in January 2007 and in August 2012;

   Philippines: one zone on the islands of Mindanao designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2000,

   one zone consisting of the islands of Visayas and the provinces of Palawan and Masbate, as designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2000 and December 2001,

   three separate zones located on the Island of Luzon as designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2009 and November 2010;

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39 For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

4. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries having FMD free zones[40] where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and in August 2010;

Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and in March 2007,

one zone adjacent to the east of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010;

one zone consisting of the regions of Chaco and part of Valles as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2012;

Brazil: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General as follows:

one zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997),

one zone consisting of State of Rondônia (documentation of December 2002), State of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of State of Amazonas (documentation of March 2004) and an extension of this zone into the territory of State of Amazonas (documentation of December 2010),

one zone consisting of the middle southern part of State of Pará (documentation of February 2007), States of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, parts of State of Bahia, parts of State of Tocantins (documentation of May 2008), and the zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of July 2008),

one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of August 2010),

one zone located in States of Bahia and Tocantins (documentation of December 2010);

Colombia: one zone consisting of five merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, in December 2004 (two zones), in January 2007 and in January 2009;

Peru: one zone consisting of the regions of Tumbes and parts of Piura and Cajamarca as designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2012;

Turkey: one zone as designated by the Delegate of Turkey in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

40 For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 18

Endorsement of official control programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognizing the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member Country, namely the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,

3. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries with an endorsed official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries with endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria, Bolivia, Morocco and Tunisia.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 19

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases,

3. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 11.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia	India	Switzerland
Botswana	Portugal	United States of America
China (People's Republic of)		

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 20

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member Countries, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases,

3. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries disease status based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Denmark
Finland
Iceland
India
Israel
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Singapore
Slovenia
Sweden
United States of America
Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Bulgaria	Germany	Malta
Canada	Greece	Mexico
Chinese Taipei	Hungary	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Ireland	Poland
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Portugal
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Lichtenstein	Spain
Estonia	Lithuania	Switzerland
France	Luxembourg	United Kingdom

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 21

Recognition of the African horse sickness Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from AHS,

2. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,

3. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as AHS free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Chinese Taipei
Colombia
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Rep.
Denmark
Finland
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia
France
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Kuwait
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 22

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its twelfth meeting in November 2012 and drafted a work programme for 2013,

2. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by both organisations are consistent and take a 'whole food chain' approach to food safety,

3. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation between the OIE and the FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, zoonotic diseases and related issues,

4. The Director General has asked National Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal production food safety according to proposed terms of reference,

5. That the OIE continues to organise seminars for national focal points in all five OIE regions, with the objective of providing information and contributing to capacity building of veterinary services,

6. OIE Member Countries adopted Resolution No. 26 on the 'Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare' at the 78th General Session in 2010.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.

2. The participation of high level FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be maintained, and appropriate activities undertaken with the objective of further strengthening the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The 2013 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities in the field of animal production food safety in the next 12 months, with provision of the resources needed to address the identified priorities.

4. The Director General continue to work with the Codex Committee on General Principles to develop methods providing for harmonisation of approaches, in particular regarding cross references between OIE and Codex standards.

5. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P., the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere initiative (SSAFE) to ensure awareness of and compliance with OIE science-based animal production food safety standards.

6. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national animal production food safety focal points designated by Delegates.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 23

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide,

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and trade policy dimensions,

3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme;

4. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004, 2008 and 2012, confirming the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare,

5. Animal welfare standards were first adopted at the 2005, and subsequent General Assemblies and are regularly updated,

6. A new standard on animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems has been proposed for adoption by OIE Member Countries,

7. More work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards concerning animal welfare in livestock production systems, with animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems already under development,

8. Animal welfare is included in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool) and in the OIE Veterinary Legislation initiative,

9. The Director General has asked Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal welfare according to proposed terms of reference and the OIE regularly organises seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services,

10. Regional animal welfare strategies, and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide,

11. OIE Member Countries adopted Resolution No. 26 on the 'Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare' at the 78th General Session in 2010.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Animal Welfare Working Group to advise him, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions, concerning OIE priorities and proposed activities in the field of animal welfare.

2. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2013 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.

3. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and that focal points participate in regional training programmes organised by the OIE.

4. Within the framework of an agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.

5. Veterinary Services of each Member continue to take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, where appropriate, strengthening of the regulatory framework for animal welfare.

6. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to play an active role in raising awareness of the OIE animal welfare role, with active involvement of OIE Working Group members from their respective regions.

7. OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be encouraged to identify "twinning" opportunities in accordance with OIE policy and that further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to the new criteria agreed by the OIE Council.

8. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.

9. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE's international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards and the need to implement OIE adopted standards worldwide.

10. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P. and the International Standardization Organization (ISO) to ensure awareness of and compliance with OIE science-based animal welfare standards.

11. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 24

Newly designated OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories for Terrestrial Animal Diseases

CONSIDERING

1. That Article 7 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that '…the OIE Expert is responsible for the implementation of the technical aspects of the Terms of Reference and may delegate specific responsibilities to other experts on an *ad hoc* basis. Experts associated with OIE Reference Centres exercise their function within the rules applicable to OIE Experts',

2. That the OIE designated Expert at an OIE Reference Laboratory is selected on examination by the relevant Specialist Commission of his or her curriculum vitae that includes documented proof of international recognition of his or her expertise, e.g. publications in peer-reviewed journals, awards, membership in high-profile academic boards, etc.,

3. The need to ensure continuity in the implementation of technical aspects of the Terms of Reference of Reference Laboratories by the high-level expert designated to this effect,

4. That nominations had been submitted by the head of the establishment to the Director General through the OIE Delegate of the country of location of the Reference Laboratory; the Biological Standards Commission assessed the qualifications of nominated replacement experts and recommended their acceptance by the Council (Docs 81 SG/12/CS2 A and 81 SG/12/CS2 B),

5. That the Council approved the proposed replacement OIE Experts that had been endorsed by the relevant Specialist Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories and add them to the list of experts in the OIE Reference Centres (available on the OIE web site):

African horse sickness
Dr Montserrat Agüero to replace Dr Concepción Gómez-Tejedor at the Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria, Algete (Madrid), SPAIN.

Dr Javier Castillo-Olivares to replace Dr Chris Oura at the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright, UNITED KINGDOM.

African swine fever
Dr Linda Dixon to replace Dr Chris Oura at the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright, UNITED KINGDOM.

Avian influenza
Dr Frank Wong to replace Dr Paul Selleck at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, AUSTRALIA.

Avian influenza and Newcastle disease
Dr Mia Torchetti to replace Dr Janice Pedersen at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Bee diseases
Dr Marie-Pierre Chauzat to replace Dr Jean-Paul Faucon at the Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur les ruminants et les abeilles, Anses Sophia Antipolis, FRANCE.

Bluetongue
Dr Peter Mertens to replace Dr Chris Oura at the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright, UNITED KINGDOM.

Classical swine fever
Prof. Paul Becher to replace Prof. Volker Moennig at the University of Veterinary Medicine of Hannover, GERMANY.

Equine infectious anaemia
Dr Makoto Yamakawa to replace Dr Kenji Murakami at the National Institute of Animal Health, Ibaraki, JAPAN.

Equine influenza and Equine rhinopneumonitis
Dr Armando Daminai to replace Dr Kerstin Borchers at the Free University of Berlin, GERMANY.

Equine viral arteritis
Prof. Dr Falko Steinbach to replace Dr Trevor Drew at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, UNITED KINGDOM.

Foot and mouth disease
Dr Somjai Kamolsiripichaiporn to replace Dr Wilai Linchongsubongkoch at the National Institute of Animal Health, Pakchong, THAILAND.

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
Dr Akbar Dastjerdi to replace Dr Malcolm Banks at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, UNITED KINGDOM.

Newcastle disease
Dr Sam McCullough to replace Dr Paul Selleck at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, AUSTRALIA.

Rabies
Dr Richard Franka to replace Dr Charles Rupprecht at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Atlanta, Georgia, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Surra (Trypanosoma evansi)
Dr Philippe Büscher to replace Dr Filip Claes at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, BELGIUM.

West Nile fever
Dr Federica Monaco to replace Dr Rossella Lelli at the IZS dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale", ITALY.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 25

Adoption of the new or revised texts for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*), like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,

2. Member Countries were asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following final texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:

1.1.1. Collection, submission and storage of diagnostic specimens
1.1.2. Transport of specimens of animal origin
1.1.5. Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases
2.1.10. New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax)* and Old World Screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
2.1.13. Rabies (vaccine section)
2.1.20. West Nile fever
2.2.4. Nosemosis of honey bees
2.2.5. Small hive beetle infestation (*Aethina tumida*)
2.3.2. Avian infectious bronchitis
2.4.15. Malignant catarrhal fever
2.4.18. Trypanosomosis (tsetse-transmitted)
2.5.3. Dourine
2.5.5. Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern & Western)
2.5.6. Equine infectious anaemia
2.5.10. Equine viral arteritis
2.5.11. Glanders
2.5.14. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
2.7.5. Contagious agalactia (diagnostic section)
2.7.11. Peste des petits ruminants
2.8.9. Swine vesicular fever
2.9.8. Mange

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 26

Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays (test methods) for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,

2. The Resolution has established that 'fitness for purpose' should be used as a criterion for validation,

3. The aim of the procedure for diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised assays for OIE Member Countries and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,

4. OIE Member Countries need assays that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of assays, to ensure that the test can be used to correctly establish animal disease status and to enhance confidence in assays,

5. The OIE register of recognised assays provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that produce validated and certified tests in kit format,

6. According to the OIE Standard Operating Procedure, registration of the diagnostic kits included in the OIE Register has to be renewed every five years,

7. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Director General add the following to the register of diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	**Name of the Manufacturer**	**Fitness for purpose**
IQ Plus™ WSSV Kit with POCKIT System	Genereach Biotechnology Corporation	Fit for the diagnosis of white spot disease in target tissues (Shrimp tissue of ectodermal and mesodermal origin) of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and for the following purposes: 1. To certify freedom from infection (<10 virions/reaction) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes; 2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs); 3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control).

2. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission and of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Director General renew for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	**Name of the Manufacturer**	**Fitness for purpose**
BioChek Avian Influenza Antibody test kit	BioChek UK Ltd	Fit for serological diagnosis of type A avian influenza in chickens (specific to IgG in serum) and for the following purposes: 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd); 2. To demonstrate re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd); 3. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases; 4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control); 5. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination).
IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System	Genereach Biotechnology Corporation	Fit for the diagnosis of white spot disease in crustaceans and for the following purposes: 1. To certify freedom from infection (<10 virions/reaction) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes; 2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs); 3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control).
Prionics®-Check WESTERN	Prionics®	Fit for the post-mortem diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and for the following purposes: 1. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (includes confirmation of a positive screening test); 2. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control, e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures) and to assist in the demonstration of the efficiency of control policies; 3. To confirm a non-negative test result obtained during active surveillance with a different type of test.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Adoption of four updated draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (*Aquatic Manual*), like the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,

2. Member Countries are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,

3. The following revised chapters were sent to Member Countries for comment:

2.3.2. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)

2.3.5. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus

2.3.11. Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy

2.4.9. Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised chapters for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 11 and 12 of Document 81 SG/12/CS4 B, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the revised chapters for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 13 and 14 of Document 81 SG/12/CS4 B, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1 In Annex 13 (Chapter 2.3.11.)

a) delete the second sentence of Section 2.4.1. Vaccination: “Nevertheless there are no commercially available vaccines at present.” and replace it with “Recently, an inactivated RGNNV vaccine against VER of seven-band grouper was commercialised in Japan.”

2.2. In Annex 14 (Chapter 2.4.9.)

a) delete “(OsHV-1var)” in the first line of the third paragraph in Section 2.1.1.

b) delete “(OsHV-1var)” in the last sentence of the second paragraph in Section 4.3.1.2.3.1.

c) add the word “may” between the words “infection” and “causes” in the first sentence of Section 2.2.2. and delete the “s” from the word “causes”.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 28

Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The current content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous OIE General Sessions,

2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the March 2013 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 14 of Document 81 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of Member Countries,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of Document 81 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annex 8 of Document 81 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

   2.1. In Annex 8 (Chapter 7.4.)

      a) In Articles 7.4.2., 7.4.3. and 7.4.4. revert to the 2012 version of the *Aquatic Code*.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The present content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE World Assembly during previous General Sessions;

2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2013 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 81SG/12/CS1B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes IV, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVIII and XXIX of Document 81SG/12/CS1B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes V, VI, XIII, XVIII, XIX, XXII, XXX and XXXI of Document 81 SG/12/CS1B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

   2.1. In Annex V (Chapter 1.1.)

      a) In the French version only, in Point 4 of Article 1.1.2. reading: "Il en découle que la détection de l'agent étiologique d'une *maladie listée* chez un *animal* doit être notifiée même en l'absence de formes cliniques de la *maladie*".

      b) Delete the words "of epidemiological significance" at the end of the last paragraph of Article 1.1.3.

      c) In the English and Spanish versions only, add the word "important" in the last paragraph of Article 1.1.3. reading: "Although Members are only required to notify *listed diseases*, *infections* and *infestations* and *emerging diseases* according to points 1 to 4 above, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other **important** animal health events."

   2.2. In Annex VI (Chapter 1.2.)

      a) Delete Article 1.2.2. bis and attach the diagram at the end of the chapter.

      b) In Article 1.2.3., put "[under study]" after 25th indent in Point 1 (Vesicular stomatitis) and 6th indent in Point 5 (Swine vesicular disease).

      c) In Point 6 of Article 1.2.3., add "including wild birds" after "in birds other than poultry" to 8th indent.

      d) Reinstate Chapters 8.15. and 15.4.

2.3. In Annex XIII (Chapter 7.X.)

In Point 2 k) of Article 7.X.4., add "[under study]" at the end of the first paragraph.

2.4. In Annex XVIII (Chapter 8.13.)

In the Spanish version only, in Point 2 b) of Article 8.13.3., replace "auditors" with "personal".

2.5. In Annex XIX (Chapter 8.10.)

a) In Article 8.10.1. bis, delete "canine" in the title.

b) In Article 8.10.2., delete Point 4.

2.6. In Annex XXII (Chapter 9.4.)

In the Spanish version only, add "(ESCARABAJO DE LAS COLMENAS)" below the title.

2.7. In Annex XXX (Chapters 14.8. and 1.6.)

a) In Article 14.8.1., delete the 7th paragraph reading "A Member Country should not impose bans on the trade in domestic sheep and goat *commodities* in response to information on the presence of PPRV in other ruminants, provided that Article 14.8.3. is implemented".

b) In Article 14.8.2., delete Point 2.

c) Create new Article 14.8.16. as follows:

Recommendation for importation of fresh meat and meat products from sheep and goats

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of *meat* comes from *animals* which:

1) showed no clinical signs of PPR within 24 hours before *slaughter*;

2) have been slaughtered in an approved *abattoir* and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results.

d) In the Spanish only, in Article 1.6.1.:

– Change the 3rd sentence of the 1st paragraph, reading: "La OIE no publica la declaración de la situación sanitaria por los Miembros respecto de la encefalopatía espongiforme bovina, la **fiebre aftosa**, la peste bovina, la perineumonía contagiosa bovina, la peste equina, la peste de pequeños rumiantes y la peste porcina clásica."

– Change Point 2, reading: "la ausencia de **fiebre aftosa**, con o sin *vacunación*, de la totalidad de su territorio o de una *zona* del mismo;"

– Change the 5th paragraph, reading: “El Miembro que solicite el reconocimiento oficial de su situación sanitaria deberá presentar al Departamento Científico y Técnico de la OIE un expediente con la información exigida en los Artículos 1.6.3. (para la EEB), 1.6.4. (para la **fiebre aftosa**), 1.6.5. (para la peste bovina), 1.6.6. (para la perineumonía contagiosa bovina), 1.6.7. (para la peste equina), 1.6.7.bis (para la peste de pequeños rumiantes), o 1.6.7. ter. (para la peste porcina clásica), según corresponda.”

2.8. In Annex XXXI (Chapters 15.2. and 1.6.)

In Article 15.2.1., change Points 1 and 2 as follows:

1) A strain of CSFV (excluding vaccine strains) has been isolated from samples from a pig;

OR

2) viral antigen (excluding vaccine strains) has been identified, or viral ribonucleic acid (RNA) specific to a strain of CSFV has been demonstrated to be present, in samples from one or more pigs epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected *outbreak* of CSF, or giving cause for suspicion of previous association or contact with CSFV, with or without clinical signs consistent with CSF;

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and for the endorsement of a national official control programme

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) during the 62nd General Session adopted Resolution No. IX, 'Countries and zones that may be considered as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD)',

2. During the 63rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolutions No. XII, XIII and XIV describing the general procedure to update the list of FMD free countries and adding contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and rinderpest to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

3. During the 65th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XII requiring that Member Countries with an official free status, either for the whole country or for zone(s), should confirm by official letter, in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, during the month of November of each year, that their official disease free status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,

4. During the 65th General Sessions, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code,*

5. During the 67th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XVI describing the general procedure to be followed by the OIE Member Countries wishing to achieve an officially recognised status according to the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and making official recognition contingent to a 60 day consultative period given to all Member Countries' Delegates,

6. During the 69th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XV adding bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to the list of diseases for which risk status is officially recognised by the OIE,

7. During the 72th General Sessions, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIV extending the authority of the Scientific Commission to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised disease free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated or its risk level for BSE in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* to the other diseases included in the procedure of official status recognition,

8. During the 75th General Session, the Assembly approved the addition of Article 2.2.10.7. to the *Terrestrial Code* allowing a Member Country to establish an FMD *containment zone* for the purpose of minimising the impact of an outbreak of FMD on an entire free country or zone,

9. During the 76th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXII compiling and updating the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases,

10. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 18 declaring global freedom of rinderpest and Resolution No. 26 deciding to suspend the duties of Member Countries to annually confirm rinderpest free status,

11. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolutions Nos. 19 and 26 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the Chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Code*,

12. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries and the document was published and kept up-to-date on the OIE website,

13. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 19 adding African horse sickness (AHS) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code,*

14. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 25 updating the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases, or endorsement of an official control programme for FMD,

15. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 26 updating the rules on the financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme,

16. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29 adding classical swine fever (CSF) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE and establishing the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for PPR in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,

17. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication or maintenance of Member Countries' disease status based on inaccurate information or non-reporting of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of initial declaration.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. That the OIE Member Countries wishing to be officially recognised and listed for a specific status for AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD, PPR and risk status for BSE or for the endorsement of its official control programme for FMD and PPR have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the recognition for disease status or official control programme as well as the specific guidelines contained in disease specific questionnaires and the general provisions for *Veterinary Services* as outlined in Chapters 1.1., 1.6., 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code.*

2. That the OIE will evaluate the applications for the recognition of CSF status beginning from the annual cycle May 2014 – May 2015.

