

FINAL REPORT

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List of abbreviations

ASEAN	:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC	:	African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
CIC	:	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
CIRAD	:	Center for International Research on Environment and Development
COPA/COGECA	:	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
ECOWAS/CILSS	:	Economic Community of West African States/ Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
EUFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI	:	Fédération Equestre Internationale
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GFSI	:	Global Food Safety Initiative
GF-TADs	:	FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GLEWS	:	Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses
IBRD	:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Animal Welfare
ICSID	:	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
IDA	:	International Development Association
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IETS	:	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFC	:	International Finance Corporation
IFHA	:	International Federation of Racehorse Authorities
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
IPPC	:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	:	International Organization for Standardization
IZS-Teramo	:	Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
MIGA	:	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization - PANAF-TOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PATTEC	:	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
PCR	:	Polymerase chain reaction

PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
Quads	:	Quadrilateral (United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)
RSPCA	:	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SEAFDEC	:	South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SPC	:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STAR-IDAZ	:	Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses
TAIEX	:	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (EC/DG ENLARG)
VICH	:	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHID	:	OIE World Animal Health Information Database (http //web.oie.int/wahis/public.php)
WAHIS	:	World Animal Health Information System
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WSPA	:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO	:	World Trade Organization
WVEPAH	:	World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 25 to 29 May at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 30 May at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany), President of the Assembly. Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi (Oman) chaired that part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item I and Dr John Clifford (United States of America) chaired that part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item II.
2. Delegations from 140 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from 5 non-member countries or territories and representatives of 16 international and regional organisations, institutions and federations with an agreement with the OIE 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 François Gary (France) and Dr José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno (Spain) participated in the General Session as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.
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, Dr Barry O'Neil and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, participated in the General Session.
8. H.R.H. Princess Haya, Ms Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO², Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO³, and twenty-five (25) Ministers and Members of Government from Member Countries also participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 25 MAY 2014 ≡

Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the 82nd General Session, a musical group was invited to enliven a part of the Opening Session.
10. President Schwabenbauer welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: H.R.H. Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Ms Nemesia Achacollo Tola (Minister of Rural Development and Land of Bolivia), Mr Neri Geller (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil), Mr Javier Ponce Cevallos (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador), Mr Elhadji Thierno Ousmane Diallo (Minister of Livestock and Livestock Production of Guinea), Mr Mahmoud Hojjati (Minister of Agriculture of Iran), Mr Hari Prasad Parajuli (Minister of Agricultural Development of Nepal), Mr Mahaman Elhadji Ousmane (Minister of Livestock of Niger), Mr Fuad bin Jafaar bin Mohamed Al Sajwani (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman), Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal), Mr Tabaré Aguerre Lombardo (Minister of Stockbreeding, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay) and Mr Farid Ahmed Mogawar (Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen). The following were also thanked for their presence: Ms Maria Flachsbarth (Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany), Mr Jun-Won Lee (Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea), Mr Otar Danelia (First Deputy Minister

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

² WHO: World Health Organization

³ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

of Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Hossein Rokni (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Iran), Ms Gulmira Isaeva Sultanbaevny (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mr Ty Phommasack (Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos), Mr Antonio Raul Limbau (Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Mozambique), Mr José C. Reaño (Undersecretary for Livestock of the Philippines), and also Mr Oreeditse Sola Molebatsi (Assistant Minister of Agriculture of Botswana), Mr Mousavi (Member of Parliament of Iran), Mr Kim Roman Uhenovicha (Member of the Committee on Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Ms Khadijah Kassachoon (Principal Secretary at the Department of Livestock of Kenya), Mr Sergei Alexeevich Dankvert (Head of Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of Russia), Mr Patrick Dehaumont (Director General of Food, representing the Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry of France), Mr Vladimir Subbotin (Director of the Eurasian Economic Commission – EEC). Ms Margaret Chan (Director General of WHO) and Mr José Graziano da Silva (Director General of FAO) also honoured the Assembly with their presence.

11. As this year marked the 90th anniversary of the creation of the OIE, Dr Schwabenbauer recalled some of the key moments in the history of the OIE since 1924. She placed special emphasis on the importance of consolidating the achievements by building on the strengths of the Organisation and by endeavouring to build relations of trust between Member Countries. She also stressed the opportunity provided by the preparation of the Sixth Strategic Plan to take Members' expectations into account in building the Organisation's future.
12. Dr Schwabenbauer concluded with the hope that the OIE would remain an organisation proud of its heritage, and a strong organisation that would add further successes to those already achieved.
13. Following her address, the President handed the floor to Ms Margaret Chan, Mr José Graziano da Silva, Ms Nemesia Achacollo Tola, Mr Neri Geller, Mr Javier Ponce Cevallos, Mr Mahmoud Hojjati, Mr Fuad bin Jafaar bin Mohamed Al Sajwani, Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Mr Tabaré Aguerre Lombardo, Ms Maria Flachsbarth and then to Mr Jun-Won Lee, Mr Ty Phommasack, Mr José C. Reaño and Mr Sergei Alexeevich Dankvert.

Mr Patrick Dehaumont, Director General of Food (representing the Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry of France), delivered his address prior to the first plenary session on Monday 26 May 2014.

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

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

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 2014 to receive the awards: Dr Emilio Juan Gimeno (Argentina) for the Gold Medal and Dr Manuel Antonio González Cano (Panama) for the Meritorious Service Award.
15. Dr Schwabenbauer commended Dr Gimeno and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE, in his capacity as Delegate, President of the OIE and Regional Representative, and to the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. She then delivered a speech in praise of Dr González Cano and presented him with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.

16. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), United States of America, was announced as the recipient of the 2014 World Veterinary Day prize by the President of the World Veterinary Association, Dr Faouzi Kechrid and the OIE President, Dr Schwabenbauer.
17. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony.
18. Following the ceremony, Dr Schwabenbauer declared open the 82nd General Session of the Assembly.

≡ MONDAY 26 MAY 2014 ≡

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.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Docs 82 SG/7 and 82 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 83rd and 84th General Sessions**

22. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 83rd and 84th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) and Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

23. The Assembly appointed Dr Correa Messuti (Uruguay) and Dr Schipp (Australia), 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 2013

(Doc. 82 SG/1)

25. Dr Vallat presented the most important points of the report on activities in 2013 contained in the summary of the document, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2013 being presented in the report Doc. 82 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 3-year work programme of the Director General adopted by the Assembly in 2010.

In this connection, Dr Vallat thanked all the staff of the OIE for the work carried out during the year, the elected members of the Council for supporting this work and the elected members of the Specialist Commissions and all the experts of the Working Groups and *ad hoc* groups for giving the OIE the benefit of their scientific expertise. The Director General also made a point of thanking all the Delegates – and in particular those who had increased their statutory contribution category or had contributed to the subscription for the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony – and the donors, whose commitment enables the OIE to develop an ambitious work programme.

26. The Director General began by stating that in 2013 the OIE still had 178 Member Countries but that, given the unanimous approval of the Council, two new Countries would be joining the Organisation in 2014 if the Assembly confirmed this approval.
27. Dr Vallat emphasised the success of the 81st General Session and of the three Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions (Africa, Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and the Middle East) held in 2013 and generously hosted by Togo, Philippines and Jordan, respectively. In particular, the OIE paid tribute to the Philippine Authorities for having hosted the Regional Conference only days after the devastating passage of typhoon Haiyan and extended its deepest gratitude to all the teams working on site for their courage and efficiency in helping to make the event a success.
28. At the end of 2013, the OIE had 14 offices around the world (Paris, as well as Astana, Bamako, Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Gabarone, Moscow, Nairobi, Panama City, Sofia, Tokyo and Tunis). The 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; parliamentary diplomatic approval of this Agreement was now awaited. Furthermore, the negotiations with the Authorities of Kazakhstan had resulted in the signing of an official Headquarters Agreement for the establishment of a Sub-Regional Coordination Unit for the foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme. The 5th Meeting of the Committee on FMD Control in Western Eurasia was held in Astana (Kazakhstan) from 23 to 25 April 2014. The OIE was also holding talks with a view to setting up a Sub-Regional Representation.
29. The Director General presented an update on the OIE's continued active participation in various programmes in partnership with major international organisations (WHO, FAO, WTO⁴). He placed special emphasis on collaboration with WHO concerning the development, with the financial support of the World Bank and the European Union, of work aimed at harmonising their respective evaluation procedures (i.e. the OIE PVS⁵ Pathway and the WHO International Health Regulations [IHR]) to synergise their evaluation tools and create a joint operational guide.
30. Dr Vallat also mentioned the continuing active implementation of the GF-TADs⁶ Agreement with FAO and the GLEWs⁷ Agreement with FAO and WHO: a new "GLEWS+ Concept Paper" was finalised and published by FAO, WHO and the OIE in November 2013, entitled "The Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface".
31. Dr Vallat then stressed the importance of the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), which had been extremely active in 2013. In particular, he informed the Assembly that WHO and the OFFLU network had renewed, for a further 5 years, their formal Agreement under which OFFLU undertook to collaborate in the WHO Vaccine Strain Selection Process by supplying timely information on relevant strains of animal

⁴ WTO: World Trade Organization

⁵ PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

⁶ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

⁷ GLEWS: Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses

- origin. In view of this success, FAO, WHO and the OIE agreed to extend this agreement to 31 December 2018 and the three organisations remained committed, as stated in their tripartite agreement, to working closely together on biological risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface.
32. Dr Vallat also expressed satisfaction at the successful setting up of a pilot vaccine bank for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa, a contract having been signed with a vaccine supplier established in Africa. This vaccine bank thus added to the regional vaccine banks for rabies and FMD already existing in Asia. This forms part of a pilot project aimed at studying the acceptability of vaccination by small farmers.
 33. Dr Vallat then mentioned the continued work being undertaken on the global strategy for FMD control. Thus, following on from the OIE Global Conference, co-organised with FAO in Thailand (Bangkok) in June 2012, the OIE participated in the meetings of the FAO/OIE GF-TADs Working Group on FMD held every 2 months, and in several regional meetings. He also reminded the Assembly of the OIE's new role in officially endorsing national FMD control programmes, prepared, if necessary, in the context of these regional programmes.
 34. 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 2013. In February 2013, the Committee approved the first research project involving the use of rinderpest virus since the establishment of the post-eradication phase, and it developed a form to be submitted with applications from institutes seeking to become OIE/FAO-approved as safe to store rinderpest virus-containing material. Resolutions were subsequently submitted to the Assembly for approval.
 35. Dr Vallat also emphasised that in 2013 the OIE had continued to follow up on the recommendations issued at the World Conference on Rabies Control (Incheon-Seoul, September 2011) to sustainably control and prevent rabies at its principal source in animals. Tripartite action in this field was highly visible on the occasion of World Rabies Day (celebrated in September 2013): FAO, the OIE and WHO issued a joint statement in which the three organisations reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of eradicating rabies in humans and controlling it in animals, especially in dogs, the main source of cases in humans. The OIE continued to support the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and published a joint statement with the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) advocating worldwide vaccination of dogs.
 36. In the field of animal welfare, Dr Vallat reminded Delegates of the support of the Department of Agriculture of Australia for an ambitious programme to promote animal welfare, which, after its successful launch in 2012, had considerably developed in 2013. Consisting of “training of trainers” on welfare of cattle in pre-slaughter and slaughter, the programme was first delivered in Indonesia in January 2013, and then in the Philippines, Turkey and Vietnam. Extension of the programme to other countries in 2014 was now underway.
 37. Lastly, within the framework of its policy of public–private partnerships, the OIE had established a Brainstorming Group on Safe International Movement of Competition Horses, thanks to a collaboration agreement signed with the FEI⁸ in January 2013. The IFHA⁹ officially joined the initiative in September 2013. Several documents were developed and

⁸ FEI: Fédération Equestre Internationale

⁹ IFHA: International Federation of Racehorse Authorities

important meetings were held in 2013; this work will proceed in 2014, with the aim of continuing to raise Veterinary Services' awareness of the following concepts: a 'high health, high performance' sub-population of competition horses, temporary import conditions and 'equine disease free zones'.

38. In the field of private standards, the Director General informed the Assembly that it was pursuing formal cooperation with international organisations preparing private standards (ISO¹⁰, GFSI¹¹, GLOBALG.A.P.). In particular, he emphasised that ISO had decided, after a vote by its member countries, to develop animal welfare standards based on the standards issued by the OIE, a decision that sent a strong signal of the high regard for the work of the OIE.
39. The Director General also indicated the draft agreements that had been signed in 2013 and those that were envisaged with other international and regional organisations.
40. In the field of scientific activities, the Director General briefly reported on the world conferences that had been organised or co-organised in 2013 and the conferences due to be held in 2014 or planned for 2015 and 2016. 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. He reminded the Assembly that, by the end of 2013, the number of OIE Reference Centres had reached 284 (43 Collaborating Centres and 241 Reference Laboratories), constituting a network of excellence providing support for the OIE, in particular for the twinning programme.
41. 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, 32 missions having been conducted at the request of Member Countries, and he concluded that the programme for worldwide improvement of governance in the veterinary domain had continued at a steady pace, as more than 70% of Member Countries were now involved, in particular through the PVS Pathway.
42. Dr Vallat also reported on the various training workshops for newly appointed Delegates and for national Focal Points organised in 2013.
43. Dr Vallat highlighted the importance of standards in the field of veterinary medicinal products. In this connection, he emphasised that the OIE had continued its activities, in particular with regard to the use of antimicrobial agents, following the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals, which was held in Paris (France) from 13 to 15 March 2013. The OIE also continued to participate in the work of VICH¹², notably at the second and third meetings of the VICH Outreach Forum, which were also attended by non-members of VICH. The OIE also continued to implement its training programme for national Focal Points for veterinary products of all Member Countries.
44. Dr Vallat briefly reported on the operation of the global systems WAHIS¹³ and WAHID¹⁴, and the major changes made to the tools, in particular to take into account wildlife diseases. Following on from the successful launch of the version WAHIS 2 on 27 August 2012, he welcomed the development of the new *WAHIS-Wild* interface, which was made available to Delegates in December 2013. He reminded OIE Delegates of the importance of their notifying animal health events and emphasised the need to notify emerging diseases without delay.

¹⁰ ISO: International Organization for Standardization

¹¹ GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative

¹² VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

¹³ WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

¹⁴ WAHID: OIE World Animal Health Information Database: <http://web.oie.int/wahis/public.php>

45. Lastly, Dr Vallat briefly reported on communication activities and tools and on publication work and the extremely rich documentary database now available on the OIE website.
46. The Delegate of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), emphasised the strategic role of the OIE in the development of international standards on animal health for trade in animals and animal products. In this respect, he recalled the wish expressed by the Member States of the European Union for these standards to be updated on a sound scientific basis and emphasised the importance of all OIE Member Countries respecting their application.

The Delegate of Belgium stated that the Member States of the European Union would shortly be providing comments for the forthcoming Sixth Strategic Plan.

47. The Delegate of Senegal thanked the OIE for having established a vaccine bank for peste des petits ruminants in some African countries. Nevertheless, he hoped that the bank could be extended, and that it could also take into account vaccination against foot and mouth disease and Rift Valley fever. Lastly, the Delegate of Senegal requested OIE support for vaccine production in Africa.

In response, the Director General confirmed the OIE's commitment, subject to the budgetary resources that donors will be allocating to the World Fund.

48. The Delegate of Brazil thanked the Director General for the excellent work carried out in 2013. He hoped that the PVS Pathway could be extended to more countries, in particular the countries of the European Union and the countries of North America.

Concerning the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, the Delegate of Brazil asked the OIE to include more expertise from Latin American scientists than is currently the case.

Dr Vallat pointed out that the PVS Pathway is based on the voluntary involvement of countries, even if it is strongly recommended that all countries progressively request an evaluation of their Veterinary Services. With regard to the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, the Director General pointed out that three of the Group's experts are from the Americas region.

49. The Delegate of India, after having congratulated the Director General on the quality of his presentation, asked him about the suitability of creating a Specialist Commission on veterinary education, given the importance of the subject, and about the reporting of animal health information by non-member countries via WAHIS.

In response, the Director General indicated that all the guidelines on veterinary education had been discussed and elaborated by an *ad hoc* Group composed of deans from all five OIE regions. If necessary, this *ad hoc* Group could be reactivated. Regarding the second question, Dr Vallat confirmed that the OIE maintains regular contacts with non-member countries to ensure that its information on world animal health is as comprehensive as possible.

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

Composition of the Working Groups

51. The Director General presented the composition of the three OIE Working Groups for the period May 2014 – May 2015:

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

- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Dr Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
 - Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO)
 - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
 - Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)
 - Prof. Steve Hathaway (New Zealand)
 - Dr Jessie Alice Kamwi (Namibia)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (WHO)
 - Dr Alexander Panin (Russia)
 - Dr Koen Van Dyck (European Commission)
 - Secretary (Codex Alimentarius Commission)

- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India) (Chairman)
 - Dr David Bayvel (WSPA¹⁵)
 - 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 IMS¹⁶
 - An Expert proposed by the IDF¹⁷ (observer)
 - An Expert proposed by the IEC¹⁸ (observer)

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

Planned Working Programme for 2015

(Doc. 82 SG/6 – Appendix I)

53. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2015, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Council and followed on from the activities of 2013 and those already being undertaken in 2014. It was also announced that this programme could be intensified, particularly in the fields of veterinary education and support for Veterinary Statutory Bodies, even for specific missions in Member Countries, if donors were to provide additional support to increase the number of twinning projects or activities for capacity building for countries.

15 WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

16 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

17 IDF: International Dairy Federation

18 IEC: International Egg Commission

54. The Director General also emphasised the strengthening of the activities of the Animal Health Information Department and the modernisation of WAHIS system functions, as well as further implementing PVS programme actions, including strengthening the capacities of National Focal Points.
55. The Planned Working Programme for 2015 submitted to the Delegates for approval was presented at Appendix I of document 82 SG/6.
56. The Assembly approved the Planned Working Programme proposed for 2015.

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Criteria and factors for rational prioritisation of animal diseases that should be covered by public health policies

(Doc. 82 SG/9)

57. Dr Al-Sahmi, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Gary, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.
58. Dr Gary presented his report, which included an analysis of the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
59. In introducing the Technical Item, Dr Gary indicated that the vast majority of OIE Member Countries view the prioritisation of animal diseases that should be covered by veterinary public health policies as a major and complex issue, as 135 of the 178 Member Countries have responded to a questionnaire sent to them by the OIE. Over 90% of them state that they have already or intend to embark on an approach of this kind. Three diseases – rabies, brucellosis and tuberculosis – already stand out because they are covered by an official control programme in more than 50% of the respondent countries.

The first aim mentioned for prioritising animal diseases is resource allocation to Veterinary Services, to ensure that they have the means they require to implement health programmes. A set of technical aims is mentioned ranging from trade facilitation, reducing disease-related economic losses to the improvement of public health.

The countries' responses provide a hierarchy of criteria for appropriate prioritisation. In first place they single out the impact on public health including food safety, followed by the economic impact of the disease, primarily on trade, and to a lesser extent the impact of the disease on the environment and on society with the potential risk of crisis. In the matter of disease control measures, the countries appear to consider the availability and feasibility of disease control measures as the most important prioritisation criteria. Even though there is a common set of criteria to be taken into account, the differences observed from one continent to another demonstrate that the weightings may vary in line with the individual region or country issues.

The prioritisation of animal diseases should also serve to strengthen the Veterinary Services in the opinion of 90% of the respondent countries. This reminds us that the choice of official animal health programmes cannot be made without ensuring that they sustain the competencies required from the Veterinary Services as described in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

To conclude, the vast majority of countries lend legitimacy to the support given by the OIE in the area of animal disease prioritisation by drawing up guidelines and recommendations, updating the technical disease cards, organising training workshops or offering legislative support.

Discussion on the Technical Item I

60. Dr Al-Sahmi thanked Dr Gary and congratulated him for the excellent presentation and he invited the Assembly to comment on the presentation.
61. The Delegate of Togo, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries in Africa, congratulated the rapporteur and approved the conclusions and recommendations. He noted that the result of this report should be shared with not only veterinary services but also with stakeholders and other ministries with specific reference to the finance ministry. He also suggested training workshops be organised to apply the animal disease prioritisation criteria. He noted that Africa would like the OIE to consider developing a plan of action to consolidate the relevant findings in the report.
62. The Delegate of Japan expressed his appreciation to the rapporteur for his comprehensive presentation. He supported the idea of drawing up guidelines and recommendations. He noted that the prioritisation should take into account not only diseases of global interest but also those of regional and national concern. Japan asked the OIE to review the criteria for listing diseases and for interpretation of the criteria so as not to exclude diseases that have been targets of national official control programmes from the list so that the OIE could support Member Countries' national animal disease control policies.
63. The representative of China (People's Republic of) indicated their appreciation for the presentation and the analysis. He suggested that the OIE should engage more professional experts to expand this study and make more use of statistical data on disease outbreaks, such as economic losses, the impact on production and the cost of the public health services. He also noted that avian influenza should be in the list of diseases considered by countries for official control programs in addition to rabies, brucellosis and tuberculosis.
64. The Delegate of Croatia, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE and the rapporteur for tabling this important point of disease prioritisation for discussion. She noted that the EU strongly supports the OIE initiative on disease listing and categorisation, and particularly the study on "Listing and Categorisation of Priority Animal Diseases, including those Transmissible to Humans", which has been used by the EU Member States and the European Commission for the elaboration of the future disease prioritisation and categorisation policy that will be incorporate in the forthcoming EU Regulation on Animal Health.. She emphasised that the EU strongly supports a common methodology and activities developed by the OIE to prioritise actions for the control of animal diseases.
65. In response to these remarks, the rapporteur pointed out that the prioritisation is an exercise at national level and is not directly linked to OIE disease listing.

The Director General recalled that historically the OIE listing had been based on imminent threats to neighbouring countries. Over time the trade dimension had become a major criterion. Broadening of the OIE mandate to include "improving animal health globally" according to the concept of animal health as a public good further changed the paradigm; as a result the OIE has established a list of 116 diseases of importance for notification. The introduction of the public good concept allows for defining the appropriate use of public resources and what is amenable to being financed by the private sector, in particular livestock producers. He also announced that further discussion would take place later in the week on the difference between diseases subject to official control programmes and OIE-listed diseases.

66. The Delegate of Mali congratulated the rapporteur on the quality of his work. He sought clarification on whether categorisation is a complement of prioritisation or whether it is a tool within prioritisation.
67. The Delegate of Tunisia noted that the recommendations were based more on their impact on public health and zoonoses and transboundary diseases than on food safety or food security. He asked if diseases of honey bees could be included considering their significant impact on the environment.
68. The Delegate of Indonesia made an intervention to request that the OIE develop guidelines on animal identification programmes as a critical element for the implementation of official control programmes following prioritisation.
69. The Delegate of Sudan congratulated the speaker on the relevance and excellence of his study and sought clarification of certain criteria which could be used to establish priorities, such as economic and public health, and whether these may differ between regions and countries.
70. The representative of FAO thanked the rapporteur and supported several of the interventions previously made. He noted that the priorities to be considered could include hunger, poverty alleviation and food security. He also inquired as to whether other methodologies had been developed for disease prioritisation and whether the work of other institutions had been taken into account.
71. The Delegate of Haiti supported Japan's intervention on the need to consider diseases at the regional and national level. He cited the challenges experienced in his country with Teschen disease, and the lack of solidarity to support their efforts
72. The representative of ILRI¹⁹ emphasised that the purpose of the categorisation should be clarified and, in particular the priorities of farmers at the national level should be taken into consideration. He also noted that One Health processes are not currently well developed or implemented at the national level to support disease prioritisation in many jurisdictions.
73. The President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission agreed with the need to specify the purpose of prioritisation. He indicated the need for proper interpretation of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* to differentiate the criteria for prioritisation and for disease listing. Disease listing relates to the notification provisions for Member Countries. It does not differentiate between whether or not a disease is important. As such, the process should not result in a reduction of solidarity but in fact should support it.
74. Responding to the Delegate of Mali, the rapporteur confirmed the linkage between categorisation and prioritisation. Given that international efforts in this field are comparatively recent, it is clear that there is no common definition of categorisation. Consequently the motivation and analysis may be different. Regarding the intervention of Tunisia, the rapporteur highlighted the need for balance in the selection and weighting of the criteria. Citing the example of honey bee diseases, it is obvious that the cost can be both direct and indirect and both should be considered, as well as any environmental impacts.
75. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Gary for his presentation and invited the Delegates of Australia, China (People's Republic of), Croatia, Japan, Sudan, Togo and the representative of FAO to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

¹⁹ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

≡ TUESDAY 27 MAY 2014 ≡

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

**Presentations by International Organisations
having an Agreement with the OIE**

76. The President reminded the Assembly that presentations at a Plenary Session are made only by intercontinental, international organisations, which can address the Assembly every 3 years; an exception to the 3-year rule is made for the WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO, the World Bank and the WTO, which can make their presentations every year if they so desire. Regional organisations can, in principle, make their presentations every other year within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
77. The President indicated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by intercontinental professional organisations. She then stated that, this year, presentations would not be provided by the WHO and FAO as the Directors General of these two Organisations had already delivered an address during the Opening Session.

World Trade Organization

78. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO, reported on the relevant activities of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) for 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.
79. The attention of the Assembly was drawn to the fact that over the period 1995–2013, 368 specific trade concerns (STCs) were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee about SPS measures maintained by other WTO Members. Of these 368 STCs, 39% were related to SPS measures linked to animal health and zoonoses, 31% related to food safety, 24% to plant health, and 6% related to other issues. A further breakdown showed that of the concerns related to animal health and zoonoses, 33% dealt with transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, 24% with FMD, 9% with avian influenza, and 34% with other animal health issues such as administrative issues, certification, import bans, etc.. Further information is available in the WTO document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.14.
80. Ms Fall mentioned that in 2013 and the first quarter of 2014, 27 new STCs were raised by WTO Members for the first time in the SPS Committee, including concerns of relevance to the OIE. 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.
81. She disclosed that a total of 1542 notifications of new or proposed SPS measures were submitted by WTO Members in 2013 and the first quarter of 2014. Of these, 204 identified animal health as the objective of the measure being taken, while 1077 identified the protection of humans from zoonoses or plant pests as the objective. Moreover, 162 notifications identified an OIE standard as relevant, by citing either the application of the OIE standard or a deviation from it.
82. Furthermore, the Assembly was informed that the SPS Committee had adopted a procedure and time-frame for undertaking the Fourth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, which will take place in 2014. Several WTO Members have submitted issues for consideration as part of the Fourth Review. Ms Fall reported that following a proposal from the United States of America, a workshop on risk analysis (G/SPS/W/275) will be held in October 2014.

83. Regarding recent developments concerning private standards discussions, Ms Fall noted that discussions in 2013 continued to focus mainly on the development of a working definition of SPS-related private standards (G/SPS/W/276); the other four actions adopted by the SPS Committee related to the promotion of information exchange among various entities (G/SPS/55).
84. 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-organised training activities, and through STDF-related projects (Standards and Trade Development Facility).
85. Ms Fall pointed out that the OIE had participated in a number of WTO regional workshops held in Gabon and the United Arab Emirates, as well as in the Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement and the workshop on SPS-related Market Access Challenges and Opportunities, both of which were held in Switzerland. Ms Fall furthermore made reference to the WTO document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.4, which provides information on the SPS technical assistance activities planned for 2014, including application information and deadlines for WTO funding.
86. Still on the issue of capacity building, she reminded the Assembly that the STDF is a global partnership in SPS capacity building and technical cooperation established by the FAO, OIE, World Bank, WHO and WTO, with a mandate to increase SPS awareness, mobilise resources, strengthen collaboration, identify and disseminate good practice, as well as to provide support and funding for development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements. In terms of the recent developments in the STDF, Ms Fall noted that the WTO was pleased to see the recent positive independent mid-term review of the STDF for the period 1999-2013. She mentioned (i) the recent STDF work relating to the implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade, (ii) the upcoming guide to prioritising SPS investment options for market access, and (iii) the publication on international trade and invasive alien species, drafted in collaboration with the OIE and IPPC²⁰.
87. With regard to STDF funded projects, Ms Fall noted that only 9% of approved STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) focussed on animal health issues. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from national Veterinary Services were therefore strongly encouraged.
88. Following the conclusion of Ms Fall's presentation, the President of the OIE inquired why the animal health sector comprised only 9% of the projects approved by STDF given the centrality of animal health issues in the work of the SPS Committee.
89. Ms Fall responded by stating that the STDF funding process is demand-driven and thus strongly encouraged the submission of applications for PPGs and STDF project funding.
90. Dr Vallat highlighted that the OIE PVS Pathway provides assistance to Member Countries to improve their compliance with OIE international standards and SPS measures. Thus there is a certain degree of overlap between what the OIE and STDF offer to Member Countries. Both parties are working to unite their efforts toward this shared goal and to develop synergies.

²⁰ IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

The World Bank

91. Dr François Le Gall, Livestock Adviser of the World Bank, thanked the President of the OIE, the Director General of the OIE, and all national Delegates to the OIE for allowing the World Bank to address the World Assembly and to present the World Bank's perspectives on livestock.
92. Dr Le Gall commenced his presentation by introducing the general organisation of the World Bank Group, which is composed of five entities: IBRD²¹, IDA²², these two forming the World Bank, MIGA²³, ICSID²⁴ and IFC²⁵, the latter of which focuses on the private sector.
He mentioned, in particular, the financial conditions attached to IBRD and IDA financing for countries. During the fiscal year 2013, the World Bank committed 31.5 billion USD in loans, credits and grants in 172 countries, with the agriculture, fishing and forestry sector accounting for 8% of this envelope. For IFC, 18 billion USD were committed in 2013, 7% of which was targeted toward agribusiness.
93. The World Bank's goals are to eradicate extreme poverty within one generation and to boost shared prosperity. Dr Le Gall reminded the Assembly that his presentation last year focused on the 'livestock revolution' trends. This year, he would emphasise the various public good elements with which the livestock sector is linked and which require collective action and justify the World Bank's engagement. He continued by mentioning why agriculture matters: 75% of the world's poor live in rural areas; therefore, agriculture remains fundamental for poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Given the rapid growth in the world's population, which is expected to reach around 9 billion by 2050, 50% more food will be required, with a particular demand for food from animal sources. This trend offers opportunities for the rural poor, but also brings challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure sustainable growth.
94. In terms of poverty reduction, Dr Le Gall stated that livestock remains critical for livelihoods. Around 1 billion poor (living with less than 2 USD per day) are livestock keepers, two thirds of whom are women. In addition, about 200 million pastoral households depend on livestock. Many surveys and statistics show the importance of smallholders keeping livestock in developing countries; livestock can account for a large share of domestic production and provide significant sources of income for these families. Livestock has multiple functions, such as providing the poor with safety nets; contributing to nutrition through consumption of nutrient-rich food from animal sources; agricultural production through organic fertilisation and ploughing; valorisation of food and crop waste; transport; and traction; as well as playing a key role in cultures and societies. For these reasons, livestock is a key element for poverty reduction.
95. Livestock is also intrinsically linked to the environment. Among all agricultural production, livestock is the sector with the greatest potential in terms of climate change mitigation. Around 70% of global agricultural surface area is represented by rangelands and grasslands which, if properly managed, have a significant carbon sequestration potential. In arid and semi-arid zones in particular, where livestock represents the only possible sustainable way to use rangelands, the co-benefits of good management are important. In mixed systems, in particular in more humid and sub-humid zones, livestock keepers have an important role to play as landscape stewards and contributors to environmental services. Lastly, with regard to intensive systems, efforts should focus on reaching optimal feed efficiency, and proper waste management to reduce pollution and emissions per unit

²¹ IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

²² IDA: International Development Association

²³ MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

²⁴ ICSID: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

²⁵ IFC: International Finance Corporation

produced. Regardless of the system considered, adapted technologies are not sufficient. All actions should be backed by appropriate policies and institutions. Dr Le Gall then illustrated these points by a few examples.

96. In terms of public health, livestock plays a very important role in food security, food safety and nutrition. As for other foodstuffs, the reduction of livestock production waste must be addressed, as well as related food safety issues. This is all the more important for the World Bank given that the poor, and more particularly women and children, are hit the hardest by under-nutrition and zoonotic diseases. Dr Le Gall emphasised the critical role played by food from animal sources for nutrition, pointing out more specifically their role in children's cognitive functions, and pregnant and lactating women. In addition, zoonotic diseases remain critical as they affect hundreds of millions of people every year; Dr Le Gall stated that many cases can be avoided and impact can be reduced by better addressing the issues at the animal source. This would also reduce pandemic risks, as most pandemics to date have emerged from animal sources. Related to this, antimicrobial resistance is a growing global problem requiring strong global commitment and action in order to maintain the capacities to treat bacterial infections.
97. Dr Le Gall then highlighted that all of the aforementioned issues were equally important and closely inter-linked. Animal health is not to be seen in isolation, given its impact on food security, food safety, public health, improved production and productivity, climate-smart livestock production practices, and market access, all of which can be hindered by improper animal health management. Dr Le Gall stressed that the importance of animal health is the reason the World Bank is supporting the Good Governance of Veterinary Services.
98. Dr Le Gall stated that the World Bank is committed to make all possible efforts to bring solutions to countries, but cannot do this work alone. Working in close partnership with relevant organisations and institutions is of the utmost importance and enables partners to use their respective strengths and to work in synergy towards common priorities and goals. In this context, the Livestock Global Alliance was created in 2012. This Alliance has been defined by its founding members as follows: "The Livestock Global Alliance brings together leaders of key international institutions to present a united voice on issues of importance to the livestock sector. The Alliance pools and disseminates science-based information to increase understanding of the sector's contribution to global health, including food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods, poverty alleviation and the environment, in particular for poor rural communities and pastoral people. This is a think tank, not a standard-setting body. Partners include different caucuses (global and regional organisations for development and research, and donor countries). This is an open Alliance." The Livestock Global Alliance will be critical for the World Bank to translate vision and priorities into actions at the national and regional levels through operations.
99. Dr Le Gall continued by providing a few examples of areas and contexts where the World Bank has worked closely with the OIE. These include: the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund; the development and refinement of the OIE PVS Pathway and WHO IHR tools thanks to grants provided by the European Community, represented by the Commission of European Communities under the European Commission Avian and Human Influenza Trust Fund and administrated by the IBRD/IDA (World Bank); the support provided by the OIE in some World Bank operations; the participation of the World Bank in the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body (Brazil, 2013); the consolidation of the Livestock Global Alliance; and the Global Food Safety Partnership.

100. Dr Le Gall thanked the OIE once again for the invitation and congratulated the OIE team for the quality of the work done, which was, as emphasised during this presentation, fundamental for the sustainable development of the livestock sector and a central element toward shared prosperity and the eradication of extreme poverty.
101. Following this presentation, the President of the OIE took the opportunity to underline the importance of the livestock sector and its central role in contributing to poverty reduction and other issues evoked in Dr Le Gall's presentation. In closing, she appealed to the audience to consider how this message could be conveyed to and recognised by the general public.

International Feed Industry Federation

102. The Executive Director of the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), Ms Alexandra de Athayde, commenced her presentation by introducing the IFIF. She explained that the Federation provides a unified leadership and coordinating role in the promotion of the global feed industry, which contributes significantly to the sustainable supply of safe healthy feed and food of animal origin.
103. Ms de Athayde informed the Assembly of the composition of IFIF, which includes national and regional feed associations, feed-related organisations and corporate members around the world. She added that these members represent over 80% of feed production worldwide.
104. She then informed the Assembly that IFIF collaborates with the FAO, WTO, WHO, OIE and Codex in order to support the establishment of effective international regulatory standards for the entire feed chain. In particular, she stated that IFIF aims to harmonise the regulatory framework for the production and commercialisation of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and the OIE.
105. The recently signed Cooperation Agreement between IFIF and the OIE was exemplified as providing the framework under which linkages between feed and food safety could be strengthened. The Agreement not only aims to facilitate and heighten cooperation between the two organisations, in particular in the areas of prevention and management of infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases, but it also aims to foster support for the development, updating and implementation of OIE international standards and guidelines. Additionally, the Agreement aims to strengthen the linkages between feed safety and food safety.
106. Ms de Athayde encouraged the strengthening of the relationship built with the OIE. She pointed out that this would contribute to improved animal health and productivity, which in turn, would have a positive impact on public health. The assurance of feed and food safety, along with the demand for 60% more food for 9 billion people worldwide by 2050, can only be attained and longly sustained by working together with stakeholders.
107. Ms de Athayde made reference to the recent porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus (PEDV). She underlined IFIF's commitment to cooperate with international bodies and chain partners to provide scientific data to help identify the cause and eliminate hypotheses. She furthermore reiterated IFIF's commitment to contribute to the OIE's work on this topic.
108. Ms de Athayde concluded her presentation by inquiring whether the OIE focuses solely on animal health or whether it is interested and active in the broader food chain.

109. Using the OIE slogan as a reference, '*protecting animals, preserving the future*', the President of the OIE pointed out that the work of the OIE considers the broad spectrum related to animals and animal disease, in particular the impact of animal disease on global food and health security, and the economic impact of animal diseases. She pointed out that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (still under discussion) provides further information on the OIE's future direction and areas of work.
110. The Director General of the OIE confirmed that the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety had already developed guidelines on how to prevent the spread of pathogens originating from feed.
111. The Chair of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, Dr Stuart Slorach, announced that the risk to human health had been addressed by the Working Group and reported that it works on the interface between the OIE and Codex standards related to feed. He reiterated the important role of feed in human and animal health and confirmed that further work on this topic would be continued in the framework of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

112. Mr Michael Baker, Chief Executive Officer of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), expressed his delight to address the Assembly and proceeded with providing a brief overview of the WSPA.
113. Since animal welfare was first identified as a priority in the OIE's 2001–2005 Strategic Plan, Mr Baker explained that WSPA has been working closely with the OIE and supporting its animal welfare initiative.
114. As an international organisation with 15 offices, 400 staff members worldwide and 28 WSPA veterinarians working directly with animal scientists and other professionals in the organisation, Mr Baker pointed out that WSPA provides strategic animal welfare support globally to a multitude of professional and civil stakeholders in over 50 countries. In addition, he shared with the Assembly his hopes of opening a regional office that will serve the Middle East and North Africa regions, currently served by WSPA's international office in London, so as to provide local and international support to all five OIE regions.
115. WSPA's approach to animal welfare, which underlines the importance of animals, was described by Mr Baker who also stated that addressing issues in animal welfare can help secure sustainable livelihoods, food security and also help society to mitigate the impact of, and recover from, natural disasters.
116. In recognising that collaboration is crucial to ensuring that animal welfare is a joint priority, Mr Baker informed the Assembly that WSPA is working closely with the OIE to address the global social concerns to animal welfare. In addition, he spoke of WSPA's collaboration with non-governmental organisations, governments, the United Nations and the private sector to promote animal welfare.
117. In terms of supporting the OIE, Mr Baker affirmed that WSPA is able to provide technical assistance, management support and direction on animal welfare issues at the local and global level. Additionally, it can bridge gaps between private and government Veterinary Services, industry and consumers, donors and communities requiring support.

118. With regard to WSPA's core programme areas, Mr Baker explained that teams were grouped into four main programme areas. These include Animals in Farming, Animals in Communities, Animals in the Wild, and Animals in Disasters. These teams are furthermore supported by an international education, science and advocacy team. A description of the scope of each programme and the way in which each synergises with the OIE was subsequently provided by Mr Baker.
119. In commencing with Animals in Farming, Mr Baker drew particular attention to the fact that WSPA is currently supporting the implementation of OIE standards by assisting in training on slaughter and transport. In some cases, training is carried out directly by WSPA, and in other cases, WSPA provides support to others involved in training. He also disclosed that WSPA has been particularly active in providing training in China and Brazil, where slaughterhouse personnel were trained. As part of this programme and WSPA's global veterinary engagement programme, Mr Baker pointed out that a WSPA veterinarian is contributing to the discussions and development of standards of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems. Concerning other WSPA achievements, Mr Baker spoke of the production of the second edition of the Business Benchmark for Animal Welfare (BBFAW), which illustrates how companies are developing their welfare policies and, more recently, the partnership formed with a private global food company to ensure animal health and welfare in its global supply chain.
120. Mr Baker next described the Animals in Communities programme, which offers support to government departments to tackle the issues brought about by animal diseases. Under this programme, training is provided to raise awareness of how dog populations can be vaccinated and managed effectively in a humane manner that is adapted to, and practical in, the local context. Mr Baker also mentioned that WSPA fully supports the OIE's campaign to eliminate canine rabies. Through combining dog population management training, facilitating access to the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank, and developing partnerships with vaccine companies, Mr Baker was confident that WSPA could provide practical and logistical support to government departments in order for eradication to be attainable and affordable.
121. In regard to the Animals in the Wild programme, Mr Baker informed the Assembly of the wide-reaching campaigns formed under this programme to make safeguarding wild animals a local and global priority.
122. Before outlining the activities under the Animals in Disasters programme, Mr Baker congratulated the OIE on its 90th year anniversary and revealed that WSPA is also celebrating a milestone achievement, that of its 50 years of working in disaster management. Through its field activities in disaster torn areas, for example, in the aftermath of the cyclone in the Philippines, WSPA developed unparalleled expertise in providing assistance and implementing the full disaster management cycle. Represented by one of its recognised international veterinary experts, Mr Baker mentioned that WSPA participates in the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.
123. Mr Baker was similarly pleased to share that WSPA's most senior veterinarian had been appointed to chair the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare Standards for Working Equids that will take place in June 2014.

124. He also announced that WSPA continues to provide the secretariat for the ICFAW²⁶, a group that is involved in facilitating the participation of non-governmental organisations in the OIE's consultation process for developing internationally recognised animal health and welfare standards. Mr Baker explained that this coalition provides a forum for information sharing and discussion on matters of common interest. If, and when, a consensus is reached, a unified common position on the implementation, enforcement and promotion of OIE animal welfare standards will be stated.
125. In its efforts to successfully advocate for animal welfare worldwide, Mr Baker informed the Assembly that it is working towards a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) for adoption by the United Nations. The Declaration is currently supported in principle by 43 countries, ministries from 16 further countries, 27 veterinary associations, the OIE, several non-governmental organisations and other organisations. He furthermore stressed that the UDAW specifically mentions the vital role of the OIE in setting global animal welfare standards, and that OIE Delegates have been very supportive of this initiative.
126. Mr Baker next spoke of the Animal Protection Index, the objective of which is to establish a ranked index of animal welfare policy and legislation in a range of countries. This ranking exercise follows a worldwide trend of measuring issues that have a global impact and therefore facilitates the placing of animal welfare on the global agenda. The aim of this is to encourage countries to be more active in, for example, implementing OIE animal welfare standards.
127. To address the shortfalls in the provision of high quality veterinary education, Mr Baker briefly presented the WSPA's self-contained education package, the *Concepts in Animal Welfare* syllabus. Launched in 2013, Mr Baker indicated that WSPA's third edition of *Concepts in Animal Welfare* is available in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Thai and is currently being translated into other languages. The new edition has five new sections, including a module on the OIE. Mr Baker also invited all OIE Member Countries to take part in a survey on veterinary professionals worldwide that WSPA is undertaking, and added that this survey will be a first step in a global standard for animal welfare in veterinary schools. The results of the survey will be presented later on in the year.
128. As a summary of the OIE activities in which WSPA is participating, Mr Baker reiterated that WSPA is supporting the development of new welfare standards and the implementation of current standards; contributing to training of OIE national Focal Points for animal welfare; supporting training for humane slaughter; contributing to OIE animal welfare publications; and providing assistance to manage stray dog populations and eradicate dog rabies by 2030.
129. Mr Baker also announced that WSPA would be changing its name to 'World Animal Protection', so as to render its name clearer, more distinct, and memorable.
130. In concluding his speech, Mr Baker stated that WSPA is looking forward to consolidating and developing its relationship with the OIE in the promotion of animal welfare in the coming years. He also thanked the OIE for continually attributing priority to animal protection. By working closely with the OIE and the veterinary profession, WSPA has been and will continue to contribute significantly to developing, providing training for, and implementing OIE animal welfare standards. As a final comment, Mr Baker recognised the importance of liaising closely with OIE national Focal Points, involvement in regional seminars, collaboration in the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, and providing contributions to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund of the OIE in order to further support OIE activities.

²⁶ ICFAW: International Coalition For Animal Welfare

International Council for Laboratory Animal Science

131. Dr Patri Vergara, President of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), addressed the Assembly with an introduction to ICLAS. She explained that ICLAS was established as a global organisation to promote and coordinate laboratory animal science throughout the world, and in particular, in developing countries. Created in 1956, ICLAS has more than 60 years of experience in providing and sharing its expertise with its 42 Member Countries around the world, as well as with international organisations, such as the OIE and WHO, with which it collaborates.
132. As an instrument to develop actions at regional level, Dr Vergara presented the various regional committees in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, which initiate and support laboratory animal science activities at the regional level. Concerning the programmes put in place by the committees, she mentioned that every year, a budget is allocated for each region to support the organisation of meetings, courses and scholarships.
133. Dr Vergara informed the Assembly that ICLAS has several committees that are formed for specific purposes, including for education and training, ethics and animal welfare, harmonisation, etc. To illustrate the work conducted by ICLAS on harmonisation, Dr Vergara presented the report abstract on 'International guidance concerning the production, care and use of genetically-altered animals'. She also made reference to the ICLAS scholarship programme for veterinarians in laboratory animal science and medicine, stating that scholarships amounting to 6000 EUR were available for veterinarians. Specific criteria relating to the programme were additionally provided and it was highlighted that this programme would be compatible with a full-time job. A list of eligible programmes around the world, in addition to the supporters of the programme was also shown to the Assembly.
134. Dr Vergara described the two priorities of ICLAS as being the promotion of education and training of personnel involved in working with animals and the promotion of the harmonisation of guidelines and regulations for the treatment and use of laboratory animals worldwide. As an example of the latter, Dr Vergara pointed out that ICLAS had contributed to the drafting of Chapter 7.8. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
135. She also mentioned the important role that ICLAS is playing in promoting the quality definition and monitoring of laboratory animals used in research.
136. Under ICLAS' Laboratory Animal Quality Network, which was established in 2006 as a joint initiative between ICLAS and laboratories involved in health monitoring and/or genetics of laboratory animals, the Network has developed two programmes. One of the programmes is the Performance Evaluation Program for Diagnostic Laboratories (PEP), which was established in 2007 and designed to enable diagnostic laboratories worldwide to monitor the sensitivity and specificity of their health monitoring assays. Participating laboratories are sent standardised rodent specimens produced by the Network laboratories. Following analysis, participating laboratories can request an 'expected results' report containing details of the actual biological contents of the specimens. A comparison of the results enables the participating laboratory to monitor and evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of its health monitoring assays. There are currently more than 20 laboratories participating in this programme. The second programme is the Genetic Quality Monitoring Program, the aims of which are to publish guidelines to provide guidance to the genetic monitoring of laboratory animals. More specifically, these aims are centred on the promotion of education and training to increase awareness of the importance of genetic quality monitoring by the ICLAS as well as the provision of advice and guidance on genetic quality testing, and the establishment of a self-assessment genetic monitoring programme.

137. Dr Vergara concluded her presentation by stating that ICLAS supports activities related to promoting the ethical use of animals in experimentation, as well as supporting education and training.
138. The representative of India sought clarification regarding the use of animals for research purposes when developing veterinary education programmes. He claimed that there were many restrictions on the use of animals for teaching and also for research.
139. Dr Vergara stressed the importance of using laboratory animals in teaching. She also pointed out that ICLAS does not only focus on veterinary education, but it also provides support to training and further education, as previously iterated, on a range of issues. Lastly, she mentioned that ICLAS would be pleased to provide further expertise relating to the aforementioned activities.

TECHNICAL ITEM II

African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread

(Doc. 82 SG/10)

140. Dr Clifford, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.
141. Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno presented his report on the evolving situation with respect to African swine fever (ASF), one of the most important diseases of pigs, caused by a complex DNA virus that produces no neutralising antibodies in infected animals. After being introduced into a seaport in Georgia in 2007 through contaminated food waste, ASF has spread rapidly through countries of Eastern Europe, underscoring the extreme threat posed by the disease, not only to the European Union but to all the world's major pig-producing regions.

ASF also continues to spread, sometimes unchecked, on the African continent. Many ships, trucks and aircraft travel daily from Africa and infected countries in Europe to every continent, raising fears that the scenario of ASF introduction into Georgia could be repeated in other regions of the world. This study summarises the potential risk of the ASF virus entering the European Union and China from both epidemiological zones: Eastern Europe and the African continent.

Key to controlling ASF are: risk analysis-based prevention and surveillance; application of strict biosecurity measures; early detection; slaughter and destruction of sick and carrier animals and their contaminated products; and joint work and collaboration among all sectors involved (farmers, veterinarians, hunters, government departments). Lack of a vaccine and an effective treatment severely hampers control of the disease, posing the greatest scientific challenge of our time. However, it is possible to eradicate the disease, even without a vaccine, as evidenced by a number of countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, which did so in epidemiological and social circumstances very similar to those observed in affected areas today.

Discussion on the Technical Item II

142. Dr Clifford thanked Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno and congratulated him on the excellent presentation, and invited comments from the Assembly.
143. The Delegate of Australia thanked the rapporteur and enquired whether in the risk assessment the effectiveness of biosecurity measures at borders was considered. He added that exposure risk assessment was also very important. He noted that Australia had considerable expertise in this area and offered to assist the OIE in this aspect should further work be undertaken.

144. The Delegate of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 52 Member Countries of Africa, thanked the rapporteur and his co-workers for this study on ASF. He recalled that ASF is a priority disease within the 5 year plan of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in Africa, and that the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and FAO were tasked with developing a continental control strategy. However, the study presented and its recommendations focused mainly on the situation in Europe rather than the global situation and did not address the specific needs of Africa, such as the recurrence of outbreaks in infected countries, the transboundary nature of the disease and the role played by the tick species *Ornithodoros*.

He continued, stating that the study mentioned the need for “preventive control measures” but did not provide a precise definition of these measures. In Africa, these measures should include strengthening of epidemiological surveillance networks, laboratory diagnosis and the control of swill feeding. He further emphasised the need for the development of an effective vaccine and related research while calling on the international community to support the implementation of a control strategy suitable for Africa.

145. The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the speaker. He highlighted the nature of the epidemiological situation in the EU and emphasised the historic success that had been achieved through the effective application of regionalisation principles. Awareness of existing risk pathways and recognition of the continued circulation of the virus beyond the borders of the EU remains very high.

His intervention focused on two points:

- Firstly, the EU noted that the assessment presented was helpful regarding surveillance, early detection and prevention. He further informed OIE Delegates about the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) risk assessment of introduction of ASF into the EU, based on the systematic qualitative risk assessment framework of the OIE, which is publicly available on the EFSA website and complementary to the approach taken by the presented study.
- Secondly, he underscored the transparency with which detections have been reported and managed. Prior to the detection of two cases in wild boar in Lithuania and Poland near the border with Belarus at the start of 2014, the disease had been successfully restricted to Sardinia for decades. Despite intensive surveillance efforts, no evidence of ASF virus has been found in domestic pigs, nor have there been any further detections in wild boar in the ensuing three-month period.

The EU has put in place specific measures to control and eradicate the disease in wild boar and to maintain domestic pigs free from the disease in line with OIE principles on zoning and the specific recommendations included in the OIE *Code* chapter on ASF. Furthermore, the EU is maintaining a high level of alert and preparedness should the disease be re-introduced into the EU.

The EU called on the OIE to reinforce ASF control under the auspices of GF-TADs in order to enhance cooperation and coordination between Member Countries and to ensure the regular sharing of surveillance data between neighbouring countries. The EU also confirmed its commitment to the provision of technical assistance to its neighbours within this framework.

146. The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) thanked the rapporteur for the quality of the presentation and emphasized the good collaboration with Spain and the USA to prevent the disease from being introduced into China (People's Rep. of). He called for concerted efforts to be made in areas where the disease is currently endemic in order to limit further spread.

147. In response to the comments made by the Delegates, Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno acknowledged that the focus of this study was on possible routes of entry and not routes of exposure. In respect of the comments from Uganda on behalf of the African Member Countries Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno noted that there were many topics that could not be addressed in his presentation due to limited time. However, if there was interest, he would be open to sharing the full study and making the data available in support of the efforts in Africa.

He also agreed with the Delegate of the UK, speaking on behalf of the members of EU, that there were differences with the assessment conducted by EFSA, which was designed to address different questions pertaining to the probability of the disease becoming endemic and the pathways for entry. He further noted that he was pleased to have had the opportunity to contribute to the EFSA assessment.

He also acknowledged the increase in biosecurity being applied in China (People's Rep. of) and praised the international collaboration taking place. He further re-iterated that the technology and experience exists to eradicate the disease in endemic countries even in the absence of a vaccine.

148. The Director General of the OIE reminded the World Assembly that the current chapter on ASF in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* was currently under revision and is to be submitted to the Member Countries for adoption in 2015. Regarding the need for research, OIE would take all opportunities to encourage OIE Reference Laboratories to work on this topic and ensure the availability of up-to-date information. He mentioned that good quality Veterinary Services and early detection were critical in a situation where no vaccine was available. In this context, the need for cooperation between Veterinary Services and hunters is extremely important. He announced that the OIE will organise a seminar at the OIE Headquarters on 30 June and 1 July 2014 to address this matter. This seminar will be co-organised with CIC²⁷. The OIE Wildlife Focal Points, as well as national hunter representatives from Europe (OIE Regional Commission), will be invited. The recommendations of this meeting will be made available to all OIE Member Countries.

149. The representative of ILRI informed the Delegates that they are currently working on a vaccine against ASF using the newest available technologies in the hope that a vaccine would be available within 3 years. ILRI further offered support to the OIE and its Member Countries in finding solutions, in particular in Africa.

150. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno for his presentation and invited the Delegates of Australia, China (People's Rep. of), Georgia, Uganda and the United Kingdom to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

²⁷ CIC: International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

151. Dr Franck Berthe, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the Commission held a meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The Commission met again from 24 to 28 February 2014 to consider Member Country comments on the report of its October 2013 meeting and to identify issues that should be presented at this 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 February 2013 meeting will be discussed at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission in September 2014, together with new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2014 meeting as well as those received at this General Session.
152. Dr Berthe expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals 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 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 Commission by members of staff at OIE Headquarters, especially Dr Derek Belton, Dr Gillian Mylrea and Ms Sara Linnane.
153. Dr Berthe thanked those Member Countries that had submitted comments for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and encouraged all Member Countries to contribute to this work.
154. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, all Member Country 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 the unofficial version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions (in English, French and Spanish) to be finalised and translated. Dr Berthe also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including annexes to the report, such as *ad hoc* expert Group reports endorsed by the Commission, 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 communicate their contribution to that work.

Dr Berthe noted that the Delegate bags contained a USB flash drive with the complete reports of the October 2013 and February 2014 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 texts presented for adoption from the February 2014 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 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 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 would address these comments at its September/October meeting.

155. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Berthe emphasised that where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* chapters to ensure alignment. He reminded the Assembly that modifications to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* will be detailed in a Resolution to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.
156. Dr Berthe presented the following texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to the Assembly for adoption. He informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 3 to 20 of Doc. 82 SG/12/CS4 B.

157. **Glossary**

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission's proposed amendment to the definition for 'emerging disease' also reflected the criteria for listing an 'emerging disease' described in the current Article 1.2.3. as the Commission considered it was important to retain these points given the proposal to delete Article 1.2.3.

Dr Berthe noted that, in response to several Member Country comments, the Commission included some text to clarify that an 'emerging disease' is a non-listed disease.

Dr Berthe also noted that the Commission recognised that there are differences between the definitions proposed by the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission but considered that it was important that the definitions in the *Aquatic Code* take account of the circumstances regarding disease emergence in the aquatic sector.

Dr Berthe explained that in response to several Member Country comments, the Commission amended the definition for 'susceptible species' to improve clarity.

Dr Berthe explained that although several Member Countries had submitted comments on the proposed definition for 'veterinarian', the Commission agreed that this definition should not be further amended to ensure that it remains the same as the *Terrestrial Code* definition.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had accepted the OIE Headquarters' suggestion to add 'scientific' to the definition of 'risk assessment'.

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission proposed to delete the reference to the *Aquatic Code* in the definition for 'pathogenic agent' as it considered this was too restrictive.

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission agreed with several Member Country comments that in the definition for ‘notification’ the term ‘Competent Authority’ replace ‘Veterinary Authority’ to ensure alignment with the use of this term in Chapter 1.1.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Ghana, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, highlighted the need for harmonisation of definitions in both the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes*. To this end, he suggested that the first sentence of the definition for an emerging disease should read as follows: “means a new occurrence in an animal of a disease, infection or infestation, causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from:...”

The Delegate of China (People’s Rep of) requested modification of the definition for emerging disease to include biosecurity and sanitary measures and suggested that the definition should read ‘means a disease other than a listed disease which has a significant impact on aquatic animal or public health and requires the implementation of a biosecurity plan and other sanitary measures’. The Delegate stated that the definition should be clear because Member Countries are required to notify emerging diseases. He further commented that the term ‘significant impact’ could be interpreted in different ways and could cause confusion, and he requested that the Aquatic Commission clearly define this term.

The Delegate of Japan supported the Commission’s February 2014 report but requested that the two emerging diseases, ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariants and acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease be clearly identified as emerging diseases.

In response to the Delegate of Ghana, Dr Berthe advised that the definitions in the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes* are effectively the same, as both contain the same elements. In response to the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) he emphasised that as a result of the deletion of Article 1.2.3., the guidance contained in that article was now provided to Member Countries in the proposed definition for emerging disease. Measures are therefore not included in the definition but consideration of the impact is maintained.

In response to the Delegate of Japan, Dr Berthe said that the two emerging diseases are clearly mentioned in the Commission’s February 2014 report and the Commission is committed to continuing to provide Member Countries with updates on the status of these diseases.

The Delegate of Australia expressed agreement with Dr Berthe’s explanation and expressed his support for adoption of the proposed definition for emerging disease.

The revised Glossary was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission considered the Member Country comments received along with the revised chapter developed by the Code Commission at its February 2014 meeting.

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission incorporated all the Code Commission’s proposed amendments into the revised chapter, with the exception of point e) of Article 1.1.3. For this point the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to retain the term ‘new’ host species instead of ‘unusual’ host species because it considered that the term ‘unusual’ was subjective.

Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that considering that approximately 500 different aquatic animal species are farmed globally, with several new species brought to aquaculture every year, it is important that the occurrence of an OIE listed disease in a 'new' host species be notified.

Dr Berthe also noted that in response to a Member Country's comment, the Commission amended the text, where relevant, replacing the term 'aetiological agent' with the term 'pathogenic agent' as the latter is a defined term in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 1.1. was adopted unanimously.

159. Criteria for listing an emerging disease (Chapter 1.2.)

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that no Member Countries opposed the proposal to delete Article 1.2.3. 'Criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease'.

Dr Berthe noted that although some Member Countries commented on the criteria in Article 1.2.2., the Commission agreed that these comments would be addressed at a future meeting.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 1.2. was adopted unanimously.

160. Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.)

Dr Berthe explained that as a consequence of the proposal to delete Article 1.2.3. 'Criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease', the Commission had proposed the deletion of the words: 'or criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease' from the Preamble in Chapter 1.3.

Dr Berthe explained that as a consequence of the proposal to delete Article 1.2.3., infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariants would be deleted from Article 1.3.2.

Dr Berthe explained that in line with the OIE approach to move towards disease names in the format of 'infection with', the Commission agreed to amend the listed name for 'yellow head disease' in Article 1.3.3. to 'Infection with yellow head virus'. Dr Berthe explained that the Commission had again considered Member Country comments and an expert's opinion to consider the listing of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND). In addition, the Commission also reviewed new information on AHPND and considered whether the disease satisfies the criteria for listing in Article 1.2.2.

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission considered that the publicly available information on AHPND was insufficient to propose listing of the disease in accordance with Article 1.2.2. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission considered that there was insufficient information to accurately characterise the causative agent of AHPND. Dr Berthe explained that a virulent form of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* is considered to be the causative agent of

AHPND; however, this *Vibrio* species is ubiquitous and, if OIE trade standards were to be developed, it is essential that the causative agent of AHPND can be distinguished from other forms of the bacterium. Furthermore, there is currently no specific test available that can be used to detect the causative agent in subclinical infections.

Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that an OIE Technical Factsheet on AHPND has been developed and is available on the OIE website and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Japan stated that he supported the Commission's February 2014 report but requested that it be amended as follows: 'The Commission recognised infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariants and acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) as emerging diseases.' Concerning point 1.4.3. of the report, Japan pointed out that recognition of an outbreak to be notified to the OIE may be different among the Member Countries because information on analytical specificity of the test, such as the primer for PCR²⁸ test, is not sufficient as described in the report.

In his response to the Delegate, Dr Berthe assured him that the Commission would provide guidance on the information expected to be submitted to OIE for these diseases.

The revised Chapter 1.3. was adopted unanimously.

161. **Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.1.)**

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had reviewed amendments proposed by the Code Commission and agreed to make similar amendments in the *Aquatic Code* chapter to ensure alignment, i.e. to delete 'potential' from the term 'potential hazard' throughout the chapter because this word is inaccurate as a qualifier of hazard.

Dr Berthe also noted that the Commission had accepted Member Country and OIE Headquarters' editorial comments to improve clarity in Articles 2.1.1., 2.1.5. and 2.1.6.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia stated that his comments concerned the proposed amendments to Chapters 2.1. and 5.1. The Delegate expressed concerns about removing the reference to acceptable level of protection (ALOP), noting that this modification has not yet been adopted in the *Terrestrial Code* and had been proposed for the first time in the February 2014 meeting reports of both Commissions. He stated that Member Countries had not been given sufficient time to consider the proposed amendments and asked that this proposal be postponed to ensure that Member Countries have sufficient time to consult before adopting any changes. The Representative of Canada supported the intervention of the Delegate of Australia.

Dr Berthe commented that the proposed modification reflected the need to harmonise the texts in both the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*; he added that the WTO obligations are referenced in Chapter 5.3. of both *Codes* and the proposed modifications are intended to clarify the concept. He also recognised that the modification was not an urgent matter and agreed that the proposed amendment could be deferred to next year to allow Member Countries sufficient time for consultation.

The Delegate of Australia supported Dr Berthe's proposal to defer the adoption of the proposed amendments and requested that the established OIE consultation procedures be followed with respect to this important text amendment.

²⁸ PCR: polymerase chain reaction

In light of Member Country comments, the President of the OIE proposed that adoption of the amended text be postponed.

162. Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services (Chapter 3.1.)

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had reviewed amendments proposed by the Code Commission and agreed to make similar amendments in Article 3.1.2. points 7 and 9 and in the corresponding chapter in the *Aquatic Code* to ensure alignment.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 3.1. was adopted unanimously.

163. General recommendations on disinfection (Chapter 4.3.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission had reviewed Chapter 1.1.3. 'Methods for disinfection of aquaculture establishments' in the *Aquatic Manual* and had agreed that this chapter is misplaced in the *Aquatic Manual* as the scope of the *Aquatic Manual* is diagnosis and the current text covers additional issues.

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission agreed that Chapter 4.3. 'Methods for disinfection of aquaculture establishments' in the *Aquatic Code* should be revised to encompass the topics currently contained in the *Aquatic Manual* chapter. The Commission also agreed that once a revised chapter in the *Aquatic Code* is adopted, the *Aquatic Manual* chapter would be deleted.

164. General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had accepted the OIE Headquarters' suggestion to reword Article 5.1.2. points 1 and 2 to improve clarity and to align with the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Japan opposed the replacement of the term ALOP in Article 5.1.2., as this term is defined in the WTO SPS Agreement, whereas the concept of trade restriction has not been defined and could be inconsistent with the SPS Agreement. The Delegate requested that the original text be maintained.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the comments of the Delegate of Japan, and the comments previously made by the Delegates of Australia and Canada regarding Chapter 2.1. While supporting in general the proposed redrafting regarding import requirements, the EU considered that the new text does not adequately reflect the reason for establishing more trade restrictive measures than those recommended by OIE standards. The Delegate called for the Commission to take account of the comments sent to the OIE prior to the General Session and stated that the EU could not support the proposed amendment at this time. The Delegate stated that this text should be in line with the principles of the SPS Agreement to avoid the establishment of unjustified barriers to trade. The Delegate also noted that the first circulation of the amended text had occurred in February 2014. While not wanting to create delays, the EU asked that the standard 2-year period for consultation be respected. He noted the need for careful prioritisation of the Commission's work and coordination with the work of the other OIE Specialist Commissions.

The Delegate of South Africa suggested that the Commission retain the reference to ALOP to ensure alignment with the SPS Agreement.

In light of Member Country comments, the President of the OIE proposed that adoption of the amended text be postponed.

165. Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had reviewed a Member Country's comment and amendments proposed by the Code Commission in point 1 of Article 5.2.4. to better describe the procedures for electronic certification. The Commission agreed to make similar amendments in the corresponding article in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Representative of the Italian Delegation, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for taking account of its previous comments on Article 5.2.4. and requested that some additional amendments be included in the text prior to its adoption to ensure consistency with the relevant Codex Guidelines.

Dr Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Code Commission, commented that the proposed new text had been added at the request of the EU.

The Delegate of Australia recommended that the proposed amendment be adopted and the additional comments considered by both Commissions at their meetings in September 2014. He noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC had already adopted similar text and considered that the OIE should not be left behind.

Dr Berthe agreed with the proposal of the Delegate of Australia.

The revised Chapter 5.2. was adopted unanimously.

166. Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Chapter 9.4.)

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had rejected some Member Country comments to delay the proposed name change for infection with necrotising hepatopancreatitis bacteria to infection with *Candidatus Hepatobacter penaei*. The Commission had emphasised that the proposed new name, *Hepatobacter penaei*, has been published in a peer-reviewed journal and that the word 'Candidatus' will be removed from the *Aquatic Code* once *Hepatobacter penaei* is accepted by the International Committee for Taxonomy of Bacteria.

Dr Berthe explained that the proposed horizontal amendments would also be made throughout this chapter.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.4. was adopted unanimously.

167. Horizontal issues (Model Chapter X.X.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended Model Chapter X.X., as appropriate.

Dr Berthe emphasised that the model chapter provided describes horizontal amendments that will be applied to all disease-specific chapters. However, where there are disease-specific differences between chapters, these differences will be preserved. Dr Berthe highlighted the following differences:

- in the model chapter the disease name was presented as 'infection with pathogen X/disease X' which takes into account the fact that some disease-specific chapters use a disease name (e.g. 'crayfish plague') while others use the format 'infection with' (e.g. 'infection with *A. invadans*');

- the proposed amendment to the first paragraph of Article X.X.4. to include the following words: ‘areas covered by the shared water bodies’ will be made in all disease-specific chapters except the two amphibian disease chapters (8.1. and 8.2.) where the words will remain unchanged as ‘covered by the zone’ as this is more correct for amphibians;
- point 1 of Articles X.X.4. and X.X.5. in the model chapter will be included in all disease-specific chapters with the exception of the disease-specific chapters for ‘Infection with *A. invadans*’, ‘Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia’ and ‘Infection with *P. olsenii*’, as this point does not currently appear in these chapters;
- point 2 of Article X.X.4. will be applied to all disease-specific chapters including all mollusc disease-specific chapters, which currently have slightly different wording. The additional text in all mollusc chapters, ‘- in all areas where the species are present’ and ‘not known to be established in wild populations’ will be deleted because this detail is described in Chapter 1.4. and applies to all listed diseases;
- Article X.X.5. will be applied to all the disease-specific chapters. However, the numbering of the points in Article 10.3.5. of Chapter 10.3. Infection with *G. salaris* will differ as this article has five points rather than four because of the consideration of the salinity of the water;
- Article X.X.10. ‘Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ‘infection with pathogen X/disease X’ that currently appears in the amphibian and fish disease-specific chapters will be added to all the crustacean and mollusc disease-specific chapters as the Commission considered this article also applies to these host species;
- the time periods for surveillance, indicated by ‘X’ in the model chapter will remain as they currently appear in each disease-specific chapter. Dr Berthe noted that a number of Member Countries requested the rationale for the time frames required and that the Commission had agreed that these time frames would not be reconsidered at this time.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Model Chapter X.X. was adopted unanimously

168. **Yellow head disease (Chapter 9.8.)**

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered the definition for yellow head disease in Article 9.8.1. and agreed that it was unclear. The Commission proposed an amendment that is consistent with the fact that genotype 1 is associated with yellow head disease and clarifies that the case definition in the *Aquatic Code* is in line with the definition in the *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 2.2.8. ‘Yellow head disease’.