3. That the Scientific Commission, following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member Country for the recognition or reinstatement of a specific disease status or endorsement of an official control programme for FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the applicant Member Country to verify compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.

4. That the Scientific Commission, following the allocation of a specific disease status, a BSE risk status or endorsement of an official control programme for FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the Member Country to monitor the maintenance of the allocated disease or risk status and to verify continuous compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.

5. That in the event of the application for an official status to be assigned to a new zone adjacent to another zone having already the same official status, the Delegate should indicate, in writing to the Director General, whether the new zone is being merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone, and, if the two zones remain separate, provide details on the control measures to be applied for the maintenance of the status of the separate zones and particularly on the identification and movement of animals between the two zones of the same status in accordance with Chapter 4.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

6. That the recognition by the Assembly of the disease status or BSE risk status of a Member Country or the endorsement of its official control programme for FMD or PPR following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Member Countries' Delegates for all new disease status recognitions, changes in the category of disease free status or disease risk status as specified in the *Terrestrial Code,* changes in the boundaries of an existing free zone, and endorsement of official control programme for FMD or PPR.

7. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or a zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised disease status following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

8. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, the reinstatement of the free status of a zone outside a *containment zone* on evaluation of documented evidence provided by that Member Country that a *containment zone* has been established in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

9. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority, without further Assembly consultation, to confirm or reject the maintenance of the allocated BSE risk status of a Member Country or a same zone following a report of a change in the epidemiological situation by the Delegate of the Member Country.

10. That a Member Country can maintain its recognised disease status, its recognised BSE risk status or the OIE endorsement of its official control programme for FMD or PPR, provided that the Delegate submits, during the month of November of each year, a letter to the Director General of the OIE providing the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* and that the Scientific Commission is satisfied that the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* continue to be met.

11. That when a Member Country having an officially recognised disease status or an endorsed official control programme for FMD or PPR has failed to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this status or endorsement as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code,* it is deleted from the list of officially recognised Member Countries or zones presented yearly to the Assembly for adoption.

12. That a Member Country having been deleted from the list mentioned in the previous paragraph should apply again for recognition of the lost disease status or endorsement of the official control programme for FMD or PPR by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.

13. That the Delegates of Member Countries should document and clarify aspects of *Veterinary Services* and the specific animal health situation in non-contiguous territories covered by the same Veterinary Authority when submitting new applications for official recognition of disease status.

14. That financial participation of Member Countries to the cost of official recognition and endorsement procedures is determined by a specific Resolution.

15. This Resolution No. 30 cancels and replaces Resolution No. 25 of the 80th General Session.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 31

First addendum to Resolution No. 26 of 24 May 2012
"The cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for foot and mouth disease"

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) during the 80th General Session adopted Resolution No. 26 updating the rules on the financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme,

2. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29 adding peste des petits ruminants (PPR) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE and establishing the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for PPR, in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. The full amount for each evaluation of PPR status or for the endorsement of an official control programme for PPR will be required only when a Member Country applies for the first time for recognition of status , for either the entire country or for one or several zones within the country, or for endorsement of an official control programme for PPR.

2. The full amount for PPR is five thousand Euros (5,000 €), irrespective of whether the application for evaluation is for a Member Country's whole national territory or only for one or several zones within the Member Country's territory. The full amount for endorsement of an official control programme for PPR is two thousand Euros (2,000 €).

3. For subsequent additional applications possibly submitted for PPR (e.g. recognition of an additional zone, merging of zones or recovery of status along with enlargement of the zone under consideration) or for endorsement of an official control programme for PPR (in the event of the OIE having withdrawn its endorsement due to non-compliance with commitments relating to the initial recognition of the programme), only half of the initial amount will be charged.

4. In the event of the resubmission of an application for endorsement of an official control programme for PPR by a Member Country whose previous application was rejected, only a quarter of the amount mentioned in Article 2 will be charged.

5. The cost of a possible OIE mission to a Member Country related to official disease status or official control programme needs to be defrayed by the Member Country concerned.

6. This Resolution No. 31 complements Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 80th General Session, which remains in force.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 32

Designation of OIE Reference Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Centres, which comprise Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres,

2. The Terms of Reference of each of the four elected OIE Specialist Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the designation of new OIE Reference Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,

3. All OIE Reference Centres applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,

4. Details of the applicant institutions that have been assessed by a Specialist Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,

5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council, and all Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the OIE Council,

6. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

7. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Centre follow the same procedure,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Centres and add them to the list of OIE Reference Centres (available on the OIE web site):

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems*
A tri-national consortium formed by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, México D.F., MEXICO and the current OIE Collaborating Centre at Instituto de Ciencia Animal, Universidad Austral de Chile, Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Valdivia, CHILE and Instituto de Biociencias, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de la República O del Uruguay, Montevideo, URUGUAY.

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Cell Cultures*
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER), Brescia, ITALY.

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science*
Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines*
African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, ETHIOPIA.

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health*
EpiCentre and the mEpiLab, Massey University, Palmerston North, NEW ZEALAND.

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Foot and mouth disease*
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER), Brescia, ITALY.

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Japanese encephalitis*
Rabies Research Laboratory, Division of Viral Disease, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (QIA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Gyeonggi-do, KOREA (REP. OF).

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Ovine theileriosis*
Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Vector and Vector-borne Diseases Control Laboratory (VVBDC), Gansu Province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF).

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Q fever*
Anses (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail), Laboratoire de Sophia-Antipolis, Unité de Pathologie des Ruminants, Sophia-Antipolis, FRANCE.

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Swine influenza*
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), Weybridge, UNITED KINGDOM.

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Swine streptococcosis*
Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), Branch of Swine Streptococcosis Diagnostic Laboratory (BSSDL), Jiangsu Province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 33

Withdrawal of OIE Reference Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The principal mandate of an OIE Reference Laboratory is to function as a world reference centre of expertise on designated pathogens or diseases; the principal mandate of an OIE Collaborating Centre is to function as a world centre of research, expertise, standardisation of techniques and dissemination of knowledge on a specialty,

2. The network of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories constitutes the core of OIE's scientific expertise and excellence; the on-going contribution of these institutes to the OIE work ensures, in particular, that the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the Specialist Commissions, adopted and published by the OIE are scientifically sound and up-to-date,

3. All OIE Reference Centre applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,

4. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council, and all Collaborating Centre applications are accepted by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the OIE Council; all applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval,

5. The OIE has made significant investment and effort to bring increased rigour to the approval and maintenance of OIE Reference Centre status to ensure the highest standards of services to OIE Member Countries,

6. Article 9 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that 'The Reference Centre may revoke the designation at any time',

7. Article 9 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres further states that 'The designation shall be withdrawn if the Reference Centre fails to comply with the provisions of the Terms of Reference and the present Rules. In such cases, the Director General of the OIE, after consulting an appropriate Specialist Commission, proposes the withdrawal to the World Assembly of Delegates',

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To withdraw the following Reference Centre after advice of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and opinion of the Council and in agreement with the OIE Delegate of the country of location and remove it from the list of OIE Reference Centres (available on the OIE web site):

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Infectious Salmon Anaemia*
Atlantic Veterinary College, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Prince Edward Island, CANADA.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 34

Replacement of OIE designated Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories

CONSIDERING

1. That Article 7 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that '… the OIE Expert is responsible for the implementation of the technical aspects of the Terms of Reference and may delegate specific responsibilities to other experts on an *ad hoc* basis. Experts associated with OIE Reference Centres exercise their function within the rules applicable to OIE Experts',

2. That the OIE designated Expert at an OIE Reference Laboratory is selected on examination by the relevant Specialist Commission of his or her curriculum vitae that includes documented proof of international recognition of his or her expertise, e.g. publications in peer-reviewed journals, awards, membership in high-profile academic boards, etc.,

3. The need to ensure continuity in the implementation of technical aspects of the Terms of Reference of Reference Laboratories by the high-level expert designated to this effect,

4. That the Council decided, at its meeting of 2–4 October 2012, that any proposal to replace the already designated OIE Expert at a Reference Laboratory must be submitted by the head of the establishment to the Director General through the OIE Delegate of the country of location,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To delegate to the Council the authority to approve, on behalf of the World Assembly of Delegates, the replacement of OIE designated Experts at existing OIE Reference Laboratories, provided that the nominations submitted by the head of the Reference Laboratory through the OIE Delegate of the country of location have been examined and endorsed by the relevant OIE Specialist Commission.

2. To request the Director General to update the list of OIE Reference Laboratories, including the newly designated OIE Experts, and publish it online without delay, subsequent to a decision of the Council.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 35

Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Developments in science and technology will continue to provide opportunities to improve animal and public health and welfare while reducing economic losses to animal producers and enhancing food security,

2. Technologies now available to the global animal health community and their rapid evolution are changing the way animal diseases are detected, predicted, controlled and eradicated,

3. OIE Member Countries reported high interest in implementation of new technologies,

4. Compared to most non-zoonotic diseases, zoonotic diseases as well as their relevant food safety issues are rated significantly higher for the development and implementation of new technologies,

5. OIE Member Countries reported the highest needs for technical capacity building such as disease risk assessments, disease transmission modeling, molecular epidemiology techniques, DIVA compatible vaccines, nucleic acid-based tests for confirmation and high potency vaccines,

6. OIE Member Countries reported limitations to implementing technological advancements include lack of infrastructure or resources (scientific, technical and/or financial), lack of scientific evidence, and lack of national validation and OIE recognition,

7. The OIE develops and updates standards and guidelines addressing new technologies through its standard process for adoption of new chapters in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*,

8. There was interest by OIE Member Countries in more rapid validation and incorporation of new technologies into standards and guidelines,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE evaluates opportunities for a more rapid validation and incorporation of new technologies into OIE animal health standards and guidelines in parallel with conventional technologies.

2. The OIE, through its Twinning Programme, Reference Centres and other partnering initiatives, continues and expands training and capacity building in the development, validation and implementation of new technologies with special emphasis on disease risk assessments, disease transmission modelling, molecular epidemiology techniques, DIVA compatible vaccines, nucleic acid-based tests for confirmation and high potency vaccines.

3. The OIE continues to support National Veterinary Services through the application of the OIE PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathway, including the PVS Evaluation, and identify where additional emphasis may be needed on the implementation of new technologies that provide the opportunity to enhance animal health, animal welfare, food safety and food security.

4. The OIE continues to promote validation of diagnostic tests, including new diagnostic technologies, through its procedure for registration of diagnostic kits certified fit for a specific purpose.

5. The OIE and OIE Member Countries continue to work closely in a 'One Health' approach with public health and environmental authorities to develop risk-based and disease-specific guidance incorporating new technologies as appropriate to assist in the decision-making processes regarding the use of animals for human consumption in zoonotic disease situations.

6. The Director General, in conjunction with OIE's Reference Centres, Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, addresses the challenges and opportunities to Member Countries' Veterinary Services posed by the use of new technologies and their incorporation in disease management strategies.

7. The OIE works with its Member Countries, food industries and animal health industries to provide effective communication of risks and benefits in order to support public acceptance of new technologies including vaccines.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 36

Benefits and challenges posed by the worldwide expansion of equestrian events – new standards for the population of competition horses and equine disease free zones in countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE has published standards for equine diseases that relate primarily to permanent importation,

2. The growth and socio-economic benefits of the sub-population of high health, high performance horses engaging in international competitions not requiring permanent importation is significant,

3. There are requests from a number of countries and industries to elaborate standards for high health, high performance horses to facilitate their temporary and safe international movements,

4. A number of challenges exist for certain countries due to inconsistent approaches to the regulatory and biosecurity matters relating to high health, high performance horses,

5. To facilitate these safe international movements globally, the Fédération Équestre International (FEI) and the OIE have signed a collaboration agreement,

6. The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) agrees with this approach and collaborates with the OIE,

7. FEI and IFHA have well-established management arrangements, including health requirements, for competition horses which provide a sound basis for the development of new standards for temporary international movement,

8. Practical and learning experiences from major international events such as the Sydney and Beijing (which were held in Hong Kong) Equestrian Olympics and Paralympics, as well as the 2010 Asian Games in Conghua, the PR China, indicate that Equine Disease Free Zones approaches can be very successful,

9. The OIE has established a representative *ad hoc* Group on International Horse Movements for Equestrian Sport, which will draw on relevant animal health and industry expertise as required, to propose to the OIE Specialist Commissions relevant recommendations that will complement existing standards,

10. OIE policy supports the elaboration of new or revised standards for submission to the OIE World Assembly provided they are scientifically based, endorsed by relevant elected Specialist Commissions, and the process is transparent and democratic,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE develop standards for adoption by the World Assembly and guidelines relating to the temporary international movements of a specific sub-population of high health, high performance competition horses, ensuring protection of animal health and welfare.

2. The OIE and OIE Member Countries re-affirm the critical importance of Veterinary Services and other relevant competent regulatory authorities necessary to ensure compliance with OIE standards and guidelines to facilitate safe international movement in horses.

3. OIE Member Countries agree that specific performance indicators be developed for horse movement control within the PVS framework.

4. The OIE and OIE Member Countries support and encourage cooperative working relationships between governments, relevant equine industry members and other stakeholders as required for safe international movements of competition horses.

5. The Director General and OIE Member Countries note the clear success that the current OIE-FEI public-private partnership (PPP) provides at the global level and support the further development of PPP approaches.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 37

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA),

The Agreement between the OIE and the IFHA that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 24 May 2013 (81 SG/21),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 38

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC),

The Agreement between the OIE and the AU-PATTEC that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 24 May 2013 (81 SG/22),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 39

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO),

The Agreement between the OIE and the WFO that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 4 October 2012 (81 SG/23),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 40

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Renderers Organization (WRO)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Renderers Organization (WRO),

The Agreement between the OIE and the WRO that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 4 October 2012 (81 SG/24),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 41

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF),

The Agreement between the OIE and the IFIF that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 4 October 2012 (81 SG/25),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 42

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO),

The Agreement between the OIE and the IWTO that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 4 October 2012 (81 SG/26),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 43

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD),

The Agreement between the OIE and the SCBD that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 4 October 2012 (81 SG/27),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2013)

RESOLUTION No. 44

Second addendum to Resolution No. 26 of 24 May 2012
"The cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for foot and mouth disease"

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) during the 80th General Session adopted Resolution No. 26 updating the rules on the financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme,

2. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29 adding classical swine fever (CSF) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE, in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. The full amount for each evaluation of CSF status will be required only when a Member Country applies for the first time for recognition of status, for either the entire country or for one or several zones within the country.

2. The full amount for CSF is nine thousand Euros (9,000 €), irrespective of whether the application for evaluation is for a Member Country's whole national territory or only for one or several zones within the Member Country's territory.

3. For subsequent additional applications possibly submitted for CSF (e.g. recognition of an additional zone, merging of zones or recovery of status along with enlargement of the zone under consideration), only half of the initial amount will be charged.

4. The cost of a possible OIE mission to a Member Country related to official disease status or official control programme needs to be defrayed by the Member Country concerned.