In addition, the Commission agreed to amend the name of the disease to ‘infection with yellow head virus’, in line with the current approach used in the *Aquatic Code* to naming diseases.

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that once adopted the amended name change and proposed horizontal amendments would be made throughout this chapter.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 9.8. was adopted unanimously.

169. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Chapter 10.5.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended the draft chapter on ‘infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus’, as appropriate. Dr Berthe noted that the proposed horizontal amendments had been included in the revised chapter.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 10.5. was adopted unanimously.

170. Infection with salmonid alphavirus (new chapter 10.X.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended the draft chapter on ‘Infection with salmonid alphavirus’, as appropriate. He noted that the proposed horizontal amendments had been included in the revised chapter.

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission considered the February 2014 report of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Products Derived from Aquatic Animals and agreed with the recommendations regarding the list of commodities in Articles 10.X.3 and 10.X.12, and Article 10.X.13 on importation of disinfected eggs. Dr Berthe noted that the Commission agreed that the designations ‘under study’ in the draft chapter now be deleted.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

A Representative of the Canadian Delegation commented on Article 10.X.13. point 1b) regarding inclusion of the reference to ‘ovarian fluid and milt’ as the tissues to be used when screening broodstock for the detection of salmonid alphavirus (SAV). She noted that the *Journal of Fish Diseases* article by Kontorp et al. (2010) concluded that the probability of detecting SAV when testing milt, ova and ovarian fluid is very small. In accordance with these findings, the Representative of Canada requested that the reference to ovarian fluid and milt be deleted.

Dr Berthe agreed that the text: ‘(ovarian fluid and milt)’ be deleted in light of the information provided.

The amended Chapter 10.X. was adopted unanimously.

171. Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals to specific pathogenic agents (new Chapter X.X.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended the draft chapter on ‘Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals to specific pathogenic agents’, as appropriate.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had considered a Member Country comment that such a chapter may not be necessary as no equivalent chapter exists in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Berthe emphasised that the Commission considered it was important to provide guidance as to whether a species is susceptible or not, based on a transparent and science-based decision-making process, given that approximately 500 different aquatic animal species are farmed globally, with several new species brought to aquaculture every year.

Dr Berthe clarified that the purpose of this chapter is to provide criteria for determining which host species are listed as susceptible in Article X.X.2. of each disease-specific chapter in the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Berthe explained that once this new chapter is adopted, the criteria will be applied progressively to each disease-specific chapter in the *Aquatic Code*. The assessments will be undertaken by *ad hoc* Groups and will be provided to Member Countries for comment prior to any change in the list of susceptible species in Article X.X.2. of disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Berthe emphasised that the decision to list a species as susceptible in Article X.X.2. of each disease-specific chapter will be based on the finding that the evidence for susceptibility is sufficient.

Dr Berthe also clarified that for species where there is evidence for susceptibility but that evidence is insufficient to demonstrate susceptibility through the approach described in the new chapter ‘Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals’, information will be included in the relevant disease chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Berthe also added that following adoption of this new chapter, and application of the criteria to each listed disease, the current cross reference to the *Aquatic Manual* in Article X.X.2. in each disease specific chapter in the *Aquatic Code* will be removed and the text amended appropriately.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The new Chapter X.X. was adopted unanimously.

172. **Guide to the Use of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission had reviewed the ‘Guide to the Use of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*’ taking into account the revised ‘User’s Guide’ being proposed for the *Terrestrial Code* and amended the text as appropriate.

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that the revised ‘Guide’ was included in the February 2014 report of the Aquatic Animals Commission for Member Country comments.

The Delegate of South Africa made reference to the comments of the Delegates of Japan, Australia and the representative of the EU with respect to the modification of references in the *Aquatic Code* to the ALOP concept. The Delegate of South Africa asked if the development of the ‘Guide to Use of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*’ would take these comments into account.

Dr Berthe responded that the Aquatic Commission is working in collaboration with the Terrestrial Code Commission to ensure alignment of the two User’s Guides, where relevant, and noted that the Aquatic Commission has provided a draft document to Member Countries for comment. The Aquatic Commission will ensure that the comments of Member Countries on the proposed modification of references to the ALOP concept are taken into account as work on its ‘User Guide’ proceeds.

The Delegate of Canada, speaking on behalf of the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand, recognised the good work being undertaken by the Aquatic Commission. However, she noted that there has been rapid growth in the aquatic sector, trade in aquaculture products and scientific knowledge on diseases of aquatic animals. The Delegate believed that this will put increased pressure on the work of the Aquatic Commission and the OIE. The countries requested that more support be directed to the Aquatic Commission, which is in line with the proposal in the draft Sixth Strategic Plan to assess the working structures of the OIE including Commissions. The countries feel that a multi-disciplinary approach is needed to ensure integration of the latest science. In the short term, the Delegate of Canada encouraged the Commission to assess its current workload and priorities.

The Delegates of Norway, Brazil and Chile supported the comments of the Delegate of Canada. The Delegate of Chile thanked the Commission for its support for the workshop on compartmentalisation and supported the formation of an *ad hoc* Group on this topic.

The President of the OIE commented that the issue of workload is addressed in the draft Sixth Strategic Plan. She noted that elections for Specialist Commissions will be held in 2015 and emphasised that Delegates should ensure that any experts proposed for election have sufficient time to dedicate to the work of the Commissions, which can be considerable.

Dr Berthe welcomed the offer of more support and hopes that this will be considered by the OIE.

173. Section 4. General recommendations: disease prevention and control

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Commission had reviewed the structure of Section 4. ‘General recommendations: disease prevention and control’ and acknowledged the need to revise these chapters and agreed that this should be done progressively. The Commission agreed to prioritise revision of the *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.3. ‘General recommendations of disinfection’ and that the next chapters to be revised should be those chapters regarding zoning and compartmentalisation given the demand from Member Countries for improved guidance on these issues. Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that Chapter 6.1. ‘Control of hazards in aquatic animal feed’, currently under revision, will be moved to this section once finalised.

174. *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

Dr Berthe reported that the Commission, in consultation with the chapters’ authors, reviewed Member Country comments on two updated draft chapters for the *Aquatic Manual*: infection with infectious salmon anaemia (Chapter 2.3.5.), and infection with ostreid herpesvirus 1 microvariants (Chapter 2.4.9.), and a new draft chapter on infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 2.3.X.).

A fourth chapter, infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis, was also amended, in consultation with the chapter’s authors, to take into account the issue of virus-like sequences that are incorporated into the host genome.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the updated chapters had been provided for proposal for adoption at Annexes 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Doc. 82 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Berthe presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

Regarding Chapter 2.4.9., the Delegate of Japan raised a number of concerns. He requested clarification of the scope of this chapter, an amendment to section 2.3.3. Geographical distribution, and an amendment to section 7.2. Definition of a confirmed case.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the chapters and requested that comments submitted prior to the General Session be considered by the Commission at its September 2014 meeting.

Regarding Chapter 2.3.5., Table 5.1., the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) proposed that the column for ‘parr’ and the column for ‘smolt’ be merged into one column because targeted surveillance and methods are the same for both. He also proposed that the merged column be labelled ‘juveniles’ to be consistent with Table 5.1. in Chapter 2.3.X.

In response to the Delegate of Japan, Dr Berthe confirmed, that according to the definition in the scope of Chapter 2.4.9., there are three areas of sequence variation: i) microsatellite locus (ii) ORF4 and (iii) ORF42/43.

Dr Berthe agreed to the proposed deletion of the words ‘of the microsatellite locus upstream of the ORF4 (Segarra *et al.*, 2010)’ in section 7.2. as this makes section 7.2. consistent with section 1.

Dr Berthe further agreed to replace the word ‘occur’ with ‘be detected’ in section 2.3.3. regarding the words ‘e.g. Japan’, he proposed to keep this wording but to request that the authors of the chapter provide a reference.

In response to the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of), Dr Berthe noted that Table 5.1. in the disease specific chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* will be discussed at the upcoming Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres, Seoul (Republic of Korea, 2014).

Chapter 2.3.5., 2.3.X. and 2.2.2. were adopted unanimously.

The amended Chapter 2.4.9. was adopted unanimously.

175. Disease-specific guidance documents on surveillance for a fish, a mollusc and a crustacean disease

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the documents on “Surveillance for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia” and “Surveillance for infection with *Bonamia ostreae*” had been uploaded onto the OIE website. A third document on “Surveillance for white spot virus” is expected to be uploaded on the OIE website later in the year.

176. OIE Reference Centres

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed three applications for Reference Laboratory status and recommended their approval: an OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Genetic and Molecular Immunology Laboratory of the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile); an OIE Reference Laboratory for White spot disease (National Cheng Kung University, Chinese Taipei); and an OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with salmonid alphavirus (National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway). Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that these nominations would be proposed for adoption by Resolution at the end of his presentation.

Two OIE Reference Laboratories had requested that they be removed from the list: for spherical baculovirus (*Penaeus monodon*-type baculovirus) (Chinese Taipei); and for infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Australia).

The Commission approved the following changes of designated expert at two OIE Reference Laboratories:

- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis and Infection with ranavirus: Dr Nick Moody to replace Dr Alex Hyatt at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong (Victoria, Australia).
- Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*: Dr Haakon Hansen to replace Dr Tor Atle Mo as the Designated Reference Expert at the National Veterinary Institute (Norway).

The Commission approved the following change of designated expert by electronic consultation following its February 2014 meeting:

- Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*: Dr Varinne Panyawachira to replace Dr Somkiat Kanchanakhan as the Designated Reference Expert at the National Veterinary Institute, Kasetsart University Campus (Bangkok, Thailand).

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that annual activity reports for 2013 had been received from all but one of the 43 Reference Laboratories and from the two Collaborating Centres for aquatic animals. The Reference Laboratories had used the new online web-based annual report template for the first time. The Commission was concerned that some OIE Reference Laboratories have neither a quality management system nor implement one, despite this being a requirement stated in the Terms of Reference for an OIE Reference Laboratory.

177. Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres, Seoul (Republic of Korea, 2014)

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Commission had welcomed the inclusion of a parallel session on topics relating to aquatic animals at the forthcoming Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres to be held in Seoul (Rep. of Korea) from 14 to 16 October 2014. The Commission agreed that specific issues of quality management systems, validation of diagnostic tests, as well as the rating of diagnostic methods for different purposes should be addressed during this parallel session.

178. Aquatic Animals Commission Work Plan 2014/2015

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the work plan of the Commission was reviewed and updated and provides Delegates an overview of current and upcoming activities.

179. OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: ‘Riding the wave to the future’

In concluding his report Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that organisation for the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: ‘Riding the wave to the future’ to be held 20-22 January 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, with the support of the Government of Vietnam, was well underway. The Concept note and draft programme is available on the OIE website. Dr Berthe encouraged Delegates and their focal points for aquatic animals to attend this important event.

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

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 40
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for Aquatic Animals**

181. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 40 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 40 at the end of this report.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

182. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the activities of this Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Commission meetings held in September 2013 (Doc. 82 SG/12/CS3 A) and February 2014 (Doc. 82 SG/12/CS3 B). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Groups for the Evaluation of Member Countries Status for

Foot and mouth disease (FMD); Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); African horse sickness (AHS), Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR); the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis; the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis; the *ad hoc* Group on Rift Valley fever, the *ad hoc* Group on Glanders; the *ad hoc* Group on African swine fever; the *ad hoc* Group on Schmallenberg virus; the *ad hoc* Group on Harmonisation of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* chapters on AHS, bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD); the *ad hoc* Group on the International movement of horses and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. A total of 20 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and one Working Group were held during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. Most of these meetings were also attended by a representative from the Scientific Commission. During the September 2013 meeting of the Scientific Commission, a combined meeting was held between the Scientific Commission and representatives of the Code Commission, and during the February 2014 meeting of the Scientific Commission, a joint meeting between both Commissions was held to promote the harmonisation of approaches between the two Commissions.

183. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the Scientific Commission, expressed his appreciation 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 Scientific Commission with the increase in diseases on the list for official disease status recognition. The Scientific Commission also noted with appreciation the increase in the staff component of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to provide continuous assistance to the Scientific Commission in its work. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Scientific Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases for their supporting role.

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

During its meetings in September 2013 and February 2014, the Scientific Commission reviewed the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2013–2014 period in support of the work programme and priorities of the Commission. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the World Assembly during the 81st General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included the finalisation of generic Guidelines for Disease Control; the finalisation of a handbook on Animal Health Surveillance; the revision of several chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* namely FMD, PPR, tuberculosis, brucellosis, Rift Valley fever, glanders and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and the ongoing revision and updating of the chapters relevant to antimicrobial resistance. With the adoption of the chapters on PPR and classical swine fever (CSF) during the 81st General Session, the Scientific Commission had to plan for two additional *ad hoc* Groups to evaluate Member Country applications for disease status recognition. Member Country applications for PPR historical freedom were assessed for the first time and will be presented for adoption at this General Session, while a meeting has been scheduled for November 2014 for the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group to assess Member Country applications for diseases status recognition for CSF. The Scientific Commission also recognised the importance of finalising the harmonisation of the chapters on vector-borne diseases (bluetongue, AHS and EHD) to promote a consistent approach in disease and vector control. For 2014 and 2015, dates have already been scheduled to convene *ad hoc* Groups to consider finalising the update of the chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* on tuberculosis and African swine fever.

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

a) Review of chapter 8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*

The Scientific Commission requested the Director General to convene additional meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on FMD status recognition to finalise the review of the current chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*. The final review was undertaken by the Scientific Commission during its meeting in February 2014, but, due to extensive comments by Member Countries, it was agreed between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission to evaluate the final amendments during their meetings in September 2014. The amended chapter will then once again be circulated for comment by Member Countries with the aim of possible adoption of the chapter during the 83rd General Session.

The President of the Scientific Commission indicated that OIE expert missions to several Member Countries identified the frequent need for countries to move animals for breeding purposes from FMD areas free with vaccination to areas free without vaccination. It appears that Member Countries have divergent interpretation of the relevant articles in the *Terrestrial Code* to allow such movements. This aspect will be addressed during the meetings of the Scientific Commission and Code Commission in September 2014.

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

In support of the global control strategy for FMD it was planned to continue with the West Eurasia and Middle East Roadmap meetings to encourage countries to present and discuss the results of their FMD control programme. For the first time, the OIE/FAO GF-TADs has been responsible for the organisation of the West Eurasia Roadmap meeting, which took place in Astana (Kazakhstan) in April 2014. The GF-TADs working group on FMD is also working on an FMD annual global report with the contribution from experts including the Pirbright Laboratory, PANAF-TOSA and EuFMD. An OIE/FAO Regional Roadmap meeting on FMD and PPR for the Middle East and North Africa regions was also convened in Amman (Jordan), in March 2014.

c) Expert missions to Member Countries

Members of the Scientific Commission undertook expert missions to 12 Member Countries during the year to assist these countries in moving towards FMD control. Regional meetings on FMD control programmes were also attended by members of the Scientific Commission in Mongolia and South East Asia. Three further missions are scheduled for 2014. These expert missions by members of the Scientific Commission to selected Member Countries have now been undertaken for several years and have proved beyond doubt their value to Member Countries in not only helping them to move towards status recognition but also in understanding the application of OIE standards for the control of FMD.

d) OIE/FAO network of FMD Reference Laboratories

The President of the Scientific 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 once again reiterated the need for different control strategies to be adapted to the regional needs and the importance of using high quality and tailored vaccines for effective control. There had been continuous increased activity of serotypes Asia 1 in the Middle East and SAT-2 in North Africa during the year 2013.

The President of the Scientific Commission also expressed the appreciation of the OIE for the increased activity and harmonisation on vaccine matching activities between laboratories as well as the proficiency testing scheme for which 86 laboratories were invited to participate and of which 61 requested participation to harmonise performance of laboratory tests.

e) Post-vaccination monitoring (PVM) for FMD

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that, following a meeting of experts representing both the OIE and FAO, a guideline for post-vaccination monitoring for FMD will now be developed and structured into four chapters covering: vaccine attributes, vaccine delivery and coverage, measuring antibody response to vaccination and effectiveness of vaccination programmes. The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the progress made with the establishment of the guideline and proposed a follow-up meeting supported by the OIE where the final decisions should be taken to finalise the guideline. The Scientific Commission recommended that the guideline should be published as a joint OIE/FAO publication.

186. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie

Further to the evolution in the numerical, temporal and geographical distribution of BSE cases and the increase in the mean age of BSE cases detected, the Scientific Commission recommended that the OIE contact the authors of the BSurvE model to determine whether a reconstitution of the model to reflect the parameters that comprise the existing epidemiological situation (demographic shift in the age of expression or detection and probability of appearance by clinical suspects) might provide guidance in respect of the current alignment of surveillance credits by subpopulation.

The Scientific Commission noted that the current *Terrestrial Code* differentiates atypical from classical scrapie. The Scientific Commission added the question of differentiating atypical from classical BSE to the 2014/2015 agenda. Chapter 14.9. on scrapie will require a revision considering the most recent scientific findings. For this purpose, the *ad hoc* Group suggested careful consideration of the ensuing opinion of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) on the scrapie situation in the European Union after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats. This aspect would also be further discussed between the Scientific and Code Commissions during their meetings in September 2014.

187. Classical swine fever (CSF)

Following the adoption of this amended chapter at the 81st OIE General Session providing for official disease status recognition by the OIE, the Scientific Commission would commence evaluating Member Country applications during the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Member Countries Status for CSF, in November 2014.

Based on Member Country comments, the Scientific Commission, in discussions with the Code Commission, concluded that the current chapter should remain as it is in view of the first round of official status recognition taking place in 2014/2015 and on further development on the revision of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* with respect to a DIVA vaccine. The Code Commission agreed to review the draft chapter once the pending issues had been addressed by the Scientific and the Biological Standards Commissions.

188. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

An updated version of the chapter was adopted by the World Assembly in May 2013. Some additional comments were received from Member Countries. The Scientific Commission discussed the scientific comments made by Member Countries. The Commission agreed to add a clear provision for the importation of domestic ruminants and their semen, oocytes or embryos in accordance with Articles 14.8.10., 14.8.13., and 14.8.15. to qualify for inclusion in the list of PPR free countries or zones. However, the Commission did not agree to reduce the temperature requirement for the inactivation of PPR virus in casings of sheep and goats, and it referred to the EFSA report (*Scientific Opinion on animal health risk mitigation treatments as regards imports of animal casings*, July 2012), the recommendations of which should be considered for viral diseases such as PPR, FMD, CSF and ASF.

A first draft for the global control strategy for PPR will be presented and discussed during an expert consultation workshop scheduled in 2014 in Rome, to be attended by more than 40 participants representing key countries and regional organisations as well as specialised experts. The preparation of the PPR Global Strategy would follow a similar pathway to that of the global strategy for FMD. A peer review of the second draft plan and the presentation of the final version would be made during an international conference in 2015. Around 250 participants were expected to participate in this conference mainly from countries affected by PPR. Several accompanying tools were under development, such as a monitoring and evaluation tool, a Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) and a post-vaccination monitoring tool. Resolution No. 24, to provide momentum for the global eradication plan for PPR, “Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)”, was presented during this General Session for adoption.

189. Brucellosis

Following Member Country comments, a final review of the amended chapter was undertaken and circulated for final Member Country comments with a view to possible adoption at this General Session.

190. African horse sickness (AHS)

The Scientific Commission renewed its support for the *ad hoc* Group’s proposals on the surveillance requirements to substantiate AHS freedom. In addition, the Scientific Commission reiterated that those diseases for which a procedure exists for official OIE recognition of country status should not be proposed in the *Terrestrial Code* for self-declaration, which also includes declaration for seasonal freedom. After careful consideration, this article and all references within Chapter 12.1. to seasonal freedom would be proposed for deletion during this General Session.

The Scientific Commission suggested that the new proposals by the *ad hoc* Group should be incorporated, when appropriate, in the three chapters (AHS, BT and EHD), to achieve full harmonisation. In consultation with the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission decided to assess again the relevant issues related to harmonisation during its meeting in September 2014 based on a comparative matrix to be updated by the Scientific and Technical Department on the cross-cutting relevant issues between the three diseases. However, the chapter on AHS was revised with a view to possible adoption at this General Session.

191. Glanders

The Scientific Commission considered the views expressed by the *ad hoc* Group regarding inclusion of glanders in the list of diseases for which a procedure exists for official recognition of country status. The Commission acknowledged that glanders should be considered for inclusion in the aforementioned list only if there was a clear request and full support from industry and stakeholders in this regard. The Scientific Commission was not convinced that there was sufficient evidence and support that this was indeed the case. Hence, the Commission advised postponing the inclusion of glanders in the list of diseases covered by a procedure for official status recognition until more substantiating evidence to justify further consideration by the Scientific Commission is provided.

The *Terrestrial Code* chapter was updated and harmonised with those recently adopted. Accordingly, the title was changed to “Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders)”. The *ad hoc* Group elaborated a case definition of infection with *B. mallei*. The use of the complement fixation test alone or in combination with other tests (ELISA and Western blot) was discussed for the different purposes of the chapter.

The existing articles were amended and four new articles were developed in order to improve the recommendations for international trade. These include the establishment of a containment zone within a country or zone free from infection (12.10.3.), recovery of free status (12.10.4.), recommendations for the importation of an equid for restricted movement (12.10.7.) and recommendations for the importation of semen and oocytes/embryos from an equid (12.10.8.). The amended draft chapter was considered by the Scientific Commission and forwarded to the Code Commission for further consideration.

192. Infection with Schmallenberg virus (SBV)

Following intensive discussion during the 81st OIE General Session on the possible inclusion of SBV as an OIE-listed disease, an *ad hoc* Group of experts from several regions was convened by the Director General of the OIE to assess SBV against the criteria for listing adopted by the World Assembly. Those Member Countries who had concerns on the possible non-listing of SBV were also invited to nominate experts to attend the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group which assessed whether infection with Schmallenberg virus matches with the criteria of Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* to be included in the OIE List of diseases. The Scientific Commission supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group, which concluded that if measured against current scientific information and the requirements for disease listing, infection with Schmallenberg virus did not meet the criteria and therefore should not be included in the OIE List of diseases.

The Scientific Commission considered a request by the Director General on the future use of the technical factsheet should infection with Schmallenberg virus not be listed. The Scientific Commission was reluctant to eliminate the technical information from the OIE website as suggested by some Member Countries, at least until the 2014 vector season is over. After that, if there are no significant changes in the epidemiology of the disease, the Scientific Commission would recommend maintaining the information on the OIE website as a specific technical disease card with possible exclusion of the additional specific recommendations.

193. Antimicrobial resistance

The Scientific Commission noted with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group to set up a global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. The suggestions made by the *ad hoc* Group to ensure appropriate data collection and reporting by the OIE were fully supported by the Scientific Commission.

The Group was convened following the adoption of Recommendation No. 7 by the participants at the end of the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals (held in Paris from 13 to 15 March 2013), recommending the OIE to collect harmonised quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database.

Expertise and guidance were provided to the OIE to begin collecting relevant data and to eventually establish a global database, taking into account the results of the questionnaire on monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobial agents used in animals, presented at the aforementioned OIE Global Conference.

The purpose of such a database was discussed, as well as the scope and types of data that could be collected, the necessity to make this harmonised, standardised and applicable for all OIE Member Countries, and a work plan to make progress on the the subject was developed for the coming year.

194. Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance

Good 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 this handbook has now been finally reviewed by the Scientific Commission for publication by the OIE.

195. OIE Collaborating Centres

Following the mandate given to the Scientific Commission to evaluate applications for the designation of OIE Collaborating Centres related to risk analysis, epidemiology, wildlife, disease control and the animal–human–ecosystems interface, applications from three Member Countries for the designation of OIE Collaborating Centres were considered and recommendations made to the Council.

The Scientific Commission evaluated the application from the China (People’s Rep. of) for designation of an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Applications and concluded that the application complied with the scientific and technical expertise requirements for an OIE Collaborating Centre. The Scientific Commission noted the existence of an already OIE-approved Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health in New Zealand for the Asia-Pacific region. The Scientific Commission, in line with current OIE policy of having “one OIE Collaborating Centre per topic per region”, recommended that the applicant contact the Collaborating Centre in New Zealand with a view to forming a consortium.

The Scientific Commission discussed and endorsed the application by the Delegate of Brazil for the Pan American Centre for Foot and Mouth Disease (PANAFTOSA/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in Brazil, to be an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Public Health.

The Scientific Commission evaluated and endorsed the application by the Delegate of the United States of America for the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Diseases Defense (FAZD) in that country to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction.

196. International movement of horses

The Scientific Commission was updated on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on International Horse Movement regarding the draft of the ‘global HHP health certificate’. The certificate has been drafted on the principles of a necessary preparation period for a horse to become member of a HHP subpopulation and would include provisions on absence of OIE-listed diseases at country, establishment and animal level, and on vaccinations and testing. The Commission discussed the draft certificate and made proposals for consideration in the preparation of the final draft of the certificate.

The Scientific Commission discussed in detail the proposed draft chapter on HHP horse movements to set a framework for the HHP concept and appreciated that the draft chapter was based on existing OIE principles, with particular reference to Chapter 4.4. on the application of compartmentalisation. This first chapter on HHP horses would follow the same approach as that chosen for the introductory chapters on animal welfare in section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code*, with general provisions and without technical details on implementation. It was noted that the *ad hoc* Group on International Horse Movement is in the process of developing additional chapters and guidelines on all technical and implementation aspects of the HHP concept.

The Scientific Commission agreed that organisations having a specific agreement with the OIE (FEI and IFHA) may be officially recognised by the Veterinary Authorities as responsible for contributing to ensuring compliance with this chapter. The Scientific Commission decided to support the adoption of the draft chapter and to further clarify the rationale to Member Countries by referring to Resolution No. 36 of the 81st General Session.

197. Rinderpest

Since declaration of global freedom from rinderpest at the OIE General Session in May 2011, the OIE has taken forward several actions to maintain world freedom from the disease. In accordance with the new *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on Infection with rinderpest virus all OIE Member Countries should report annually to the OIE on remaining stocks of rinderpest virus-containing material held in their countries.

The first annual survey was sent out to Delegates in November 2013 and Member Countries had the option of reporting through a web-based reporting system or by paper copy. After receiving reports, the OIE secretariat has asked countries to validate information. To date, 167 Member Countries, namely 94% of all OIE Member Countries, have completed and returned the survey to the OIE. Indications from the reports are that 28 facilities in 23 countries are storing rinderpest virus-containing material; rinderpest virus and vaccine is being stored in these facilities under varying levels of bio-containment, from BSL2 to BSL4; 14 countries hold live rinderpest virus, including field strains; 17 countries hold rinderpest vaccine, including seed stocks, and 9 countries confirmed that they hold both live virus and vaccine stocks, including seed stocks. For 3 of the 23 countries reporting that they hold rinderpest virus-containing material, information on the quantity of virus or vaccine was incomplete.

Six percent of OIE Member Countries did not report to OIE and therefore the above figures may be an underestimate of the real situation. It is also possible that some facilities are not aware that they are holding rinderpest virus-containing material and some countries might not know about stocks of rinderpest virus-containing material held in institutes not directly

linked to the Veterinary Authorities, such as academic or private institutes. It is important that countries continue to investigate whether rinderpest virus or vaccines may be present in other institutions and that all countries continue to report on an annual basis even if their first report was negative.

This is the first time official data on the remaining stocks of rinderpest virus and vaccine have been collected. It is a medium-term objective to reduce remaining stocks of rinderpest virus-containing material and Member Countries should continue to destroy and sequester remaining stocks of virus and vaccine in compliance with Resolution No. 18 of the 79th General Session: in so doing, the number of countries holding this material will be significantly reduced. The only way an outbreak of rinderpest would occur today would be through accidental release from a laboratory or through bioterrorism. The consequences would be devastating and undermine decades of investment and international efforts.

The OIE and FAO will approve a minimum number of approved rinderpest-holding facilities to which Member Countries can send rinderpest virus-containing material for safe keeping if the said countries do not want to destroy the material. Applications have been received by the OIE from four countries; these have been reviewed by the FAO/OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee and site inspections to the facilities involved will be arranged in the coming months. Resolution No. 23 “Procedure for the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest” was presented for adoption during this General Session.

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

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates of tasks assigned to *ad hoc* Groups that were still in progress and that would be presented for consideration at the 83rd General Session in 2015:

- ***Tuberculosis***: Finalisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and proposal for adoption at the 83rd General Session pending Member Country comments.
- ***PRRS***: Finalisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and proposal for adoption at the 83rd General Session pending Member Country comments.
- ***Foot and mouth disease***: Finalisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and proposal for adoption at the 83rd General Session pending Member Country comments.

199. **Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

The Scientific Commission noted with appreciation the excellent work carried out by the Working Group in support of the objectives of the Commission and the OIE. The Scientific Commission agreed with the proposal for a change of the formal name of the Working Group based on the acknowledgement that the Working Group does not deal solely with wildlife health-related issues. The Scientific Commission recommended that the name of the Working Group be changed to ‘Working Group on Wildlife’.

The Scientific Commission took note of the work in progress by the Working Group on a scientific paper on rabies and its impact on biodiversity and a paper on the role of wildlife in certain high priority diseases. The latter paper will be presented for publication in the *OIE Scientific and Technical Review*.

The Scientific Commission was informed about the outcomes of a meeting of the CPW (Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management) which resulted in the planning of an international meeting on ASF and other animal health issues at the wildlife–livestock–human interface, which would be jointly hosted in Paris by the OIE and

the International Council for Game and Wildlife during the last week of June 2014. Around 100-150 participants from both Veterinary Services and national hunting organisations are expected at this 2-day conference. The meeting will focus on the efforts by hunters and Veterinary Services in Europe to collaborate on and improve surveillance and early detection systems for ASF and other diseases of wildlife.

The Scientific Commission also took note of the discussion by the Working Group on animal health issues related to the establishment of Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCs) in Africa and concluded that more work needed to be done on this topic by the Working Group to provide guidance to the Scientific and Code Commissions on standard setting where the livestock–wildlife interface is involved in relation to TFCs.

The Scientific Commission also noted with appreciation the preliminary data provided by the Working Group on the cost of wildlife surveillance and concluded that the Working Group should prioritise this topic to provide a more comprehensive report to guide the Scientific Commission in its decision-making process.

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

200. Evaluation of Member Country applications for official recognition of disease status

The evaluation of applications by Member Countries constituted a major portion of the activities of the Scientific Commission during the year. With the addition of PPR and CSF to the list of diseases eligible for official status recognition, a total of 94 applications had to be assessed, while expert missions to nine Member Countries were conducted to verify applications and to render assistance to Member Countries wishing to obtain official recognition of zonal freedom from diseases. This was further complemented by advice given to certain Member Countries in response to requests to the Director General for assistance.

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

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated nine dossiers. Of these, four were for recognition of disease status; three were from Member Countries seeking to recover their FMD status after having experienced an outbreak of FMD, and two were for endorsement of official control programmes for FMD.

• Reinstatement of the status of zonal freedom from foot and mouth disease

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications from three Member Countries for the reinstatement of FMD free zones. The two zones in Paraguay regained their status of “FMD free zone where vaccination is practised”. The Scientific 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 two other Member Countries (Botswana – lifting of the containment zone; and South Africa – reinstatement of a zone where vaccination is not practised) to enable the Scientific Commission to make an informed decision, taking into account the findings of the missions. The respective zones in these two countries were finally reinstated.

- ***Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for recognition of its status as an FMD free country where vaccination is practised***

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendation made by the *ad hoc* Group on the application by the Korea (Rep. of) for recognition of its status as an FMD free country where vaccination is practised. The Scientific Commission concluded that the Korea (Rep. of) fulfilled the conditions to be considered FMD free with vaccination in accordance with Article 8.6.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* and recommended its recognition by the World Assembly as an FMD free country where vaccination is practised.

- ***Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for the establishment of a zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised***

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendation made by the *ad hoc* Group on the application by Argentina for the recognition of Patagonia Norte A as a new FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised. The Scientific Commission concluded that Patagonia Norte A fulfilled the requirements of Article 8.6.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* and recommended its recognition by the World Assembly as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.

- ***Evaluation of the request from two Member Countries for the establishment of a zone free from FMD where vaccination is practised***

The Scientific Commission reviewed the recommendations made by the *ad hoc* Group on the applications by two Member Countries for the establishment of a new FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.

The Scientific Commission agreed that the new zone proposed by Brazil fulfilled the requirements of Article 8.6.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* and recommended its recognition by the World Assembly. The Scientific Commission noted that this zone would be merged with the two zones that were officially recognised by the OIE as free from FMD in May 2009 and May 2011, respectively.

The Scientific Commission evaluated the *ad hoc* Group's recommendation on Bolivia and also the addendum presented by this country to the OIE in January 2014 for recognition of a new zone as free from FMD where vaccination is practised. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the last reported case of FMD in Bolivia dated from 2007. However, the Scientific Commission noted that there were extensive territories in the aforementioned new zone that were not included in the 2013 serological survey. Consequently, the presence of FMD virus transmission in these regions could not be fully excluded. The Scientific Commission provisionally concluded that the zone proposed by Bolivia (consisting of the remaining part of the country not officially recognised by the OIE to date) fulfilled the requirements of Article 8.6.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* and provisionally recommended its recognition by the World Assembly at the 82nd General Session in May 2014. However, before any final decision, the Scientific Commission recommended that the Director General mandate a mission to the country, to verify compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of FMD. The findings of the mission confirmed the Scientific Commission's tentative decision and the Commission therefore proposed that the aforementioned zone proposed by Bolivia be officially recognised by the World Assembly as a zone free from FMD where vaccination is practised.