5. This Resolution No. 44 complements Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 80th General Session, which remains in force.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendations

of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2012

endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates
of the OIE on 30 May 2013

25th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Fleesensee (Germany), 17 to 21 September 2012

Recommendation No. 1**:** The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases

Recommendation No. 2: Steps towards a common animal welfare approach in Europe

Recommendation No. 1

The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The transmission of pathogens between domestic and wild animals is a significant factor to address in controlling diseases;

2. The Veterinary Services continue to experience difficulty in controlling livestock diseases that can persist in wildlife populations;

3. There is sometimes insufficient scientific knowledge and surveillance data, including those related to emerging diseases, to make a balanced assessment of the risks to livestock production posed by the spread of pathogens in wildlife populations;

4. Understanding of veterinary professionals on wildlife pathology and the implications of wildlife diseases for veterinary public health is not optimal;

5. Vaccination of foxes against rabies and of wild boar against classical swine fever has been successfully carried out in Europe;

6. The Veterinary Services can advocate the implementation of suitable biosecurity measures in particular when zoning or compartmentalisation policies for animal production sectors are being put in place.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries organise surveillance for wildlife pathogens and diseases in Europe in a more coordinated and regular manner, with particular emphasis on pathogens and diseases having an actual or potential impact on livestock and public health;

2. Through the WAHIS system, OIE Member Countries strengthen their official notification to the OIE of listed and emerging diseases when they affect wildlife, in particular when they are transmissible to livestock and have a zoonotic impact;

3. OIE Member Countries cooperate, especially when they have common borders, by sharing relevant information collected by their Veterinary Services on the spread of wildlife disease or infections,;

4. The Member Countries recognise that a country should not suffer any prejudice if it declares infection of wild animals with OIE-listed pathogens or their exposure to them (i.e. presence of antibodies), insofar as the disease in question has not been notified in susceptible livestock species;

5. The Member Countries foster the development of biosecurity measures designed to prevent direct or indirect contact with wildlife, within the framework of a zoning or compartmentalisation policy, when applicable;

6. The Member Countries encourage scientific research in their respective country on the spread of pathogens in wildlife and on effective methods for controlling transmission to livestock;

7. The OIE consider the setting up of a Collaborating Centre in the Europe region on the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases, to give Member Countries in the Region easier access to a source of capacity building in this field;

8. The OIE, within the framework of the *Ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, recommend incorporating concepts of management of wildlife pathogens and diseases having an impact on domestic animals and public health in the development of the basic core curriculum and in continuing education programmes aimed at the Veterinary Services, the veterinary profession, and other relevant stakeholders;

9. The OIE continue to develop guidelines and standards relating to the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases taking into account the range of relevant stakeholders' interests.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

Steps towards a common animal welfare approach in Europe

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, national and international public policy issue with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and commercial dimensions;

2. Following the Conventions drawn up by the Council of Europe, the Member States of the European Union and associated countries have, over the last few decades, adopted various harmonised rules on animal welfare and equipped themselves with a strategy, whereas many other contracting parties to the Council of Europe have not yet implemented all of the measures advocated in the Conventions;

3. The OIE has a mandate to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, that standards on animal welfare were first adopted at the General Session in May 2005 and that they have been regularly updated ever since;

4. Animal health is a key dimension of animal welfare and that the subject of animal welfare is included in the OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services and is also taken into account in the OIE initiative on veterinary legislation;

5. Regional animal welfare strategies or approaches, adapted to the situation in each region and accompanied by a suitable implementation plan, make a major contribution to enabling the OIE to carry out its mandate with respect to improving animal health and welfare worldwide;

6. Through PVS evaluations and other activities, the OIE has been able to assess the challenges faced by some countries in the Region of Europe in trying to fulfil the missions inherent in good quality of Veterinary Services;

7. The lack of organisation of the various involved parties in the sector prevents the creation of public–private partnerships essential for the sustainable implementation of OIE recommendations and standards in the field of animal health and welfare;

8. The regional seminars on animal welfare in Europe, which were successfully held in Istanbul (Turkey) in July 2009 and in Kiev (Ukraine) in March 2012 with the support of the European Union, have confirmed the prominent regional role of the OIE in animal welfare and the importance of appointing and strengthening the capacities of Focal Points for Animal Welfare;

9. It is important to continue these capacity-building activities and to improve and develop them, both for the exchange of information and for their contribution to the overall strengthening of the capacities of the Veterinary Services using all the components of the OIE PVS Tool;

10. It is important for the European Union and other potential donors active in the Region of Europe to be associated with these capacity-building activities, and for these activities to systematically include all the relevant parties;

11. The OIE has prepared a draft concept note describing the problems encountered in some European countries and proposing solutions to resolve them in partnership with all involved parties seeking to promote animal welfare in the region.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Veterinary Services of all OIE Member Countries in the Region of Europe take all necessary measures to apply the standards on animal welfare adopted by the OIE;

2. The Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the Region of Europe take all necessary measures to ensure that, if a national Focal Point for Animal Welfare has not yet been appointed, one be appointed as quickly as possible and that the Focal Points take part in regional capacity-building programmes organised by the OIE;

3. The OIE use the results of evaluations performed using the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool and Gap Analysis Tool to propose suitably adapted continuing training programmes and twinning actions using OIE Collaborating Centres (CC) specialised in animal welfare and between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE), or other relevant twinning activities between OIE Members of the Region;

4. The draft concept note developed by the OIE, aimed at achieving greater coordination among the Members of the Regional Commission for Europe on the subject of animal welfare, be transmitted to the Members of the Region in order to finalise its content particularly the balanced representation of the proposed steering group and any other associated committee, so the Concept note be adopted at the next meeting of the Regional Commission in May 2013;

5. The concept note, once adopted by the Regional Commission, be implemented by the OIE with the unfailing commitment of all the concerned countries and with the support of the European Union and other potential donors;

6. The European Union participate actively in these activities, including through financial support, sharing of regulatory and field experience, training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns, jointly with the OIE;

7. Within the framework outlined in recommendation paragraphs number 4 and 5, the permanent need to involve all interested parties including consumer, animal protection, producer, veterinarians and industry organisations, be taken into account.

8. As an outcome of the work to be done, a Regional OIE Animal Welfare strategy be considered.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

21st Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Bridgetown (Barbados), 26 to 29 November 2012

Recommendation No. 1:	Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services
Recommendation No. 2:	Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

Recommendation No. 1

Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The growing interdependence between humans, animals and the environment in which they live is causing global health problems whose resolution requires a more holistic approach;

2. Veterinary Services have the primary responsibility for ensuring early detection and rapid response to emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, meaning that they must be strengthened in their entirety to prepare them to face the challenges arising from globalisation and disaster hazards, including climate change and bioterrorism;

3. There is a link between natural and technological disasters and the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses;

4. OIE Members in the Region view with concern the obstacles facing Member Countries and their under-preparedness to cope with disasters influencing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;

5. Veterinary Authorities should prepare their disaster reduction plans, including emergency plans, at all technical and administrative levels of the Veterinary Service and forge partnerships with other related sectors;

6. It is cheaper to prevent and prepare for the consequences of disasters and that the Veterinary Authority has little involvement in the prevention stage of the disaster reduction cycle;

7. Member Countries of the Region have requested the OIE to become more directly involved in the issue of disaster risk reduction and management; and

8. Member Countries are willing to cooperate on disaster risk reduction and management.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries identify and include in their priorities the human and material resources needed to avoid and reduce the impact of potential disasters on animal health and welfare;

2. Veterinary Services enhance their cooperation and coordination with all sectors involved in disaster risk reduction and management, in particular public health authorities, to prevent and control zoonoses;

3. Member Countries promote the exchange of expertise on disaster risk reduction and management among countries in the Region;

4. The OIE continue its support for building the technical, management and good governance capacity of Veterinary Services, in order to contribute to reducing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases and to animal welfare through disaster risk reduction and management;

5. The OIE continue its work of supporting Members by means of programmes such as the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), PVS Gap Analysis, legislation missions and any other support via the PVS Pathway, in order to strengthen Veterinary Services, giving appropriate coverage to disaster risk reduction and management;

6. The OIE, through its Reference Centres and in collaboration with other international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and with relevant regional organisations, continue supporting Veterinary Authorities in developing surveillance, simulation models and other tools that take into account the relationship between natural and biological disasters, no matter whether it is of natural or intentional origin ;

7. The Director General of the OIE contact the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to promote interaction between the two organisations in the areas of animal health and welfare, and disaster risk reduction and management;

8. The OIE support Member Countries by creating opportunities for Veterinary Service training and capacity-building on disaster risk reduction and management, and by promoting the need for countries to share information and experience, with the emphasis on hazard, vulnerability and risk studies, and the development of disaster reduction plans;

9. The OIE consider disaster risk reduction and management in its veterinary curriculum development work; and

10. The OIE work with Cuba on finalising the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre on disaster risk reduction and management.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 29 November 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Transboundary animal diseases have a great impact on animal and public health, on the economy of countries and on the societies in general;

2. The globalisation of trade, the intensification of animal and human movements, the environmental and climatic changes as well as many other socioeconomic factors greatly influence the spread of pathogens and vectors;

3. Surveillance and control of animal diseases, and especially transboundary diseases, must be a priority objective for any country and region;

4. There is a need to strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems and disseminate precise animal health data and scientific information on animal diseases and zoonoses, including their occurrence for any country and region;

5. The quality of the Veterinary Services is a critical factor to improve animal health and welfare, protect public health and contribute to food safety and food security through the implementation of OIE standards;

6. The OIE mandate includes collection and dissemination of information on the occurrence of animal diseases and on disease control measures, and adoption and publication of animal health and animal welfare standards worldwide;

7. The research and capacity building activities developed in tight interaction within regional networks in the field of animal health and veterinary public health represent an efficient mean to develop synergies and to share regional resources to reach common objectives;

8. The diversity and uniqueness of some countries can represent challenges to the implementation of regional animal health networks;

9. The management and conduct of efficient coordinated activities at regional or sub-regional level can represent a way to compensate for the lack of human and financial resources at national level;

10. CaribVET represents an interesting example of collaborative network bringing together Veterinary Services, academic institutions, regional and international organisations, diagnostic laboratories and research institutes(including OIE Reference Laboratories), providing technical support to improve animal health and veterinary public health in the Caribbean;

11. CaribVET has been officially recognised as the animal health network of the Caribbean since 2006 by the countries of the Caribbean region and by CARICOM, and has developed a letter of understanding with the OIE as well as a charter that has been adopted by all members; and

12. Animal Health is a key component of animal welfare.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The strengthening of existing regional animal health networks, the development of new networks when relevant, and assisting countries in such an objective be promoted;

2. The members of regional animal health networks fulfil their commitment to share resources for the development of joint regional activities;

3. Multi-national animal health and veterinary public health programmes/projects conducted in a region or a sub-region be nested, when relevant, in a regional animal health network or that the said network be involved in their general coordination, for better relevance, efficiency and cost effectiveness of the activities concerned;

4. The involvement of universities, research institutes, OIE Reference Centres, interested stakeholders, and other relevant entities in regional animal health networks be encouraged so to enable the development of technical and scientific activities closely linked to the animal health and veterinary public health priorities of the region, where relevant;

5. Cooperation agreements and collaborations between the OIE and regional animal health networks be developed with a view to their sustainability, including activities such as joint training initiatives, scientific meetings, laboratory support, and raising awareness of OIE standards and guidelines;

6. The development of an economic cost-benefit analysis framework of regional or sub-regional animal health networks be encouraged in order to help in convincing politicians and other decision makers of the value of such networks;

7. Regional animal health networks consider the development of a charter and seek political endorsement by regional political organisations with a view to sustainability;

8. The development of an OIE process for the evaluation and recognition of regional animal health networks having appropriate legal basis, along the lines of that already existing for OIE Reference Centres, be envisaged and that tools for evaluating such networks be developed in cooperation with existing experienced regional networks, such as CaribVET;

9. International donors take into account of the efforts being undertaken to develop regional animal health network and consider the provisions of support to such networks; and

10. The OIE Members of the Region of the Americas contribute to the sustainability of regional animal health network by sharing best practices, information, knowledge, and resources.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 29 November 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

20th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Lomé (Togo), 18 to 22 February 2013

Recommendation No. 1**:**	Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products
Recommendation No. 2:	The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Effective promotion of intra-African trade could help production within the continent to meet African demand for animal products;

2. The intensification of production systems in Africa is low and animal products are insufficiently optimised, thereby rendering Africa producers uncompetitive;

3. Consumption of animal products in the continent of Africa is still low despite the abundance of animal resources;

4. The demand for animal products is increasing in the African continent and this demand is not being met by domestic production;

5. The African continent is a net importer of animal products, while the opportunities for intra-African trade are insufficiently exploited;

6. Non-sanitary constraints to commercial transactions relating to animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular customs tariffs, legislation and tariff policies unfavourable to trade, failure to apply regional measures, difficulty for operators in animal production sectors to access credit, all types of red tape, as well as frequently dilapidated or unsuitable production, processing, and marketing infrastructure and transport facilities;

7. Sanitary constraints to trade in animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular the persistence of major epizootic diseases and zoonoses, the lack of quarantine infrastructure, failure to comply with standards and regulations, the lack of product control laboratories, labelling deficiencies and the absence or non-conformity of certificates of origin;

8. Laws and regulations relating to veterinary medicine and the protection of animal health, and legislation relating to the control of animal diseases, veterinary inspections at border posts, notifiable diseases, animals and food of animal origin, specific rules on the organisation of official controls for products of animal origin intended for human consumption, official animal health checks, risk analysis in animal health, animal movement control and animal identification and traceability already exist at the level of Member Countries;

9. Support policies and programmes for livestock production already exist or are planned by African States: livestock censuses, policies for building or improving transport infrastructure, construction programmes for abattoirs and livestock markets, legislation on livestock routes, institutional organisation of industry operators, facilitating access to credit and setting up of information systems on markets.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to help consolidate cooperation between the Member Countries of Africa in the veterinary domain;

2. The OIE help to facilitate information exchanges on sanitary aspects of methods used to prepare, process and manufacture animal products;

3. The OIE continue to support cooperation and technical assistance among the laboratories of Veterinary Services of the various Member Countries through twinning projects, among others;

4. The OIE help to strengthen the capacities of Veterinary Services in terms of animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control and to strengthen the capacities of quality control laboratories for animal products;

5. The OIE continue to recognise the disease status of Member Countries with respect to foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African horse sickness, and that this recognition be extended to include other diseases, such as peste des petits ruminants;

6. The OIE continue to provide technical support with the preparation of dossiers for countries wishing to apply for official recognition of a given disease-free status;

7. The OIE participate in the organisation of symposia and seminars aimed at achieving enhanced ownership, by Member Countries, of OIE standards and the measures contained in the WTO SPS Agreement;

8. The OIE continue, by means of the PVS Pathway, to help Member Countries to sustainably improve the quality of their Veterinary Services;

9. The Member Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Africa region take full ownership of the recommendations of the various missions conducted within the framework of OIE PVS Pathway missions;

10. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region develop policies and programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of products of animal origin;

11. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply policies designed to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to intra-African trade of animal and animal products, notably on the basis of the OIE standards;

12. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply bilateral, sub-regional and regional policies for harmonisation of the sanitary and non-sanitary standards, reference systems and procedures governing trade in animals and products of animal origin; and

13. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region put in place or strengthen the capacity of information systems on markets for animal and products of animal origin.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 22 February 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock systems occupy an important terrestrial surface area and that they play a significant socio-economic role;

2. The implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation principles in animal production operations increases productivity, resulting in a higher quantity and quality of animal products, thereby ensuring food security and enhancing the contribution to agricultural gross domestic product;

3. The OIE has developed standards and guidelines on animal welfare as well as on veterinary legislation and that their implementation requires special efforts by Members Countries, including strengthening the governance of the Veterinary Services;

4. Although environmental health is considered in the general principles laid out in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the OIE is currently relatively silent on the topic;

5. OIE Member Countries have been invited to designate a National Focal Point for Animal Welfare and some Regional Commissions have established networks to share knowledge and experience amongst these Focal Points;

6. Animal welfare non-compliance and a disregard for environmental health in livestock production operations are common in both developed and developing countries;

7. The current OIE animal welfare standards are not yet exhaustive in that they do not address all animal husbandry operations and do not cover all species of livestock;

8. A proper awareness and capacity building of all relevant interested parties is an essential prerequisite for effective and efficient delivery of the mandate of the Veterinary Services; and

9. Implementation of the Veterinary Services mandated activities requires appropriate human and financial resources, a good organisational structure and a clearly defined national chain of command.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to provide support to its Members and particularly African countries in advocating the implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation principles complying with OIE Standards in animal production systems;

2. The OIE, through its Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, continue to offer expertise to its Members, upon request, so as to ultimately ensure they have good, enforceable legislation relevant to the veterinary domain;

3. The OIE develop additional animal welfare standards and guidelines to cover other relevant animal husbandry operations and species;

4. The Veterinary Services of all OIE Member Countries in the Africa region take all necessary measures to implement the standards on animal welfare and veterinary legislation adopted by the OIE;

5. The Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the Africa region take all necessary measures to ensure that, if a national Focal Point for Animal Welfare has not yet been appointed, one be appointed as quickly as possible and that the Focal Points take part in regional capacity-building programmes organised by the OIE;

6. The OIE use the results of evaluations performed within the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway to propose suitably adapted continuing training programmes and twinning actions between Collaborating Centres specialising in animal welfare, between veterinary education establishments (VEE) and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies(VSB);

7. During the development of its 6th Strategic Plan, the OIE engage a discussion with its Members on extending the OIE's mandate on environmental health as it relates to animal health and animal welfare;

8. OIE Member Countries step up and strengthen stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and environmental health management issues through the use of mass communication media and the establishment of an information portal on their websites; and

9. OIE Member Countries, with the support of the OIE and development partners, make concerted efforts on capacity building so as to raise the level of competence and skills in animal welfare as well as environmental health management in livestock production operations.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 22 February 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions held during the 81st General Session in Paris, 27 May 2013

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

81 SG/11B/AF

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 27 May 2013

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The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: Liberia, South Sudan, United States of America.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR[41], AU-PANVAC[42], FAO, CEBEVIRHA[43], CIRAD[44], ECCAS[45], ICFAW[46], IFAH, ILRI, WAEMU[47], World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, presented apologies from Dr Molomo who had been unable to attend the meeting in person. He welcomed all participants to the meeting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

41 AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
42 AU-PANVAC: African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
43 CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC
44 CIRAD: Center for International Research on Environment and Development
45 ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
46 ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare
47 WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco and member of the Council, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries had become a matter of concern and urged OIE Delegates from the region to follow up on their country's contribution to the OIE.

He encouraged Member Countries of the region to upgrade their contribution when possible.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, on behalf of Dr Marosi Molomo, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated since the last annual meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa at the 80th OIE General Session.

He described the key issues discussed at the last OIE General Session and made special reference to the elections of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, Council and Specialist Commissions.

Speaking on the launch of the project Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV), Dr Rutagwenda commented on the VET-GOV workshop held in Paris in May 2012.

Making reference to the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Togo in February 2013, Dr Rutagwenda said that, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo and the OIE Director General had urged participants to discuss issues relating to the safeguarding and preservation of livestock. He also remembered that, during the Conference, OIE and Uganda had signed an agreement for a technical assistance programme on veterinary legislation.

Dr Rutagwenda reported that the African common position had been valuable in helping African Delegates to put forward Africa's point of view on such matters as the proposed changes to the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*.

The Vice-President of the Commission concluded by encouraging countries to increase their participation in OIE activities and stressed the utmost importance of Member Countries implementing OIE standards in line with the OIE Strategic Plan.