- ***Evaluation of the requests from two Member Countries for the endorsement of official control programmes for FMD***

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications by two Member Countries for the endorsement of their official control programme for FMD, as well as additional information provided by the applicant Member Countries. The Scientific Commission concluded

that the official control programme of Ecuador fulfilled the conditions to be endorsed by the OIE in accordance with Article 8.6.48. of the *Terrestrial Code* and recommended its endorsement by the World Assembly.

For one Member Country, the Scientific Commission discussed the dossier in depth and concluded after additional electronic consultation that, to enable the Scientific Commission to make an informed decision on this application, an OIE expert mission to the country would be the most suitable way forward. Therefore, the Scientific Commission proposed, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 30 of the 81st General Session, to request the Director General to mandate an expert mission to the country before the next Scientific Commission meeting, scheduled in September 2014.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the World Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos. 15 and 16.

b) Evaluation of Member Country status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Scientific Commission discussed the report of the *ad hoc* Group and took note of its concern regarding the need for a revision of the chapter. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the chapter should be fully reviewed along with the questionnaire by the *ad hoc* Group at its next meeting to incorporate current scientific knowledge and to harmonise the current chapter with other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* related to diseases for which an official status is recognised by the OIE.

An addition to the existing chapter, an article on the endorsement of official control programmes for CBPP will be presented for adoption during this General Session following a request to this effect by the Delegates from Africa during the 81st General Session.

The Scientific Commission considered and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications of three Member Countries. The Scientific Commission agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that Argentina, Canada and Singapore be recognised as free from CBPP.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the World Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 17.

c) Evaluation of Member Country status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of 16 Member Countries for the evaluation of their BSE risk status. The Scientific Commission met a delegation from China (People's Rep. of) to clarify any questions regarding its application for OIE official BSE risk status.

The Scientific Commission agreed to recommend that the World Assembly recognise the following Member Countries as having a negligible BSE risk status:

- Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Korea (Rep. of).

In addition, the Scientific Commission agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that China (People's Rep. of), excluding Hong Kong (SRA-PRC) and Macao (SRA-PRC), be recognised as a zone having a negligible BSE risk.

For the remaining Member Countries, the applications were not approved and were referred back to the Delegates of the respective countries with suggestions on actions to be taken to comply with the requirements of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

These recommendations were submitted to the World Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 18.

d) Evaluation of Member Country status for African horse sickness (AHS)

The Scientific Commission assessed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of 15 Member Countries for the evaluation of their AHS historically free status. The Scientific Commission agreed that 12 out of the 15 Member Countries fulfilled the conditions to be recognised as AHS historically free countries in accordance with Article 12.1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Scientific Commission noted that all the applicant Member Countries had provided the OIE with the requested animal health information. The Commission agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that Andorra, China (People's Rep. of), Ecuador, Estonia, Greece, India, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Thailand and United Arab Emirates be recognised as free from AHS.

The applications for historical freedom from the three remaining Member Countries were not approved and were referred back to the applicant Member Countries with suggestions on actions to be taken to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In addition, the Scientific Commission evaluated two applications received by the OIE after the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group and agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that Iceland and Myanmar be recognised as historically free from AHS.

The application of a Member Country to be recognised as free from AHS was not approved by the Scientific Commission and the dossier was referred back to the applicant Member Country with suggestions on actions to be taken to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*.

These recommendations were submitted to the World Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 19.

e) Evaluation of Member Country status for peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

The Scientific Commission assessed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group for 46 Member Country applications for PPR historical freedom. The Scientific Commission noted that all the applicant Member Countries had provided the OIE with the requested animal health information. Hence, the Commission agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that the Member Countries listed in the report of the *ad hoc* Group be recognised as historically free from PPR.

The Scientific Commission evaluated two applications received by the OIE after the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group and agreed to recommend to the World Assembly that Chile and Myanmar be recognised as free from PPR.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the form for the annual reconfirmation of free status and endorsed the minor modifications proposed by the *ad hoc* Group.

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

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

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

- Finalisation of the update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Tuberculosis.
- Finalisation of a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).
- Finalisation of the update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Glanders.
- Harmonisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on viral diseases of pigs in respect of control measures relative to management practices.
- Consideration of recommendations for porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED).
- Finalisation of the harmonisation of the vector surveillance and vector control strategies for bluetongue, African horse sickness and epizootic haemorrhagic disease.
- Finalisation and adoption of the amended chapter on foot and mouth disease.
- Finalisation of the revised chapter on African swine fever.
- Updating of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy chapter.
- Consideration of recommendations related to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

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

203. The Delegate of Zambia, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, thanked the Scientific Commission for the extensive review undertaken to amend the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on FMD. He urged both the Scientific and Code Commissions to expedite the process for its final adoption.

204. The Delegate of Mexico, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, supported the need for clarification on the movement of animals from FMD free zones, where vaccination is practised, to FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised. He therefore supported the refinement of the related Articles of the *Terrestrial Code*.

205. The Delegate of France, on behalf of the 28 EU Member States, congratulated the President of the Scientific Commission and offered the EU's technical support to the continuation of the important work of the revision of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Acknowledging the considerable work done on the official recognition of disease status of Member Countries, the EU suggested that the OIE consider developing criteria for selecting diseases for official disease status recognition and for endorsement of official control programmes. Such criteria may include the existence of differences among Member Countries with respect to international trade, and the existence of a global control strategy for a given disease. The EU was of the opinion that no other disease should be added to the existing list at this stage.

Regarding the OIE disease status recognition procedure, the EU strongly supported the scientific process established in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and the recommendations of the Scientific Commission for countries and zones to be recognised free from disease or with a specified BSE risk status. Furthermore, the EU assured that it would continue to respect

the official OIE disease status of its trading partners, but regretted that certain OIE Member Countries failed to implement OIE standards for international trade. The EU also indicated it was ready to take appropriate measures to ensure that the OIE BSE risk status of EU Member States is respected by trade partners in international trade negotiations.

206. The Delegate of Sudan, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries from Africa, appreciated the implementation of Resolution No. 25 of the 81st General Session to conduct expert missions to Member Countries to verify the maintenance of disease status and to provide guidance to Member Countries on achieving recognition of disease status. Africa further proposed involving African experts in future missions²⁹.
207. The Delegate of New Zealand supported the work plan of the Scientific Commission, particularly the topic of atypical BSE, and emphasised that new knowledge about BSE should be reflected in the science-based standards of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Delegate also congratulated the Scientific Commission for its missions conducted to ensure that the official recognition process was robust, transparent and credible. The Delegate requested clarification on the potential role of OIE Regional Representations and OIE Regional Commissions in the official recognition process.
208. The Delegate of Brazil expressed appreciation for the work done by the Scientific Commission, emphasizing its positive impact on the safety of international trade. The Delegate reminded Member Countries that the OIE's technical recommendations constituted standards for international trade and should be respected and implemented.
209. The Delegate of Argentina welcomed the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Schmallenberg virus and the Scientific Commission's analysis of this work. He stated that it would be of interest for the Scientific Commission to continue to analyse the subject at its next meeting in light of any comments from Member Countries. He also emphasised the need to continually update the OIE Technical Factsheet on Schmallenberg virus and requested that it be maintained on the OIE website with all its current content because it helps countries, in particular Schmallenberg virus-free ones, to adopt and update appropriate trade measures.
210. Dr Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission, expressed his appreciation for the many kind words for the work of the Commission and thanked the Delegates for their constructive comments. He reminded them that during its September meeting, the Scientific Commission had already decided to maintain the Schmallenberg Technical Factsheet on the OIE website until at least the end of the 2014 vector season, at least for the section on risk analysis.

He took note of the comments made by several Delegates on the importance of complying with the recommendations and provisions in the *Terrestrial Code*. He reminded Member Countries to comply with their obligations and pointed out that the Scientific Commission, with the support of the Director General and in collaboration with the Code Commission, was committed to updating and adapting the *Terrestrial Code* in response to new scientific findings and epidemiological circumstances.

Dr Brückner acknowledged once again the efforts made by the Director General to increase the number of OIE staff dedicated to official disease status recognition. He reminded Member Countries that the list of diseases for official disease status recognition would not be expanded without consultation. He also emphasised that the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Offices were continually supporting Member Countries in the elaboration and submission of dossiers to the OIE for official status recognition.

²⁹ Note by the OIE Headquarters: the Head of the recent mission to Africa is South African.

211. The President suggested that the Scientific Commission should consider developing criteria for inclusion of diseases on the list for recognition of official status and confirmed the interest of the Council to further discuss this topic.
212. The Director General reminded the Delegates that the OIE, along with its Regional and Sub-Regional offices and in the framework of GF-TADs, was organising regional meetings and trainings to support Member Countries in the preparation and submission of dossiers for official endorsement of their national control programme and their animal disease status.
213. The Delegate of India supported comments made by other Delegates on the importance of the recognition of official status for international trade.
214. The Delegate of Australia recognised the extensive work done by the Scientific Commission and expressed his concerns about potential expansion of the list of diseases for which the OIE provides recognition of official status. He suggested that the existing process of disease status recognition be consolidated and, if necessary, improved before considering the addition of new diseases to the list. He reiterated the Council's commitment to further consider this matter in the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan.
215. The Delegate of South Africa requested clarification on the additional information required for submission of the annual reconfirmation to maintain disease status recognition.
216. The President of the Scientific Commission reminded the Delegates that the relevant articles and chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* contain the information to be provided in order to maintain official status.
217. The Director General reminded Member Countries that OIE has not, to date, received any formal requests to add diseases to the procedure for official recognition. The latest candidate disease that had been discussed was glanders; the private sector was consulted on the matter and has not given a clear response as to whether official recognition of this disease would be helpful.
218. In response to the Delegate of Mexico, the President of the Scientific Commission reiterated that the movement of animals from an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised to an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised would be discussed and addressed during the chapter revision process.
219. The President of the Code Commission encouraged Member Countries to contribute to the revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on FMD by providing comments in the early stages of the revision process.
220. The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) congratulated the President of the Scientific Commission and confirmed that China would collaborate with the OIE to control and eradicate PPR.
221. Regarding wildlife, the Delegate of New Zealand requested the Chairman of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, to clarify if the establishment of criteria for the inclusion of non-OIE listed diseases of wild animals would be followed by a review of both the current diseases not listed as well as those diseases that are listed with the view to potentially reducing the number of diseases.
222. The Chairman of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases answered that criteria to review the non-OIE listed diseases affecting wild animals have been used by the Group for many years, but were recently reviewed so as to improve their transparency. These criteria would continue to be fully revised every 3 years to ensure the stability of process. He stressed that the reporting of non-OIE listed diseases through WAHIS-*Wild* was on a voluntary basis and the efforts of reporting would be greatly appreciated.
223. The Assembly adopted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries**

224. The Delegate of the United States of America recognised the challenges faced in the evaluation of Member Country applications and recommendations for recognition of official disease status and commended the efforts of the Scientific Commission to continue improving this process. The Delegate stated that the United States of America has historically not objected to the OIE's recommendations for official disease status because the United States of America has always maintained that it is each Member Country's right to conduct its own scientific evaluations and assessment. Consistent with its prior practice, the Delegate of the United States of America will neither object to nor vote against the resolution. The Delegate of the United States of America noted that it does this with the recognition that its position is without prejudice to its right to evaluate and assess the risk of introducing FMD that may be associated with the importation of commodities into the United States of America. He supported the previous comment made by the Delegate of Australia concerning any potential expansion of the list of diseases for which the OIE provides recognition of official disease status.
225. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Endorsement of official control programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of
Member Countries**

226. 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 Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries**

227. 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
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of
Member Countries**

228. 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 African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries**

229. 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.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries**

230. The Delegate of Australia noticed that some applications submitted by Member Countries for the official recognition of PPR freedom had not been evaluated by the *ad hoc* Group. He requested that the OIE have a standardised approach to assessing disease status.
231. The Director General reminded the Delegates that the elected Commissions were the only bodies with a mandate to provide recommendations for final approval by the Assembly. *Ad hoc* Groups are convened to support the work of the Commissions. He indicated that modification of the current procedure would need a formal decision of the Assembly. The Members of the Scientific Commission were elected for their recognised scientific expertise and the assessment of the applications for official status was entirely under their mandate.

232. The President indicated that the matter might benefit from discussions within the Council.
233. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Procedure for the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing
Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest**

234. The Director General explained that the ‘Procedure for the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest’ was developed by the FAO/OIE Joint Committee managing the post-eradication phase of rinderpest eradication. Resolution No. 18 on Rinderpest eradication adopted by the World Assembly in 2011, requested OIE and FAO to work on the security measures needed to maintain global freedom from rinderpest. The current resolution contained the modality and conditions described by the FAO/OIE Joint Committee to establish the mandate of accredited facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material in order to avoid release of the virus. He indicated that some countries have already submitted an application for an accredited holding facility and these had been referred to the Committee for evaluation. The Director General emphasised that the adoption of this resolution would allow finalisation of these applications and future adoption of approved facilities.
235. Honorary President Dr Barry O’Neil highlighted the need to ensure that the recommendations of Resolution No. 23 were in line with those adopted in May 2011 in Resolution No. 18. In particular, Resolution No. 23 should reflect the recommendation in Resolution No. 18 (2011) to conduct regular site visits to approve rinderpest holding facilities. The Director General proposed a modification of the wording, which was duly accepted.
236. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 23, with the proposed amendment, for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)**

237. The Director General highlighted the importance of all Member Countries adopting this resolution to commit Veterinary Services to collaborate and harmonise the approach to global PPR eradication. He stressed that the characteristics of PPR virus (low variability) and the availability of PPR vaccines conferring long immunity would make eradication possible. He pointed out that political commitment was first needed and indicated that a global strategy under the GF-TADs umbrella was in development. The Director General emphasised that the adoption of this resolution should help the funding of the FAO/OIE joint Global Strategy.
238. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

Follow-up to the Recommendations of Conferences

239. **OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals, “*International Solidarity to Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance*”, Paris, France, 13-15 March 2013**

The OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals was held in Paris, France, from 13 to 15 March 2013, with the support of WHO and FAO. Twenty-eight (28) Recommendations were approved, including twelve (12) directed to the OIE. The Director General recalled that this was the first global conference

dedicated to addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in animals and to supporting developing countries in applying OIE standards on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals. He presented a short summary of the actions taken by the OIE to date concerning the recommendations, in particular those relating to:

- Strengthening international cooperation using the tripartite approach (FAO/OIE/WHO): antimicrobial resistance is one of the three priority topics selected by the Tripartite.
- The technical focal points of the three Organisations responsible for collaborative activities relating to resistance to antimicrobial agents met for the fourth time in December 2013. They prepared joint declarations and a joint presentation on activities of the Tripartite in the field of resistance to antimicrobial agents and are working together on all the activities of the three Organisations concerning antimicrobial resistance.
- Continuing to develop and update OIE standards: the OIE has updated most of its standards relating to the use of antimicrobial agents and AMR including the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance. He reminded the Delegates that Chapter 6.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*, “Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals”, will be proposed to the Assembly for adoption in the course of this General Session.
- Continuing to organise regional training seminars for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products: in October 2013, in conjunction with its three Collaborating Centres, the OIE launched the third cycle of training seminars for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products. Antimicrobial resistance and VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) are among the major subjects covered and WHO and FAO are regularly invited to these training seminars.
- Collecting harmonised quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database: a new *ad hoc* Group has been constituted and met for the first time in January 2014. It is tasked with providing the OIE with guidelines on the best means of collecting harmonised quantified data from Member Countries on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, with a view to establishing a global database. It will meet for the second time in July 2014.
- Greater participation of OIE Member Countries in the VICH Outreach Forum: the 3rd VICH Outreach Forum Meeting was held in Auckland (New Zealand) in November 2013. A number of OIE Member Countries that are not members of VICH took part in the meeting. Increasing numbers of these countries are participating in the activities of VICH.

The Director General pointed out that strengthening Veterinary Services was a precondition for any implementation of standards or actions to fight antimicrobial resistance. Work will continue and the recommendations of the conference will be completed through other actions as needed. The Director General took the opportunity to remind Delegates of the role of veterinarians in the fight against AMR, which has been a contentious issue in the discussions to date, and emphasised that the OIE would play an active role in this dialogue. He noted that most of the antimicrobial agents used in animals today are unfortunately not under veterinary control or supervision and highlighted that veterinarians are not the problem at the global level but part of the solution in combating AMR.

240. The Delegate of Chad, speaking on behalf of the 52 Member Countries from Africa, thanked the OIE for organising the conference and fully endorsed the recommendations of the conference, in particular, those supporting developing countries in the implementation of

effective governance and measures to fight AMR. He further requested OIE support to help with the surveillance of antimicrobial use and monitoring of AMR based on OIE standards.

241. The Delegate of Austria speaking on behalf of the 28 EU Member States fully supported the recommendations of the conference and mentioned that the EU had provided financial support to the conference. He stated that the EU would encourage the OIE to continue its work on AMR, taking into account the different practices currently in place around the world, and in line with the recommendations of the conference. He emphasised the interest of the EU to continue to participate in relevant *ad hoc* groups and to provide technical support to the OIE. Furthermore, he recalled in the context of One Health the importance of working in collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and WHO on this topic.
242. The President of the OIE, in light of the discussions, considered that the recommendations of the conference had been endorsed by the Word Assembly.
243. **OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body “Ensuring excellence and ethics of the veterinary profession” (Brazil, December 2013)**

At the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, held in Foz do Iguazu, Brazil, from 4 to 6 December 2013, 11 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.

Dr Vallat highlighted that the Conference itself was a major investment in working with Member Countries, regional and global organisations, including international student organisations, to support efforts to improve the quality of veterinary education and harmonised approaches to the recognition of qualifications by relevant institutions, including through Veterinary Statutory Bodies. The Director General also noted that most of the recommendations are an integral and ongoing part of the OIE PVS capacity-building programme. The OIE will continue to work closely with all relevant partners, and in particular on the development of twinning arrangements between Veterinary Education Establishments and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

244. The President thanked the Director General for his report, noting how impressed she was with the Conference, and the valuable discussions that had since taken place between the Deans of Veterinary Schools and Heads of National Veterinary Associations in Germany. She then invited comments and questions.
245. The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, congratulated the OIE on this very successful Conference and noted the financial support the European Union had provided. The European Union recognises and supports the OIE’s work to strengthen Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies to enhance the governance of Veterinary Services and thereby assist the implementation of OIE standards. She expressed the support of the EU for the OIE’s work on Day One Competencies, the core veterinary curriculum, and the establishment of twinning arrangements for Veterinary Education Establishments and for Veterinary Statutory Bodies, as well as its full support for the Conference recommendations.
246. The Delegate of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, fully supported the Conference recommendations, along with the accreditation of Veterinary Education Establishments and recognition of Veterinary Statutory Bodies. The OIE Member Countries of Africa support the augmentation of OIE standards and guidelines in line with the recommendations from the Bamako Conference on ‘The Role of

Veterinary Statutory Bodies', the incorporation of the One Health approach in veterinary education, and the twinning programmes being rolled out for Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

247. The Delegate of Georgia congratulated the OIE on the success of the Conference, and recalled the problem Georgia had faced with potential downgrading and dilution of veterinary education to a mere component of an agricultural degree. He acknowledged the strong letters of support for Veterinary Education that he had received from the Director General of the OIE and from FAO, which were very helpful in building support to retain a high quality specific veterinary degree programme in Georgia.
248. In response, the Director General noted with sincere appreciation the donors for the Brazil Conference, including the Brazilian Government and Veterinary Council, the European Union, Germany and other donors to the OIE World Fund, as well as the support of many partners in the organisation of the Conference.

Dr Vallat confirmed that the One Health approach is fully embedded in the Day One Competencies in accordance with the guidelines published by the OIE, and noted that accreditation of Veterinary Education Establishments may be desirable, but is beyond the mandate of the OIE, which instead required these accreditation bodies to incorporate the OIE's guidelines on veterinary education.

He confirmed his strong support for specific veterinary education distinct from a broader agricultural qualification. He stated that this point was crucial for the effective implementation of OIE standards on animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health; agricultural production and public health will need to be clearly differentiated.

Finally, the President concluded this discussion by recalling the active engagement of the World Association of Veterinary Students in the Conference and the cooperation agreement this association has established with the OIE. She noted that the veterinary students of today represent the future and are essential for the implementation of the principles and standards we agree today and in the future.

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2014

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

249. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Dr Alejandro Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) had held its thirteenth meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 29 to 31 October 2013. The full report, including the work programme for 2014, was appended to the report of the February 2014 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to OIE Delegates and published on the OIE website.

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

The Working Group discussed a Draft Guidance Document for Codex/OIE Cooperation which was presented at the April 2014 meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles, and recommended several amendments to this document to emphasise the importance of a risk-based food chain approach to food controls, and also the need for flexibility regarding arrangements between the OIE and CAC to achieve this. The Working Group noted that there is still room for improvement at the national level to promote dialogue between relevant national experts in the animal health, public health and trade sectors, to ensure better co-ordination in relevant standard-setting activities of the two organisations. The Working Group encouraged the OIE to continue to include presentations in the APFS Focal Point seminars on Codex and OIE relationships and to take steps to ensure that OIE Delegates understand the importance of the role of the focal point for APFS in their country.

The Working Group noted that the development of Codex guidelines and OIE chapters on certain zoonotic parasites were good examples of excellent cooperation between the OIE and Codex.

Salmonellosis attributed to cattle and pigs is an important cause of illness in humans and effective control measures can be implemented at the on-farm level. At its meeting in July 2014, Codex Alimentarius Commission will decide on a proposal from the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to start new work on ‘Guidelines for the control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork meat’. The Working Group recommended that, should the Codex work proceed, the OIE should develop recommendations for the control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in pigs and cattle to address pre-harvest management to complement the Codex guidelines and ensure a whole food chain approach.

The Working Group recognised that the presence of certain Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC), and their toxins, in some foods gives rise to a significant global burden of food-borne disease and that beef and beef products are an important source of food-borne STEC infection. The Code Commission agreed that the OIE should consider work on STEC once the Codex undertakes work on this topic.

Dr Thiermann informed the World Assembly that the OIE Council, during its February 2014 meeting, made some amendments to the Terms of Reference and *modus operandi* of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group which are presented in Resolution No. 25 on Animal Production Food Safety.

251. The Delegate of Argentina, on behalf of the Permanent Veterinary Committee (CVP), thanked the OIE and the APFSWG for their work and, in particular, the attention given to CVPs request for work to be undertaken on the control of STEC in beef given the lack of harmonisation of controls applied to international trade. They encouraged the OIE to commence work on this pathogen and considered this to be another excellent opportunity for cooperation between Codex and OIE that would ensure consumer protection whilst ensuring that the measures applied are proportional to the risk.

Dr Stuart Slorach, President of the APFSWG, noted that the APFSWG agreed that conducting work and developing standards and recommendations on STEC was a priority. He noted that this issue was discussed at the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene in

November 2013 and that it will be included in their work programme which will be discussed at the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2014. He encouraged all Delegates to speak with their national counterparts in Codex to ensure that the Codex Alimentarius Commission undertakes work complementary to that of the OIE on STEC.

The President of the OIE noted the importance of coordination between OIE and Codex at international level but also emphasised the importance of coordination at the national level and encouraged Delegates to communicate with their Codex counterparts to ensure alignment of relevant work between the two organisations.

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

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25 Animal Production Food Safety

253. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 25 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

254. Animal Welfare Working Group

The Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) held its twelfth meeting at OIE Headquarters on 18-20 June 2013. The full report was appended to the report of the September 2013 meeting of the Code Commission, and the AWWG draft work programme for 2014 was distributed to Delegates as an annex to the report of the Code Commission's February 2014 meeting. Both documents have been published on the OIE website.

Key points raised and discussed at the meeting included:

- The OIE 81st General Session Resolutions adopted on Animal welfare, Animal production food safety, and the Technical Item on 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. The Resolution on animal welfare included the adoption of amendments to animal welfare chapters and the adoption of a new standard on Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems.
- The draft standard, Chapter 7.X Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems developed by the *ad hoc* Group.
- Recommendations from the third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, particularly those concerning capacity building support to assist Veterinary Services to implement OIE standards, and development of an OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy.
- OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre activities and developments.
- Possible approaches to developing further OIE guidance on animal welfare of working animals, and disaster management.
- OIE's Improved Animal Welfare programme for training of trainers to improve implementation of OIE animal welfare standards on transport and slaughter in selected Member Countries.
- Regional Animal Welfare Strategy development and implementation.

255. The AWWG will hold its next meeting from 24 to 26 June 2014. Important issues for discussion at this meeting will include advancing the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare text, development of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy, and building further support for implementation of OIE animal welfare standards in Member Countries.
256. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Animal Welfare**

257. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

258. Report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Alejandro 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 17 to 26 September 2013. The Commission had met again from 11 to 20 February 2014 to examine reports of *ad hoc* Group meetings, as well as Member Country comments on the report of its September 2013 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 2014 meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2014, together with any new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2014 meeting and comments 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 assisting the Commission in its tasks.

Dr Thiermann considered that it had again been a productive year for the OIE, with 33 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 contributions from Member Countries, especially from developing countries.

Dr Thiermann noted that Member Countries have continued to comment on translation issues and discrepancies between the Spanish and English texts of the *Terrestrial Code*. He informed Delegates that the OIE continues with a systematic review of the *Terrestrial Code* in French and Spanish with a view to better alignment with the English text. He assured Delegates that the OIE would continue its efforts to resolve these linguistic issues. He also acknowledged the improvements made by the OIE staff in expediting 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 double underline 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 of the transparent work being done by 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 2013 and February 2014 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 2014 report of the Code Commission.

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.

259. 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.

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

261. **User's Guide**

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that Dr Etienne Bonbon (Vice-president of the Code Commission) had undertaken to revise the User's Guide with a view to address a request from Member Countries for clarification of the role, scope and correct use of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to a Member Country comment, the Code Commission had discussed those instances in which there are no recommendations on a specific issue in the *Terrestrial Code*. He stressed that the absence of recommendation does not mean that trade is unsafe. A Member Country can apply animal health measures, relevant to a disease in question to protect its territory, even if not provided in the *Terrestrial Code*, as long as such measures are applied to the extent necessary to protect its territory from risks to health or life and are based on a risk analysis. Dr Thiermann explained that a new point 4 in Section A had been added to clarify this point.

Dr Thiermann noted that a new point 5 in Section A had been added following the OIE Headquarters' suggestion.

He also explained that point 4 of Section B had been revised to clarify that its focus is on the extent to which different measures restrict trade.

He noted that following a Member Country's suggestion on point 4 in Section C, the Code Commission had revised the text with respect to safe commodities to use stronger and more direct wording about expectations.

Finally, he added that a number of other changes had been made in order to improve the syntax and readability of the text, as well as to improve harmonisation with the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised User's Guide to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Nigeria, on behalf of the 52 African Member Countries, commented on the difference between standards, guidelines and recommendations. He quoted the text in the User's Guide, and stated that the difference is still not clear. For example, in Chapter 7.10., the introduction states that the contents of the chapter are recommendations. The Delegate requested further clarification on this issue.

The representative of Japan repeated the intervention made during the presentation by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission regarding the reference to Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP) in point 4 of Section B of the User's Guide as well as the first and second paragraph of Article 5.1.2. of Chapter 5. The term ALOP is used and defined in the SPS Agreement and in the *Code*. However, the proposed new text referring to trade restrictive measures is new and undefined. He proposed to maintain the original text, which is consistent with the SPS Agreement.

The Delegate of Australia supported the intervention of the representative of Japan. He requested that the text on ALOP be retained and sufficient time be given to consider the matter, as had been agreed by the President of the Aquatic Commission.

The Delegate of Italy, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, advised that the Europe generally supported the proposed new User's Guide but could not agree to adoption of this text unless the three comments that had been sent to the OIE by the EU prior to this General Session were taken into account.

In Part A, Europe agreed to the addition of the proposed new point 4 but asked for clarification of the term 'appropriate measures' as this statement could be misunderstood as an invitation to Member Countries to establish excessive or arbitrary measures. Europe had suggested modifying the text by adding the following sentence: 'These measures should be based on an import risk analysis performed in accordance with OIE standards'.

The Delegate advised that Europe did not support the proposed text modification in Part C point 4, i.e. the new text on safe commodities. He stated that international trade in safe commodities should be possible without regard to disease status, i.e. without any risk mitigation treatment, specific or generic. The Delegate proposed that the phrase 'without the imposition of pathogen specific sanitary measures' be deleted. He also suggested that the term 'safe commodities' be the subject of in depth consideration and definition in the Glossary. Finally, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, the Delegate expressed support for the position of Africa with respect to Section C point 4 of the User's Guide.

The Delegate of Rwanda, on behalf of the 52 Member Countries of Africa, advised that some comments had been sent to the Commission for consideration at its meeting in September 2014. The Delegate asked Dr Thiermann to explain the reason for adding the word 'notification' after 'reporting' in Part A point 2, as these terms are used for the same

purpose. With respect to Part C, point 4, the Delegate suggested rephrasing the first sentence as follows: ‘Animal health measures related to international trade should be based on OIE standards’.

A representative of the Delegation of Argentina commented regarding Part A, point 4. He questioned the inclusion of animal welfare measures in this paragraph, as these are outside the ambit of the SPS Committee.

In response to these interventions, Dr Thiermann provided the following explanations. Regarding the intervention by the Delegate of Nigeria, Dr Thiermann agreed that there is a need to continue improving the text. It would be preferable to establish a clear distinction between standards, guidelines and recommendations but this is not easy to do. According to the World Trade Organization all OIE recommendations have the same weight. However, the OIE considers that standards should be those texts formally adopted by the World Assembly. Responding to the representative of Japan and the Delegate of Australia on the issue of the ALOP, Dr Thiermann agreed to withdraw the proposed text modifications. However, Dr Thiermann wished to explain the thinking behind them. He reminded Delegates that the OIE was setting animal health standards long before the SPS Agreement came into effect in 1995. The concept of ALOP came into being with the SPS Agreement but did not change the obligation of OIE Member Countries to apply the standards in the *Code*. When a country has difficulty exporting to another country, the first reaction is that the import measures are more restrictive than necessary. When an importing country defends its measures, the aspect of ALOP comes into play. Rather than prolong the discussion today, Dr Thiermann agreed to withdraw the proposed modification pending further consideration.

In response to the comments from the Delegate of Italy on Section A, Dr Thiermann noted that measures should be based on an import risk analysis as specified in the *Code*.

In response to the comment concerning the listing of safe commodities without the imposition of pathogen specific treatments, Dr Thiermann gave the example of hides, which may be raw or tanned. The processing relates to the production of a defined commodity; it is not specifically undertaken as a means to inactivate FMD virus. Thus, tanned hides are a safe commodity, according to the concept in the *Code* to date. That said, Dr Thiermann agreed that further expert consideration of how to define and describe safe commodities would be useful.

In response to the comment of the Delegate of Rwanda, Dr Thiermann explained that the intent is to describe the sequence of events from early detection, to reporting within the country and then notification by the country to the OIE. He proposed to add ‘internal’ before ‘reporting’ to clarify the sequence of events.

In response to the comment of Argentina that welfare measures are not part of the SPS Agreement, Dr Thiermann noted that OIE Member Countries should respect all standards in the *Code*.

The President of the OIE supported the comment of Dr Thiermann regarding the obligation of OIE Members to apply the standards in the *Code*. She considered that it could be useful to explain the overlap between the SPS Agreement and OIE standards in future.

The representative of Argentina stated that his country agreed with Dr Thiermann and Dr Schwabenbauer regarding compliance with OIE standards and with the importance of animal welfare but, precisely, the text in point 4 refers to the absence of standards.

The Delegate of New Zealand agreed with the sentiments expressed by the President of the OIE and the representative of Argentina. The application of OIE standards is an obligation for OIE Member Countries. However, the proposed new sentence refers to measures justified by an import risk analysis. Therefore, the Delegate asked if animal welfare is applicable here.

The Delegate of South Africa clarified the intervention of the Delegate of Rwanda. Point 4 in Section C states that international trade animal health measures should be based on OIE standards. The suggestion was to rephrase the text as follows: ‘animal health measures related to international trade should be based on OIE standards on import risk analysis’.

Dr Thiermann appreciated the interventions of Argentina and New Zealand. He proposed to remove point 4 and continue to reflect on how to present the text, obligations and reference to animal welfare in a clearer way. He supported the proposal expressed by the Delegates of Rwanda and South Africa.

Dr Thiermann proposed that, based on his explanation, the paragraph about safe commodities should be adopted as proposed with the commitment to undertake further work on the description of safe commodities. He asked the EU Member States to submit their comments accordingly. The Delegate of Italy confirmed that the EU could accept this proposal.

With the deletion of point 4 of the introduction and rewording of the first sentence in Section C, as proposed by the Member Countries of Africa, the revised User’s Guide was adopted unanimously.

262. General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had accepted the OIE Headquarters’ suggestion to reword Article 5.1.2.points 1 and 2 to improve clarity.

Dr Thiermann explained that, in light of the discussion in the Aquatic Commission and earlier today, he proposed to withdraw the revised text.

The Director General commented on the importance of this chapter and encouraged the Commission to continue working on this text, with a view to possible adoption in 2015.

263. Glossary

Dr Thiermann explained that the OIE Headquarters had proposed a revision of the definition of ‘emerging disease’ in conjunction with the revision of Chapter 1.1. with a view to clarifying the definition and reporting expectations for emerging diseases. The Code Commission, at its February 2014 meeting, revised the text again for improved clarity.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had accepted the OIE Headquarters’ suggestion to add ‘scientific’ to the definition of ‘risk assessment’.

He also explained that with respect to the definition of ‘stamping out’, the Code Commission had accepted a Member Country’s suggestion to replace ‘premises’ with ‘establishment’, which is defined in the glossary.

Finally Dr Thiermann mentioned the discussion on the definition of ‘veterinarian’ in the Code Commission. Considering the divergent and irreconcilable comments from Member Countries, the Code Commission noted that none of the proposed changes could be applied

to all Member Countries. The Code Commission also noted that this issue is likely to be considered further in progressing the recommendations from the 2013 OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body to develop a global register of Veterinary Education Establishments. Considering these points, the Code Commission decided not to propose any change to the current definition of ‘veterinarian’.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, proposed to add the option of rendering (in addition to burning and burial) for the disposal of carcasses in the definition of stamping out. He also suggested that the Code Commission consider including a reference to Chapter 4.12. in this definition. He also noted that a modified stamping-out policy was not well defined in the *Code* and may lead to confusion. Member Countries are free to modify a stamping-out policy as they see fit. He cited the draft new chapter on PRRS, recently circulated for Member Country comments, as an example. The EU proposed that the concept of modified stamping-out policy be better explained in the *Code*, for example in the chapter on notification of diseases.

Dr Thiermann replied that the comments referred to by the Delegate of Denmark have been submitted in writing. He agreed that the comments would be considered at the meeting in September.

The President encouraged the Commission to review the definition of ‘veterinarian’, taking into account the three global conferences on the relevant topic of veterinary education and governance, as this is an important issue given the importance of this issue and the very nature of the OIE.

The revised Glossary was adopted unanimously.

264. Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)

Dr Thiermann explained that in response to Member Countries’ suggestions to clarify the definition and reporting expectations for emerging diseases, the Code Commission, at its September 2013 meeting, had proposed to separate the requirements for notification and reporting of emerging diseases from those of OIE listed diseases.

He noted that additional amendments had been made to improve clarity and to better harmonise with the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 1.1. was adopted unanimously.

265. Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations on the OIE List (Chapter 1.2.)

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Code Commission, at its February 2013 meeting, had not accepted Member Countries’ requests to retain Swine Vesicular Disease and Vesicular Stomatitis as listed diseases, on the basis that none had provided an adequate rationale based on the listing criteria of Article 1.2.2. He reiterated that no justification for retaining these two diseases was provided by Member Countries prior to the September 2013 and February 2014 meetings of the Code Commission, on the basis of the listing criteria of Article 1.2.2.

Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that the deletion of Chapters 8.15 (vesicular stomatitis) and 15.4 (swine vesicular disease) was presented for adoption.

He also noted that the Code Commission had deleted point 5 of Article 1.2.2. in relation to the modification in Chapter 1.1. concerning notification of emerging diseases.

Dr Thiermann explained that the flowchart in this chapter had been deleted in response to a Member Country's suggestion.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised Chapter 1.2. to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, offered to provide expertise to OIE *ad hoc* and Working Groups. The Delegate proposed that a Group be convened to review the criteria for the listing of diseases. He noted that science and disease events are constantly evolving, therefore the criteria must be reviewed periodically and checked against practical experience with the diseases. The use of some imprecise terminology, such as high, medium, low and significant, causes some concern. The creation of an *ad hoc* Group to consider the listing criteria is supported by the Americas and the region offered experts to participate in the process.

The Delegate of Japan appreciated the report of the Code Commission but continued to oppose the delisting of vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease and therefore supported the comments of the Delegate of Uruguay. Considering that the diseases cause significant morbidity, it is evident that they meet the current listing criteria. The disagreement is caused by a lack of clarity about the criteria, notably the lack of a definition for 'significant morbidity'. The Delegate recommended that the criteria be reviewed so that diseases which have been the subject of national control programmes and contained effectively in several countries and regions should be retained on the list.

The Delegate of Chinese Taipei supported the comments of the Delegate of Japan.

The Delegate of Spain commented on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU that the deletion of the diseases and corresponding chapters from the *Code* was supported. The diseases had been assessed according to the criteria adopted in 2012. He noted that no scientific justification had been proposed for maintaining the two diseases and they should therefore be deleted.

The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) considered that the proposal of Uruguay was reasonable and offered to provide expertise to the proposed *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) agreed with the proposal of Uruguay and the Americas and would be prepared to cooperate with the proposed study.

The Delegate of Indonesia advised the World Assembly that his country and some ASEAN³⁰ countries are free from vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease. Therefore, he supported the position of Japan.

The Delegate of Chile thanked the Code Commission for accepting its proposal to delete the flowchart in this chapter.

The Delegate of Bhutan supported the comments of Japan and the Americas.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented that the two diseases do not meet the listing criteria and should therefore be delisted.

³⁰ ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The Delegate of Russia recommended keeping the diseases on the list because several countries have had outbreaks of these diseases and these must be differentiated from other diseases, which is sometimes difficult.

The Delegate of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries in Africa, supported the proposal to delist the two diseases, based on the fact that they do not meet the listing criteria adopted in 2012.

Dr Thiermann recalled that the importance of a disease does not necessarily depend on it being listed by the OIE. Rather, listing confers an obligation to notify the OIE according to the provisions in the *Code*. The OIE has a transparent system for deciding which diseases should be listed, based on criteria previously adopted by the World Assembly. These two diseases had been the subject of a detailed analysis by experts, and the Member Countries have been invited to submit comments on two separate occasions. Member Countries have the right to disagree with the recommendations of experts; however, this should be based on scientific arguments. No scientific rationale for maintaining the listing has been presented. Dr Thiermann thanked the Delegate of Uruguay for proposing the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group on this topic and agreed that further scientific examination of the existing criteria remained a possibility. However, he considered that the World Assembly should apply the rules that had been previously agreed and adopted and should delist the two diseases.

The Director General advised that an *ad hoc* Group would be convened to examine the disease listing criteria and to make a proposal for consideration by Member Countries in 2015. He stated that the selection of experts would be based on scientific excellence and balance amongst the five OIE regions. The President of the OIE encouraged experts from all regions to provide proposals, in writing, for discussion by the *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate of Russia agreed with Dr Thiermann that this is a systemic issue regarding the criteria for disease listing. He considered it important that the criteria be applied consistently and also reminded Delegates that emerging diseases should be considered with caution. For those countries that are exporting products, it was important to provide information quickly and transparently. In case of doubt, the Delegate considered that these diseases should be left on the list pending further detailed examination.

The President of the OIE reminded Delegates of the importance of prioritising diseases, to allow a correct and meaningful allocation of resources. No country has the resources to manage all diseases, hence the need for criteria to prioritise diseases. If diseases are not listed, it does not mean that they are not important.

Dr Thiermann stated that the issue under consideration is not the importance of the disease. There is a need to move forward, based on the criteria that had previously been adopted. He supported the proposal of the Delegate of Uruguay to establish an *ad hoc* Group and urged Member Countries to submit their scientific arguments for consideration by the Group.

The Delegate of Japan informed the World Assembly that his country opposed adoption. He proposed to postpone the adoption because there was no consensus. He pointed out that Article 50 of the General Rules obliged the OIE to make every effort to achieve consensus.

At the request of the President of the OIE, the Director General made reference to the *Basic Texts* and stated that the General Rules, as revised, required a two-thirds majority of votes in favour. Recalling the process that had been followed by the Commission during the past two years, it was possible to conclude that an attempt had been made to reach an agreement by consensus.

The President of the OIE called for a vote on the adoption of the text.

In the vote, 16 OIE Member Countries opposed the delisting of vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease. These were Armenia, Brunei, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

There was one abstention (Argentina).

A total of 70 Member Countries supported adoption.

The revised Chapter 1.2. and the deletion of Chapters 8.15. (vesicular stomatitis) and 15.4. (swine vesicular disease) were adopted by a majority of 70 votes to 16 (with one abstention).

266. **Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.1.)**

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had accepted a Commission member's proposal to delete 'potential' from the term 'potential hazard' throughout the chapter where the hazard has clearly been recognised, and therefore use of the qualifier 'potential' is redundant. He noted that this change is logical and aligns with the terminology used in the OIE *Handbook on Import Risk Analysis* and with Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Dr Thiermann informed Delegates that the Code Commission had noted a suggestion from Member Countries to change the title of the chapter to reflect the point that risk analysis is no longer restricted to imports and decided to re-consider how it may be dealt with at their September 2014 meeting.

Dr Thiermann reiterated that the paragraph proposed for deletion in Article 2.1.1. is now in Chapter 5.3., and does not need to be duplicated here.

Dr Thiermann also noted the OIE Headquarters' editorial comments to improve clarity in Articles 2.1.1., 2.1.5. and 2.1.6.

Dr Thiermann proposed the revised text for adoption.

The Delegate of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported adoption of the chapter.

The revised Chapter 2.1. was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that the Code Commission had agreed at its September 2013 meeting with a Member Country's suggestion to seek the scientific rationale for recommendations from the IETS³¹ and to share these with Member Countries when amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* are proposed on the basis of IETS recommendations.

In accordance with this decision, Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had agreed with the IETS recommendations to add Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*) to category 4 and to move porcine circovirus type 2 from category 4 to category 3. He noted that scientific justification supporting these recommendations had been provided by IETS and referred to in the February 2014 report of the Code Commission.

³¹ IETS: International Embryo Transfer Society

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Greece, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported adoption of the chapter but asked that comments sent to the OIE be considered by the Commission at its meeting in September 2014. Speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU and noting that vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease had been deleted, the Delegate recommended that the text be modified to indicate that these diseases are not listed.

The revised Chapter 4.7., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

268. Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had accepted a proposal from Member Countries to better describe the procedures for electronic certification in Article 5.2.4.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Italy, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the Commission for taking account of its comments on Article 5.2.4. but also requested that the Commission take account of other comments that had been submitted, as follows:

In Article 5.2.4. point 1, replace ‘documentation’ by ‘exchange of data’ as this more accurately describes the process. In point 1b, the phrase ‘World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) should be deleted, as well as the word ‘Schemas’ after XML. Finally, the EU suggested the addition of a point 1c on security, as follows: ‘Secure method of electronic data exchange must be ensured by digital authentication of the certificates, encryption, non-repudiation mechanisms, controlled and audited access and firewalls’. The wording proposed is consistent with that in the Codex Guidelines (CAC/GL 38-2001).

The Delegate of Chile, offered to participate in any working group that may be convened to consider this topic.

Dr Thiermann agreed that the Commission would consider the EU comments at its meeting in September 2014.

The revised Chapter 5.2. was adopted unanimously.

269. Animal health measures applicable before and at departure (Chapter 5.4.)

Dr Thiermann noted that based on the proposal by the OIE Headquarters, the Code Commission had amended references to the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on model veterinary certificates in this chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Norway, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the modified chapter.

The revised Chapter 5.4. was adopted unanimously.

270. Antimicrobial resistance

a) Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.6.)

Dr Thiermann noted that following a Member Country's suggestion the Code Commission had replaced the term 'animal husbandry' with 'animals' in the opening paragraph of Article 6.6.1., and 'entire animal sector' with 'all animal sectors' at the end of the 4th paragraph of the same article to more clearly indicate that pets and non-food producing animals are included in this objective.

Dr Thiermann noted that a new paragraph, proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance to refer to the relevant Codex standards and guidelines, had been endorsed by the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann informed Delegates that a Member Country request to add an explicit reference to the concept of 'One Health' in the chapter had been reviewed by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance but not accepted, on the grounds that the concept had been already covered in the 4th paragraph of Article 6.6.1. He added that a typographical error in the 4th paragraph (failure to delete 'the') would also be corrected.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Norway, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the modified chapter.

The revised Chapter 6.6., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Thiermann recalled that this chapter had been thoroughly revised and adopted in May 2013 with a few pending points. He explained that the Code Commission had reviewed the chapter taking into consideration comments submitted by Member Countries and Member Country interventions at the 2013 General Session.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had revisited a Member Country suggestion to delete the reference to the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) guidelines and had decided to retain the guidelines as they are relevant to this chapter.

He added that the Code Commission had made several amendments to improve clarity and correct grammar.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United States of America, on behalf of the 29 Member Countries in the OIE Region of the Americas, stated that there was a need to distinguish antimicrobial agents that are important for human health from those that are important for animal use. In this regard, he recommended that the OIE use terminology that had been adopted by the WHO. The Delegate stated that the Region of the Americas was prepared to provide the relevant terminology and identify points in the *Code* that should be modified³².

³² Note by the OIE Headquarters: the OIE has adopted a list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance.

The Delegate of France, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, recalled the comments that had previously been provided to the OIE. He recommended that Article 6.9.4. point 3b be modified by replacing ‘discourage the advertising of’ with ‘not advertise’.

Dr Thiermann accepted the suggestion of the Delegate of France and agreed that the Commission would consider the information that the Delegate of the United States of America had offered to provide.

The revised Chapter 6.9., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

c) Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals (Chapter 6.10.)

Dr Thiermann explained to the Assembly that this chapter had been extensively revised by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in December 2011 and further revised several times taking account of comments from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had considered it preferable to use ‘microorganisms’ rather than ‘bacteria’ as antimicrobial drugs might be used against pathogens other than bacteria and the scope of the resistance problem goes beyond bacteria alone.

He then pointed out that the first paragraph of point 1 of Article 6.10.1. had been rearranged following a Member Country’s suggestion in order to more clearly highlight the points of emphasis.

Dr Thiermann explained that a Member Country’s comment suggesting the deletion of the last paragraph of point 5 of Article 6.10.1. had not been accepted because the *ad hoc* Group considered this information to be useful.

He also noted that the Code Commission had agreed with suggestions from Member Countries to modify the list of factors to be considered for release assessment (Article 6.10.2. point 3), e.g. addition of ‘entertainment’ animal category, clarification on the reference to sex of the animal, etc.

Dr Thiermann then explained the modifications made to the list of factors to be considered for exposure assessment (Article 6.10.2. point 4). The Code Commission agreed with Member Countries’ suggestions to remove the unnecessary words ‘or other exposure’ and to add the words ‘that have the capacity to become established in the animals, thus leading to contamination of foods of animal origin’.

Dr Thiermann also explained the amendments made to point 6 of Article 6.10.2. with regard to the factors to be considered for risk assessment. The Code Commission agreed to add ‘pregnant’ to the vulnerable human subpopulation and to amend the text on deaths to include ‘reduced life expectancy’ and ‘compared with deaths linked to sensitive organisms of the same species’.

He also noted that several modifications had been made in Article 6.10.3. for consistency with the corresponding texts in Article 6.10.2.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the modified chapter but recommended further modification of text in Article 6.10.1. In the first paragraph (Introduction) the Delegate proposed the following amended text:

‘Antimicrobial resistance is a naturally occurring phenomenon influenced by many factors. However, the main driving force for the selection of antimicrobial resistance is the use of antimicrobial agents in any environment, including human, animal and other usages.’

The Delegate of the Netherlands also noted that the *Code* chapter was not in line with the Codex Guidelines on risk analysis (CAC/GL77-2011). As this draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter also deals with risks to human health, it overlaps with the Codex guidelines on risk analysis and any inconsistency may lead to confusion. The Delegate recommended that the OIE and Codex better coordinate their work in this important area of mutual interest.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported the adoption of the chapter but requested that the Commission consider the comments previously submitted by his country, as these would improve clarity and consistency with the other texts on risk assessment in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Delegate of the United States of America further expressed some reservations about the proposal of the Delegate of the Netherlands and recommended that the proposed revised text be placed ‘under study’.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the modification proposed by the Delegate of the Netherlands was proposed for inclusion in Article 6.10.1. point 1 as a text ‘under study’. The second paragraph of Article 6.10.1. point 1 was proposed for amendment by the replacement of ‘may lead’ by ‘has led’. This modification was accepted.

The revised Chapter 6.10., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

271. **Animal welfare**

a) Animal welfare and broiler production systems (Chapter 7.10.)

Dr Thiermann recalled that this chapter had been adopted at the 81st General Session in 2013 and that at that time he had proposed to undertake further review with respect to the provision on the choice of broiler strain (point 2k of Article 7.10.4.) at the September 2013 meeting of the Code Commission. He explained that the Code Commission had re-examined the text taking into account the discussion at the 81st General Session and subsequent written comments received from Member Countries. The Code Commission added ‘growth rate’ in the first sentence of point 2k while deleting the second sentence.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had removed the sentence ‘Broilers in commercial flocks should be assessed for gait abnormalities’ from point 2 of Article 7.10.3. and introduced a similar generic wording to the opening text of Article 7.10.3., so that the recommendation applies to the entire article, rather than gait abnormalities only.

In addition, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended point 8b of Article 7.10.3. in response to suggestions from Member Countries, because the key point is deviation from the expected feed conversion rate in a certain situation. Both higher and lower rates of feed conversion than expected might indicate a welfare problem.

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

The Delegate of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, commented that in the text on the scope of the chapter, the words ‘these recommendations’ should be replaced by ‘this chapter’.

This point was supported by the Delegate of the United Kingdom on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU.

The Delegate of the United States of America welcomed the ongoing development of the chapter but raised concerns about the use of feed conversion ratio (FCR) as an indicator of welfare as this may vary for many reasons. He proposed that Article 7.10.3. point 8b be modified to read ‘unexpected changes in values may indicate welfare problems’.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, recommended modification of the text in Article 7.10.4. point 1k to make it consistent with other *Code* chapters on welfare in livestock production systems. He also recommended modifying the order of sentences in the first paragraph of Article 7.10.3. by moving the final sentence (‘Consideration should also be given...’) to immediately after the first sentence, to highlight the connection between these two points.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso, on behalf the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, supported the intervention made by the United Kingdom.

In response to these interventions, Dr Thiermann proposed to accept the recommendation of Burkina Faso on the scope of the chapter (Article 7.10.2. first sentence) and that of the United Kingdom on the order of sentences in the first paragraph of Article 7.10.3. He proposed to delete the sentence in Article 7.10.3. point 8b ‘Higher or lower values than expected may indicate welfare problems’ and undertook to give further consideration to the additional point raised by the Delegate of the United Kingdom.

The revised Chapter 7.10., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

b) Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.1.)

Dr Thiermann reported to the Assembly that, in response to a request from the AWWG, the OIE Headquarters had proposed new text for inclusion in Chapters 3.1., 3.2. and 3.3. to address expectations of Veterinary Services with respect to management of and preparedness for disasters which could impact on animal health and welfare.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended the text for improved clarity, following a Member Country suggestion.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Estonia, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the revised chapter.

The revised Chapter 3.1. was adopted unanimously.

c) Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had amended the text in Article 3.2.14. point 6 a) i) for improved clarity.

Dr Thiermann pointed out to the Assembly that a suggestion from Member Countries for referencing animal welfare in this chapter in various places had been referred to AWWG for further consideration.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised Chapter 3.2. was adopted unanimously.

d) Communication (Chapter 3.3.)

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had amended the text in this chapter in line with the amendments made to the above two chapters.

The revised Chapter 3.3. was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Thiermann recalled that following a Member Country's intervention at the 81st General Session pointing out the potentially conflicting surveillance requirements for historical freedom from African horse sickness (AHS) between point 2 and 5 of Article 12.1.2, the Code Commission had reviewed the revised text drafted by the *ad hoc* Group on AHS in collaboration with the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had not accepted a Member Country's proposal that Article 12.1.2. point 1 cover 'continental' historical freedom because historical freedom could only be demonstrated on a country-by-country basis.

He also noted that the Code Commission had added the words 'in accordance with Article 1.4.6.' to the end of Article 12.1.2.point 4 c i, following the advice from the *ad hoc* Group and the Scientific Commission.

Finally, Dr Thiermann clarified in response to a Member Country request that the provision for seasonal freedom from AHS had been deleted because the OIE process for official recognition of AHS freedom does not include seasonal freedom. However, he reiterated that, as described in the revised User's Guide, absence of specific provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* does not mean that the Veterinary Authority may not apply measures justified on the basis of an appropriate risk analysis.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Slovakia, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, expressed general support for adoption. With respect to Article 12.1.1., Points 2 and 3, the word 'case' should be italicised to make it clear that this term is defined in the glossary. With respect to point 2 of Article 12.1.2. on surveillance obligations in an AHS free country the Delegate noted the new text proposed, and therefore understood that Member Countries would be requested to include in their dossiers a justification for the surveillance that had been undertaken.

Dr Thiermann explained that the reference in points 2 and 3 to a case includes a suspected case. For this reason, the Commission did not propose to italicise the word.

The revised Chapter 12.1. was adopted unanimously.

273. Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.14.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had agreed with a Member Country's suggestion to add the words 'and should not be fed to pigs' to Article 8.14.3. point 1 b. He added that a Member Country comment to limit the prevention of raw food waste of animal origin at the farm level to 'being fed to pigs' had been rejected as being too narrow.

In addition, he noted that the Code Commission had agreed with the addition of the word 'current' before 'knowledge' in point 3 of Article 8.14.4. to harmonise it with similar requirements in other chapters (e.g. ASF and CSF) of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Finally, with respect to a Member Country's request for developing additional articles on country and zone freedom, Dr Thiermann recalled that the experts had been unable to develop such generic articles as the chapter covers all species of *Trichinella*. Having said that, he reiterated that as explained in the revised User's Guide, absence of such articles does not preclude Member Countries from developing their own case for population, zone or country freedom (or negligible risk status) for individual *Trichinella* species.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 8.14. was adopted unanimously.

274. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.12.)

Dr Thiermann reported to the Assembly that the *ad hoc* Group on Rift Valley fever (RVF) had extensively revised the chapter with the latest scientific evidence and the Scientific Commission had approved the *ad hoc* Group report. He noted that the majority of the extensive revisions had been made by the *ad hoc* Group and that the rationales for such revisions were described in detail in the report of the *ad hoc* Group.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had clarified in response to a Member Country request that the reference to ruminants in Article 8.12.1. point 2 does not include camelids. The Code Commission also did not accept a Member Country's proposal to include dromedary and bactrian camels in the definition of Rift Valley fever based on the *ad hoc* Group advice.

Dr Thiermann noted that recommendations for the importation of fresh meat and meat products from ruminants from infected countries or zones were moved and placed after Article 8.12.12. to align with the structure of other disease specific chapters.

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

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, opposed the adoption of the chapter as proposed as he considered that camels play a significant epidemiological role in relation to Rift Valley fever (RVF). Removing camels from the definition would mean that the disease was not notifiable in camels. The Delegate noted that detailed comments on this chapter had been sent to the OIE.

The Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, presented three comments on the chapter. In Article 8.12.1., Africa supported the comment of the Delegate of Austria and recommended the addition of camelids in Article 8.12.1. point 6. In Article 8.12.3., the statement beginning 'No country or zone which has

experienced an epizootic of RVF can ever be considered free from RVFV infection’ should be deleted as it was dogmatic and added nothing to the conditions specified. In Article 8.12.8., the Delegate recommended the addition of ‘AND’ between points 1 and 2, as present between points 2 and 3.

The Delegate of Austria, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the deletion of the sentence in Article 8.12.3. as proposed by the Delegate of Swaziland.

In response to the interventions of Delegates, Dr Thiermann recommended that the modification of the case definition be limited to the dromedary camel, as there was no evidence that the Bactrian camel or New World camelidae was relevant to the epidemiology of RVF. Dr Thiermann proposed to amend Article 8.12.1. point 6 to read: ‘For the purpose of this chapter, ‘ruminants’ includes dromedary camels.’

Dr Thiermann explained that, for editorial reasons, it was not appropriate to add the word ‘AND’, as proposed by the Delegate of Swaziland.

Acknowledging the comments of the countries of Africa and Europe regarding countries that have experienced an epizootic of RVF, Dr Thiermann proposed to delete the sentence after point 2b of Article 8.12.3. and proposed to insert in point 2a ‘for a minimum of ten years’ after ‘in the country or zone’.

Dr Bruckner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, supported Dr Thiermann’s proposal.

The revised Chapter 8.12., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

275. **Tularemia (Chapter 8.15.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had endorsed the OIE Headquarters suggestion for minor reformatting of Article 8.15.3.

Dr Thiermann presented the chapter to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, called for a more detailed revision of the chapter, including a case definition and renaming of the chapter to ‘Infection with *Francisella tularensis*’. In general, the OIE Member Countries of Europe considered that it was preferable to make an in-depth review of disease specific chapters that have not been amended for some time, rather than make small, *ad hoc* revisions relating to language issues.

Dr Thiermann replied that the Code Commission would try to follow this recommendation, subject to the agreement of the World Assembly to its proposed work programme and availability of time during the next meeting of the Commission.

The revised Chapter 8.15. was adopted unanimously.

276. **Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* (Chapter 8.X.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that a significant number of Member Country comments had been received since the beginning of the revision of this chapter in 2011 and that comments received after the last circulation had been addressed by the Code Commission in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis. He emphasised that the report of the Scientific Commission and associated *ad hoc* Group’s report provide the rationales for the amendments.

Dr Thiermann explained that a Member Country request to keep the three *Brucella* species in separate chapters had not been accepted because from the very beginning of this work the majority of Member Countries had been in favour of combining the three species in one chapter.

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had included caribou in the definition of ‘animal’ for the purpose of this chapter, on the basis of a convincing argument from a Member Country.

He also noted that the Code Commission had endorsed the rationale given by a Member Country to include an article on historical freedom.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had agreed with a Member Country’s suggestion to reorder the points of Articles 8.X.3. through 8.X.8. and 8.X.11. with respect to the requirements to qualify for free status.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the deletion of Article 8.X.21. reflected the fact that the entire digestive tract is recognised as a safe commodity.

Dr Thiermann added that several other amendments had been made to the text for greater clarity and correct syntax.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly noting that upon the adoption of this chapter, the existing chapters on brucellosis by host species except *B. ovis* (Chapter 14.7.) would be deleted.

The Delegate of the United States of America, on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, recognised the work completed by the Code Commission and noted that the earlier recommendations of Delegates had been addressed. However, the revised chapter was very generic. The Delegate offered to provide some text amendments to address this, for consideration by the Commission at its meeting in September 2014.

The Delegate of France, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, commended the Commission for its work and asked that comments previously provided by Europe be considered at the meeting of the Commission in September 2014.

The Delegate of Australia commented that some clarity has been lost with the amalgamation of the 3 previous chapters on infection with *Brucella* species. He offered to provide comments to address this problem.

Dr Bruckner commented that the approach used for brucellosis would serve as a model for the future revision of the *Code* chapter on tuberculosis. He also commented that recommendations on the establishment of disease free compartments would not be contemplated at this time.

The revised Chapter 8.X. was adopted unanimously.

277. Infection with avian influenza viruses (Chapter 10.4.)

Dr Thiermann outlined the revisions proposed to the detailed procedures for virus inactivation in several poultry products, which had long remained as [under study]. He emphasised that the proposed inactivation procedures are drawn from practices which are already successfully applied by several Member Countries and that they had been reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

With respect to Article 10.4.21. on virus inactivation in poultry products for animal feed and other agricultural products, Dr Thiermann explained that ‘pasteurisation’ was deleted because this term is normally used in reference to food products. He also noted that ‘moist’ was added before ‘heat’ in the same point.

Dr Thiermann also mentioned that several amendments had been introduced for harmonisation with other disease chapters, greater clarity and correct syntax.

Dr Thiermann reported that a Member Country’s request to revert to the term ‘notifiable avian influenza’ was not accepted as the World Assembly had taken the decision to delete this term in May 2013.

Finally, Dr Thiermann informed the Assembly that a Member Country’s suggestion to increase the number of recognised haemagglutinin and neuraminidase subtypes in Article 10.4.33. had been referred to the Biological Standards Commission for review and advice.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Chile proposed to add the same text to Article 10.4.21 paragraph 2 as that in Article 10.4.22. point 2d, i.e. ‘any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate avian influenza virus’. The Delegate also requested that the Commission address an inconsistency in the Spanish version of the footnotes to Figures 1 and 2.

The Delegate of South Africa commented that the text in Articles 10.4.6. and 10.4.7 lacked the word ‘attached’ and that the new text should read ‘should be attached’.

Dr Thiermann agreed to incorporate the points that had been identified by the Delegates of Chile and South Africa.

The revised Chapter 10.4., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

278. Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.9.)

Dr Thiermann explained that Articles on the procedures for virus inactivation in poultry products were aligned with comparable articles in Chapter 10.4.

He also noted that several amendments had been introduced for harmonisation with other disease chapters, greater clarity and correct syntax.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Chile recommended the addition of a new point 2b in Article 10.9.16. with the same text as that agreed for Article 10.9.17. point 2d, i.e. ‘any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate NDV’.

Dr Thiermann accepted the recommendation of the Delegate of Chile.

The revised Chapter 10.9., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

279. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapters 11.8. and 1.6.)

Dr Thiermann recalled that a Member Country had requested that the OIE consider development of a procedure for endorsing a national official control programme for CBPP at the 81st General Session in 2013, and the Scientific Commission had undertaken this task. He noted that the Code Commission had reviewed the new Article 11.8.18. and associated Article 1.6.X.

Dr Thiermann also explained that the Code Commission had replaced the word ‘cattle’ with ‘bovids’ (which includes cattle and yaks) in response to a Member Country’s request for clarification of the list of susceptible species, and had aligned the remainder of the chapter with this nomenclature.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had made further amendments to the text for correct syntax and grammar, and improved clarity.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Namibia, on behalf of the 52 OIE Member Countries of Africa, supported adoption of the revised chapters.

The revised Chapters 11.8. and 1.6. were adopted unanimously.

280. Diseases of horses

a) High health status horse subpopulation (draft Chapter 4.X.)

Dr Thiermann explained that an *ad hoc* Group on International Movement of Horses for Equestrian Sport had drafted a chapter on general principles for the international movement of competition horses in April 2013 and that the draft new chapter was circulated after the review of the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission in September 2013.

He reported to the Assembly that the Code Commission had received extensive comments on this draft chapter, including significant contradictory positions. The Code Commission sought advice from the Scientific Commission which believed that the most significant comments could be addressed sufficiently to propose this chapter covering the key concepts for adoption in May 2014.

Dr Thiermann stressed that both Commissions had reiterated that the purpose of this chapter is to set the framework without giving implementation details. He further clarified that these details would be developed in the future, either as guidelines or *Terrestrial Code* chapters, as appropriate. He again emphasised that the intention is to focus this chapter on key principles and concepts that Member Countries can adopt as a platform to guide future development.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had added ‘certified by the Veterinary Authorities’ in the opening paragraph of Article 4.X.1. to clarify the Veterinary Authorities’ role in certification of the health status of this subpopulation.

He also noted that the second paragraph of Article 4.X.1. was modified in response to Member Countries’ suggestions. The Code Commission noted that the responsibility for creation and maintenance of a functional separation rests with the Member Country, and further details should be developed within the international biosecurity plan.

Dr Thiermann then explained that the amendment made to Article 4.X.2. point 3a clarifies the record requirements. He added that a new cross reference to Chapter 5.2. clarifies the purposes of certification.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had clarified Article 4.X.2. point 3b to indicate that the international biosecurity plan referenced in this point is expected to be approved by the importing and exporting Veterinary Authorities in accordance with the relevant OIE recommendations.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had amended the first paragraph of Article 4.X.3. because it had agreed with a Member Country's argument that the biosecurity of importing countries needs to be protected by a system independent of private veterinarians employed by, and subject to strong pressures from, horse owners. He added that the phrase 'and for their return to their country of origin' had been also accepted as relevant.

With respect to the second paragraph of Article 4.X.3., Dr Thiermann clarified that 'biosecurity guidelines' referred to in this paragraph are not the same as the 'international Biosecurity Plan' referred to in Article 4.X.2. point 3b. He explained that the Code Commission had amended the last paragraph of Article 4.X.3. to emphasise this point.

Finally, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission's decisions on whether accepting or rejecting suggestions from Member Countries on various other texts were described in detail in the February 2014 report.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia, on behalf of the Quads³³ countries advised that he had one comment and one request for an item of work for the Commission. The draft chapter provides the framework and principles of the approach without giving details on implementation. The countries support this initiative and the adoption of the chapter as proposed. However, the countries anticipated challenges with the development of the implementation details: firstly, in determining which diseases will be the subject of biosecurity measures within the framework, given that countries have more diseases of concern, with respect to the international movement of horses, than those currently proposed by the *ad hoc* Group for active management.

The Delegate saw the need for *Terrestrial Code* chapters for all the disease agents that would require biosecurity measures, or agreement on harmonisation would be even more of a challenge. In particular, the countries noted that there is currently no chapter on surra in the *Code* and requested that this be developed as a priority.

The Delegate expressed a need for the framework to be very clear regarding the criteria and biosecurity measures for entry, departure and re-entry to or from the subpopulation. Any contact with horses that were not within the qualified subpopulation must invoke formal re-entry procedures.

³³ Quads: Quadrilateral (United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)

The Delegate of Japan commented that his country supported the concept of high health status horse subpopulation and agreed with the comments of the Delegate of Australia. He recommended careful discussion when introducing new concepts into the *Terrestrial Code*. He noted that the normal cycle for the adoption of new texts in the *Terrestrial Code* is two years and that this is a particularly sensitive matter for some countries. As the proposed chapter is not an emergency, the Delegate stated that his country preferred to determine detailed biosecurity guidelines before adopting the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Ireland, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, congratulated the Commission on this work and encouraged the ongoing work of the *ad hoc* Group and the equine industry. The Delegate was confident that the concept, which is in line with the concept of compartmentalisation described in Chapter 4.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*, would greatly facilitate the temporary international movement of competition horses, to the benefit of the horse industry and Member Countries. Nevertheless, Europe has some ongoing concerns, particularly the absence of standards and guidelines on the implementation of the concept. The Delegate summarised the recommendations that had been provided to the Commission as follows:

- The establishment of an accepted abbreviation (such as HHS) for ease of reference;
- Inclusion of the words ‘high level’ before ‘equestrian competitions’ in Article 4.X.1, first paragraph;
- Additional text regarding the exclusion of horses used for reproduction from the subpopulation;
- Better definition of the requirements for entry into the subpopulation, taking into account the status of countries, as well as regions, where the horse has been temporarily resident;
- Access by Veterinary Authorities to the international database is a prerequisite;
- The passport is not a substitute for a veterinary health certificate, which must always accompany a horse moving internationally.