He concluded by welcoming the new OIE Delegates and, on behalf of the Regional Commission, congratulated and offered support from the OIE Regional Commission to the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) for submitting an application to the OIE for a new Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations, including Focal Point Seminars

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2013, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He started his presentation by detailing the main activities and events carried out:

- Capacity-building activities, including veterinary legislation training in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013, attended by 70 participants from 15 ECOWAS countries, delivered as part of the EU-funded VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, with WAEMU financial and technical support;
- The regional rabies proficiency test for Member Countries in the SADC, Congo Basin and East Africa regions, run by the Agricultural Research Council-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (ARC-OVI) in South Africa;
- Training on laboratory diagnosis of Rift Valley fever in Tanzania;
- Pilot training programme on peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and training for African newly appointed OIE Delegates.

He reported that the PPR pilot project entitled "Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to Peste des Petits Ruminants Control in Africa" (VSPA), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, had been launched in African Union Headquarters in Addis Abeba in February 2013.

Dr Samaké commented on the OIE sub-grant to AU-PANVAC for capacity-building on PPR vaccine control, launched in Dakar in February 2013, and on the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013, which had been attended by 26 African countries and by several regional and international organisations.

The Regional Representative announced that the OIE laboratory twinning project on (notifiable) avian influenza and Newcastle disease between the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) and its parent laboratory, the United Kingdom Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA), was officially ended with success.

Referring to staff, Dr Samaké reported that Dr Florência Massango Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa, had been temporarily relocated to the OIE Gaborone office as of 1 February 2013 and that Dr Patrick Bastiaensen had been appointed Programme Officer at the OIE Nairobi office as of 1 January 2013.

He explained that activities between 1 January and 1 May 2013 had also included a number of coordination meetings and courtesy visits to Member Countries, together with consultations on potential new regional and sub-regional joint programmes and funding with the following organisations: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), AU-IBAR, European Commission Delegation, FAO-ECTAD[48], ILRI, Kenyan Government, PAAWA[49], VSF[50]-Germany, World Bank and USDA/APHIS[51].

48 FAO-ECTAD: FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations

49 PAAWA: Pan Africa Animal Welfare Alliance

50 VSF: *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* (Doctors without Borders)

51 USDA/APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture

Dr Samaké also reported on meetings organised by AU-IBAR in Member Countries, attended by the Regional Representation at both regional and sub-regional levels, on the issues of: standard methods and procedures for the IGAD[52] region; harmonisation of veterinary legislation in the ECCAS region. Coordination meetings also took place.

Dr Samaké said that actions had been undertaken to raise Member Countries' awareness of the importance of complying with international standards, in particular by following the OIE PVS Pathway and by reporting animal diseases.

He summarised the main activities to be conducted by the end of 2013, consisting of attendance at the following events:

- 81st OIE General Session and the Regional Commission meeting in Paris (France) in May 2013;
- OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body (Foz do Iguazu [Brazil]) in December 2013;
- 31st World Veterinary Congress in Prague (Czech Republic) in September 2013.

Dr Samaké concluded by saying that further planned activities would include continued capacity-building activities and support to Member Countries in a range of areas, with the emphasis on OIE PVS Pathway implementation, focusing mainly on: good governance of Veterinary Services; veterinary legislation; donors round table organisation; laboratory twinning agreements and recognition of Reference Centres; twinnings on veterinary education establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies; disease notification; PPR pilot project and other relevant PPR activities. The Regional Representation and Sub-Regional Representations for Africa will also continue their coordination activities with partners (regional and international organisations), including visits to Member Countries and raising their awareness of the need to pay regularly their OIE contributions and to report animal diseases.

Discussions

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, briefly supplemented Dr Samaké's information on the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med). He explained that this new network had been launched in Rabat (Morocco) in September 2012 as a direct consequence of the recommendations of the OIE Global Conferences on Veterinary Education (Paris 2009 and Lyon 2011). He added that the next General Assembly of REEV-Med would be held in Italy in September 2013 and all OIE Delegates from neighbouring Mediterranean countries were requested to support the involvement of their veterinary education establishments in REEV-Med.

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

– "Foodborne illness risk reduction programmes"

52 IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

6. Confirmation, date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2015

Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco, confirmed his country's willingness to host the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference will be held in February 2015.

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 21st Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

– "Impact of neglected diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa"

8. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Rutagwenda informed the participants that the Delegate of Chad had stepped down, leaving a position of Vice-President of the Regional Commission vacant, meaning that an election had to be held.

Dr Komla Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo, was unanimously elected as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

9. Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, commented on the recent 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Lomé (Togo). He described the main recommendations made following the discussions of each technical item.

Discussion of Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "Promoting intra-African trade of animals and animal products", led to the following conclusions:

- Intensification of production systems and consumption of animal products in Africa are low despite the presence of many animals, and the continent is an importer of animal products;
- Constraints in the area of customs tariffs, legislation and policies hinder trade; and
- Lack of infrastructure and poor border control make trade difficult.

The following major recommendations were made:

- Implement the recommendations of OIE PVS Pathway missions to the respective countries;
- Develop policies/programmes for improving the competitiveness of animal products.
- Apply OIE standards to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to trade in animals and animal products;

- Harmonise at bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels all sanitary and non-sanitary standards, reference systems and procedures governing trade in animals and animal products; and
- Strengthen market information systems for animals and animal products.

Discussion of Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled "The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa", led to the following conclusions:

- Livestock plays a significant socio-economic role in Africa;
- Implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation increases productivity;
- Some welfare standards and guidelines require efforts by Member Countries; and
- Delivery of veterinary services demands awareness, capacity-building, human and financial resources and a clear organisational structure.

The Conference recommended that Member Countries:

- Appoint National Focal Points for animal welfare;
- Take steps to implement standards on animal welfare and veterinary legislation laid down by the OIE;
- Take environmental health seriously as it relates to animal health and animal welfare;
- Increase knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and environmental health management; and
- Increase capacity-building to enhance skills and expertise in animal welfare and environmental health management as they relate to livestock production.

10. Perspectives regarding RECs targeted Veterinary Legislation Seminars in cooperation with IBAR

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, began his presentation by saying that OIE involvement in veterinary legislation was nothing new but had come to the forefront because of the outcomes of Veterinary Service evaluations conducted since 2006 under the OIE PVS Pathway, a programme to improve the performance of Veterinary Services.

He explained that the recurring shortages or shortcomings identified in most of the countries evaluated had led to the development of a Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), under the umbrella of the overall OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Bastiaensen described the important milestones that had paved the way for the formal launch of the VLSP, in particular country visits and stakeholder capacity-building at country and Regional Economic Community levels, including: publication of OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation in 2008, followed in May 2012 by the adoption of the revised

guidelines as international standards (Chapter 3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*); implementation of pilot veterinary legislation support missions in 2007 and 2008; and First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba (Tunisia) from 7 to 9 December 2010.

Dr Bastiaensen added that a first pilot training seminar, targeting the 15 SADC countries, had been held in Gaborone (Botswana) in November 2011 as part of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, which was implemented in part by the OIE and funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG-SANCO), with additional technical and financial support from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A second training seminar had been held for ECOWAS countries in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013, funded by the European Union under its contribution agreement with the OIE for the VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, with additional technical and financial support from WAEMU.

He explained that the VET-GOV project was implemented through three contribution agreements with the European Commission: the main one (in financial terms) with AU-IBAR, based in Nairobi (Kenya); and two smaller ones with OIE and FAO respectively.

Dr Bastiaensen said that, in order to complete the round of training of senior veterinary officials (OIE Delegates, OIE National Focal Points and registrars of veterinary councils) on this particular topic, OIE and AU-IBAR had pooled their resources to hold two additional training seminars by the end of 2013. The participants will be senior veterinary officials and legal advisors for the remaining Member States not targeted yet in the previous seminars.

He explained that the main purpose of the training seminar was to enhance veterinary officials' understanding of the fundamentals of legislation, in general, and veterinary or animal health legislation, in particular. The training course will be structured around the new OIE standards on veterinary legislation. The first training course (for English speakers) will take place in Arusha (Tanzania) in October 2013, while the second course will take place in Algiers (Algeria) in late 2013.

Dr Bastiaensen concluded by saying that the OIE and AU-IBAR were delighted at the prospect of renewed technical collaboration for the benefit of African Veterinary Services and Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Discussions

Dr Letlhogile Modisa, Delegate of Botswana, requested clarification from Dr Rutagwenda on the recommendations arising from Technical Item 1 of the Regional Conference entitled "Promoting intra-African trade of animal and animal products". He asked for more details regarding one of the Conference conclusions that intensification of production systems and consumption of animal products in Africa was low, despite abundant animal resources, and that the continent was an importer of animal products.

Dr Rutagwenda replied that the technical item had led the Conference to conclude that the African scenario was contradictory because, despite an abundance of animal resources on the continent, Africa's level of production and consumption of animal products was very low. Dr Rutagwenda therefore underlined the Conference recommendations that it was important, among other things, to intensify animal production and improve the competitiveness of animal products, as well as to ensure the use of OIE standards to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to intra-African trade in animals and products of animal origin.

Making reference to Dr Bastiaensen's presentation, Dr Baba Soumare, Representative of AU-IBAR, emphasised on the importance, for the region, of the on-going collaboration between the OIE and AU-IBAR for the organisation of veterinary legislation seminars.

11. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the "African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia" as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines".

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the Working Document of the meeting.

Dr Bewket Siraw Adgeh, Delegate of Ethiopia, the host country of this proposed centre, supported the proposal of AU-PANVAC.

The Commission approved the proposal from AU-PANVAC/Ethiopia. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Update on the PPR control strategy in Africa

Dr Domenech from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department began his presentation by reminding that an update on the status of PPR in Africa and worldwide had been made at the recent Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Lomé (Togo), from 18 to 22 February 2013, covering: disease characteristics (including virology, epidemiology, symptoms and lesions); economic and social importance; and control methods.

He then added that a particular emphasis had been placed on the highly effective tools now available, such as vaccines, and the importance of epidemiological surveillance, early warning and national and international disease reporting via the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS/WAHID). Dr Domenech pointed out that a prerequisite for implementing any PPR control and prevention programme was to strengthen animal health services.

Dr Domenech gave a brief review of OIE activities and of documents published by OIE both alone and jointly with FAO, as part of GF-TADs, since the Regional Commission meeting in Lomé. The activities he highlighted included: meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases in February 2013 and publication of the meeting reports; the on-going work of the GF-TADS PPR Working Group of the OIE and FAO; and continuation of the VSPA regional project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

He said that, in addition to the OIE-implemented VSPA pilot project in West Africa, national and regional PPR experiences were being monitored and would be analysed for use in preparing the global strategy.

He concluded by saying that a number of organisations, including FAO and OIE Reference Centres and the ILRI, were developing research programmes in various fields, including: heat-stable vaccines; diagnostic tests; and service delivery systems. The OIE is supporting this research and, jointly with FAO, it will establish a network of research institutions and organisations for preparing and implementing PPR control programmes, which will bring together researchers and experts to support the global strategy and develop new tools and methods.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS): Status of Notification by Members in Africa

Dr Aziza Mustafa, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update on the most relevant aspects of animal disease reporting in Africa. She started by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries via WAHIS, and of providing further epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, in order to maintain transparency, enhance trade and contribute to global early warning and information on disease/health distribution worldwide. She went on to provide detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2012, which revealed that 27 countries in Africa (51%) had provided on time complete annual reports. Dr Mustafa also reported on how the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from African countries had evolved compared with that of all countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012, showing an overall reduction in reporting times, particularly for the second six-monthly and annual reports.

Finally, Dr Mustafa described some of the improvements made to the new version of WAHIS in order to improve disease notification in wild species. Dr Mustafa said that 63 countries worldwide had submitted their wildlife annual reports, adding that any interested countries that had not yet submitted a report on the section relating to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wild animals were welcome to do so at any time in the near future.

Discussions

The representative from Zimbabwe asked if it was possible to have an extension of the notification deadline for the six-monthly and annual reports. She pointed out that a 45-day delay for submiting the annual report was always difficult to manage.

Dr Moustafa explained that deadlines for the annual report were flexible and always took into account the size of the country and its animal population.

14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Africa

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, began his presentation by providing Regional Commission Members with a brief overview on the status of implementation of the various OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the region. He indicated the countries that would be eligible for some mission categories and invited them to officially request such missions.

He went on to provide an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. He explained that all the tools used in the OIE PVS Pathway are regularly updated with the aid of experienced experts to ensure that they comply with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he indicated that, starting this year, the OIE would be giving countries requesting a PVS evaluation follow-up mission the opportunity to evaluate upon request their capacity for implementing the 'One Health' concept. He explained that, following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE had identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. He also reported on the first version of the PVS tool for evaluating the performance of aquatic animal health services.

After providing some background on how the OIE was developing the "treatment" tools used under the PVS Pathway, Dr Bourzat gave details regarding the current and new treatments available to Members. He said that the OIE considered laboratory twinning and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established treatments and

explained that new treatments had recently been made available to Members, namely PVS Pathway laboratory missions and the possibility of undertaking twinning in veterinary education and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

He reminded the Regional Commission of OIE efforts to share with donors and partners the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the OIE PVS Pathway, when requested by countries. He indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share, at national level, mission reports with any relevant ministries that might be called upon to support activities to strengthen their Veterinary Services.

Dr Bourzat concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aimed at sustainably improving Veterinary Services' compliance with international standards. He added that the OIE worked ceaselessly to convince governments and donors to support not only the PVS Pathway, but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Dr Bourzat acknowledged that the Better Training for Safer Food programme in Africa, which had ended in 2012, had greatly supported OIE efforts to build the capacity of newly appointed Delegates and National Focal Points. There was a risk that the end of this intensive capacity-building programme, combined with high turnover of Delegates and Focal Points, would undermine the ability of Member Countries in the region to fully implement the recommendations of OIE PVS Pathway reports. He concluded by stating that Veterinary Services could be improved only with the strong commitment and ownership of countries themselves, and that this should be a priority of the Regional Commission for Africa.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

  Dr Baba Soumare, AU-IBAR Chief Animal Health Officer, began his presentation by saying that the volume of trade and marketing activities had grown considerably over the past year. He explained that these activities focused mainly on: animal health certification, identification and traceability; and support for stakeholder organisations. AU-IBAR has also embarked on a process to establish a continental market information system for livestock commodities.

  Dr Soumare stated that AU-IBAR remained heavily committed to supporting and enhancing the participation of African nations in standard-setting, particularly in the OIE's animal health standards process.

  He added that development of an enhanced version of the Africa Animal Resource Information System was complete and was being rolled out in its Member States.

  He confirmed that animal health interventions remained the main focus of AU-IBAR, with strong support for veterinary institutional reform through implementation of the VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, complying with OIE PVS guidelines.

  He went on to say that new regional projects would also target disease surveillance and control capabilities. There has been significant progress with the promotion of and consensus-building on the adoption of the 'One Health' approach within the ECCAS Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa.

Dr Soumare reported that a Pan African Programme for the control of PPR had been developed jointly under the leadership of AU-IBAR and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), and had been approved for implementation by the 9th Conference of Ministers. In addition, a strategy to control African swine fever in Africa was being developed jointly with FAO and ILRI.

Dr Soumare concluded by announcing that AU-IBAR had recently embarked on a process for developing a continental strategy to expand the continent's livestock sector, together with a related continental programme, adding that the consultation processes for formulating the two instruments had been initiated.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Animal Production and Health Officer, informed the meeting that FAO had been implementing its programmes since 2012 within a context marked by decentralisation and merging of emergency and development action, with five new strategic objectives:

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner;
3. Reduce rural poverty;
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at local, national and international levels;
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

He said that, in Africa, implementation of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) were drivers for effective action to assist beneficiaries. In several animal health areas, FAO works in full cooperation and partnership with the OIE and other organisations, including AU-IBAR and Regional Economic Communities, and also through its strong participation in the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee.

He explained that key areas were: an integrated and people-centred approach to disease control; 'One Health'; prevention and control of PPR, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, zoonoses (including rabies and Rift Valley fever); anti-microbial resistance; rinderpest post-eradication actions; food safety; and mobile devices used for field surveillance. Renewed attention is being paid to the tsetse/trypanosomosis complex. FAO supports partnerships on priority transboundary animal diseases and trypanosomosis/zoonoses to reduce the impact on livelihoods and public health.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stéphane Forman, World Bank (WB) representative for Africa, pointed to the steadily increasing collaboration between the WB and its partners in the area of livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE. He said that the WB was currently finalising its Global Agenda of Action for livestock, aimed at building a 10-year corporate vision of livestock development for the WB, which would be translated into three-year Regional Action Plans, including one for Africa. The Global Agenda comprises three pillars – health, environment and equity – of which partnership is one of the key

elements, as evidenced by the OIE's secondment of a veterinarian to the WB to advance the health pillar. The WB is currently preparing a grant for the OIE and World Health Organization to conduct analytical work and develop tools relating to 'One Health'. The WB representative reiterated the importance of OIE activities as a Global Public Good and reconfirmed WB support for the OIE. He recognised the crucial work that Chief Veterinary Officers were doing in this regard in their respective countries, both in Africa and worldwide. WB support for the OIE's work on good governance of Veterinary Services, including active WB involvement in the recently published OIE Scientific and Technical Review on "Good governance and financing of efficient Veterinary Services" is another example of collaboration between the two institutions.

The WB widely recognises the OIE PVS Pathway as the tool to guide investment for strengthening Veterinary Services. It is now routinely used to support the preparation and implementation of WB-funded projects in the agriculture and livestock sector in Africa and other regions. The "Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project" being prepared jointly with IGAD will involve Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Major interventions under this project will include strengthening Veterinary Services and national and sub-regional animal disease surveillance and diagnostic networks, as well as building capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary standards, identification and traceability. OIE support during the preparation process and later with implementation would therefore be much appreciated.