The Delegate of Indonesia commented with respect to Article 4.X.2, point 2a (on identification), that the word ‘preferably’ should be removed. He considered that the use of a microchip gave a better assurance of the identification and traceability of a horse.

The Delegate of Brazil, on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries in the Americas, congratulated the Commission and offered continued support from the region for this important work. He reminded Delegates that there is increasing international movement of equines for competition and that these horses have a very high level of health and veterinary supervision. He noted that the equestrian Olympic events will be held in Brazil in 2016. The Delegate urged Veterinary Authorities to carefully consider the application of appropriate health measures for the movement of high health horses and encouraged Delegates to support the further development of the chapter.

Dr Thiermann summarised that the adoption of this chapter, which sets out the key principles, is a first step in the development of standards and recommendations in relation to high health horses, based on the compartmentalisation concept. The OIE is approaching this issue in the same way that it approached animal welfare standards. Dr Thiermann noted that Delegates had made many valuable comments and that these would all be given careful consideration by the *ad hoc* Group and the Code Commission.

The new draft Chapter 4.X. was adopted unanimously.

b) Infection with equid herpesvirus 1 (equine rhinopneumonitis) (Chapter 12.8.)

Dr Thiermann outlined that as a consequence of the removal of equid herpesvirus type 4 (EHV-4) from Article 1.2.3. (OIE listed diseases) at the 81st General Session, the Code Commission had amended the title of this chapter and deleted all references to EHV-4. He noted that the revised title is now in line with the nomenclature of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

He also noted that the Code Commission had deleted ‘and during the 21 days prior to shipment’ in Article 12.8.2. point 1 since a clinical presentation such as nasal discharge, which is one of the clinical signs of EHV-1, is a common non-specific clinical sign for several equine diseases and could therefore make it difficult to certify this clause if this phrase were retained.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the chapter and asked the Commission to consider the comments that the EU had provided previously. The Delegate also called for a detailed review of Chapter 12.8.

The President of the OIE commented that the review requested by the Delegate would be considered by the Commission when developing its future work programme.

The revised Chapter 12.8. was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Thiermann recalled that a Member Country had requested clarification whether Article 12.9.5., which was adopted at the 2013 General Session, refers to only *in vivo* derived embryos, *in vitro* derived or both. Based on an expert’s advice, the Code Commission clarified that this article refers only to *in vivo* derived embryos.

He also added that the Code Commission had examined and revised the use of the acronym EVA throughout the chapter and removed the acronym EAV to avoid confusion.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 12.9. was adopted unanimously.

281. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Chapter 14.8.)

Dr Thiermann informed the Assembly that the Code Commission had added a new clause to Article 14.8.3.point 2b ii in response to a Member Country’s suggestion for consistency and full respect of the *Terrestrial Code* when applying for freedom status.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had accepted a suggestion from Member Countries to add a new point 3 to Articles 14.8.14. and 14.8.15. to address male donor requirements.

He also noted a suggestion from Member Countries to amend Article 14.8.26. on procedures for inactivation of PPRV in casings of sheep and goats to more accurately incorporate recent scientific data, and improve clarity.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 14.8. was adopted unanimously.

282. Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry (Chapter 6.5.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had reviewed Chapter 6.5. and made amendments to Articles 6.5.7., 6.5.8. and 6.5.9. to take into account the point that this chapter is intended primarily for disease control rather than trade.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Sweden, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the modified chapter and asked the Commission to consider the EU comments that have been sent in writing prior to this General Session at its meeting in September 2014.

The revised Chapter 6.5. was adopted unanimously.

283. General recommendations on disinfection and disinsectisation (Chapter 4.13.)

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to a Member Country's observation on the inconsistent use of the terms 'disinsection', 'disinsectisation' and 'disinfestation' in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission had recognised each of these terms has a specific meaning and requested the International Trade Department of the OIE to review where each of these terms is used and to provide recommendations for appropriate amendments for the Code Commission to consider at its September 2014 meeting. The Code Commission recognised that the title of Chapter 4.13. should be 'disinsection' rather than 'disinsectisation', as this is the term used by WHO, IATA and numerous other organisations.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 4.13. was adopted unanimously.

284. Update of the Code Commission work programme

Dr Thiermann drew Delegates' attention to the ongoing work of the Code Commission. He noted several new and revised *Terrestrial Code* chapters had been circulated for Member Country review after the Commission's February 2014 meeting. Chapters circulated to Member Countries include animal welfare and dairy cattle production system, porcine cysticercosis and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. He gratefully acknowledged the active participation of Member Countries in the OIE standard-setting process and encouraged all Delegates to increase their participation by sending 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*. He informed the Assembly that the Code Commission had noted the latest extensive comments received from Member Countries on the revision of the FMD chapter proposed by the Scientific Commission. He advised that the Code Commission would undertake a complete review in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and include the revised chapter as part of the Code Commission's September 2014 report with a view to presenting the revised chapter for adoption at the General Session in 2015.

The Code Commission will also, review the work of harmonising the three vector-borne disease chapters (bluetongue, epizootic hemorrhagic disease and African horse sickness) in collaboration with the Scientific Commission.

In addition, the Code Commission would undertake to review the revised chapters on African swine fever and tuberculosis once the Scientific Commission endorses the revisions proposed by the respective *ad hoc* Groups.

With respect to the Code Commission's work on animal welfare, Dr Thiermann noted that several Member Country comments on Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. had been referred to the AWWG for their review at their regular meeting in June 2014 and that the Code Commission would revisit these chapters at the September 2014 meeting, taking into consideration the advice provided by the AWWG. Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission expects to review the report of the recently convened *ad hoc* Group on disaster management in September 2014.

Finally, Dr Thiermann advised Member Countries that the collaboration between the OIE and the CCA is working well. However it is difficult to reconcile opposing positions presented by the same Member Country to the two organisations. He therefore encouraged Member Countries to improve their internal coordination and use of their national focal points for animal production food safety to avoid these situations.

The Delegate of France, on behalf of of the 28 European Union Member States, supported the proposal of the Dr Thiermann. He called for ongoing efforts to coordinate the work of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. He noted that the EU supported the proposed work programme of the Code Commission and briefly summarised the EU's recommendations on the work programme, as follows: the definition of safe commodities and modified stamping-out policy; work to harmonise the heat treatment recommendations for meat in several disease specific chapters, as well as work on surveillance recommendations in the scrapie chapter. Furthermore, the EU encouraged the OIE to pursue work on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine in line with the One Health concept, and to carry out new work on a standard concerning the welfare of working equine and bovine animals.

285. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

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

286. 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 Livestock Research Institute

287. The Deputy Director General of Research of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Dr Suzanne Bertrand, began her presentation by announcing that ILRI had recently reviewed its strategy, strengthening the link between its research and global trends. In relation to this, she provided the Assembly with a description and forecast of global trends in animal agriculture until the year 2050. She claimed that unprecedented rising demand for livestock commodities will continue to increase over the next five decades, and that there is a significant change in where and how most commodities are produced, sold and consumed.

288. To demonstrate that the gains in meat consumption in developing countries are outpacing those of developed countries, Dr Bertrand presented a graph that testified to this strong increase in consumption per million metric tonnes. She aired her concern that certain continents will not be able to produce meat of the highest quality for consumption, and that the increasing proximity of urban and rural areas will consequentially influence livestock production and the spread of zoonoses.
289. Moreover, she stated that by 2050, a further 1 billion tonnes of cereals will be required for human consumption, in addition to 1 billion tonnes of dairy products and 460 million tonnes of meat each year.
290. In terms of the growth trajectories, Dr Bertrand presented three different scenarios in which ILRI is currently engaged. Firstly, she introduced ‘strong growth’ trajectories, which correspond to intensified and increased growth oriented towards the market, often requiring the transformation of smallholder systems. Dr Bertrand provided the example of ruminant and milk production systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and India, and additionally stressed the importance of food safety. Secondly, she translated ‘fragile growth’ as being a process in which remoteness, marginal land resources or agro-climatic vulnerability restricts intensification. She clarified that this growth trajectory is the main focus for ILRI. In addition, she pointed out that ILRI is currently working on the following five diseases: African swine fever, peste des petits ruminants, East Coast fever, Rift Valley fever and trypanosomiasis. Lastly, ‘high growth with externalities’ was defined as a byproduct of intensified livestock systems with diverse challenges, including the environment and human health. These three types of growth and their corresponding sectors, issues and opportunities were outlined and illustrated in a table.
291. Dr Bertrand highlighted that animal diseases are a key constraint in Africa and furthermore asserted that if removed, animal productivity would increase greatly. She also stated that as livestock systems intensify in developing countries, diseases may equally increase. The annual mortality rate of African livestock in young cattle was indicated as being 22% and 6% in adult cattle. For young sheep and goats, the rate was 28% compared with 11% in adult sheep and goats; young poultry was at 70% and adult poultry at 30%. She reiterated the need to work in partnership to address these animal diseases and their impact on productivity in Africa.
292. To emphasise the dangers of diseases, Dr Bertrand affirmed that zoonotic diseases kill 2.2 million people and sicken 2.4 billion people. In addition, she presented the number of annual deaths from all zoonoses and the annual deaths from single-agent zoonoses, with almost all losses being in developing countries. She underlined that these were mostly preventable diseases and that action should be taken promptly.
293. The Assembly was next informed of ILRI’s innovations and incentives, in addition to its plea to institutions to address food safety in the context of markets, an area in which technologies need to be developed and tested. Dr Bertrand also pointed out the importance of training, product branding and certifying informal actors, including women, as well as developing local capacity. She provided information on a project conducted in Vietnam, which used novel lateral flow assays for cysticercosis in markets, and how market and gender factors impacted project results.
294. As an example of the threats to industry, Dr Bertrand informed the Assembly that ILRI had commenced working on African swine fever more than 17 years ago prior to its spread from Africa to Europe. She described how African swine fever had migrated to Belarus, Poland and Lithuania, threatening the global pig industry, which is reportedly worth 150 billion USD. She further insisted on the need to address the disease at its geographical source in order to limit further spread and announced that ILRI is tackling this issue in collaboration with Spain and the United Kingdom.

295. With reference to the +2°C increase in the global surface temperature, she stated that climate change has serious impacts on disease vectors. Dr Bertrand concluded that ILRI is studying the relationship between vectors and hosts, and announced that ILRI is determined to continue its work in this area.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

296. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 11 to 12 September 2013 and from 19 to 20 February 2014, were presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Commission (Docs 82 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, and the experts from the Enlarged Bureau Group (EBG) Dr Yeun-Kyung Shin, Dr Moritz Klemm and Dr Mehdi El Harrak, 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.
297. **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 the EBG had been held prior to each Commission meeting, and the Commission reviewed the recommendations of these EBG meetings. In March 2014, 20 chapters and the glossary 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 reminded the Delegates that the Commission had proposed to include a table that determines the fitness of purpose for validated diagnostic tests described in each new or updated *Terrestrial Manual* chapter. In this context, the concept of prescribed and alternative tests would have limited value from a scientific point of view.

Three chapters and eight guidelines that had been sent for second-round comment were proposed for adoption without further circulation. Prof. Caporale reiterated the Commission's proposal that once adopted by the Assembly the seven validation guidelines be put in Part 3 of the *Terrestrial Manual* in the online version only with hyperlinks from the chapter to the appropriate guideline. Printed versions of these guidelines could be provided upon request only.

One chapter that had received no Member Country comments was proposed for adoption without further circulation.

Prof. Caporale presented these revised chapters to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE web site.

298. OIE Reference Centres

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

Collaborating Centres

- *Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics*: Medical Research Council (MRC), University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR), Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM.
- *Laboratory Biorisk Management*: Sandia National Laboratories, International Biological Threat Reduction Program, Albuquerque, New Mexico, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Reference Laboratories

- *Avian chlamydiosis* (*Chlamydia psittaci*): Laboratory for Immunology and Animal Biotechnology, Ghent University, Ghent, BELGIUM.
- *Peste des petits ruminants*: National Diagnostic Center for Exotic Animal Diseases, China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center, Qingdao, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF).
- *Leishmaniasis*: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSi), National Reference Centre for Leishmaniasis (C.Re.Na.L.), Palermo, ITALY.
- *Babesiosis*: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSi), National Reference Centre for *Anaplasma*, *Babesia*, *Rickettsia*, *Theileria* (C.R.A.Ba.R.T.), Palermo, ITALY.
- *Theileriosis*: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSi), National Reference Centre for *Anaplasma*, *Babesia*, *Rickettsia*, *Theileria* (C.R.A.Ba.R.T.), Palermo, ITALY.
- *Rabies*: Centro Nacional de Servicios de Diagnóstico en Salud Animal, Tecámac, Estado de Mexico, MEXICO.

The OIE Collaborating Centre for Cell Cultures at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna "Bruno Ubertini" (IZSLER), Brescia, Italy, had changed its title and remit to OIE *Collaborating Centre for a Veterinary Biologicals Biobank*.

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 seven new experts were presented by Prof. Caporale to the Assembly for information. These experts had been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Prof. Caporale recommended that the change in a designated expert at an OIE Reference Laboratory should be viewed as an opportunity to expand the access to competencies and expertise through the establishment of a database of former designated experts who might be available to serve the OIE in other capacities.

Annual reports were received from 197 out of 199 Reference Laboratories and from 42 out of 43 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. The new web-based annual report template had been used by the Reference Laboratories for the first time. The new template for the Collaborating Centre reports remained an Office document, but for the 2014 reports, a web-based tool would be available. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission (p. 6). All annual reports would shortly be made available online.

As part of the report, the OIE Reference Laboratories had been asked if they had an internationally recognised quality management system or were in the process of implementing one. Prof. Caporale emphasised the importance of an appropriate laboratory quality management system; it is difficult for the OIE to continue to maintain the designation of an OIE Reference Laboratory that is not quality assured to an appropriate international standard.

Prof. Caporale informed the Assembly that the Commission had developed a structured approach to monitoring Reference Centres so that non-reporting, under-performance or other problematic issues could be dealt with in a fair, timely and coherent manner. This approach could include missions to the Reference Centres. The proposed procedure prepared by the Biological Standards Commission is based on Terms of Reference (see Annex 4 of Doc. 82 SG/12/CS2 B).

Prof. Caporale also indicated that the Biological Standards Commission could serve as a resource in support of the capacity building efforts of the OIE, including through its potential involvement in the PVS laboratory activities.

Finally Prof. Caporale reminded the Assembly that the Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres would be held in Seoul, Korea (Rep. of) from 14 to 16 October 2014.

299. **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 Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories (see Annex 3 of Doc. 82 SG/12/CS2 A).
- b) *ad hoc* Group on High Throughput Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS, BCG) (see Annex 5 of Doc. 82 SG/12/CS2 B).
- c) *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids: the Commission had identified the need to reconvene this *ad hoc* Group to: identify the priority diseases of camelids that the Biological Standards Commission should consider; provide information on the diagnostic test methods that have been validated and are recommended for the priority diseases, and on the international standard reagents and vaccines that are available; provide information on the spread and impact of brucellosis in camelids worldwide; and provide an update on the current disease situation and the epidemiology of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) with regard to camelids in affected regions (as the Group met in April 2014, the report has not yet been reviewed by the Commission).

300. **Proposed *ad hoc* Groups**

In light of the importance of the topic, the *ad hoc* Group on HTS, BCG would be reconvened before the next meeting of the Commission in September 2014, if needed.

301. International standardisation/harmonisation

a) Diagnostic tests

Following proposals that had been received from the experts updating the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters, the Commission proposed three amendments to the list of prescribed tests for international trade: to add virus neutralisation as a prescribed test for bluetongue; to add polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as a prescribed test for bovine babesiosis; and to remove the complement fixation text as a prescribed test for contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

b) Standardisation programme

The OIE Collaborating Centre for Cell Cultures in Brescia, Italy had extended its remit and title to OIE Collaborating Centre for a Veterinary Biologicals Biobank. Its aim is to collect information from the OIE Reference Centres on what reference materials they produce and supply. The ultimate aim would be to create a “biobank” of correctly identified, quantified and stored materials. This biobank would assist the Commission to expand its standardisation programme to evaluate and adopt more of the reference materials that OIE Reference Laboratories are mandated to develop.

In light of this development and in preparation for the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres in Korea (Rep. of), a questionnaire survey would be carried out by this Collaborating Centre to gather information on the current availability of biological resources, including reference reagents.

c) OIE Register of diagnostic tests

Prof. Caporale informed the Assembly that the evaluation of the dossier on “Biocheck - Newcastle Disease Virus antibody detection ELISA” had been completed. Based on the final report from the expert evaluation panel, the Commission provided a favourable opinion for the inclusion in the OIE register of this diagnostic kit as fit to detect Newcastle Disease Virus specific IgG antibodies in chicken sera for the following purposes: 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/flock); 2. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination); 3. To monitor infection or disease in unvaccinated populations; 4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/flock health schemes/disease control). This kit was proposed for adoption by the Assembly.

Prof. Caporale reminded the Assembly that according to the procedure, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. One diagnostic kit (Bio-Rad TeSeE™ Western Blot) had reached the end of the 5-year term and the Commission had supervised its renewal. In accordance with protocol, the kit manufacturers had been contacted to indicate whether they wished to maintain the same purposes for which their kit had been certified as validated or to add new purposes. The OIE experts for the diseases targeted by the kits had also been contacted and asked their opinion on the need for a new evaluation of the purposes for which the kits had been certified as validated. Based on this information, the Commission decided to propose to the vote of the Assembly to renew the registration of the kit in the OIE register for the same purposes and for 5 additional years.

302. Liaison with other Commissions

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission.

303. Update on OFFLU

OFFLU – the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza – had made a few changes to its Steering and Executive Committees. The OFFLU swine influenza virus group paper entitled: Review of influenza A virus in swine worldwide, was published in the journal *Zoonoses and Public Health*. The LAMP (loop-mediated isothermal amplification) project funded by the OIE under OFFLU technical activities was completed and its final report was submitted. OFFLU organised a 3-day technical meeting in December 2013 in Beijing, China (People’s Rep. of) to update the recommendations and develop new guidance on vaccines and vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) from lessons learnt over the past 6 years. OFFLU carried out its second ring trial in 2013. Twenty laboratories from 19 different countries, including nine OIE/FAO Reference Centres and 11 national/regional laboratories, participated in this exercise. The results of the ring trial showed that there is a substantial improvement in the accurate detection of influenza virus A by laboratories, but some national/regional labs face challenges in the subtyping and sequence analysis. OFFLU in collaboration with STAR-IDAZ³⁴ organised a meeting at OIE Headquarters in April 2014 to develop a 10-year vision for global animal influenza research needs.

304. New diagnostic technologies and technology platforms

Prof. Caporale informed the Assembly of the importance of new diagnostic technologies and technology platforms. In preparation for the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres in Korea (Rep. of), a questionnaire survey would be carried out to ascertain the state-of-the-arts of these technologies within the OIE Reference Laboratory network. The eventual aim would be to have a recommendation outlining the future OIE role and policy on HTS, BCG.

305. The President of the OIE thanked Prof. Caporale for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

306. The Delegate of Poland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, commended the Biological Standards Commission for its essential work and continued efforts to modernise and update the *Terrestrial Manual*, and offered to continue to participate in the standard-setting process and provide all technical support needed.

He also mentioned that the EU supported the adoption of all the proposed *Terrestrial Manual* chapters and guidelines.

The EU appreciated that the concept of classifying pathogens in risk groups according to laboratory biocontainment levels was retained in Chapter 1.1.3. *Biosafety and biosecurity in the veterinary microbiology laboratory and animal facilities*.

³⁴ STAR-IDAZ: Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses

The Delegate added that the EU encouraged the OIE to make draft versions of new and updated *Terrestrial Manual* chapters publicly available on its website, whenever these are circulated to Member Countries for comment.

Finally, complimenting the OIE for organising the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, the Delegate noted that the EU will support the Conference financially.

307. The Delegate of Sudan thanked Prof. Caporale and the Commission for the work carried and enquired about the role of camelids in PPR. He went on to mention the importance of countries having access to quality vaccines produced in line with international standards. Sudan was seeking to increase its national vaccine production capacity and requested the OIE to facilitate access to appropriate technology at the national and international levels.
308. The Delegate of Kenya, in reference to the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids, noted the existence of another international expert group working on camelid diseases and encouraged the OIE to ensure coordination between the two groups.
309. The Delegate of Mexico expressed appreciation to Prof. Caporale and the Commission and indicated satisfaction that an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies in his country would be proposed for adoption at this General Session. This laboratory would closely cooperate with the OIE in the future.
310. In response to the EU comment on chapter 1.1.3, Prof. Caporale noted that there was a global move away from a system of preclassification of pathogens to a risk assessment approach. While recognising that classification schemes provide precise guidance, they might, for specific pathogens, impose biosecurity requirements that are too restrictive in countries where the diseases caused by such pathogens are endemic. He reassured the Delegates that the Commission would try to propose a balanced approach to Member Countries.
311. In response to the Delegate of Sudan regarding PPR, Prof. Caporale mentioned that PPR had not been listed by the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids and that he was not in a position to comment on any potential role played by camelids with respect to PPR given the absence of scientific information.
312. The President of the OIE noted that given the OIE priority to address PPR control and eradication, it would be appropriate to determine what role if any is played by camelids.
313. Regarding the request from the EU on making draft *Terrestrial Manual* chapters publicly available, the Director General reminded the Assembly that all draft texts for OIE Standards are available on the Delegates' website. It is up to the Delegates to decide on wider access using their own personal access code to the Delegates' website. He nevertheless proposed to add this request for discussion at the next meetings of the Biological Standards Commission and the Council.
314. On the proposal to move away from the concept of prescribed and alternative tests, the Director General reminded the Delegates that such changes would need to be discussed by the relevant Specialist Commissions and the Council before being formally proposed for adoption on the basis of a detailed and substantiated note to be prepared by the OIE Biological Standards Commission.
315. Finally, the Director General reminded the Delegates that, by tacit internal convention at the OIE, only texts adopted by the Assembly and found in the *Codes* and *Manuals* were referred to as 'standards', while 'guidelines' and 'recommendations' were used for other texts published by the OIE Headquarters.
316. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Adoption of the new or revised texts for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

317. 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. 29
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE

318. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 41
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for Terrestrial Animals

319. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 41 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 41 at the end of this report.

≡ THURSDAY 29 MAY 2014 ≡

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Current situation on events and trends in the animal health world-wide
(Doc. 82 SG/2)

320. Dr Paula Cáceres, Acting Head of the Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the current events and trends in the animal health situation world-wide. She stated that first she would begin with a general assessment of notification by OIE Member and non-Member countries/territories. She would then present the global situation regarding several diseases, infections and infestations that were of general interest, namely: infection with rabies virus, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, infection with avian influenza viruses, infection with peste des petits ruminants virus, infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus. Finally she would review the animal health situation regarding two emerging diseases, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus.

321. Quantitative and qualitative trends in countries' reporting to the OIE

Dr Cáceres presented in the first phase of her presentation a general assessment about countries' notification to the OIE from Member and non-member Countries/Territories.

322. Dr Cáceres commented that first the quantitative trend was analysed, indicating that up to 2011, countries had sent to the OIE information for terrestrial animals and information for aquatic animals in a single six-monthly report. She recalled that in 2012, WAHIS introduced a separation between the reports for terrestrial animals and the reports for aquatic animals. These reports were sent by its Member Countries/Territories and also by several non-Member countries/territories wishing to contribute to the sharing of world animal health information. She underlined that the number had increased between the first semester of 2006 (168) and the second semester of 2013 (178).

Dr Cáceres indicated the number of countries/territories (Members and non-Members) that had sent information on diseases of terrestrial and aquatic animals between 2006 and 2013 as well as the percentage of Member Countries/Territories which had submitted the reports. She highlighted that the percentage had increased between 2006 and the first semester of 2010, both for terrestrial animal diseases, and for diseases of aquatic animals. She added that for the year 2006, the percentage of Member Countries/Territories that had

provided six-monthly information had been 90% for terrestrial animals and 62% for aquatic animals and for 2010, these percentages had reached 98% for terrestrial animals and 76% for aquatic animals. Dr Cáceres indicated that these percentages had been slightly lower for 2011 and 2012 and markedly lower for 2013, due to the frequently observed delay in reporting by some countries/territories that had sent their six-monthly reports months or even years after the end of the semester in question. She added that the launch of the second version of WAHIS in 2012 might also have had a destabilising effect and caused a delay in the submission of six-monthly reports. Finally she said that it should be noted that several non-Member countries/territories had sent six-monthly reports on a regular basis between 2006 and 2013, their number being between 1% and 7% of the number of Member Countries/Territories.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that the OIE Animal Health Information Department maintained contact with countries, through their national Delegates and Focal Points, to encourage them to keep notifying information. There was therefore every reason to expect that the percentage of countries/territories submitting six-monthly information to the OIE would increase for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Later she evaluated the quantity of information provided for the different OIE-listed diseases, in the six-monthly reports. Countries were in fact requested to provide, for each semester, information on over 100 OIE-listed diseases according to relevant articles of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* previously adopted by the General Assembly; however she acknowledged that not all countries had surveillance systems for each of these diseases and therefore could not provide full information. She indicated that there had been a gradual increase, between 2006 and 2010, of the distribution of diseases, infections and infestations by number of countries/territories which had provided information, meaning that countries/territories had reported an increasing amount of information during this period. She added that for 2010, the OIE had collected information on terrestrial animal diseases, infections and infestations from countries/territories (185). Dr Cáceres pointed out that for certain animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, the worldwide information collected by the OIE was virtually complete in terms of the number of Member Countries/Territories and she added that it was interesting to note that for 2010 information on all terrestrial animal diseases, infections and infestations had been provided by at least 110 countries/territories, and on all the aquatic animal diseases by at least 80 countries/territories.

Furthermore, differences in six-monthly notification according to the species affected by the various OIE-listed diseases, infections and infestations had also been evaluated. To that purpose, the median number of countries/territories that had provided information during the period from 2006 to 2013 had been compared to the median for other species. For terrestrial animal diseases of multiple species, swine, cattle and equidae, it revealed significantly higher medians. In contrast, diseases of birds, lagomorphs and bees presented significantly lower medians. The median for sheep/goats was close to the median for the other species. Concerning aquatic animal diseases, it revealed a significantly higher median for diseases of fish than the median for other aquatic animal species (crustaceans, molluscs and amphibians).

Dr Cáceres concluded that in this first part of the analysis the results for aquatic animals had been generally well below the results for terrestrial animals. This could have been explained partly by the fact that the collection of animal health data corresponded to the surveillance and control programmes defined by Ministries for diseases given priority at national level, and partly because the data were often collected by different Ministries. She mentioned that regarding the notification of OIE-listed diseases in six-monthly reports, the overall trend had been for an increase in the number of countries/territories reporting

information between 2006 and 2010, a trend that should be maintained for the following years. In parallel, the trend was for an increase in the quantity of information collected by the OIE for all diseases, infections and infestations.

323. Dr Cáceres indicated that in the second part the trend was analysed in qualitative terms. She mentioned that it had been measured with the timeliness of reporting and in addition for the six-monthly reports, the level of detail of the information provided was also evaluated.

Dr Cáceres commented that in their six-monthly reports, countries/territories provided data for diseases present on their territory, including for example the number of susceptible animals, cases, deaths and animals slaughtered or destroyed. Countries chose to report this information with various levels of detail, namely by month, by administrative division or, as recommended by the OIE, by a combination of these two parameters. She added that some countries were only able to provide the occurrence code for diseases (present, absent, etc.) without quantitative data.

Dr Cáceres explained that the quality of six-monthly reports could partly be measured by the level of detail of the supplied data. For this analysis, countries/territories (both Members and non-Members) which had reported at least one disease, infection or infestation present in their six-monthly report, have been included (average of 167 countries/territories for terrestrial animals and 85 countries/territories for aquatic animals). For each of these reports, the analysis took into account the maximum level of detail provided. Thus, if several diseases, infections and infestations were reported present, it was the one with the highest performance in terms of detail that was considered. On this basis, each report had been assigned a score between 0 and 4.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that in the case of diseases, infections and infestations of terrestrial animals, a large majority of countries/territories had presented a score of 4 since 2006, which meant that they had been capable of providing detail by month and by administrative division for at least one disease. The percentage of countries/territories with this score had increased. The percentage of countries/territories presenting a score of 3 had also increased slightly since 2006, whereas the percentages of countries/territories presenting scores of 2 or 1 had declined.

This meant that on one hand 85% of countries/territories had provided quantitative data on diseases, infections and infestations present and that, for these countries/territories, the quality of the information had improved since 2006 with an increasing amount of detail being provided. On the other hand, the percentage of countries/territories presenting a score of 0, meaning that no quantitative data had been provided, had remained stable, at around 15%, since 2006.

As far as aquatic animal diseases were concerned, Dr Cáceres mentioned that the situation was different. Thus, a large majority of countries/territories (67 to 80%) presented a score of 0 between 2006 and 2011, though this percentage has declined since 2012. The percentages of countries/territories presenting scores of 1, 2 or 3, however, had remained stable since 2006. The percentage of countries/territories presenting a score of 4, corresponding to a maximum level of detail, had risen since 2012. She added that it was important to bear in mind that the results for 2012 and especially 2013 were still only partial, but they nevertheless appeared to indicate a trend for improvement. This might well have been due to the increasing attention that countries had given to submitting information on aquatic animals since the terrestrial and aquatic reports became completely separate in WAHIS in 2012.

Moreover, she indicated that the quality of the six-monthly reports could also be measured in terms of their submission times, which can be defined as the time between the end of the semester in question and the date the corresponding six-monthly report was sent to the OIE. She specified that the OIE recommended a submission time not exceeding one month after the end of the semester, and pointed out that since 2006 there had been a trend for a reduction in submission times for six-monthly reports since 2006. This improvement was probably due to users' increasing familiarity with WAHIS, as well as to the OIE's work in

raising awareness of Delegates and national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification at events such as global and regional conferences and training workshops. She therefore mentioned that for the first semester of 2006, the median submission time for six-monthly reports had been of 285 days. This compared with a median submission time for the first semester of 2011 of 88 days. She recalled that in 2012, WAHIS had introduced a separation between the reports for terrestrial animals and the reports for aquatic animals. For the first six-monthly report of 2012, submission times were longer for aquatic animal reports than for terrestrial animal reports, with a median of 132 days and 86.5 days, respectively. This has been most likely due to users having to adapt to the new functionalities in WAHIS, since the medians subsequently had become similar for both terrestrial and aquatic reports.

Moreover, Dr Cáceres indicated that Member Countries were required to inform the OIE of any occurrence on their territory of an exceptional epidemiological event, within 24 hours after confirmation. She stated that an average of 170 alerts was being received each year and it was interesting to measure their qualitative evolution, in terms of the time taken from countries/territories to submit immediate notifications to the OIE, after confirmation of the event. The median notification time has been 4.38 days at the beginning of 2005 and gradually had fallen during subsequent years, reaching 3 days at the beginning of 2014. This result was very encouraging, even if it remained above the limit of 24 hours post-confirmation advocated by the OIE. She indicated that this downward trend might possibly have been due to users becoming increasingly familiar with WAHIS, and to the OIE's work of raising the awareness of Delegates and training of the designated Focal Points through regional seminars regularly organized by the OIE and in addition the communication tools developed in countries/territories might also have helped to speed up the process.

Dr Cáceres indicated that at the same time the differences observed between terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases and in terms of the reasons for notification had been also analysed. She explained that during the period under study, countries/territories had submitted their immediate notifications faster for terrestrial animals than for aquatic animals. Nevertheless, a major improvement in submission times for immediate notifications relating to aquatic animals could be seen, with the median submission time falling from 23.18 days to 4.76 days between 2005 and 2014.

Regarding the reasons for notification, Dr Cáceres stressed that the notifications submitted most quickly had been those relating to change in epidemiology/new strain. Notifications involving emerging diseases have had the longest submission times in 2005 but have undergone a marked improvement during subsequent years, with a median submission time of 1.97 days in 2014. Submission times for notifications of a reoccurrence had followed the general trend, whereas the median submission time for notifications of first occurrence had remained at 4 days since 2005. She underlined that his submission time was relatively long compared to the other reasons for notification. Indeed, for diseases that had never previously been detected in the countries/territories concerned, the procedures before and after laboratory confirmation prior to the notification being submitted to the OIE were generally more complicated and took longer.

To conclude with this second part, Dr Cáceres stated that the results of this analysis showed that the overall trend was for an improvement in submission times for all notification reports, coupled with a trend for an improvement in the level of detail of the data provided in the reports, both for terrestrial animal diseases and for aquatic animal diseases.

324. As third and final part of this general assessment, Dr Cáceres focused on the notification in wildlife. She recalled that from 2009, to adapt to the situation created by the recent animal health crises, WAHIS had been modified to make it possible to differentiate between domestic and wild animal's diseases using different occurrence codes. One of the aims had been to encourage countries/territories to notify diseases detected in wildlife while avoiding unjustified adverse trade consequences. Another reason for this differentiation was to

obtain a better understanding of the animal health situation in domestic animals and wild animals and to inform on risk analysis. As well as applying to terrestrial animals, this differentiation also applied to aquatic animals. In this case domestic animals corresponded to animals produced by aquaculture establishments and wild animals corresponded to animals captured in the wild.

Dr Cáceres commented that the evolution of notification in wild animals between 2009 and 2013 had been evaluated for each disease by semester. The number of countries/territories having provided information had been first measured for domestic and wild animals, respectively. Then, the median number of countries/territories had been calculated in order to compare the results for these categories. With regard to terrestrial animals, the median number of countries/territories that had provided information for domestic animals was higher than the median for wild animals, for the whole of the period under study. Furthermore, these medians were relatively stable over time, at around 150 for domestic animals and 120 for wild animals. With regard to aquatic animals, the gap between the median number of countries/territories that had provided information for aquaculture animals and the median number for capture animals was narrower, with medians that had remained relatively stable over time, at around 105 for aquaculture animals and 95 for capture animals.