16. Other matters

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Delegate of Namibia, announced her country's wish to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in 2017.

The meeting officially ended at 5:50 p.m.

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Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 27 May 2013

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco and Member of the Council)

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations, including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Yacouba Samaké)

6. Confirmation, date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2015 (Dr Jaouad Berrada)

7. Selection of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Yacouba Samaké)

8. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)

9. Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013 (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)

10. Perspectives regarding RECs targeted Veterinary Legislation Seminars in cooperation with IBAR (Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer OIE Sub Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa)

11. Proposal for designation of new Collaborating Centre (Dr Karim Tounkara, Director AU-PANVAC)

12. Update on the PPR control strategy in Africa (Dr Joseph Domenech, OIE Scientific and Technical Dept)

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa (Dr Aziza Mustafa, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)

14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Africa (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
    - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
    - World Bank

16. Other matters

81 SG/11B/AM

Original: Spanish

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, May 27 2013

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 93 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America and Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: CAN[53], CVP[54], IICA[55], OIRSA[56], PAHO-PANAFTOSA[57], World Bank, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr John Clifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Past President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Brazil, Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles, Vice-President and Delegate of Guatemala, and Dr Mark Trotman, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Barbados.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Carlos Correa, Past President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and Delegate of Uruguay, described the status of Members' contributions. Although there are still outstanding contributions from few Members, he highlighted with enthusiasm that some countries, on a voluntary basis, decided to upgrade their contribution category to the OIE.

He proposed that, when possible, other countries increase their contribution category.

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53 CAN: Andean Community

54 CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

55 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

56 OIRSA: International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)

57 PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr John Clifford, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, began by reporting that the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had met several times in 2012. The meetings had addressed administrative and technical matters. The President of the Regional Commission said that the latest meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission had been held during the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and prior to the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates. The next Bureau meeting was scheduled to take place just before the OIE Regional Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Montevideo (Uruguay) at the end of 2013.

The administrative activities discussed by the Bureau of the Regional Commission included: the status of Member Countries contributions; planning for the next Regional Conference in Mexico in November 2014; and elections for the Council position left vacant by the retirement of Dr Brian Evans.

On the technical side, Dr Clifford said that meetings planned in the region for 2013 included those of CAMEVET[58] (Panama), National Focal Points for animal welfare (Uruguay) and National Focal Points for aquatic animal diseases (Mexico).

Dr Clifford highlighted the success of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Bridgetown (Barbados) from 26 to 29 November 2012, which had been attended by more than 30 countries in the region, including 6 non-member countries.

Lastly, the President discussed the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, to be held in Brazil in the first week of December 2013.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including Focal Point Seminars

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented a summary of the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

Dr Barcos reported that the Regional Representation would continue to coordinate regular meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission to follow up on: the conclusions of the Regional Conference in Barbados in 2012; the organisation of the next Regional Conference in Mexico in 2014; and the work programme for the Americas.

He said that the participation of Member Countries in the updating of OIE standards would be promoted by building the capacity of Veterinary Services, including in the area of aquatic animal health, by holding seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points and by promoting the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions, including building the capacity of the region's laboratories. He reported on the interest of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) in having PVS Evaluation missions conducted in its Member Countries every two years as well as OIE PVS missions for the evaluation of their aquatic animal health services, reflecting a growing interest in this issue among Central American countries. He reported on actions in the Central American sub-region to implement the OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians.

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58 CAMEVET: Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines

He described activities to ensure OIE membership for countries in the Caribbean that are not yet OIE Members.

He also described activities to ensure the effective implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease (FMD), including: promoting an agreement between the OIE and the Andean Community (CAN) to implement actions at borders; interaction with regional and international organisations based on the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy; and the occurrence of a regional seminar entitled "Required actions to achieve and maintain the status of free from Foot and Mouth Disease".

Dr Barcos reported that a questionnaire had been sent to ascertain the degree of progress made by countries in the region in disseminating and implementing the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas, which had been approved by the latest Regional Conference. As feedback thus far had been poor, he urged Delegates to answer the questionnaire.

He reported that a videoconference on acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome had been coordinated with the OIE Reference Laboratory for shrimp diseases (University of Arizona, United States of America) and Central American countries had been provided with information to assist them in adopting further preparedness measures to counter this potential disease threat.

He said that, following a regional seminar for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary laboratories in Mexico in 2012, work would continue on implementing a web application to share information on the capabilities of national laboratories in the region.

He reported on meetings with international organisations as part of the GF-TADs. In this connection, he added that coordination would continue and relations would be strengthened with international organisations, producer organisations, industry, researchers, donors and universities.

He concluded by detailing planned activities to be carried out in 2013 and 2014, thanking Member Countries that are providing financial support.

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2015

The Regional Commission proposed the following Technical Items (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

– "Public health impact of antimicrobials for veterinary use and their economic repercussions"

and

– "The process of assessing intervention options as a tool to compare different methods to address a particular disease event"

6. Date and venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2014

The Delegate of Mexico confirmed his country's offer to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Conference will be held in Guanajuato (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014.

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following Technical Item (with questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

– "Veterinary education on aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region"

8. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Barbados from 26 to 29 November 2012

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, said that that the recommendation arising from Technical Item I entitled "Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services", was based on the relationship between natural and technological disasters and the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal disease, including zoonoses, which called for joint and coordinated action by Veterinary Services and other sectors, including public health. He added that the level of involvement of Veterinary Services in the prevention phase of the disaster reduction cycle was low.

The recommendations for Veterinary Authorities included the need for them to participate in developing disaster reduction plans and to form partnerships with other stakeholders, as well as to exchange expertise between countries, together with the appropriate human and material resources. The recommendations for the OIE included supporting Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Tool, and greater involvement in disaster risk reduction and management, including forging closer links with the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The recommendations also mentioned the need for training, both for Veterinary Services staff and undergraduate students, and support for the Collaborating Centre specialised in the issue.

In relation to Technical Item II, entitled "Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks", he said that the transboundary nature of animal diseases and global trade required Veterinary Services to even more fulfil their duties in line with OIE standards. He also reminded the activities of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) as an example of a collaborative network bringing together Veterinary Services, academia, regional and international organisations, diagnostic laboratories and research institutions (including OIE Reference Laboratories) to provide technical support for improving animal health and veterinary public health in the Caribbean.

Recommendations included promoting the consolidation of existing regional animal health networks, creating new networks where appropriate and assisting countries, encouraging the participation of universities, research centres, OIE Reference Centres, interested partners and other relevant stakeholders, as well as promoting network sustainability, for which the support of OIE Members and other stakeholders is crucial, sharing best practices, information, knowledge and resources. A further recommendation was that the OIE should establish cooperation and collaboration agreements with these networks, as well as a procedure for their international recognition.

9. Candidates for the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the Council

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti said that the retirement of Dr Brian Evans as Delegate of Canada to the OIE called for the election of a replacement to his position in the Council until 2015.

The Regional Commission voted to elect Dr John Clifford, OIE Delegate for the United States of America, to the position of Council Member.

In addition, Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, current Vice-President of the Regional Commission, was unanimously elected as President of the Regional Commission to replace Dr Clifford.

Dr Mark Trotman will become Vice-President and Dr Glen Halze Hodgson, Delegate of Peru, was elected to take over his position as Secretary General.

The composition of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas until 2015 is as follows:

President:	Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President:	Dr Miguel Angel Azañón Robles (Guatemala)
Vice-President:	Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General:	Dr Glen Halze Hodgson (Peru)

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres, veterinary epidemiologist in the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update on the most important aspects of animal disease reporting in the Americas.

She began by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries through WAHIS, and of their providing further epidemiological information on disease prevention and control in order to maintain transparency, enhance trade, contribute to the global early warning system and disseminate information on the status of disease/health worldwide.

She went on to provide detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2012, which revealed that 21 countries in the Americas (66%) had provided complete annual reports on time. Dr Cáceres also reported on how the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from countries in the Americas had evolved compared with that of all countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012, showing an overall improvement in the region's reporting times, which were better than the world median for the first six-monthly and annual reports.

Dr Cáceres described some of the improvements made to the new version of WAHIS in order to improve disease notification in wild species. She said that 63 countries worldwide had submitted their wildlife annual reports, adding that any interested countries that had not yet submitted a report on the section relating to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wildlife were welcome to do so at any time in the near future.

Dr Cáceres concluded by explaining that, in the case of immediate notifications, weekly follow-up reports should be sent even when no cases have been reported, indicating that this is the case.

11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

Dr Barcos explained that the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy was adopted during the past Conference of the OIE Regional Commission. He reminded that this strategy was providing a regional consultation approach for animal welfare to take into account the governmental and non-governmental sectors involved, as well as coordination between the Regional Representation and the Regional Commission, Delegates and National Focal Points for animal welfare, which will ensure that OIE standards and guidelines be implemented.

He added that progress on the implementation of the Regional Strategy would be reported every two years at Regional Commission meetings.

He stressed the importance of ascertaining country progress with disseminating and implementing the Regional Strategy and urged Delegates to answer the questionnaire sent for this purpose.

Dr Mariela Varas, from the OIE International Trade Department, explained that the Regional Strategy was effective following its adoption by the last Regional Conference.

Dr Barcos ended by saying that answers to the questionnaire and progress would be followed up at the next seminar for National Focal Points for animal welfare, to be held in Uruguay in October 2013, and announced that National Focal Points from the European Union Member Countries would be participating in this seminar.

Referring to the circulation of a draft International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard on animal welfare, based on OIE standards, he urged countries to contact their standardisation agencies to offer their support.

12. Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome (AHPNS) – Concerns of the Americas region

Dr Filiberto Frago, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, described the status of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome (AHPNS) caused by *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, affecting shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei* and *P. monodon*), for which histological diagnosis is the only technique currently available.

He said that the disease had not been reported in any country in the Americas thus far but that, based on cases that had occurred in South-East Asia, Central American and Caribbean countries had proposed revising and updating import protocols, implementing an epidemiological surveillance programme involving producers, and developing and updating contingency and emergency plans.

13. African horse sickness: procedure for recognising historically free countries

Referring to the new procedure for officially recognising countries as historically free from African horse sickness and the presentation of Dr Lissette Gómez, Delegate of the Dominican Republic to the OIE, Dr Barcos reported that the OIE had decided to continue the previous procedure for a further year, and urged countries historically free from African horse sickness to submit their application for official recognition.

14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in the Americas

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, began his presentation by providing Regional Commission Members with a brief overview on the status of implementation of the various OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the region. He indicated the countries that would be eligible for some PVS Pathway mission categories and urged them to officially request such missions.

He went on to provide an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. He explained that all the tools used in the PVS Pathway are regularly updated by experts to ensure that they comply with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he indicated that, starting this year, the OIE would be giving countries requesting a PVS evaluation follow-up mission the opportunity to evaluate, upon request, their capacity for implementing the 'One Health' concept. He explained that, following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE had identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. He also reported on the first version of the PVS Tool – Aquatic for evaluating the performance of aquatic animal health services.

After providing some background on how the OIE was developing the "treatment" tools used under the PVS Pathway, Dr Barcos gave details regarding the current and new treatments available to Members. He said that the OIE considered laboratory twinning and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established treatments and explained that new treatments had recently been made available to Members, namely PVS Pathway laboratory missions and the possibility of establishing twinning projects between veterinary education establishments and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

He reminded the Regional Commission of OIE efforts to share with donors and partners the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the PVS Pathway, when requested by countries. He indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share, at national level, mission reports with any relevant ministries that might be called upon to support activities to strengthen their Veterinary Services.

Dr Barcos concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aimed at sustainably improving Veterinary Services' compliance with international standards. He added that the OIE worked ceaselessly to convince governments and donors to support not only the PVS Pathway but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Lastly, he stated that Veterinary Services could be improved only with the strong commitment and ownership of the countries.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

  Dr Julio Urzúa Sotomayor, CVP Technical Secretary, said that the CVP had been in operation for 10 years and that Southern Cone countries had established it in order to implement coordinated actions in response to a resurgence of foot and mouth disease.

  He highlighted the work with the OIE to control foot and mouth disease, resulting in the establishment of high surveillance zones and CVP activities as part of the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Plan (PAMA) and coordination with PANAFTOSA/PAHO-World Health Organization. He emphasised CVP involvement following the foot and mouth disease outbreaks in Paraguay, saying that these animal health events were a regional problem whose solution called for joint action by countries.

  He reported that, in response to a case of atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy detected in Brazil, the CVP had reactivated the *ad hoc* group to discuss the situation, issue technical recommendations and hold a workshop coordinated by PANAFTOSA.

  He described CVP work to strengthen Veterinary Services as part of the mandate of the Ministers of Agriculture of Member Countries, and its current joint work with the OIE.

- **Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)**

  Dr Abelardo De Gracia, OIRSA's Regional Coordinator for Animal Health, reported on OIRSA activities in 2012 designed to facilitate access by its Member Countries to world markets for their animal products and by-products by strengthening their Veterinary Services.

  He described OIRSA activities in the following areas.

  - Aquatic animal health: training in diseases of farmed shrimp and preparation of a manual of good practices for fish.
  - Bee health: a bee health course was established for producers, and another will be established for technicians.
  - Poultry health: the regional emergency plan for Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease was updated and a simulation exercise was conducted for these diseases.
  - Cattle health: prevalence studies for brucellosis and tuberculosis; support for OIE recognition for bovine spongiform encephalopathy status; foot and mouth disease prevention actions; cooperation to build the capacity of the Panama's laboratory for the diagnosis of vesicular diseases (LADIVES); harmonisation of regional standards for cattle traceability and animal movements.
  - Classical swine fever: establishment of an emergency control plan in Guatemala, and strengthened epidemiological surveillance in Mexico, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador and the department of Peten in Guatemala.
  - Veterinary medicinal products: preparation of a manual of good practices in the use of veterinary medicinal products.
  - Animal welfare: training for National Focal Points by developing a course for Veterinary Services.

  As regards collaboration with other organisations, he explained that OIRSA was currently working with the OIE and FAO to revise and update secondary veterinary legislation of the countries of the Sub-region covered by the organisation, with a special emphasis on the control and eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and Newcastle disease. OIRSA is working on rabies with FAO and PAHO. He also reported that a regional group would be set up to tackle transboundary animal diseases, with the support of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the University of Iowa (USA).

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

  Dr Javier Vargas Estrella, President of the Andean Technical Committee on Agricultural and Livestock Health (COTASA), speaking on behalf of the CAN, described animal health activities in the context of CAN and the Andean Agricultural Health System (SASA), objectives for trade-related sanitary and phytosanitary measures and joint action programmes.

  He explained CAN actions to harmonise and set standards, which had included decisions by the Commission of the Andean Community and resolutions by the General Secretariat on risk analysis procedures for exotic diseases and the recognition of disease-free zones or countries.

He also described joint action programmes for foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever, and cooperation and coordination actions with FAO, OIE and PAHO, together with communication and dissemination activities.

Dr Vargas Estrella concluded by describing regulations currently being developed, updated and scheduled for adoption.

16. Other matters

Dr Figueiredo Marques showed a video about the Brazilian city of Foz do Iguazu, which would be hosting the forthcoming OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body.

The Secretary of Agriculture of the Brazilian State of Paraná reaffirmed the support that was being given and would continue to be given to the event.

The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

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Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, 27 May 2013

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates)

3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr John Clifford)

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2015 (Dr Luis Barcos)

6. Date and venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2014 (Dr Luis Barcos)

7. Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Luis Barcos)

8. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Barbados from 26 to 29 November 2012 (Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Americas)

9. Candidates for the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the Council (Dr Carlos Correa)

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas (Dr Paula Cáceres, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)

11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Luis Barcos)

12. Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome (AHPNS) – Concerns of the Americas region (Dr Filiberto Frago, OIE Sub-regional Representative for Central America)

13. African horse sickness: procedure for recognising historically free countries (Dr Lissette Gomez, Dominican Republic)

14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in the Americas (Dr Luis Barcos)

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC)
    - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
    - Andean Community (CAN)

16. Other matters

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Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 27 May 2013

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 120 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: FAO, FEI, IFAH

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of the People's Republic of China, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

Dr Catbagan, Vice-President of the Commission and Delegate of the Philippines, proposed to postpone agenda item relating to the organisation of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to the end of the session.

The revised Agenda was adopted.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Member of the OIE Council, reminded the meeting that, in relation to country statutory contributions to the OIE, there were six different categories. He indicated that each Member Country should belong to the category suited to that country's economic level and that, once a Member Country makes a commitment, it should ensure that contributions be paid in a timely manner.

Dr Schipp pointed out that most Regional Commission Members comply with their financial commitments to the OIE. However, he reported that contributions from 18 countries were still outstanding and urged any Members with arrears to settle them promptly. He reminded that Members with arrears can lose their ability to vote and participate in the corresponding OIE decision-making procedures. He took the opportunity to inform the Commission that the OIE contribution would increase by 5%; linked to this, Dr Schipp also announced that the allowances paid to experts and Delegates had also increased by 5%.

He urged Member Countries to increase their level of contribution category when possible.

3. Report on the OIE Council meetings

Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and Member of the OIE Council, gave a presentation on the outcomes of Council meetings. He introduced the new members of the Council who had been elected at the 80th General Session of the OIE, including Dr Mark Schipp from Australia as the other Member representing Asia, the Far East and Oceania at the OIE Council. He said that Council meetings had been held in October 2012, February 2013 and just prior to the 81st General Session.

Dr Kawashima reported a number of improvements made by the Council since the last General Session. He noted that the Council meeting of October 2012 had agreed to publish an agenda and summary of each OIE Council meeting on the Delegates' website in order to inform Delegates more fully about the Council's work and improve exchanges with Member Countries. He added that the Council had recommended that the agenda for the General Session should include follow-up of the recommendations of OIE Global Conferences in order to increase the visibility of OIE activities. He explained a proposal for regional matters to be discussed at the Council, saying that regional Members were encouraged to notify regional Council Members of any regional concerns that needed to be discussed at the Council.

He reported that Council discussions had covered the relationship between the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) with regard to wildlife diseases. He said that the Council acknowledged that the obligations for notifying wildlife diseases needed to be clarified in the *Code*. He also explained that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan would be included as a main item in the future agenda of the Council. He emphasised that inputs from regional Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania were therefore important for the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan.

Dr Kawashima concluded by mentioning some specific points arising from Council meetings. The first was that any replacement of an OIE expert at an OIE Reference Centre must be submitted by the head of the establishment to the OIE Director General via the OIE Delegate. OIE Delegates were also urged to foster young competent experts to ensure the renewal of the membership of the Specialist Commissions.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission, gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission. He had been invited to two key world conferences held in the region after the 80th OIE General Session: FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control in Thailand in June 2012; and Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Malaysia in November 2012. While he regretted having been unable to attend the former, owing to previous commitments in his own country, he was pleased that so many Regional Commission Members had participated. He also thanked Thailand and Malaysia for hosting these important OIE events, which had certainly helped to improve regional participation.

He also made reference to the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals held in March in Paris (France) and pointed out that antimicrobial resistance is a priority for the OIE-WHO-FAO tripartite. He also emphasised its regional relevance given that 67% of Members do not have an official monitoring system. In view of the aforementioned, he urged Members to develop a national system for collecting data to monitor antimicrobials based on OIE standards.

Dr Zhang reported that, while a previous engagement had prevented him from attending the Sixth Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok (Thailand) in July 2012, Dr Toshiro Kawashima had attended as the Chair of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee. He said that the Regional Representative would provide details on this meeting following his report.

Dr Zhang said that, thanks to the efforts of his predecessor and fellow Commission members, the Regional Conference had adopted the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015 in November 2011. He explained that a regional core group established pursuant to a recommendation in the Work Plan had met twice following the 80th General Session: once at the Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare and again just prior to the current General Session. He said that not only had this improved communication and dissemination of the agenda within the region, Council members had also been briefed on important topics, which had helped to increase awareness of OIE management issues.

Dr Zhang reported that, at its meeting during the 80th General Session, the Regional Commission had discussed at length how to nominate appropriate candidates from the region for Specialist Commissions, working groups and *ad hoc* groups. He commended the selected experts on their work in the various commissions and groups and encouraged Members to continue striving to find experts for future OIE activities.

Dr Zhang also announced that, later this week during the plenary session, he would provide to the World Assembly with an update of the Chinese situation regarding H7N9.

He reported on his participation in the OIE seminar for National Focal Points on communication in Beijing (China) in March 2013.

Further to the presentation of a specific slide on foot and mouth disease in the region, Dr Zhang urged Members to enhance cooperation in order to effectively prevent and control the disease. Relevant references were made to the recently endorsed global foot and mouth disease control strategy, as well as to South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Campaign.

He also addressed two other transboundary diseases for the region: African Swine Fever (ASF) and Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). Although not identified as priority diseases by the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, he requested that greater attention be paid by Members to better control both diseases regionally.

Moreover, he appealed to eligible Members which had not yet done so to submit their specific procedure for official recognition of historical freedom status of African Horse Sickness (AHS). The possibility to apply for this status was supposed to conclude in 2013, however, further to a decision from the Director General of the OIE, he informed the Commission that the deadline for applications has been extended.

He concluded by reminding the Commission that the 28th Regional Conference for Asia, the Far East and Oceania would be held in the Philippines in November 2013, and that the Third OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the role of the Veterinary Statutory Body would be held in Brazil in December 2013. He urged Delegates to participate in these important events.

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including Focal Point Seminars and an update on the GF-TADs mechanism

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, newly appointed as the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, began his presentation by describing recent staff changes at the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, including his own appointment, and briefly described the Regional Representation's responsibilities. He then reported on the regional activities of the past year, in line with the OIE Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 and the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015.

Dr Kugita explained that, in its capacity as Secretariat for GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Representation had held the Sixth Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in Thailand in July 2012 which, among other issues, had actively discussed the draft Five-Year Action Plan for GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. He reported that, after agreeing on the framework, electronic communications had been used to discuss the details and, lastly, the revised draft was submitted to and approved by the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee.

Dr Kugita reported on progress with the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in Asia, including: the National Contact Person Meeting in Tokyo in August 2012, which discussed development of a Roadmap for FMD control in East Asia; the First Coordination Committee Meeting of the OIE/JTF Project for FMD Control in Asia in Tokyo (Japan) in November 2012, which endorsed the project scheme; and field work conducted in Laos from October 2012 to February 2013 using vaccine donated by Japan.

Dr Kugita also reported that the OIE/JTF Project for Strengthening Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Control in Asia, which had begun in 2008, was complete. The field-work findings included surveillance results for five years and a discussion at the Fifth Regional Expert Group Meeting for Implementation of the OIE/JTF Project for HPAI Control in Tokyo (Japan) in December 2012 yielding many suggestions, which will be analysed and reported on in the near future.

In the area of capacity-building, Dr Kugita reported on a laboratory training session on FMD diagnosis and a short-term training session on vaccine assessment, both supported by Collaborating Centres. He informed the Commission that two regional seminars for OIE National Focal Points – one on animal production food safety in Tokyo (Japan) and another on communication in Beijing (China) – had been attended by most regional Members and had been useful in enhancing regional Members' capacities on these topics as well as in understanding the role and responsibilities of OIE National Focal Points.

Dr Kugita informed the Commission of the recent launch of a new regional website, featuring frequently updated activities and news from both the Regional Representation and Sub-Regional Representation. He hoped that this communication tool would improve understanding of regional activities, both among Members and other interested parties.

Dr Kugita presented activities planned for the remainder of 2013, including: Seventh FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in July; the First Scientific Meeting of the OIE/JTF FMD Control Project, to be held back-to-back with that Project's Second Coordination Committee meeting in Mongolia in September; and field work of that Project connected with vaccine use in certain countries. He also informed the Commission of the imminent launch of a project "OIE/JTF 'One Health' Project" (exact final name to be confirmed), whose activities would include the control of animal influenza with zoonotic potential and rabies.

6. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including an update on the STANDZ, HPED and IDENTIFY Programmes

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the role and responsibilities of the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia. He said that, in addition to the ten countries of South-East Asia, the Sub-Regional Representation had also covered the People's Republic of China in connection with FMD programmes since 2010, when China had joined the SEACFMD Campaign as well as Singapore and Brunei. He added that the Sub-Regional Representation had three major donor-funded programmes: Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ), funded by the Australian Government's overseas aid program (AusAID); Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases (HPED), funded by the EU; and IDENTIFY, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr Abila reported briefly on the main recommendations of the SEACFMD Sub-Commission Meeting in Singapore, including: Members' application to the OIE for the recognition of official national control programmes; examination of cost recovery options for vaccination programmes: and inclusion of 'One Health' issues (e.g., rabies) in future Sub-Commission meetings. He added that the following papers had been presented at the meeting: "Operationalising SEACFMD Control Strategies"; "Comprehensive Approach to FMD Vaccination in SEACFMD Countries"; and "SEACFMD Research Directions."

Dr Abila provided details of the following activities of the Sub-Regional Representation conducted for Members:

- National consultation meetings on FMD control in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, to align these national plans with the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap and the joint OIE/FAO Global FMD Control Strategy;

- In-country meetings with OIE Focal Points in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar;

- Provision, from OIE vaccine banks, of FMD vaccines to Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia, and rabies vaccines to the Philippines, under the HPED programme;

- Two OIE-approved Small Grant Facilities (SGFs) under the STANDZ initiative for Laos and Myanmar to conduct vaccination campaigns (completed);

- SGF implementation for Laos for preparing a twinning in order to enhance the capacity of veterinary teaching staff at the Faculty of Agriculture on OIE 'Day 1' competencies, in cooperation with Khon Kaen University in Thailand (on-going).

Dr Abila informed the Commission that, since the first reported outbreak of avian influenza A virus sub-type H7N9 in China, the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia had worked closely with the OIE Regional Representation and Headquarters and with FAO-OIE-WHO tripartite regional partners on updates and consultations so to ensure a proper monitoring of the situation.

Dr Abila also presented the following activities programmed for the rest of the year, listed in accordance with the strategic objectives of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan.

- Animal health information: organising an epidemiology network meeting and conducting training on surveillance, outbreak investigation and disease reporting.
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses: providing assistance to Members by facilitating transactions with donors and developing implementation modalities for FMD and rabies vaccination programmes; assisting with the delivery of FMD and rabies vaccines; pursuing rabies control through pilot projects on islands; and jointly organising the annual Meeting on Laboratory Strengthening for Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Asia Pacific Region, with FAO, and the annual tripartite meeting on 'One Health' zoonoses, with FAO and WHO.
- Capacity-building for national Veterinary Services: working with the South East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA) to document the status of veterinary education in South-East Asia; assisting Members in developing in-country and regional focal point networks, and, as needed, in following the OIE PVS Pathway.
- Influence on policy design, applied research and governance: developing Sub-Regional Representation policy engagement/communication; mobilisation and advocacy strategy; assisting Members in developing and operationalising their communication strategies and action plans; and developing a vaccination tool for evaluating comprehensive vaccination campaigns in South-East Asia and interview instruments for pre-vaccination campaigns in targeted vaccination areas.

7. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

– "The use of information technology in animal health management, such as raising awareness, early reporting, surveillance and emergency response"

8. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Following proposals from the Members, the following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 28th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

– "PRRS control in the Region"

9. Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Singapore from 19 to 22 March 2013

Dr Ronello Abila presented a report on the outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Singapore in March 2013.

Dr Abila said that the regional overview of the FMD situation had revealed a marked decrease in the number of FMD outbreaks reported between 2011 and 2012 and that the meeting had updated participants on key achievements of the SEACFMD programme, as well as on current laboratory findings from the World Reference Laboratory for FMD in the United Kingdom and the regional FMD laboratories in Pakchong (Thailand) and Lanzhou (China). He added that FMD-endemic countries had reported on activities conducted during the past year and planned to align their national FMD controls plans with the joint OIE/FAO Global FMD Control Strategy and the SEACFMD roadmap, in the case of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, and to expand FMD-free zones in the case of Thailand. He said that the meeting had acknowledged the progress and success achieved by Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam with the seven SGF projects under the STANDZ initiative.

Dr Abila then described the discussion on a series of strategies designed to achieve FMD freedom by 2020 – categorised under technical activities, communication & advocacy and coordination – based on presentations of participants' experience and study. He referred to other issues discussed for their relevance to SEACFMD, including: gender; updates on the SGF; progress on implementing the EU-funded OIE vaccine bank; research directions; and private sector participation. He also noted that key issues had arisen from a separate workshop for delegates and observers on advancing FMD control in the region, including: coordination with other organisations; governance; sustainability of the Sub-Regional Representation; and SEACFMD and vaccination.

Dr Abila concluded by presenting the key recommendations and priority actions that had emerged from the meeting, adding that the list of recommendations was included in the Working Document.

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Manuel Sanchez Vazquez, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease reporting concerning Asia. He started by emphasizing the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning and to disease/health distribution knowledge worldwide. Then, he provided detailed regional information on the compliance with reporting for 2012, thus within the Asian Region 28 (74%) countries provided on time complete annual reports. Dr Sanchez Vazquez also showed the evolution of the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from countries of Asia compared with the submission time of all the countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012; showing an good trend, with an overall improvement in the reporting by reducing the reporting time.

Finally, Dr Sanchez Vazquez presented some of the improvements implemented in the new version of WAHIS allowing a better reporting for disease notification in wild species. Concerning the Wildlife Annual reports, Dr Sanchez Vazquez explained that 63 countries worldwide had provided their reports and that those interested countries that had not yet provided a report on the section dedicated to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wild animals could do it at any time in the near future.

11. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre

Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Delegate of New Zealand, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the "EpiCentre and the mEpiLab, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand" as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health'".

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the Working Document of the meeting.

Australia, Japan and Singapore expressed their strong support for this application.

The Commission approved New Zealand's proposal. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates

12. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Deputy Regional representative, started her presentation by providing the Members of the Commission with a brief overview of the state of play regarding the implementation of the different OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the Region. She indicated the countries that would be eligible for certain categories of PVS Pathway missions and invited them to officially request missions accordingly.

She then went on to provide the audience with an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. She explained that all the tools used in the PVS Pathway are regularly updated with experienced experts in order to ensure that they are in line with the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, she indicated that starting this year, the OIE will give the opportunity to countries requesting a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission to evaluate upon request their capacity to implement the One Health concept. She explained that following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. She also informed the meeting participants of the development of the first edition of the PVS Tool – Aquatic, dedicated to evaluating the performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services.

After offering background information regarding how the OIE was developing the tools used as "treatment" under the PVS Pathway, Dr Ishibashi gave details regarding the current and new "treatments" available to Members. She indicated that the OIE considered Twinning Projects between laboratories and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established "treatments". She further explained that new "treatments" were recently made available to Members, namely the PVS Pathway Laboratory missions, as well as the possibility to undertake a Veterinary Education Twinning Project and Twinning Project between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Prior to concluding, she reminded the Regional Commission of the efforts made by the OIE to share the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the PVS Pathway with donors and partners when requested by the countries. She indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share PVS Pathway mission reports with the relevant ministries that could be involved in supporting, at national level, the activities related to the strengthening of their Veterinary Services.

Dr Ishibashi, concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aiming to sustainably improve compliance of Veterinary Services with international standards. The OIE is continuously working to convince governments and donors to not only support the PVS Pathway itself, but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Finally, she stated that the improvement of the Veterinary Services could only occur with the strong commitment and ownership of the countries.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

  Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO, presented FAO activities in the region. He said that, by aligning FAO's strategic objectives, the Asia-Pacific livestock

programme aims to maximise the contribution of livestock to food security and poverty reduction, while enhancing resilience and sustainability and reducing health risks to humans and animals, including the threat from antimicrobial resistance. He emphasised that FAO's work builds on strong partnerships with international 'sister' organisations through OIE and WHO regional and sub-regional offices and, in consultation with national counterpart institutions, through FAO country offices. He added that the FAO-hosted Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) provided a forum for information exchange, support and coordination of collective action in the livestock sector.

Dr Lubroth explained that FAO activities in the region fall broadly into the following areas: (i) strategy/policy guidance; (ii) coordination; (iii) information generation and knowledge sharing; (iv) capacity-building; and (v) support of field programme implementation. All these activities are funded by a variety of sources including: FAO's regular programme; FAO's technical cooperation programme; the APHCA trust fund; and unilateral and multilateral donor trust funds. Dr Lubroth concluded by explaining that FAO's strategy for enhancing animal health builds on direct interventions to strengthen animal health systems, complemented by interventions to improve livelihoods in the livestock value chain, to integrate them into value chains with higher sanitary status.

14. Proposed revision of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group, said that, since it had been endorsed by the Regional Commission in 2008, the original RAWS had provided the vision and goals for animal welfare in Asia, the Far East and Oceania. From the outset, it had been agreed that RAWS would be a 'living document' reviewed every few years. Accordingly, the RAWS coordination group has revised the original RAWS and developed a new version of RAWS (Edition 2). Dr Murray explained that RAWS edition 2 policy and strategy have remained exactly the same as in RAWS edition 1, as the ideas are still central to animal welfare in the region. All that RAWS edition 2 does is to update the original version to ensure it is current and reflects key developments over the past four years. Dr Murray also noted that, if endorsed by the meeting, RAWS edition 2 would be published for the use of countries and organisations in the region and other interested parties. He said it was hoped that RAWS-related matters, including a RAWS Action Plan, would be discussed at the Regional Conference, to be held in Cebu (Philippines) later in 2013.

New Zealand congratulated the Coordination Group for the work carried out during the first phase and underlined the importance of continuity and consistency during the second phase. He took this opportunity to formally thank Australia for their financial support. Both Australia and Thailand confirmed their support of the proposal for the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, Oceania and the Far East to adopt RAWS 2.

15. Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013

Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines to the OIE, described the arrangements being made by the authorities of his country to host the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held from 18 to 22 November 2013 in Cebu. He invited the Members of the Commission to confirm their participation ideally by September 2013.

He invited all Delegates of the Region to the Conference and underlined the importance of attending this event which, together with the General Session, are part of the OIE statutory meetings and thus, part of the OIE Delegates obligations.

16. Other matters

Dr Schipp provided a brief presentation on the various OIE ad hoc groups. He strongly encouraged Delegates to identify and propose national experts in order to increase regional participation in these fora. It was agreed that when making such proposals to the Director General of the OIE, the Delegates should copy both the Regional Commission and the Regional Representation into their communication.

Further to a request received from Dr Ingo Ernst, the elected regional member to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, to directly contact the regional OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals on relevant matters, Dr Kugita sought approval from the Commission to review existing OIE procedures, and enable that communication be issued to National Focal Points directly.

Although Australia and Nepal recognised the benefits garnered by the National Focal Points in accessing such information, they stressed the need for the Delegate to remain the main contact point for the OIE in all communications. Dr Schipp suggested that the regional experts who are members of an OIE Specialist Commission be invited to participate in the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Cebu (Philippines) in November 2013. This proposal was supported by New Zealand and Japan.

Dr Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, pointed out that such regional experts would only be able to provide assistance to Members to better understand and interpret the relevant texts in view of the legitimate confidentiality agreements that they have signed with the OIE.

A participant from India requested further information on OIE procedures regarding immediate notification and corresponding support to Members. Dr Sanchez provided the requested information.

The meeting officially ended at 5:50 p.m.