Moreover, Dr Cáceres commented the evolution of the notification of non OIE-listed diseases and the launch of the *WAHIS-Wild* interface on 31 December 2013. She recalled that this interface enabled the dissemination of information on diseases that do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the OIE List. She stressed that surveillance of wildlife diseases could have been useful in alerting to potential health risks to humans and domestic animals and also because they might have an impact on the biodiversity of wildlife species. She underlined that in 2012, the Excel questionnaire previously used for collecting these data on a voluntary basis had been replaced by an online application integrated into the new version of WAHIS. She indicated that the percentage of countries by region providing information on non OIE-listed diseases had increased up to 2011. In 2012, the year this new online notification procedure had been introduced, this percentage had declined. She pointed out however, as already indicated that, for WAHIS, countries always had needed time to adapt when new functionalities were introduced. Furthermore, it should also have been taken into account that the results for 2013 were not yet complete.

To conclude Dr Cáceres indicated that there were fifty-three non OIE-listed diseases and the WAHIS database of wildlife species comprised 194 families and 2064 species with their Latin and common names, in the OIE's three official languages, only for terrestrial species. She added that for the first time the *WAHIS-Wild* interface offered a new descriptive statistical tool, using histograms, pie charts and tables to describe the distribution of these diseases by region and by class, inviting countries/territories to provide any available data to enrich this worldwide database.

325. **Six OIE-Listed diseases of major interest: world trends since 2005**

In the second phase of the presentation, Dr Cáceres presented the global situation regarding six OIE-Listed diseases of general interest, their trends since 2005 and the last events that took place in 2014.

326. **Infection with rabies virus**

Dr Cáceres tackled the situation of infection with rabies virus which has been present in all OIE Regions and was one of the most dreaded zoonoses. She pointed out that indeed, every 10 minutes someone died from rabies, which represented 70 000 people a year worldwide. Over 95% of human cases were due to bites by infected dogs.

Dr Cáceres stressed two events that involved wildlife and occurred during the years 2013 and 2014.

She indicated that in July 2013, Chinese Taipei notified the OIE of the reoccurrence of rabies on its territory after an absence of 54 years. At the start of the event, in June 2013, three wild Chinese ferret-badgers (*Melogale moschata*, family Mustelidae) which had been found dead in 2012, had been tested positive for rabies at National Taiwan University and then at the Animal Health Research Institute. After the cases were confirmed, a mass vaccination campaign for dogs and cats was implemented in the zones involved. Following this detection, Chinese Taipei had set up a programme of testing for Chinese ferret-badgers found dead, and numerous animals were tested positive. A case in a human and a case in a dog, both having been bitten by Chinese ferret-badgers, had also been recorded. Chinese Taipei subsequently had tested samples collected from Chinese ferret-badgers in previous years, to determine whether the disease had already been present before. Samples collected in 2010 had been found to be positive, which meant that the disease had been present in wildlife in Chinese Taipei since at least that year. Up to 22 May 2014, Chinese Taipei had notified a total of 374 outbreaks and had not sent the final report of the event.

She then stated that after an absence of 25 years, Greece notified the OIE of the reoccurrence of the disease in October 2012, in the zone of Dytiki Makedonia in the north-west of the country. The event had begun with the disease being diagnosed in a fox that had presented abnormal behaviour and had been shot. In the following months, 40 foxes, that had been found dead or were shot, had been diagnosed as positive within the framework of passive surveillance. Furthermore, dogs and cats from rural areas, as well as cattle were diagnosed as positive for rabies. A total of 47 outbreaks had been notified to the OIE, in the first zone affected and in the neighbouring zones of Kentriki Makedonia and Thessalia. She specified that these zones were close to the border with Albania, Bulgaria and Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, which had experienced rabies episodes in recent years. The system of zoning that the Greek Veterinary Services put in place at the start of the event for disease control purposes was still in operation. This reoccurrence highlighted the importance of having a regional policy to control rabies, a disease that was to a large extent disseminated by wildlife in that sub-region.

Dr Cáceres showed the evolution of the percentage of countries reporting to the OIE that had been affected by rabies. Rabies was relatively stable at 60%, for the period between 2005 and 2013. The percentage illustrated the worldwide importance of the disease, which has affected nearly two-thirds of the countries providing the OIE with information.

Dr Cáceres explained that rabies was a disease with a very particular epidemiology. It had two epidemiological cycles, an urban cycle and a sylvatic cycle. She indicated that on one hand in the urban cycle, dogs were the main reservoir. This cycle predominated in areas with a high proportion of unvaccinated dogs, such as in some regions of Africa, Asia and the Middle-East. On the other hand, the sylvatic cycle predominated in North America and in Europe, where the reservoir hosts were found among wildlife species, which differed from one region to another; the reservoir species for rabies included members of the families Canidae (jackals, etc.), Mustelidae (e.g. skunks), Viverridae (e.g. mongooses) and Procyonidae (e.g. raccoons), and the order Chiroptera (bats, particularly vampires).

Dr Cáceres indicated that the successive developments of WAHIS had helped to improve the quality of the information and made the data easier to read. Indeed, as already explained, in 2009 the OIE adapted WAHIS so that different occurrence codes could be used for domestic and wild animal diseases. From 2012, countries were also given the opportunity to specify the wildlife species affected. She presented a map showing the cumulative distribution of rabies in domestic species and another one showing the cumulative distribution of rabies in wildlife species. These maps covered the period between 2009 and April 2014. She indicated that during this period 128 countries/territories had reported infection with rabies virus present in domestic animals, i.e. production animals and/or companion animals and it showed that infection with rabies virus existed in the majority of countries, with a particularly strong presence in recent years in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

She added that 99 countries/territories had reported infection with rabies virus present in wildlife; these animals could be reservoir species (order Carnivora or Chiroptera) or indeed other species affected by the virus. Dr Cáceres highlighted that it was interesting to note that in the Americas, most of the countries reporting cases in wildlife had indicated members of the order Chiroptera, whereas in other regions, most of the countries reporting cases in wildlife had indicated members of the order Carnivora. Furthermore, she added that contrary to the situation in domestic animals, there was a notable lack of information for wildlife species in some areas, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. It seemed likely that some countries in these areas lacked the resources to develop surveillance and control programmes that included wildlife populations.

Dr Cáceres commented that in contrast to many other diseases, all the tools needed to control and even eradicate rabies already existed. She stressed that rabies control methods included the control of stray dog populations, parenteral vaccination of animals, and also human vaccination. It was also possible to vaccinate wildlife populations by means of oral vaccination and this had been successfully carried out in a number of countries, particularly in Europe. Rabies had in fact been successfully controlled and then eliminated in some countries. In 2013, for instance, the OIE had published a self-declaration by Malaysia on its rabies-free status and self-declarations by Italy and by Estonia on the recovery of their rabies-free status.

Dr Cáceres indicated that controlling the disease could prove difficult in some regions due to the difficulty of reducing stray dog populations and the lack of resources for preventive vaccination of the canine population, raising public awareness of the appropriate precautions to take, preventive vaccination of the human population and administration of post-exposure prophylaxis. She added that maintenance of the virus in wildlife populations had complicated the process of rabies eradication, though some countries had succeeded in overcoming this problem thanks to oral vaccination. Lastly, she said that the epidemiological surveillance of rabies was inadequate in many countries and the true situation was often difficult to evaluate.

Dr Cáceres stated that in addition to encouraging governments to invest in priority control programmes in line with OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations, one of the OIE's prime objectives was to encourage transparency in the notification of rabies by its Member Countries/Territories. Indeed, a rabies control strategy could not be effective without the support of coordinated partners using the same strategies. That was why the sharing of world animal health information was so essential for cooperation on rabies control.

327. African swine fever

Dr Cáceres carried on the presentation with African swine fever (ASF), stating that the disease was considered endemic in Sub-Saharan Africa and that outside of Africa, severe epizootics of ASF had been seen in the past in the Americas region (Brazil: 1978-1981; Haiti: 1978-1984) as well as in some European countries from which the disease had been successfully eradicated, with the exception of the region of Sardinia (Italy) where it was still endemic. She showed the evolution of the disease in Eastern Europe from 2007 up to 22 May 2014 with details of outbreaks in domestic and wild animals.

She indicated that Georgia, where the disease had been introduced in 2007, initially reported 58 outbreaks in domestic pigs. Later ASF quickly spread to Armenia, Azerbaijan and the southern part of Russia, in each case mostly affecting the domestic pig population in 2007-2008, with the exception of Russia where the virus had also been detected in wild boar. In 2012, the disease had spread further west and was detected for the first time in Ukraine, in five domestic pigs maintained in a backyard. One year later, the disease was also observed in Belarus, the first occurrence of ASF in the country; Dr Cáceres specified that the two notified outbreaks, both involving domestic pigs, were still on-going at the date of the report. The disease continued to be present in the south-west border region of Russia, where a large number of outbreaks were detected (302 outbreaks). This event was closed in December 2013. The disease reappeared in January 2014, when Russia reported, in two

immediate notifications, 17 outbreaks in domestic pigs and wild boar in two different zones of the country; 10 outbreaks were still on-going. She indicated that since this re-introduction of the disease in Europe, ASF had continued to spread to other European countries. In January 2014, the disease was again reported in Ukraine, with two outbreaks, one in domestic pigs, the other one in a wild boar. These two outbreaks have been resolved in April after application of all necessary control measures. Lithuania had reported two outbreaks of ASF, both in wild boar. These two outbreaks were still in the process of being resolved. In February 2014, Poland informed the OIE of the first occurrence of ASF in the country and reported two outbreaks, confined to a zone, in two wild boars. These two outbreaks were resolved in March after application of all necessary control measures.

Dr Cáceres explained that the current situation regarding ASF in Eastern Europe posed a constant risk of further spread of the disease in Europe and even in Asia, particularly via transmission routes that were difficult to control, such as movements of wild boar, illegal movement of animals and/or animal products and movements of contaminated vehicles or other fomites. She added that several factors complicated ASF control: traditional backyard pig holdings with low or no biosecurity measures and the practise of swill feeding. Considering these various factors that might contribute to the spread of the disease in this part of Europe, ASF control remained a very real challenge.

328. **Foot and mouth disease**

Dr Cáceres continued her presentation with Foot and mouth disease (FMD) which was a highly contagious disease affecting cloven-hoofed mammals, including cattle, pigs, sheep, and more than 100 wildlife species. She pointed out that this was one of the most reported diseases in the six-monthly reports and the percentage of FMD presence slightly rose from 2005 (28%) to the first semester of 2011 (35%). She stressed that however, this percentage seemed to have declined since the second semester of 2011. It was less than 30% in 2013. It indicated the worldwide importance of FMD since a third of the countries/territories was affected.

She then showed the cumulative distribution of FMD worldwide between 2005 and 22 May 2014, by serotype, stating that only North America and Oceania remained unaffected by FMD during this period. She highlighted that of the seven FMD serotypes, the most widespread since 2005 were: serotype O, which affected Africa, South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and serotype A, which affected Africa, South America, Asia, the Middle East and the western part of Russia. Serotypes SAT 1, SAT 3 and C were confined to Africa. Serotype SAT 2 was present mainly in Africa, but also made an incursion into the Middle East (in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories in 2012). Lastly, serotype Asia 1 remained present only in Asia and the Middle East.

Dr Cáceres indicated that during 2013 and up to 22 May 2014 28 exceptional events related to FMD had been notified to the OIE. She commented that it should be noted that serotype A was reported in March 2013 in the regions of Guangdong and Qinghai in China (People's Rep. of), and then in April and June 2013 in Tibet and Yunnan, respectively. She pointed out that this serotype was previously present in the country in other zones, but had not been reported in Guangdong, Qinghai and Tibet since at least 2005, and had not been reported in Yunnan since 1997. This serotype had also been reported in other countries bordering China (People's Rep. of), such as India in 2012. The source of the infections

remained unknown, however. She stated that the events in Guangdong and Qinghai were reported to have been resolved whereas those in Tibet and Yunnan were still on-going. She indicated that it should be emphasised that the OIE had been informed of the virus sub-type involved in these events.

She then carried on indicating that Russia notified the OIE in March 2013 of serotype A, detected in a zone close to the border with China (People's Rep. of). She pointed out that it should be emphasised that the OIE was informed of the lineage of the virus and its toptotype. She indicated that the event was resolved in May 2013, but serotype A was reported again in June 2013, in two very distinct zones: a zone in the east of Russia close to the border with China (People's Rep. of) and a zone in the west of Russia, close to the border with Georgia. The event near the border with Georgia was resolved in December 2013. The outbreaks near the border with China (People's Rep. of) were still on-going, however. She concluded saying that these two events demonstrated the progression of serotype A in Asia and to Europe.

Regarding Africa, Dr Cáceres pointed out the reoccurrence, notified in March 2013, of FMD in Guinea, where the disease had not been reported since 2006. The diagnosis was solely on clinical grounds. She added that on May 2014, after 15 years of absence and due to the illegal introduction of animals, Tunisia notified the reoccurrence of the disease. As of 22 May 2014, 27 outbreaks and 267 cases had been reported and serotype 0 was confirmed. The country had taken all necessary control measures and had not sent the final report of the event.

Dr Cáceres emphasised that these events indicated the capacity and the willingness of a number of countries to provide details of the FMD virus identified. She indicated that, however, 12 countries in Africa and Asia had not informed the OIE of the serotype involved in the FMD events they reported between 2005 and 2014. Therefore the OIE has encouraged countries to provide as detailed information as possible on these viruses to be able to control the risks and then share this information with the international community. She added that since there was no cross-protection between serotypes, it was important to characterise the viruses that were circulating if vaccination was going to be used to control the disease.

She then explained that over 100 wildlife species had been infected naturally or experimentally with FMD virus. Of these, African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in Sub-Saharan Africa had been identified as playing an important role in maintaining FMD. She specified that in the other regions, wild animals had been in most cases passively infected during outbreaks occurring in livestock, and the infection could then have caused serious disease. Yet, animal health information on FMD in wildlife has very often been neglected in comparison with information on FMD in domestic animals.

With a view to evaluate this gap in reporting, Dr Cáceres showed the number of countries notifying the FMD situation in domestic animals that had also provided information for wildlife, since 2009 (the year in which WAHIS introduced the possibility to differentiate between domestic animals and wild animals using different occurrence codes). She pointed out that countries which were notifying the disease as “never reported” had been excluded from the analysis since this occurrence code obviously applied to both to domestic and wild animals.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that for countries/territories which had reported the disease present in domestic animals (in average 57 each semester), 51% of them had not provided information for wildlife for the first semester of 2009. However, the situation improved between 2009 and the first semester of 2013 when the percentage had fallen to 33%. This meant that countries that had reported FMD present in domestic animals had tended to

improve their reporting in wildlife. Regarding countries/territories that had reported the disease absent in domestic animals (in average 89 each semester), only 21% of them had not provided information on wildlife for the first semester of 2009. The situation gradually had improved from 2009 to the first semester of 2013, when the percentage had fallen to only 10%.

Dr Cáceres concluded stating that FMD was one of the diseases on which the OIE collected data from the largest number of countries/territories. However, about a third of the countries/territories reporting the disease present in domestic animals had not provided any information with regard to wildlife for the first semester of 2013. In contrast, the countries that reported the disease absent in domestic animals had a better record of reporting the situation in wildlife, since 90% had provided this information for 2013. Nevertheless, there did appear to be a general trend for an improvement in the information provided on FMD in wildlife.

329. **Infection with avian influenza viruses**

Dr Cáceres carried on with avian influenza which had resulted in considerable economic losses for the poultry industry and stressed that influenza viruses were also a potential threat to public health. This had been demonstrated by the emergence, for example, of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus H5N1, pandemic H1N1 2009 virus and, more recently, low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus H7N9. She pointed out that this threat was chiefly due to their capacity to mutate.

Dr Cáceres recalled that aquatic birds appeared to act as the reservoir hosts for avian influenza viruses, which were generally asymptomatic in these populations. She added that these viruses could also infect commercial and backyard poultry, and were expressed in two different ways. LPAI viruses generally caused benign respiratory symptoms, a drop in egg or remain asymptomatic. However, HPAI viruses caused severe symptoms and could kill up to 90-100% of a flock. She highlighted that of all the recent avian influenza crises, the most important was undoubtedly the HPAI H5N1 crisis that began in 2003. She indicated that in 2006, when the epizootic was at its peak, 49 countries/territories had notified the OIE of the infection, which had a considerable impact on world poultry production.

Dr Cáceres continued, showing the percentage of countries/territories that had provided the OIE with six-monthly information regarding the presence of avian influenza (HPAI and/or LPAI) from 2006 to 2013. She indicated that the percentage of avian influenza virus subtypes H5 and H7 had followed a downward path during the period between 2006 and 2013. It was around 11% for the second semester 2013.

Dr Cáceres stated that year 2014 had been marked by the emergence of two new avian influenza viruses: H5N8 and H5N6.

Dr Cáceres explained that in January 2014, Korea (Rep. of) had notified the OIE of the reoccurrence of HPAI, strain H5N8, in the area of Jeollabuk-Do, in the south of the country. She specified that HPAI had been absent from the country since May 2011 (date of resolution of the last event due to strain H5N1). She commented that in January 2014, clinical signs consistent with HPAI had been first observed in a breeder duck farm, following which the Korean authorities conducted laboratory tests, confirming the presence of HPAI virus strain H5N8. Following this outbreak, the national Veterinary Authorities had conducted diagnostic tests on samples taken from several chicken and duck farms in different zones of the country. Up to 22 May 2014, 29 holdings were tested positive for HPAI virus strain H5N8. The Korean Veterinary Services had informed the OIE that they had sent the genetic information on these viruses to GenBank, a collection of publically available DNA sequences. In addition, they explained that three genetically distinct H5N8 virus strains had been detected. The genetic analysis led one to suppose that these viruses had originated from the eastern part of China (People's Rep. of). Dr Cáceres underlined that the epidemiological investigation was still in progress; more than 3,000 animals had died and more than 300,000 animals had been destroyed. Dr Cáceres continued saying that

in turn, infection with influenza A virus, same serotype H5N8, in poultry was confirmed by Japan in April 2014 in Kumamoto prefecture, affecting 1,100 birds which then died. On 8 May 2014, movement restrictions were lifted since 21 days had passed without any new outbreaks after control measures including stamping out had been completed. She then stated that the United States of America had confirmed to the OIE on 6 May 2014 LPAI of same serotype, H5N8. On 22 April 2014 a commercial Japanese quail (*Coturnix japonica*) layer flock was experiencing increased mortality in the adult laying population. Control measures such as quarantine, depopulation of adult quail, removal and disposal of eggs, cleaning and disinfection had been applied on affected premises. On 22 May 2014, Japan, Korea (Rep.of), and the United States of America had not sent the final report of the events.

Dr Cáceres mentioned that, in May 2014, Laos had informed the OIE that the Australian Animal Health Laboratory had confirmed an H5N6 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus. This event had been previously reported as H5N1 in March 2014 with 457 cases in poultry, all dead. Full genome sequencing had been completed. She pointed out that the event had been resolved. She then commented that on 5 May 2014, China (People's Rep. of.) in turn notified IALP, with the same serotype, H5N6, detected in poultry, one case in Nanbu, Sichuan.

Dr Cáceres recalled that for the purposes of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, avian influenza was defined as an infection of poultry caused by any influenza A virus of the H5 or H7 subtypes or by any influenza A virus with an intravenous pathogenicity index greater than 1.2 or a high mortality.

Dr Cáceres stressed that subtypes H5 and H7 could be low pathogenic or highly pathogenic for poultry. As some low pathogenicity H5 and H7 virus subtypes could mutate and become highly pathogenic, they were notifiable to the OIE because they ought to be controlled before they mutated. To date, all the other subtypes had in general only been low pathogenic in poultry. It should be noted that there was no correlation between the level of pathogenicity for poultry and that for humans, and the H7N9 virus strain notified in China (People's Rep. of) offered a good example, as it was low pathogenic for poultry but induced clinical signs that were sometimes lethal for humans.

Dr Cáceres mentioned that there were many strains circulating in the world, and it was essential to monitor their evolution to have a better understanding of the epidemiology of these viruses. She presented the worldwide distribution of infection with avian influenza viruses of subtype H5 between 2006 and 22 May 2014. She indicated that since 2006, 77 countries/territories had notified the presence of low or high pathogenicity H5 subtype viruses. Of these countries/territories, 66 had notified the presence of virus strain H5N1, and 22 had notified the presence of virus strains H5N2, H5N3, H5N6, H5N7 or H5N8. She added that among the countries/territories that had notified the presence of virus subtype H5 to the OIE, 66 notified highly pathogenic viruses and 21 notified low pathogenic viruses. The only regions that did not notify H5 subtype avian influenza virus during this period were South America, North-West Africa and Central Africa.

She then presented the worldwide distribution of infection with avian influenza viruses of subtype H7 between 2006 and 22 May 2014. Since 2006, 20 countries/territories in North America, Europe, South-East Asia, Oceania and southern Africa had notified the presence of virus subtype H7 to the OIE. The strains notified were H7N1, H7N2, H7N3, H7N4, H7N6, H7N7, H7N8 and H7N9. Furthermore, among the countries/territories that notified the OIE of the presence of virus subtype H7, eight notified highly pathogenic viruses and 15 notified low pathogenic viruses.

Dr Cáceres indicated that in the information presented some countries/territories did not indicate the strain involved in the reported avian influenza events. She pointed out that this information was essential as the combination of data on the relative distribution of influenza viruses, the epidemiological data provided by countries and data on the characterisation of the strains involved in the various events helped the scientific community to improve its understanding of the epidemiology of influenza. This information was equally important for the development of effective control strategies, including vaccination. Moreover, some LPAI events were likely to pass undetected, in the absence of any screening strategy. The symptoms induced by these viruses were sometimes barely visible and difficult to detect, and LPAI was most likely under-notified.

Dr Cáceres concluded by stating that the OIE encouraged countries to provide the most detailed information possible on avian influenza events and share this information with the international community, in particular with public health partners.

330. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus**

Dr Cáceres continued with the infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (PPR), indicating that the disease was described for the first time in 1942 in Côte d'Ivoire. She then showed the cumulative distribution of PPR in the world between 2005 and 22 May 2014 and informed about the on-going outbreaks, reported by an immediate notification in 2014, in Angola (one outbreak), China (People's Rep. of) (239 outbreaks), Comoros (six outbreaks) and Tajikistan (two outbreaks). She focused on the outbreaks reported in December 2013 by China (People's Rep. of), where the virus was first detected in Xinjiang province. The disease then spread, leading to outbreaks in 22 other provinces by 22 May 2014. This brought the disease close to countries where it had never been reported, such as Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar. Up to 22 May 2014, China (People's Rep. of) had notified 239 outbreaks of PPR affecting both sheep and goats. The spread of the disease into new areas of the country might have been facilitated by the increasing population of small ruminants and the increase in animal movements through trade. She outlined that the current situation in China (People's Rep. of) was a growing concern for neighbouring countries, and especially those where the virus had never been detected. She added that these countries should have been encouraged to reinforce their control strategies and surveillance programmes, especially in areas close to national borders. Sentinel animals could be used as a potential surveillance tool to allow early detection of the disease. She added that all these countries should have undertaken surveillance to allow prompt disease identification and reporting, especially given the availability of sensitive and specific diagnostic tools for PPR.

She then presented the number and percentage of reporting countries to the OIE affected by PPR between 2005 and 2013. She stated that this percentage had regularly increased during the past nine years. She pointed out that the increase in the percentages could be due to a growing awareness of PPR, the wider availability of more sensitive and specific diagnostic tools for PPR or a change in the nature of the virus. The disease might already have been present in some of the affected regions well before its recent identification, but in the absence of active surveillance and proper differential diagnostics, it might be presumed that the disease had been misdiagnosed in certain countries in favour of other diseases. Dr Cáceres recalled that PPR was considered as one of the main animal transboundary diseases constituting a threat to livestock production in many developing countries.

She concluded by saying that standard disease control procedures, including quarantine, movement control and cleaning and disinfection, could be undertaken as a means of preventing any introduction of the disease from neighbouring countries and other trading partners. She commented that the distribution of PPR has expanded in recent years,

threatening 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.

331. **Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus**

Dr Cáceres carried on her presentation with Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus, a disease that mainly affected farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and which changed its name from 2014.

Dr Cáceres indicated that the disease was first reported in Norway in the mid-1980s, was subsequently reported in Canada (New Brunswick) in 1996, in the United Kingdom (Scotland) in 1998, in the Faroe Islands in 2000 and in the United States of America (Maine) in 2001. The infectious salmon anaemia virus was identified in Chile in 1999, although the disease first occurred in the country in 2007. She pointed out that once the disease was expressed, there was no effective treatment. Vaccination had been used in North America, the Faroe Islands, Norway and Chile, but currently available vaccines did not seem to offer complete protection and vaccinated fish might become carriers of the virus.

Dr Cáceres specified that for the purposes of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) meant infection with highly polymorphic region (HPR)-deleted ISAV or HPR0 ISAV. Infection with HPR-deleted ISAV might cause infectious salmon anaemia. HPR0 variants of the virus could cause transient subclinical infection. However, there was evidence of a link between non-pathogenic HPR0 ISAV and pathogenic HPR-deleted ISAV, with some outbreaks potentially occurring as a result of the emergence of HPR-deleted ISAV from HPR0 ISAV.

Dr Cáceres indicated that in December 2013, Chile notified the detection of the variant HPR 7A in Atlantic salmon in a fish farm in the zone Carlos Ibañez del Campo, in the south of the country. This was a new variant of the virus, which had already been present in Chile.

Moreover, Norway had notified nine events of infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus between January 2013 and March 2014. The infection had been reported at six sites in Nordland region (north of the country), two sites in Troms region (north of the country), and a site in Sogn Og Fjordane region (south of the country). Six of these events had been resolved. She pointed out that the source of the outbreak had only been identified for one of these events, which involved legal movement of fish from a neighbouring marine site. The cumulated losses for these nine events currently stood at 80,000 salmon.

She then presented the number and percentage of countries/territories notifying six-monthly information to the OIE that had reported the presence/absence of infection with ISAV since 2005. She commented that the percentages of countries reporting six-monthly information to the OIE that notified infection with ISAV had followed a downward path during the period between 2005 and 2013. It was around 1.4% in 2013, year when infection with ISAV had been reported present by three countries: Canada, Chile and Norway.

Dr Cáceres stating that it was interesting to note that although the number of countries affected by this infection was low compared to the number of OIE Member Countries, its impact on world production of Atlantic salmon was substantial, as the countries affected were among the largest producers.

Dr Cáceres highlighted that it was possible, in an immediate notification or a follow-up report, for countries to detail the genotype involved and they might be able to do so for their 2014 six-monthly reports. This marked a significant step forward in WAHIS for aquatic animal diseases to achieve a better understanding of the disease and to determine the involvement of the different variants.

332. **Emerging diseases**

To end her presentation, Dr Cáceres exposed two emerging diseases: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED).

333. **Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus**

Dr Cáceres indicated that Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was a particular strain of coronavirus which was thought to cause Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), a respiratory disease of humans. She explained that MERS-CoV was detected in humans for the first time in April 2012, since then and up to 22 May 2014, 632 human cases and 193 deaths have been reported in 19 countries (Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yemen). She added that all cases reported in America, Europe, North Africa and South-East Asia were imported from the Middle East except for some cases of secondary transmission (this referred to cases which have acquired the infection from another infected person). Saudi Arabia was the country with the highest number of human cases reported.

Dr Cáceres stated that on November 2013, Qatar had reported to the OIE, under the heading of “Emerging disease”, three cases of MERS-CoV detected in camels on a farm, linked to two human cases. The same herd was one month later tested using the same technique and all the samples were negative. On 22 April 2014, one additional dromedary camel case had been confirmed by PCR and virus isolation in the same municipality. An existing survey (pilot phase of the survey) in Qatar demonstrated that the MERS-CoV obtained from a dromedary camel was able to replicate in human cells. On 23 May 2014, Oman had reported to the OIE five camel cases. All the samples had been collected from animals not having shown clinical signs and had been confirmed positive by RT-PCR. Investigations had been performed in the surroundings to detect human cases. All the human samples collected had tested negative for MERS-CoV.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that there still remained uncertainties about the exact epidemiology of this disease including about exact distribution of human and animal cases (including asymptomatic cases), routes of transmission (there may be several), involvement of other animals (domestic and wild) and the environment. She added that human-to-human transmission had been often reported in health care facilities or among family members.

Dr Cáceres mentioned that in the Qatar and Oman events, the source of exposure for camels cases was not known. For this reason further investigations were needed to understand the significance of these findings and to assess the potential role of camels and possibly other animals, including bats, as viral genetic material with some similarities to the MERS-CoV was found in one bat from Saudi Arabia.

Dr Cáceres added that the OIE, along with its partner organisations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and national animal health authorities of affected countries, was closely following investigations regarding a possible animal source of MERS-CoV. The OIE also had a global informal network of experts on coronaviruses in animals who were closely monitoring the situation.

Dr Cáceres concluded by saying that there was a need to fully validate tests for MERS-CoV in camels. The complete sequencing of the genome or virus isolation thus remained the most reliable means of confirming the presence of MERS-CoV. She highlighted that the notification as an emerging disease of confirmed cases of MERS-CoV in animals to the OIE represented a mechanism to allow countries to share information in a timely and synergistic manner. Finally, she indicated that expected scientific knowledge would confirm or not if the disease was to comply with one of the criteria to be listed as stated by the Article 1.2.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

334. **Porcine epidemic diarrhea**

Dr Cáceres ended her presentation with porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED), explaining that the disease was caused by a coronavirus, which clinical signs included acute diarrhea, anorexia, vomiting and dehydration. A high mortality rate was observed in piglets aged less than 10 days. She highlighted that PED virus spread rapidly through faecal-oral route after the introduction of infected animals or contaminated materials. Some feed components have also been suspected. The disease outbreaks have resulted in a huge economic impact on swine farms due to these high morbidity and mortality rates in piglets.

Dr Cáceres then showed the worldwide distribution of porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) since 2013 through notifications submitted to the OIE.

She commented that the United States of America, first country to have notified the disease as an emerging disease, indicated in their report that the disease was clinically indistinguishable from transmissible gastroenteritis, another swine disease caused by a coronavirus that was endemic in the country. A total of 6,240 positive laboratory accessions had been confirmed in 29 States. The first outbreak was reported in Ohio on 15 April 2013. The latest outbreak was reported in Mississippi State on 4 April 2014. It was assumed that the emergent PED virus strains in the United States of America were genetically related to Chinese strains. This might suggest that the emergence of the PED virus in the United States of America possibly had originated from China (People's Rep. of). She pointed that the disease had been declared endemic in the country as of 30 April 2014.

Dr Cáceres indicated that in Japan, an outbreak of PED was detected on 1 October 2013 in Okinawa after a seven-year absence. Currently, a total of 536 outbreaks have been reported in 33 prefectures. The latest outbreak was reported in Miyagi on 21 April 2014. The disease had been declared endemic in the country as of 8 May 2014.

She then indicated that in Canada, a total of 58 outbreaks had been reported in 4 provinces (Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec). The first outbreak of PED was reported at a hog farm in south-western Ontario on 22 January 2014, the latest outbreaks were reported in the same province on 22 April 2014. As of 22 May 2014, Canada had not yet sent the final report of the event.

Dr Cáceres indicated that in Mexico, a total of 83 outbreaks had been reported in 17 States (Aguascalientes, Baja California, Colima, Federal District, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, State of Mexico, Michoacán, Morelos, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tlaxcala and Veracruz). The first case has been reported on 30 July 2013. During the epidemiological investigation, 2,309 samples had been tested with RRT-PCR in 19 federal entities between August 2013 and May 2014; samples from the States of Yucatán and Oaxaca had been negative for the disease. Out of the total number of samples, only 30% had been positive for porcine epidemic diarrhea and 70% had been negative, which suggested that there may have been some other aetiological agent involved in this event, being a multicausal process. As of 22 May 2014, Mexico had not yet sent a final report of the event.

Dr Cáceres concluded that in order to avoid a further spread of this disease, public awareness should be raised, appropriate monitoring systems should be implemented, further epidemiological investigations should be carried out and any information available should be shared by countries. The OIE requested that all its Members provided any good quality information on PED virus available in order to understand the extent of the disease so as that the OIE could contribute to the establishment of the main guidelines for the prevention and control of this disease.

335. Dr Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE, thanked Dr Cáceres for her presentation and invited the Delegate of the United States of America to take the floor to present the porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) situation in his country.
336. The Delegate of the United States of America began his presentation with a description of the coronavirus responsible for PED, the clinical expression, and information on the epidemiology of the disease. Characterisation of the virus in the United States of America had revealed 99.4% homology with the virus detected in China (People's Rep. of) in 2012. He then described the evolution of the PED situation in the United States of America since April 2013. He pointed out that PED is not a notifiable disease in his country, which explained why only data on positive laboratory samples were available. He indicated that studies were in progress to assess the seasonal effect on the disease, a decline in incidence having been observed in the country in May as temperatures increased. Two other coronaviruses had also been detected: one presenting 94% homology with the PED virus and the other (delta CoV) causing similar signs but with lower mortality in piglets. He informed the Assembly that research was currently in progress, *inter alia*, to develop diagnostic tools and control methods and to determine the source of infection. He concluded his presentation by mentioning that an international conference would shortly be organised in the United States of America.
337. The President of the OIE thanked the Delegate of the United States of America and gave the floor to the Delegate of Canada to present the PED situation in her country.
338. The Delegate of Canada began by presenting the preventive measures put in place in the country beginning in May 2013, following the detection of PED in the United States of America, including the enhanced biosecurity measures applied at the borders. She briefly explained the nature of the trade relations between the two countries in the pig-production sector. She described the evolution in cases in four clusters recorded in Canada since January 2014, with a decline in incidence having been observed since April 2014 and resolution of the outbreaks in two of the four provinces affected. Virus sequencing showed that the strain was the same as in the United States of America. She emphasised the efforts being made by Canada to control the disease through strict biosecurity measures in production units, with a target to have the disease eradicated during the summer of 2014. The epidemiological investigation revealed a possible source of contamination through animal feed, especially one lot of blood plasma added to granulated feed. Vaccines had been produced for use by pig producers on a voluntary basis. She emphasised that Canada would continue to share all new information and indicated that the country wished to participate in the *ad hoc* Group for PED proposed for June 2014.
339. The President of the OIE thanked the Delegate of Canada and asked the Assembly to begin their comments on the first part of Dr Cáceres' presentation, dealing with trends in notification, before going on to questions relating to the diseases presented.
340. The Director General of the OIE emphasised that some of the statistical results relating to notification for 2013 were not significant as certain Member Countries, and especially those with decentralised Services, had not yet collected all the field data and had therefore not yet submitted their reports. He then interpreted the global improvement in notification since 2010 as possibly being the result of the training workshops for Focal Points. He added that the development of the WAHIS computer system is a priority for the OIE and that the World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare is actively seeking resources for this investment. He stressed the need for Member Countries to rapidly notify emerging diseases

and noted that some countries had not yet submitted notifications to the OIE on MERS-CoV and PED despite a large amount of information having regularly been published in the media and in scientific articles. He pointed out that within the framework of its mandate and its obligations, the OIE had a duty to encourage these countries to notify their official confirmation of these events.