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Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, 27 May 2013

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Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Member of the OIE Council)

3. Report on the OIE Council meetings (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and Member of the OIE Council)

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Zhang Zhongqiu)

5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including Focal Point Seminars and an update on the GF-TADs mechanism (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including an update on STANDZ, HPED and IDENTIFY Programmes (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)

7. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Hirofumi Kugita)

8. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Hirofumi Kugita)

9. Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China (SEACFMD), held in Singapore, from 19 to 22 March 2013 (Dr Ronello Abila)

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Manuel Sanchez, Animal Health Inf. Dept.)

11. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre (Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Delegate of New Zealand)

12. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Deputy Regional Representative)

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

14. Proposed revision of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of RAWS Coordination Group)

15. Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Cebu, Philippines, from 18 to 22 November 2013 (Dr Davinio Catbagan, OIE Delegate of Philippines)

16. Other matters

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Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 27 May 2013

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The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 150 participants, including Delegates and observers from 42 Members of the Commission and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: CIRAD, COPA/COGECA[59], EC[60], EuFMD[61], FAO, FEI, FESASS[62], FVE[63], WFO.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Professor Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Honorary President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Nadège Leboucq, Sub-regional OIE Representative based in Brussels, Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Nihat Pakdil (Turkey), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

59 COPA/COGECA: Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives

60 EC: European Commission

61 EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

62 FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

63 FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission, Dr Ago Pärtel, congratulated the Members of the Regional Commission since outstanding contributions from almost all countries had been made.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ago Pärtel, President of the Regional Commission, presented a report on the activities of the Commission highlighting that the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe was partially renewed at the 80th OIE General Session and the current Members are: President, Dr A. Partel (Estonia); Vice-President, I. Bisiuk (Ukraine); second Vice-President, L. Carbajo (Spain); and Secretary, N. Pakdil (Turkey).

Dr Pärtel commented that, in compliance with OIE Basic Texts, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held its 25th Conference in Fleesensee (Germany) in September 2012, where it examined and discussed animal health, animal welfare and animal food production safety issues within Europe. The Conference was well attended, with 42 countries (out of 53) represented, as well as the key stakeholders in the region. The main outcomes of the Conference included two technical recommendations: one on the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases and the other on regional steps towards the common animal welfare approach in Europe. The two recommendations were scheduled for submission to the Assembly for approval in May 2013, after which they were expected to become important roadmaps for the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. More specifically, the Conference recommended:

(i) establishing an OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare aimed at improving the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards in the region; and

(ii) exploring a coordination mechanism for a common regional position on the OIE draft standards being submitted for adoption by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.

It was decided that the coordination mechanism for a common regional position would be managed through a Task Force. This Task Force is comprised of the Delegates of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission as well as the Delegates of Russia, Serbia, Norway, Austria, France and a representative of the European Commission. The President of the Regional Commission and Chair of the Task Force has already organised two meetings of the Task Force – one in Brussels (Belgium), in December 2012, and the other in Tallinn (Estonia), in April 2013 – to discuss the *modus operandi* of the Task Force and possible topics for a joint regional position. In preparation of the meeting of the Regional Commission, the Task Force met on Monday, May 27 to identify : (i) the chapters (6) for which a common position could be adopted on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of the region and (ii) the OIE Delegates who would take the floor to present these common positions.

In addition, Dr Pärtel, in his capacity of President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, participated in: (i) a European Union Conference entitled “Need for better animal health global governance” in Brussels (Belgium) in October 2012; (ii) the signing ceremony for the establishment of an OIE Representation in Moscow (Russia) in March 2013; (iii) a Round Table entitled “Emergency diseases situation and its control on the territory of EU and Customs Union” in Moscow in March 2013, including participation in side meetings; (iv) a meeting at the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences of the Estonian University of Life Sciences in January 2013; and (v) a meeting with the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, to discuss the agenda of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe for the following six months.

Dr Pärtel concluded by mentioning that the OIE Regional Commission for Europe was assembled that day in order to: (i) present OIE technical and capacity-building activities in the region; (ii) select the Technical Items (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agendas of the 83rd General Session of the Assembly (in May 2015) and 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (in September 2014); and (iii) propose new Collaborating Centres in the region. In addition, the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe will be represented in: (i) World Veterinary Congress, in Prague (Czech Republic) in September 2013; (ii) OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, on the subject "Ensuring excellence and ethics of the veterinary profession", in Foz do Iguazu (Brazil) in December 2013; and (iii) Fifth Meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe (of which the four Bureau members are permanent members), in Brussels (Belgium) in October 2013. This agenda will be implemented in close collaboration with the OIE Representations in Sofia, Moscow and Brussels.

4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, including Focal Point Seminars

Professor Nikola T. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, provided information on the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in the early months of 2013. Two workshops were held in the region as part of the OIE capacity-building programme: a seminar for OIE National Focal Points for animal welfare in Teramo (Italy) on 5-7 March 2013; and a workshop for OIE National Focal Points for aquatic animals in Lisbon (Portugal) on 9-11 April 2013.

Professor Belev presented an overview of other events attended by the Representation:

- Meeting with the 1st Vice-President of the "Fédération Equestre Internationale" (FEI), Mr John Crossley McEwen, in the presence of the Chief Veterinary Officer of Bulgaria, Dr Damyan Illiev, to discuss the practicalities of OIE/FEI cooperation and standard-setting on the transportation of horses (24 January 2013);
- Meeting with Professor Angel Galabov – virologist and Bulgarian national expert on avian influenza and flu infections – to obtain updated information on the status of avian influenza in Europe and worldwide (1 February 2013);
- Meeting with Dr Miroslav Naydenov – Bulgaria's Minister of Agriculture and Food at that time – to present OIE mandate and activities (4 February 2013);
- Workshop on laboratory networking, organised by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Multibeneficiary Project: supporting the control and eradication of animal diseases in the Western Balkans (Belgrade [Serbia], 11-12 February 2013);
- Meeting on signing an agreement to establish an OIE Representation in Moscow (Russia), including a round table discussion on the topic "Emergency diseases situation and its control on the territory of EU and Customs Union", together with a detailed presentation on Veterinary Service structure according to OIE standards (Moscow [Russia], 6-7 March 2013);
- OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals on the subject "International solidarity to fight against antimicrobial resistance" (Paris [France], 13-15 March 2013);
- Meeting with the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister for Agriculture and Food, Professor Ivan Stankov, to present a general overview of the OIE (21 March 2013);

- Meeting of the Executive Council of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia) on boosting collaboration between the OIE and Apimondia (Kiev [Ukraine], 13-14 April 2013);
- Fifth International 'Turkmen Horse and World Horse-Breeding Art' Conference and Third Meeting of the International Association of Akhal-Teke Breeders (Ashgabat [Turkmenistan], 26-28 April 2013).

To conclude, Professor Belev presented the following activities, scheduled for the period 1 May to 31 December 2013, to be attended by the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe:

- World Veterinary Congress 2013 in Prague (Czech Republic) on 17-20 September 2013;
- OIE Seminar for National Focal Points for animal production food safety in Belgrade (Serbia) on 15-17 October 2013;
- Annual Meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations at OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 21-25 October 2013;
- Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, on the subject "Ensuring excellence and ethics of the veterinary profession", in Foz do Iguazu (Brazil) on 4-6 December 2013.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels including an update on the GF-TADs mechanism

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, reported that, since 1 January 2013, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels had been hosted by Belgium's Federal Agency for Food Safety (AFSCA) and that the official Agreements had been officially signed on 14 March 2013. On that occasion, Dr Leboucq had reiterated warmest thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium and to AFSCA. She added that the staff of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels had been reinforced in March 2013 with the appointment of Dr S. Ralchev, technical assistant, who would be assigned specifically to the Secretariat of the OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare.

Dr Leboucq said that, in line with the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan for 2011-2015, the work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels for 2013 carried on from the work of previous years, focusing on two main areas of intervention: (i) participation in OIE sub-regional and regional activities in Europe, in collaboration with the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe and the new OIE office in Moscow; and (ii) providing an interface for Brussels-based organisations.

In the first area of intervention, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels participated in a PVS Evaluation mission to Turkmenistan in April 2013 as well as in the OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points for animal welfare in Teramo (Italy) in March 2013.

In the second area of intervention, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels took part in around 20 coordination meetings between 1 January 2013 and 30 April 2013, including a symposium entitled "Preventing human pandemics by improving animal health" at the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium) in January 2013.

Dr Leboucq also reported that, in its capacity as Secretariat for GF-TADs Europe, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels monitored implementation of the GF-TADs Europe Five-Year Action Plan and would also be organising the Fifth Meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe in Brussels (Belgium) in October 2013.

Dr Leboucq concluded by presenting the following programme of activities of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels for the coming months.

- Operational start-up of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Platform, to be endorsed by the 81st General Session of the OIE in May 2013;
- OIE seminar for National Focal Points for animal production food safety, to be held in Serbia in October 2013;
- Support for countries in the region to increase participation in the OIE standard-setting process, by means of two technical seminars - one in the Balkans in November 2013 and the other for Russian-speaking countries in December 2013;
- Further capacity-building activities for national Veterinary Services, based on the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Leboucq also reminded participants that all the activities of the Regional Representation and the Sub-Regional Representation are published regularly on the OIE regional website for Europe (www.rr-europe.oie.int), managed by the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels.

6. Update on the OIE Representation in Moscow

Prof. Kazimieras Lukauskas started his presentation by informing the Regional Commission that, thanks to the initiative of Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, and the good collaboration between OIE and Russian Authorities, the OIE proceeded to the opening of an OIE Representation in Moscow. The agreement regarding that new office has been officialised with the OIE Director General and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Russia, Nikolay Fyodorov, during a special ceremony that took place in Moscow on 6 March 2013. He informed the Regional Commission that he was nominated as the OIE Representative for this office.

The scope and the activities of the Representation will include:

1. To monitor the zoosanitary situation;
2. To advocate for exchange of relevant information related to disease control;
3. To promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of scientific information on animal diseases;
4. To assist in improving the veterinary legislation and governance; and
5. To perform other tasks assigned by the OIE Director General in accordance with the 5th Strategic Plan.

Prof. Kazimieras Lukauskas provided the Commission with information regarding some recent activities in which he recently participated. He then gave an idea of the activities to be undertaken by this new office. He finally concluded by expressing his hope for the successful implementation of this Representation.

7. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2015

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

– "Implementation of OIE standards under the WTO SPS Agreement[64]"

8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Hans Wyss, OIE Delegate of Switzerland, confirmed his country's offer to host the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. The Conference will be held in Bern from 22 to 26 September 2014.

9. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2014

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 26th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

– "Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism"

10. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre

Dr Romano Marabelli, OIE Delegate of Italy, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider "Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER), Brescia, Italy" as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Cell Cultures".

He provided a brief review of IZSLER and its activities and said that full details could be found in the Working Document of the meeting.

The Commission approved Italy's proposal. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Fleesensee, Germany, from 17 to 21 September 2012

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, introduced the presentation by highlighting the high turnout for the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, with 42 of the 53 OIE Members of the Regional Commission for Europe represented.

Dr Leboucq reported that the technical items presented at the Conference had related to two areas of interest: (i) the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases (Technical Item I, with a questionnaire); and (ii) the common animal welfare approach in Europe (Technical Item II, without a questionnaire).

With regard to Technical Item I, Dr Leboucq reported that, as the complexity of infectious disease transmission between domestic animals and wildlife and the persistence of pathogens transmissible from wildlife made it very difficult to control some diseases in domestic animals, it had been recommended to continue implementing effective monitoring

64 The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

systems, as well as biosecurity measures designed to avoid direct or indirect contact with wildlife, using zoning or compartmentalisation where appropriate. One statement at the Conference in Germany was that a new OIE Collaborating Centre on the role of wildlife in controlling domestic animal diseases could provide countries in the region with greater technical support in this field.

With regard to Technical Item II, Dr Leboucq explained that contrasting levels of animal welfare policy implementation in the national legislation of the 53 OIE Members of the Europe region had led to endorsement of the need for West and East European countries to work together and share best practices to achieve the progressive and harmonious implementation of OIE animal welfare standards region-wide. She said that the Conference recommendations had therefore included setting up an OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare, based on discussions that had begun at the OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points for animal welfare held in Kiev (Ukraine) in March 2012. Dr Leboucq reported that, after discussing the Platform's objectives, activities and governance, an agreement on the main principles had been reached. It had also been decided to make the initiative a major project of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels in 2013, with expected financial support from the European Union.

Dr Leboucq explained that, in order to implement the Conference recommendations, it would be essential to strengthen national Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. Dr Leboucq concluded by saying that the two recommendations would be submitted to the Assembly for endorsement during the week and that they would provide an important "roadmap 2013-2014" for the 53 OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

12. Update on the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Eastern Europe

Dr Stanislav Ralchev, Technical Assistant at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, started his presentation by providing some relevant outcomes from the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Fleesensee (Germany) in September 2012. He focused especially on Technical Item II on "Regional steps towards a common animal welfare approach in Europe", building on the outcomes of the OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points for animal welfare in Kiev (Ukraine) in March 2012.

Dr Ralchev explained that, following the recommendations and outcomes of both these fora, OIE Member Countries had recommended setting up an OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, to become a key activity of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, which would house the Platform Secretariat.

He explained that the overall idea was to develop an "incremental two-step approach" to improve the implementation of animal welfare standards in Eastern Europe. That would be done through a selection of practical activities discussed on the Platform and subsequently bridging the interests of East and West European countries through sustainable long-term collaboration on animal welfare. Once operational, the Platform would explore the need for a regional strategy.

After explaining that the Platform's Steering Group, *modus operandi*, list of future activities and priority topics would be proposed for adoption by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe at the 81st OIE General Session in May 2013, Dr Ralchev described the Platform's governance, which would tentatively include representatives from: OIE Headquarters; three Eastern European countries; two European Economic Area countries; Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission (DG SANCO[65]); OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre in the region; Regional

65 DG SANCO: The Directorate General Health and Consumers

Representation for Eastern Europe; Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels; and one donor organisation.

He highlighted that the transport of animals (by land), stray dog population management and slaughter of animals (for consumption) as priorities for the Platform over the next three year period.

Dr Ralchev concluded by saying that the first meeting of the Steering Group would take place in the second half of 2013, where a concrete action plan would be discussed, adding that the European Union is expected to provide the Platform with appropriate financial support.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS): Status of Notification by Members in Europe

Dr Simona Forcella, Chargée de mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease reporting in Europe. She started by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, in order to maintain transparency, enhance trade and contribute to the global early warning system and to the dissemination of the sanitary information worldwide.

Then, she provided detailed regional information on the compliance with reporting for 2012, thus within Europe 39 (72%) countries provided on time complete annual report. Dr Forcella also showed the evolution of the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from countries of Europe compared with the submission time of all the countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012; demonstrating an overall improvement in the reporting by reducing the reporting time particularly over the last three years.

Finally, Dr Forcella presented some of the improvements implemented in the new version of WAHIS allowing a better reporting for disease notification in wild species. Concerning the Wildlife Annual reports, Dr Forcella explained that 63 countries worldwide had provided their reports and that those interested countries that had not yet provided a report on the section dedicated to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wild animals, to do so at any time in the near future.

Following a question from Dr P. Naassens, OIE Delegate of Belgium, Dr Forcella clarified that, for OIE listed diseases, the reporting of wildlife diseases follows the usual mandatory 6 monthly reporting procedure, while for the other wildlife diseases, countries are encouraged to report voluntarily on an annual basis only, after transmission of the 2 semestrial reports, which are required for a given year.

14. On-going collaboration between the OIE and WHO/'One Health' activities

Dr Stéphane de La Rocque, OIE Project Officer for Veterinary Public Health, presented a briefing on good governance of human and animal health services within the framework of on-going collaboration between the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO) ('One Health' activities).

Dr de La Rocque said that the fact that more than 60% of animal diseases are transmissible to humans and 75% of recent emerging diseases are zoonotic called for strong human and animal health systems, working in close partnership, in order to jointly address common issues of early detection, assessment and response to events of potential international health concern. Dr de La Rocque pointed out that human and animal health services shared a need to enhance their surveillance, early detection, reporting and rapid response capacity, which was encompassed by the international standards developed by WHO, in its

International Health Regulations (IHR), and by the OIE, in its *Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes* and *Manuals*.

Dr de La Rocque explained that individual countries needed to be provided with appropriate material and guidance to: make an objective evaluation of their situation and compliance with international obligations; address deficiencies; and build capacity to improve their operational capability and comply with international requirements. He explained that the following specific tools had been developed in the human and animal sectors.

- By WHO: (i) a list of minimum core public health capacities to guide effective implementation of the IHR; (ii) a checklist and indicators for countries to assess their degree of compliance with the expected levels of capability described in the IHR;
- By the OIE: (i) the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway, including in particular the OIE PVS Tool (qualitative assessment) and the PVS Gap Analysis Tool (qualitative and quantitative assessment) used by countries to objectively assess and address the main weaknesses in their Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE quality standards, and to determine the scope and costs of upgrading.

Those tools are continuously refined and updated to take recent developments into account, including the strengthening of cooperation with partners.

Dr de La Rocque said that the emergence of major zoonotic infectious diseases over the last decade had resulted in steadily increasing dialogue and joint initiatives among WHO, the OIE, FAO and the World Bank. In 2010, the tripartite WHO-OIE-FAO developed a joint Concept Note describing areas of common interest to share responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interfaces. He added that, since then, the three organisations had stepped up their collaboration to develop benchmarks for good governance across the animal and human health sectors.

Dr de La Rocque explained that a mapping exercise – based on a review of existing tools used for assessing national animal and human health systems, conducted using the OIE PVS Pathway (including a PVS 'One Health' pilot evaluation tool) and the IHR – had helped to identify existing initiatives and additional synergies to optimise and optimally address national cross-cutting human and animal health priorities. This had led to a proposed joint OIE-WHO programme of work focusing on strengthening existing tools to better address the human-animal interface and developing new tools where necessary. He said that the programme provided for concrete actions including but not limited to the: development of a Gap Analysis-compatible costing tool prototype for building required national capacity through the IHR; adjustment of the WHO/IHR assessment tool to better address the human-animal interface; and improvement of the WHO laboratory assessment tool in relation with developing the OIE PVS Pathway laboratory tool. Dr de La Rocque reported that the OIE and WHO, in partnership with the World Bank and using a European Union-funded mechanism, had agreed to jointly develop a methodological guide for countries that would gather together a collection of these tools and the results of all these adjustments. He added that these outputs would be instrumental for identifying the operational strategies and synergies upon which to base future global and national collaboration and actions for strengthening national human and animal health systems governance.

15. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Europe

Dr N. Leboucq, OIE sub-regional Representative based in Brussels, started her presentation by providing the Members of the Regional Commission with a brief overview of the state of play regarding the implementation of the different OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the Region. As of May 2013, 16 OIE PVS evaluation missions - the last 2 OIE PVS evaluation missions in the region were recently carried out in Serbia (March 2013) and in Turkmenistan (April 2013) - and 6 PVS gap Analysis missions have been carried out in Europe. She indicated the countries that would be eligible for certain categories of PVS Pathway missions and invited them to officially request missions accordingly.

She then went on to provide the audience with an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. She explained that all the tools used in the PVS Pathway are regularly updated with experienced experts in order to ensure that they are in line with the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, she indicated that starting this year, the OIE will give the opportunity to countries requesting a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission to evaluate upon request their capacity to implement the One Health concept. She explained that following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. She also informed the meeting participants of the development of the first edition of the PVS Tool-Aquatic, dedicated to evaluating the performance of the Aquatic Animal Health Services.

After offering background information regarding how the OIE was developing the tools used as "treatment" under the PVS Pathway, Dr. Leboucq gave details regarding the current and new "treatments" available to Members. She indicated that the OIE considered Twinning Projects between laboratories and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established "treatments". She further explained that new "treatments" were recently made available to Members, namely the PVS Pathway Laboratory missions, as well as the possibility to undertake a Veterinary Education Twinning Project and a Twinning Project between Veterinary Statutory Bodies. She also indicated that a new laboratory Twinning project was launched in April 2013 on Brucellosis between Kazakhstan (candidate) and USA / Italy ('parents').

Prior to concluding, she reminded the Regional Commission of the efforts made by the OIE to share the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the PVS Pathway with donors and partners when requested by the countries. She indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share PVS Pathway mission reports with the relevant ministries that could be involved in supporting, at national level, the activities related to the strengthening of their Veterinary Services.

Dr. Leboucq concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aiming to sustainably improve the compliance of Veterinary Services with international standards. The OIE is continuously working to convince governments and donors to not only support the PVS Pathway itself, but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Finally, she stated that the improvement of the Veterinary Services could only occur with the strong commitment and ownership of the countries.

16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC)**

  Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs, DG SANCO, European Commission, informed that on 6 May 2013, various measures strengthening the health and safety standards for the entire agri-food chain, had been adopted by the EC, providing a modernised and simplified, more risked-based approach

to the protection of health, and more efficient control tools to ensure the effective application of the rules guiding the operation of the food chain. These measures are also reported to include a new Animal Health Law, a single and clear legislation to regulate animal health in the EU, based on good governance and a principle according to which "prevention is better than cure". The speaker underlined that these measures, compliant with international standards (e.g. those of the OIE) and taking into account all relevant stakeholders, were aimed to improve standards and provide a common system to detect and control diseases better, in addition to tackling health, food and feed safety risks in a coordinated way, focusing on long-term preventative measures.

According to Dr Van Goethem, in order to reduce the risk of trade disruption, the Animal Health Law was aimed at guaranteeing an appropriate level of convergence with the international standards of the OIE regarding animal health conditions for international trade.

The presentation, in general, highlighted the new elements of the Animal Health Law, including prevention policies and tools, the categorisation and prioritisation of diseases and enhanced convergence with OIE standards and response to emerging diseases.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, reported that FAO assistance to Veterinary Services in European and Central Asian countries focused on three strategic areas: (i) prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses; (ii) good governance and capacity-building of Veterinary Services; and (iii) provision of animal disease and zoonosis information. The FAO representative explained that technical assistance and capacity-building of state Veterinary Services addressed issues of early detection and early response to priority diseases, such as: African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, brucellosis and peste des petits ruminants. The representative said that FAO had provided emergency assistance to Armenia and Georgia to assist with African swine fever outbreaks and to Bulgaria for investigating foot and mouth disease outbreaks.

Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy, added that FAO also contributed to good Veterinary Service governance and to fostering regional and cross-border cooperation between Veterinary Services, giving as an example the regional meeting entitled “Threat of African Swine fever spread in Eastern Europe: urgent need for international collaboration”, which had been held by FAO Regional Office in December 2012. The FAO representative said that the meeting had discussed mechanisms for fostering regional cooperation between Veterinary Services and relevant international organisations. In addition, a set of recommendations for improving the prevention and control of African Swine fever had been agreed by the representatives of: 14 state Veterinary Services, FAO, OIE, European Commission, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), together with international and European Union/national reference laboratories and research institutions in Spain, Russia, Poland, Italy and France.

The FAO representative explained that FAO plans for 2013-2014 included two main events: (i) a summit entitled “Global Wellbeing – a Partnership of Animal and Human Health” at the Prague World Veterinary Congress, to be held in the Czech Republic in September 2013, in coordination with the World Veterinary Association, WHO and the OIE; and (ii) a regional meeting on rabies control strategies for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to be held jointly with the OIE and WHO.

17. Other matters

Dr N. Galon, OIE Delegate of Israel, raised the issue of lumpy skin disease in the region and requested that the OIE and FAO provide guidance and knowledge to countries to best prevent and control the disease.

Dr M. Taitubayev, OIE Delegate of Kazakhstan, enquired about the possible ranking of countries within a sub-region using the results of the PVS Evaluations. Dr M. Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, stated that it is not the aim of the PVS Evaluation for countries to compare themselves to other countries, but rather to help them to sustainably reinforce their own capacities in line with OIE standards. However, the OIE has conducted sub-regional PVS studies in Northern Africa and Western Africa, for example, and such regional studies could be relevant in the context of Central Asia or the Customs Union in order to support a sub-region in its efforts to harmonise the quality of their Veterinary Services. Dr Belev concluded the discussion on the topic by reemphasising the need for countries to become fully compliant with OIE standards, using the PVS Pathway.

The meeting officially ended at 6:00 p.m.

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Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 27 May 2013

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Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Ago Pärtel)

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Ago Pärtel)

4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe including Focal Point Seminars (Prof. Nikola T. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels including an update on the GF-TADs mechanism (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)

6. Update on the OIE Representation in Moscow (Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas)

7. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Ago Pärtel)

8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Hans Wyss, Delegate of Switzerland)

9. Selection of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2014 (Dr Ago Pärtel)

10. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre (Dr Romano Marabelli, Delegate of Italy)

11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Fleesensee, Germany, from 17 to 21 September 2012 (Dr Nadège Leboucq)

12. Update regarding the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for the Eastern Europe (Dr Stanislav Ralchev, Technical Assistant, OIE Sub Regional Representation in Brussels)

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe (Dr Simona Forcella, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)

14. On-going collaboration between OIE and WHO/'One Health' activities (Dr Stéphane de la Rocque, OIE Project Officer for Veterinary Public Health, OIE Sub Regional Representation in Brussels)

15. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Europe (Dr Nadège Leboucq)

16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - European Commission (EC)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

17. Other matters

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81 SG/11B/ME

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 27 May 2013

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 46 participants, including Delegates and observers from 16 Members of the Commission and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Observer countries/territories: France, Palestine and United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: FAO, FEI, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi (Oman), Vice-President.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any. The President added that the funding of the Regional Representation for the Middle East relied on an annual voluntary contribution from the Lebanese Government and a little bit less than 10% share of the annual contribution by regional Members to the OIE. However, as several Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East belonged to and contributed to other Regional Commissions and most of the Members contributing to the Middle East Region were in the lowest contribution category (6 or 5), the share of the regional Members' contribution was insufficient to defray the annual budget required by the Regional Representation to implement its programme of activities.

Dr Al-Qahtani thus encouraged Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in compliance with their national economic level in order to better support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation, adding that other efforts should also be engaged towards finding new sources of funding for their activities.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Al-Qahtani, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reminded the meeting of the main objectives of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which were to: tackle specific issues relating to the region's animal health situation; and establish cooperation at regional level in order to improve the quality of Veterinary Services, in compliance with OIE standards, through active and efficient collaboration.

He said that regular seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity were a vital part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services in the region.

Dr Al-Qahtani added that seminars on aquatic animal and wildlife diseases were scheduled for 2013 and that the seminar on animal production food safety would be held in early 2014.

He explained that the Regional Commission would meet twice in 2013 to propose the timetable for a work plan and to prepare the 12th Regional Conference to be held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013.

Referring to Regional Commission support to the Regional Representation, Dr Al-Qahtani reported that the Regional Commission Bureau had met in Dubai in April 2012 to discuss a request for sponsorship and financial contributions from specific regional donors. He said that suggestions favoured approaching the main financial sources in the region, including: IsDB[66], OPEC[67], AGFUND[68] and Qatar Foundation.

Dr Al-Qahtani concluded by urging Bureau members to lobby authorities in the region to give high priority to financially supporting regional activities.

Dr Yehia and Dr Al-Qatani highlighted the need for Delegates and National Focal Points attending seminars and workshops to inform decision makers in their countries of the outcomes of these activities, in order to build awareness on the importance of supporting their Veterinary Services and the role of the OIE in building capacity.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including Focal Point seminars

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the main objectives of the activities implemented by the Regional Representation during the previous 12 months.

Dr Yehia explained that one of the main objectives of the Regional Representation for the Middle East was to build the capacity of Veterinary Services and contribute to the prevention and control of animal diseases in this region. He reminded participants that the activities of the Regional Representation for the Middle East involved: improving animal disease notification; strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations, especially FAO, WHO and AU-IBAR; holding conferences and seminars to help target specific animal and public health-related issues; promoting the establishment of regional OIE Reference Laboratories; and coordinating these laboratories' activities to ensure they meet regional needs.

66 IsDB: Islamic Development Bank

67 OPEC: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

68 AGFUND: Arab Gulf Program for Development

He reported on work to organise the 12th Regional Conference for the Middle East, to be held in Amman (Jordan) on 23-26 September 2013.

Dr Yehia described the main outcomes of the information seminar for recently appointed Delegates and of the seminars for OIE National Focal Points held during the past year, and provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in Laboratory Twinning projects. He also presented the conclusions of the: OIE inter-regional conference on Rift Valley fever in Mombasa (Kenya); sub-regional workshop on lumpy skin disease and other vector-borne diseases in Larnaca (Cyprus); and two meetings on the FAO Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) in Beirut (Lebanon) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

He described the technical assistance provided on: surveillance of peste des petits ruminants and brucellosis; collaboration of the OIE Reference Laboratory for bluetongue; distribution of the questionnaire for official recognition of historical freedom from African horse sickness; and reviewing the glanders chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

He reported on the positive outcomes of a meeting held in Saudi Arabia between the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the OIE Director General during which it has been proposed that experts from both organisations meet in order to propose a cooperation Memorandum of Understanding for supporting Member Countries of the Region.

The Regional Representative also confirmed the OIE efforts towards the establishment of a sub-regional FMD coordination office in a GCC country.

Dr Yehia outlined the activities programmed for the upcoming year, including the regional conference on peste des petits ruminants to review a common strategy for the region. He said that this activity was yet to be confirmed. He reported on work to: build the technical capacity of Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Pathway; implement laboratory twinning projects; and continue seminars every two years for OIE National Focal Points for animal welfare, animal production food safety, aquatic animal diseases, veterinary products, wildlife diseases, animal disease notification to the OIE, communication, and laboratory. He also indicated that the OIE was currently working on the preparation of the first Veterinary Education Twinning project in the Region. This project, still to be confirmed, would most likely involve Jordan and United Kingdom.

Dr Yehia acknowledged the support of Professor Vincenzo Caporale as Special Advisor to the Regional Representation for the Middle East and Dr Joseph Domenech for his work in preparing key activities in the region.

Dr Yehia concluded by saying that the Regional Representation for the Middle East would continue to work towards building the technical capacity of the Members' Veterinary Services of the region.

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

– "Harmonising National Legislation on Food Safety"

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 12th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

– "Proper application of Halal slaughter"

7. Organisation of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Amman (Jordan), from 23 to 26 September 2013

Dr Monther Al-Rifaï, Delegate of Jordan to the OIE, described the arrangements being made by the authorities of his country to host the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held from 23 to 26 September 2013.

8. Candidate for the OIE Council

All countries of the Regional Commission for the Middle East decided by consensus to propose Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman to the OIE and currently Vice-President of the Regional Commission, as the new Member representing the Middle East at the OIE Council.

In addition, Dr Osama Mahmoud Ahmed Slim, Delegate of Egypt, was unanimously elected by the Commission as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to replace Dr Al Sahmi.

9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS): status of notification by Members in Middle East

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, provided a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease reporting in the Middle East. He began by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, in order to maintain transparency, enhance trade, and contribute to the global early warning system and to the worldwide distribution of knowledge on disease/health.

Dr Ben Jebara then provided detailed regional information on the compliance with reporting for 2012; within the Middle East region, 16 countries (76%) provided complete annual reports on time. He also showed the evolution of the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from countries of the Middle East compared with the submission time of all the countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012. This analysis illustrated a mild improvement in the reporting of the second six-monthly reports (by reducing the reporting time), but little improvement (and even a reduction) in the submission of the first six-monthly and annual reports.

Finally, Dr Ben Jebara presented some of the improvements implemented in the new version of WAHIS, which allow for better reporting for disease notification in wild species. Concerning the Wildlife Annual reports, Dr Ben Jebara explained that 63 countries worldwide had provided their reports; interested countries that had not yet provided a report on the section dedicated to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wild animals could do so at any time in the near future.

10. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, started his presentation by providing the Members of the Regional Commission with a brief overview of the state of play regarding the implementation of the different OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the Region. He indicated the countries that would be eligible for certain categories of PVS Pathway missions and invited them to officially request missions accordingly.

He then went on to provide the audience with an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. He explained that all the tools used in the PVS Pathway are regularly updated with experienced experts in order to ensure that they are in line with the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services, he indicated that starting this year, the OIE will give the opportunity to countries requesting a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission to evaluate, upon request, their capacity to implement the One Health concept. He explained that following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. He also informed the meeting participants of the development of the first edition of the PVS Tool – Aquatic, dedicated to evaluating the performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services.

After offering background information regarding how the OIE was developing the tools used as "treatment" under the PVS Pathway, Dr Yehia gave details regarding the current and new "treatments" available to Members. He indicated that the OIE considered Twinning Projects between laboratories and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established "treatments". He further explained that new "treatments" were recently made available to Members, namely the PVS Pathway Laboratory missions, as well as the possibility to undertake a Veterinary Education Twinning Project and Twinning Project between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Prior to concluding, Dr Yehia reminded the Regional Commission of the efforts made by the OIE to share the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the PVS Pathway with donors and partners when requested by the countries. He indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share PVS Pathway mission reports with the relevant ministries that could be involved in supporting, at national level, the activities related to the strengthening of their Veterinary Services.

Dr Yehia concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aiming to sustainably improve the compliance of Veterinary Services with international standards. The OIE is continuously working to convince governments and donors to not only support the PVS Pathway itself, but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Finally, he stated that the improvement of Veterinary Services could only occur with the strong commitment and ownership of the countries.

11. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

  Dr Markos Tibbo, FAO Livestock Officer, reported that technical assistance of his organisation had focused on: building capacity to improve animal productivity; prevention and control of animal, zoonotic and food-borne diseases; and sustainable use of natural resources, including animal genetic resources.

He described technical assistance provided in the region, notably on: early detection and response to priority diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease; prevention and management of brucellosis, peste des petits ruminants and Rift Valley fever; the regional foot and mouth disease control strategy; drafting a peste des petits ruminants roadmap; and emergency assistance for animal disease outbreaks.

Dr Tibbo outlined current challenges in the region, including: the rapid spread of lumpy skin disease in some countries of the region; fears aroused by avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks in China; and disruption to Syria's Veterinary Services.

In conclusion, the FAO representative reported that FAO collaborates with the OIE in implementing: PVS Pathway missions; the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease; animal quarantine systems; and import risk analysis.

12. Other matters

Dr Yehia presented the conclusions resulting from the following seminars and workshops: Rift Valley Fever (Mombasa), animal welfare (Beirut), foot-and-mouth disease (Beirut and Dubai), and lumpy skin disease (Lanarca). The conclusions of these meetings were endorsed by the Regional Commission.

Dr Yehia communicated the composition of the working group for the implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Middle East. He asked participants to propose members from the private sector that could contribute to the working group. The Regional Commission requested the Coordinator of the working group, Dr Hassan Aidaros, and Dr Yehia to identify the appropriate persons or agencies.

Lastly, Dr Yehia notified participants of the Equine Diseases Training on the diagnosis of African Horse Sickness, dourine, glanders, equine infectious anaemia, and equine virus arteritis, which will be organised by the Istituto zooprofilatico in Palermo. He requested the Member countries that have not yet done so to nominate a participant to attend the meeting, as well as to confirm that they would cover the selected participant's transport and accommodation costs for this training.

Dr Al-Qatani thanked the participants for their contributions and concluded the meeting.

The meeting ended at 5: 00 p.m.

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Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, 27 May 2013

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Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem AlQahtani)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
6. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
7. Organisation of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013 (Dr Monther Al-Rifaï, Delegate of Jordan)
8. Candidate for the OIE Council (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS): status of notification by Members in Middle East (Dr Karim Ben Jebara, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)
10. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
11. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
12. Other matters

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