341. A member of the Brazilian Delegation thanked Dr Cáceres for her excellent presentation, commending the methodology used for the analysis. He said that this had provided fresh insight into the status of animal health worldwide. He pointed out that the FMD maps presented by serotype showed that serotypes Asia 1, SAT 1, SAT 2 and SAT 3 were present in the Americas. As they had never occurred in that region, he asked for the maps to be rectified.
342. The Delegate of Mexico welcomed the presentation by Dr Cáceres and noted that a case definition was needed for emerging diseases. Lack of a case definition had delayed Mexico's notification of the PED event. He added that a timely case definition would improve reporting to the OIE.
343. The Delegate of Panama thanked the President and said that his country had been unfairly questioned by the national media regarding the presence of a disease that did not exist in Panama. He thanked the OIE for its support on this matter including all the staff in the Animal Health Information Department working on WAHIS and, in particular, Dr Vallat who had responded to the media by refuting the rumours in the Panamanian press. He said that the fact that Panama had notified the OIE, through WAHIS, in a timely manner had proved to be an advantage because it could be used to support the OIE's statements.
344. The Delegate of Argentina complimented the OIE President and Director General on an extremely well run 82nd General Session and congratulated the Organisation on its 90th anniversary. He then thanked and commended Dr Cáceres on her presentation of the global animal health situation, highlighting the importance of the information provided. He agreed with the Delegate of Brazil on the need to clarify the FMD serotypes that had been presented in the maps. The Delegate took the opportunity to raise one of the issues discussed over the previous few days, pointing out that one of the OIE's most important missions was to ensure transparent disease reporting and that the OIE List of diseases played a key role in reporting. He emphasised that the vast majority of Member Countries used the List to establish their import requirements and that, while they were able to establish measures for diseases not on the OIE List, as he saw it the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* on veterinary certification imposed certain constraints on importing countries with regard to the requirements for non-OIE-listed diseases. Accordingly, Argentina asked the OIE to continue updating the relevant chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. He explained that Argentina had abstained from voting on the chapters relating to the delisting of two diseases because, even though the diseases might not meet the criteria for inclusion in the List, the related measures in the *Terrestrial Code* helped to ensure safe trade. The Delegate reiterated Argentina's commitment to contribute to the work of the OIE, as well as its willingness to continue working with the Organisation. He also pointed out that the General Session had granted Argentina official recognition of animal health status for several diseases.
345. The Delegate of Indonesia thanked the President and the speakers. He asked if there was a virus isolation test for MERS-CoV in camelidae and requested the OIE to prepare guidelines in this respect. He also requested the Scientific Commission to assess the relevance of including MERS-CoV in the OIE List of diseases.
346. The Delegate of India congratulated the speakers and asked the Delegate of the United States of America for clarification regarding the zoonotic potential of PED.

347. Dr Cáceres welcomed the points raised. In answer to those of Brazil and Argentina, she again showed and explained the FMD maps, stating that the maps showed the cumulative presence of each FMD serotype over the period 2005 to 2014. She demonstrated that the colour of the maps did indeed show that serotypes Asia 1, SAT 1, SAT 2 and SAT 3 had never been reported in the Americas region, which confirmed that the maps had been drawn up correctly.
348. In response to the Delegate of Mexico's comment, Dr Cáceres reiterated the current definition of emerging disease in the *Terrestrial Code*, saying that the information collected by WAHIS was the tool that responded to the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* as adopted by the Member Countries. She repeated that the OIE was aware of the difficulties that countries faced in notifying emerging diseases, especially when neither a case definition nor diagnostic techniques had yet been established given that new diseases appeared suddenly. She reiterated that, as it was countries themselves, by reporting emerging diseases, that provided the bulk of the epidemiological information available, she invited them to continue reporting information as swiftly as possible.
349. She went on to thank the Delegate of Panama for pointing out that timely disease reporting to the OIE allowed unsubstantiated rumours reported in the press to be clarified and refuted.
350. In response to the Delegate of Indonesia, Dr Cáceres stated that there was an OIE *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelidae, which would determine the characteristics of MERS-CoV and appropriate diagnostic tools.
351. The Delegate of the United States of America, in response to the Delegate of India, confirmed the position of public health officials that PED virus did not infect humans.
352. The Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada added that the PED virus only infected enterocytes and only the digestive system was affected.
353. The Director General pointed out that, with regard to the OIE List of diseases, the Assembly had, the previous day, proposed to ask the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group on the criteria for disease listing with experts from the five regions. He then listed the three sensitive issues that could give rise to discussions on notification: the relevance of the criteria for listing a disease, the definition of emerging diseases and notification of diseases in wildlife. In response to the Delegate of Mexico, he explained that, in the case of emerging diseases, it was impossible to establish a case definition as soon as the disease occurs.
354. The Delegate of France, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the President of the OIE and all the speakers. He applauded the presentation on global trends given by Dr Cáceres. On the subject of PED, he provided clarification that the preventive measures put in place by the EU were in accordance with the international standards of the OIE and the WTO SPS Agreement. He described the adaptations applied to import certificates including for livestock feed. He emphasised that a request had been submitted to the EFSA for a risk evaluation.
355. On behalf of the Quads countries, the Delegate of New Zealand thanked the OIE Animal Health Information Department and the OIE Regional Activities Department for the organisation of training workshops for Focal Points. He repeated the request that had been made by New Zealand at the 81st General Session for the OIE to clarify the distinction between compulsory notification and voluntary notification. He also suggested that the quantitative data in the 6-monthly and annual reports be considered voluntary given that no text requiring Member Countries to provide these data had been adopted by the Assembly.

356. The Delegate of Botswana thanked the speakers and asked the Delegate of Canada for clarification on the conclusions of the studies on transmission of the PED virus via granulated feed.
357. The Delegate of Norway thanked Dr Cáceres for her excellent presentation. On the subject of the definition of the infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus variants, she said that, in her country's view, the disease did not necessarily present with subclinical signs. Furthermore, earlier this week the Aquatic Animal Health Code Commission had agreed to remove the reference to subclinical disease.
358. The Delegate of Australia endorsed the comment made by the Delegate of New Zealand in the name of the Quad concerning the confusion between compulsory notification and voluntary notification, stressing the fact that this implied additional work for Member Countries because of the growing number of notifiable diseases in spite of finite resources. He asked whether it might be possible to graph the reporting obligations placed on countries over time. With reference to the previous comment by the Delegate of Mexico, he added that notification through WAHIS was limited where a case definition had not yet been established for an emerging disease, which could lead to misinterpretation.
359. The Delegate of Japan summarised the PED situation in the country beginning in Southern part of Japan in October 2013 for the first time in 7 years. The number of outbreaks decreased briefly in February 2014 but then spread widely all over Japan. He emphasised that notification was compulsory for the disease, that there are official approved PED vaccines and that the isolates are close to those in China (People's Rep. of) and the United States. He asked the OIE to assess whether PED satisfied the criteria for inclusion in the OIE list of notifiable diseases. He expressed a desire for Japan to positively provide the OIE with its knowledge and experience on the matter, and participate in the *ad hoc* Group on PED.
360. The Delegate of Namibia underlined that in the presentation of Dr Cáceres, FMD serotype SAT 2 appeared on the map in a zone normally free from the disease and requested its correction.
361. The Delegate of Zambia mentioned that in the presentation of Dr Cáceres, PPR appeared as present, although the disease was absent from the country during the study period, and requested that this be corrected.
362. The Delegate of Mexico asked for Mexican experts to be included in the *ad hoc* Group on PED.
363. The Delegate of Niger asked the OIE what were the recommendations concerning measures to control FMD following the World Conference in Thailand, in particular for West Africa.
364. The Delegate of Iran asked why FMD serotype C appeared on the map of Ethiopia in the presentation of Dr Cáceres although the last appearance of this serotype dated back several years.
365. Dr Cáceres offered clarification concerning the questions relating to maps, stating that it should be taken into account that the data presented on some of the maps were cumulative since 2005 and that this could be a source of confusion. She added that the OIE Animal Health Information Department would nevertheless check the information following all the comments made and make any necessary corrections. She thanked the Delegate of France for his observations. In response to the comments from the Quad, she reiterated that the OIE list of notifiable diseases had been approved each year by the Assembly, and that OIE Member Countries had undertaken to report information concerning these diseases through WAHIS. As for the comment regarding quantitative data, she stressed the fact that these data were useful because they provided a better understanding of national and global animal health situations. She added that these data should be perceived as value added rather than as a constraint. Dr Cáceres explained that to avoid delays in the notification

process Member Countries should send their reports and then provide the quantitative data later for updating by the OIE Animal Health Information Department. In response to the Delegate of Norway's comment, Dr Cáceres said that the definition given in the presentation was the one figuring in the current *Aquatic Code*. Nevertheless, she accepted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had changed the definition of infection with HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus that week, deleting the subclinical disease concept. She then thanked the Delegate of Japan for the information provided on PED.

366. The Director General of the OIE, in response to the comment from the Delegate of Japan, stated that the *ad hoc* Group on PED should draw up an information sheet and provide recommendations on control measures. He added that this disease would be evaluated by this Group for possible inclusion in the OIE List of notifiable diseases as decided by the Specialist Commissions. In response to the Delegate of Niger, the Director General pointed out that the OIE followed the recommendations of the World Conference in Thailand, and that it was currently seeking financing jointly with FAO to organise a global conference in Africa. He mentioned that meetings had been regularly organised at the regional level to help countries to set up national control programmes for FMD and PPR, including for submission to the OIE for official endorsement, especially in the case of countries where the infection is endemic.
367. The Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada, in response to the Delegate of Botswana, gave details of the results of studies conducted on transmission of the PED virus by feed granules. He explained that PCR tests had been carried out on both blood plasma and granules. Both samples were found to be PCR positive. Following this, bioassays had been performed. The piglets that had consumed the positive lot of plasma had demonstrated clinical disease whereas this was not replicated in those fed the granules. He pointed out that these results would be published very shortly.
368. The Delegate of the United States of America added that in his country epidemiological surveys had led them to believe that a food source was possible, but that this had not been demonstrated by experiments. He stated that the United States of America was conducting research on this subject.
369. The Director General of the OIE stressed that the possibility of a feed source would be evaluated by the *ad hoc* Group on PED. He emphasised that notification was compulsory for OIE Member Countries and that the PVS tool had been created to enable countries to respect this obligation. He called on the Assembly to remind the National Authorities of this obligation and the willingness of the OIE to support these efforts.
370. The President of the OIE closed the discussion, congratulating Dr Cáceres on the new approach to presenting world animal health trends. She suggested taking into account the conclusions of Technical Item I (Criteria and factors for rational prioritisation of animal diseases that should be covered by public health policies) when drafting the report of the Animal Health Information Department for the 83rd General Session of the OIE in 2015.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities
of the OIE in 2013 and the Current situation on events and
trends in the animal health world-wide

371. 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.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14 Adoption of new or revised chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

372. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 14. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28 Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

373. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30 Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

374. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 30. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31 Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

375. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32 Criteria and factors for rational prioritisation of animal diseases that should be covered by public health policies

376. The President of the OIE Scientific Commission pointed out that Recommendation No. 6 refers to guidelines for aquatic animal disease prioritisation; therefore, Recommendation No. 1 should also include a reference to aquatic animals.
377. The Delegate of the United Kingdom noted that based on the above modification, Consideration No. 9 should also be amended to include reference to aquatic animals.
378. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 32, amended as described above, for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33 African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread

379. The President of the OIE Scientific Commission pointed out that Recommendation No 5 should include reference to surveillance.
380. The Delegate of New Zealand raised the concern that Consideration No 4 might be misleading, as eradication had been achieved without vaccination in the past.
381. The Delegate of the United Kingdom supported the intervention of the Delegate of New Zealand and suggested that Consideration No. 10 be moved to follow Consideration No. 4 to better align and order the two points.

382. The Delegate of the United Kingdom further suggested to expand the scope of Recommendation No. 6 to include livestock producers and veterinarians.
383. The Director General agreed, and suggested including only veterinarians in the awareness programmes, and adding livestock producers to the awareness and training programmes.
384. The Delegate of Argentina noted an inaccurate translation from English into Spanish in Consideration No. 4. This will be corrected.
385. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 33, amended as described above, 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. 21
First addendum to Resolution No. 30 of 30 May 2013
“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”

386. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Third 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”

387. 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.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs. 82 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

388. Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 82 SG/11B AF).
389. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Americas

390. Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 82 SG/11B AM).
391. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

392. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People’s Republic of China), President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 82 SG/11B AS).

393. He also presented the recommendations of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013.
394. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Cebu.

Regional Commission for Europe

395. Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 82 SG/11B EU).
396. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

397. Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 82 SG/11B ME).
398. He also presented the recommendations of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013.
399. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Amman.

Dates of the 83rd General Session (May 2015)

400. The Assembly decided that the 83rd General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 24 to Friday 29 May 2015. The Director General stated that the 83rd General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 83rd General Session (May 2015)

401. 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:
- The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting, surveillance and emergency response

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

402. Further to a previous decision of the Council, there will not be a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2015 on account of the elections to be held for the Council, the Specialist Commissions and Regional Commissions and the Director General.

Technical Items for the 84th General Session (May 2016)

403. 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):
- Economics of animal health: direct and indirect cost of animal disease outbreaks
404. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2016 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2016 prior to the 84th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health status

405. 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: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Endorsement of an official national FMD control programme

406. Ecuador was awarded an OIE certificate endorsing its official national FMD control programme.

≡ FRIDAY 30 MAY 2014 ≡

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2013

(Doc. 82 SG/3)

407. 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 2013 and the distribution of Member Countries by contribution category.
408. 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.
409. She emphasised the importance of strengthening budgetary and financial management at a time of growth in the activity of the Organisation.
410. Dr Eloit then reminded the Assembly that in 2013, the seventh meeting of World Fund Management Committee was held on 22 May 2013 and the eighth meeting of the World Fund Advisory Committee was held on 17 December 2013.
411. The Delegate of Canada congratulated the OIE for putting in place performance criteria to assess the effectiveness of the investments made, especially those via the World Fund, as these criteria are particularly helpful to be able to report on the use made of funds allocated to the OIE.
412. 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 87th Financial Year
(1 January – 31 December 2013)**
(Doc. 82 SG/4)

413. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

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**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 87th Financial Year**

(Docs 82 SG/15 and 82 SG/16)

444. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Correa Messuti (Uruguay) and the report of the Registered Auditor appointed by the OIE. Dr Messuti strongly encouraged Delegates to raise the awareness of the relevant authorities to honour the payment of arrears or to consider an increase in contributions.

445. The Assembly noted the reports of the External Auditor.

446. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 87th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings

447. The Director General conveyed his warmest thanks:

- To the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Cyprus, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Sudan, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America;
- To the European Union (European Commission) and the World Bank;
- To the following non-governmental organisations: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Conseil supérieur de l'Ordre des Vétérinaires (France);

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2013;

- To the Governments of Algeria, Benin, Botswana, China (People's Rep. of), Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia and Uruguay;

for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2013;

- To the Governments of Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of) and United States of America;

for providing staff to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2013.

448. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 4. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

449. 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, as well as to the Fédération Equestre Internationale and the Latin-American Poultry Association, for their exceptional contributions in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. He informed the Assembly 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.

450. 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

451. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of the accounts of the OIE.
452. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

2014 Budget (Doc. 82 SG/5)

453. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**
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Proposed 2015 Contributions Scale and 2015 Budget Estimates (Doc. 82 SG/6)

457. **RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**
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SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Council

(Doc. 82 SG/18)

469. The President recalled the commitments she had made at the time of her election, and then commented on document 82 SG/18, which summarises the activities of the Council between May 2013 and May 2014. She emphasised that the work carried out during the year had in large part focused on staff policy, budgetary and accounting management of the Organisation following the changes introduced to modernise procedures, relations with international partners such as FAO and WHO and monitoring the network of Reference Centres (Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres), as well as the procedures for examining applications for official recognition of disease status.
470. The Council had also examined various aspects of the implementation of the Fifth Strategic Plan, with a view to the preparation of the next Strategic Plan. The extraordinary meeting of the Council, held in Berlin (Germany) from 1 to 3 October 2013 at the invitation of the President, was thus entirely devoted to an exchange of ideas and views between the Members of the Council and the Director General, with the aim of proposing a preliminary working document to Delegates during the 82nd General Session. The OIE Strategic Plan

for the period 2016-2020 would thus have been extensively discussed and informed by the Regional Commissions, which would facilitate its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

471. 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.
472. The President thanked Canada for its voluntary contribution, which had enabled an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held in October 2013. Given the importance of the autumn meeting of the Council, reserved for discussions on the activities and development of the OIE, the President gave Delegates confirmation that the third annual meeting of the Council would be maintained.
473. The Assembly adopted the report on activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 82 SG/18).

Examination of applications for accession

(Doc. 82 SG/19)

474. At the request of the President, the Director General reminded Delegates of the procedure for examination of new applications for accession that had been adopted at the 81st General Session (Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013). He again strongly emphasised that this procedure applied only to new applications and did not concern existing OIE Members.
475. After reviewing the legal framework, the President reminded Delegates of the two applications for accession, from the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of South Sudan, respectively. She then informed the Assembly that these two applications had been examined by the Council at the meeting on 2 October 2013 and that the Council had approved them unanimously. Consequently, the President now sought the approval of the Assembly.
476. Draft Resolution No. 12 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report. The Republic of Liberia thus becomes the 179th Member Country of the OIE.
477. The Representative of Liberia thanked the Assembly for the privilege of becoming an OIE Member that had been granted to her country. She recalled how Liberia had already benefited from the expertise and support of the OIE in improving livestock production and veterinary structures in her country.
478. Draft Resolution No. 13 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report. The Republic of South Sudan thus becomes the 180th Member Country of the OIE.

Draft Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE

(Doc. 82 SG/17)

479. The President informed the Assembly that the main lines of the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, for the period 2016–2020 had been discussed by the Council at its meetings in October 2013 and February 2014. She thanked Dr Brian Evans (former Member of the Council) and Mr Alan Randell (consultant), who had assisted the Council with its deliberations.
480. Dr Schwabenbauer emphasised in particular that the Council had wished to have a short, succinct text so that the key messages on the OIE's priorities for the next five-year period would be explicit and more easily understandable for the OIE's partners, namely donors and nongovernmental or professional organisations, as well as the general public.
481. Following the presentations made during the various Regional Commission meetings, the President then explained to the Assembly the procedures and the timetable for consulting the Member Countries, with a view to the Sixth Strategic Plan being adopted at the 83rd General Session in May 2015. Comments from the Delegates must be submitted before mid-August 2014.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC)**
(Doc. 82 SG/20)

482. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC), approved by the Council.
483. Draft Resolution No. 34 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)**
(Doc. 82 SG/21)

484. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), approved by the Council.
485. Draft Resolution No. 35 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**
(Doc. 82 SG/22)

486. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), approved by the Council.
487. Draft Resolution No. 36 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)**
(Doc. 82 SG/23)

488. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), approved by the Council.
489. 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 Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal
Care International (AAALAC International)**
(Doc. 82 SG/24)

490. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC International), approved by the Council.
491. 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 International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH)**
(Doc. 82 SG/25)

492. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH), approved by the Council.
493. Draft Resolution No. 39 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 39 at the end of this report.

Election of a Member of the Council

494. Following the termination of office of Dr Jaouad Berrada (Morocco), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for Africa, the Assembly elected Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda), as a Member of the Council.

A quorum having been met, the results of the electronic vote were as follows (110 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present)

Yes:	97 votes
No:	5 votes
Abstentions:	8 votes

495. As Dr Jaouad Berrada (Morocco) was also Vice-President of the Council, and on a proposal by the Regional Commission for Africa, the Assembly elected Dr Michael Modisane (South Africa) as Vice-President of the Council.

A quorum having been, the results of the electronic vote were as follows (112 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present)

Yes:	97 votes
No:	4 votes
Abstentions:	11 votes

Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas

496. At the initiative of the President, the President of the Regional Commission reminded Delegates of the unanimous proposal by the Regional Commission for the Americas for the election for the position of Secretary General within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Secretary General: Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada).

Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Europe

497. At the initiative of the President, the President of the Regional Commission reminded Delegates of the unanimous proposal by the Regional Commission for Europe for the election for the position of Secretary General within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Secretary General: Dr Budimir Plavsic (Serbia)

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

498. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report is printed in two documents (the Technical Sessions and then the Administrative Sessions).
499. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
500. The Delegate of Russia asked whether the quorum had been met for adoption of the revision of Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* and deletion of Chapters 8.15. and 15.4. (see paragraph 265 on criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations on the OIE list). The Director General confirmed that the quorum had been met in accordance with Article 50 of the General Rules.
501. 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 2014** 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

502. 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 made special reference to the longstanding and exemplary service of two OIE staff members, Kokoé Sodji and Martine Risser and called them to come forward and be recognised for their 30 years with the OIE this year. She also thanked the interpreters and ended her address by declaring the 82nd General Session closed. She wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
503. She invited the Delegates to return for the 83rd General Session in May 2014.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

**Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
during its 82nd General Session**

25 – 30 May 2014

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. 1](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2013 and the Report on the current situation on events and trends in the animal health worldwide
- [No. 2](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2013
- [No. 3](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 87th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2013)
- [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 No resolution
- [No. 6](#) OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 89th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2015)
- [No. 7](#) Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2015
- [No. 8](#) Planned Working Programme for 2015
- [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](#) Creation of two categories of extra-ordinary contributions
- [No. 12](#) Accession of the Republic of Liberia to the OIE
- [No. 13](#) Accession of the Republic of South Sudan to the OIE
- [No. 14](#) Adoption of new or revised chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
- [No. 15](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries
- [No. 16](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries
- [No. 17](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
- [No. 18](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries
- [No. 19](#) Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries
- [No. 20](#) Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries
- [No. 21](#) First addendum to Resolution No. 30 of 30 May 2013 “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”
- [No. 22](#) Third 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. 23](#) Procedure for the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest
- [No. 24](#) Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

- [No. 25](#) Animal production food safety
- [No. 26](#) Animal welfare
- [No. 27](#) Adoption of the new or revised texts for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- [No. 28](#) Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres
- [No. 29](#) Register of Diagnostic Kits Validated and Certified by the OIE
- [No. 30](#) Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*
- [No. 31](#) Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- [No. 32](#) Criteria and factors for rational prioritisation of animal diseases that should be covered by public health policies
- [No. 33](#) African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread
- [No. 34](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
- [No. 35](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)
- [No. 36](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- [No. 37](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)
- [No. 38](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC International)
- [No. 39](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH)
- [No. 40](#) Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases
- [No. 41](#) Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
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RESOLUTION No. 1

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2013
and the Report on the current situation on events and trends in the animal health worldwide**

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 2013 (82 SG/1) and the Report on the current situation on events and trends in the animal health worldwide (82 SG/2).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management,
Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2013**

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 2013 (82 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 3

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 87th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2013)**

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 87th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2013) (82 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

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 2013 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2013,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, People's Republic of China, Qatar, Sudan, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America;

To intergovernmental organisations: the European Union (European Commission) and the World bank;

And the non-governmental organisations: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the *Fédération Equestre Internationale* (FEI), Saint Jude Children's hospital, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Ordre des Vétérinaires* (France)

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2013.

2. The Governments of Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia and Uruguay;

for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2013.

3. The Governments of Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea and United States of America

for the provision of personnel to support the implementation of the programmes of the OIE in 2013.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 6

**OIE budgetary income and expenses for the 89th financial year
(1 January to 31 December 2015)**

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2015

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 8

Planned Working Programme for 2015

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 Planned Working Programme for 2015 (Appendix I of document 82 SG/6).

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Planned Working 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.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Renewal of the 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 renew for a period of 1 year (2014) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

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, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, People's Republic of China, 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 Fédération équestre internationale (FEI) and the Latin American Poultry Association.

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains open, until further notice, to the other Member Countries and potential donors so as to finalise the acquisition and renovation of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed with the total or partial reimbursement of the bank loan granted in 2009 to acquire the first part of the building.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 11

Creation of two categories of extra-ordinary contributions

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 12

Accession of the Republic of Liberia 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,

In accordance with the Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013 establishing a procedure for examination of applications for accession to the OIE,

Recalling that this procedure is only applicable to membership applications received after 31 May 2013,

Considering the decision of the Council at its meeting held 2 October 2013, which was expressed unanimously in favor of accession of the Republic of Liberia to the OIE

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To accept the application for accession of the Republic of Liberia that becomes Member of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Accession of the Republic of South Sudan 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,

In accordance with the Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013 establishing a procedure for examination of applications for accession to the OIE,

Recalling that this procedure is only applicable to membership applications received after 31 May 2013,

Considering the decision of the Council at its meeting held 2 October 2013, which was expressed unanimously in favor of accession of the Republic of South Sudan to the OIE

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To accept the application for accession of the Republic of South Sudan that becomes Member of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 14

**Adoption of new or revised 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 comments 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 new or revised chapters were sent to Member Countries for comment:
 - 2.2.2. Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
 - 2.3.5. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus
 - 2.3.X. Infection with salmonid alphavirus
 - 2.4.9. Infection with ostreid herpesvirus 1 microvariants

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the new or revised chapters for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 17, 19, and 20 of Document 82 SG/12/CS4 B, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the revised chapter for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annex 18 (Chapter 2.4.9. Infection with ostreid herpesvirus 1 microvariants) of Document 82 SG/12/CS4 B, the text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Section 2.3.3. Geographical Distribution: replace the word ‘occur’ with ‘be detected’.
 - 2.2. In Section 7.2. Definition of a confirmed case: delete the words ‘of the microsatellite locus upstream of the ORF4 (Segarra *et al.*, 2010)’.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 15

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 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, 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 Delegates 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 untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters 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 8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Japan	Romania
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	San Marino
Austria	Estonia	Lesotho	Serbia ³⁵
Belarus	Finland	Lithuania	Singapore
Belgium	Former Yug. Rep. of	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Belize	Macedonia	Madagascar	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France	Malta	Spain
Brunei	Germany	Mauritius	Swaziland
Bulgaria	Greece	Mexico	Sweden
Canada	Guatemala	Montenegro	Switzerland
Chile	Guyana	Netherlands	Ukraine
Costa Rica	Haiti	New Caledonia	United Kingdom
Croatia	Honduras	New Zealand	United States of America
Cuba	Hungary	Nicaragua	Vanuatu
Cyprus	Iceland	Norway	
Czech Republic	Indonesia	Panama	
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	
	Italy	Portugal	

³⁵ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Korea (Rep. of) and Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones³⁶ where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.6. 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;

Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

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 January 2009 and November 2009;

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 Chocó Department);

one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés 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;

³⁶ 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.

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 documents 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 documents addressed to the Director General in December 2009 and November 2010;

South Africa: one zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in documents addressed to the Director General in May 2005 and January 2014.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones³⁷ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.6. 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 October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;

Bolivia: one zone consisting of four merged zones covering the regions of Amazonas, Chaco, Chiquitania, Valles and part of Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and March 2007, in August 2010, in August 2012 and in October 2013 and February 2014;

Brazil: four 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 three merged zones: one zone covering 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 located in States of Bahia and Tocantins (documentation of December 2010); and one zone covering States of Alagoas, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and the northern region of State of Pará (documentation of October 2013);

one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of August 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;

³⁷ 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.

- Paraguay: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and August 2010;
- 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 OIE Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 16

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 recognising 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 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, 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 Delegates 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 to the OIE Headquarters 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 8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria, Bolivia, Ecuador, Morocco and Tunisia.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia 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 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, 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 Delegates 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 untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters 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*:

Argentina	China (People's Republic of)	Singapore
Australia	India	Switzerland
Botswana	Portugal	United States of America
Canada		

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 18

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 and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, 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 BSE risk 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 Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters 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	Hungary	Norway
Australia	Iceland	Panama
Austria	India	Paraguay
Belgium	Israel	Peru
Brazil	Italy	Portugal
Bulgaria	Japan	Romania
Chile	Korea (Rep. of)	Singapore
Colombia	Latvia	Slovakia
Croatia	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Denmark	Malta	Sweden
Estonia	Netherlands	United States of America
Finland	New Zealand	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*:

Canada	Germany	Nicaragua
Chinese Taipei	Greece	Poland
Costa Rica	Ireland	Spain
Cyprus	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Lithuania	United Kingdom
France	Mexico	

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a zone recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau.

AND

4. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE 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 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 19

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 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, 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 Delegates 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 untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant 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	Czech Rep.	Kuwait	Poland
Andorra	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal
Argentina	Ecuador	Latvia	Qatar
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Romania
Austria	Finland	Lithuania	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Belgium	France	Malaysia	Slovenia
Bolivia	Germany	Malta	Spain
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Mexico	Sweden
Brazil	Hungary	Myanmar	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Iceland	Netherlands	Thailand
Canada	India	New Caledonia	Tunisia
Chile	Ireland	New Zealand	Turkey
China (People's Rep. of)	Italy	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Chinese Taipei	Japan	Oman	United Kingdom
Colombia	Korea (Rep.of)	Paraguay	United States of America
Croatia		Peru	Uruguay
Cyprus			

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 20

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from PPR,
2. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 30, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,
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. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 31 which specified the financial implications for Member Countries applying for official recognition or re-instatement of PPR status,
5. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates 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 untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as PPR free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France	New Zealand
Australia	Germany	Norway
Austria	Greece	Paraguay
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Bolivia	Iceland	Portugal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Romania
Brazil	Italy	Singapore
Canada	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovakia
Chile	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Chinese Taipei	Lithuania	South Africa
Colombia	Luxembourg	Spain
Cyprus	Malta	Sweden
Denmark	Mauritius	Switzerland
Ecuador	Myanmar	Thailand
Estonia	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Finland	New Caledonia	United States of America

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 21

**First addendum to Resolution No. 30 of 30 May 2013
“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. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly), adopted Resolution No. 30 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,
2. During the 82nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
3. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication of the endorsement of Member Countries’ official control programme based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant events subsequent to the time of initial declaration,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. That the OIE Member Countries wishing to be officially listed for the endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the endorsement of official control programme for CBPP as well as the specific guidelines contained in the specific questionnaire 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 Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member Country for the endorsement of its official control programme for CBPP, 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 CBPP.
3. That the Scientific Commission, following the endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the Member Country to verify continuous compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of CBPP.
4. That the endorsement by the Assembly, of an official control programme for CBPP following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission, is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Member Countries’ Delegates.

5. That a Member Country can maintain the OIE endorsement of its official control programme for CBPP, 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.
6. That when a Member Country having an endorsed official control programme for CBPP has failed to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this endorsement as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code*, it is deleted from the List of Member Countries having an endorsed official control programme for CBPP presented yearly to the Assembly for adoption.
7. That a Member Country, having been deleted from the List mentioned in the previous paragraph and wishing to be listed again, should apply again for endorsement of its official control programme by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.
8. That financial participation of Member Countries to the cost of the procedures for the endorsement of official control programme for CBPP is determined by a specific Resolution.
9. This Resolution No. 21 complements Resolution No. 30 adopted at the 81st General Session, which remains in force.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 22

Third 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. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) 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 82nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. The full amount for the endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP will be required only when a Member Country applies for the first time for the endorsement of its official control programme for CBPP.
2. The full amount for endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP is two thousand Euros (2,000 €).
3. For subsequent additional applications, possibly submitted for endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP (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 mentioned in Article 2 will be charged.
4. In the event of the resubmission of an application for endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP by a Member Country, whose previous application was rejected, only a quarter of the initial amount mentioned in Article 2 will be charged.
5. The cost of a possible OIE mission to a Member Country, related to official control programme for CBPP, needs to be defrayed by the Member Country concerned.
6. For all applications of least developed countries as defined in Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 80th General Session, only half the amounts mentioned above are payable.
7. This Resolution No. 22 complements Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 80th General Session, as well as Resolutions No. 31 and No. 44 adopted at the 81st General Session, which remain in force.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 23

Procedure for the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Member Countries to maintaining this status,

CONSIDERING OIE Resolution No.18 (2011) requesting the Director General of the OIE to approve facilities in which rinderpest virus-containing material can be held, and to conduct regular site visits to those facilities to verify whether their biosafety/biosecurity conditions are adequate,

REITERATING the importance of reducing the number of existing rinderpest virus stocks through the destruction of virus in a safe manner and/or the transfer of virus stocks to internationally recognised reference institutions,

THE ASSEMBLY

1. REAFFIRMS its commitment to reducing, around the world, the number of institutions holding rinderpest virus-containing material under approved conditions and according to relevant guidelines.
2. URGES the Member Countries to:
 - Approve the Mandate for facilities in which rinderpest virus containing material can be held (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’) (Appendix 1) to ensure that they support efforts to maintain global freedom from rinderpest,
 - Agree to approve a required minimum number of Rinderpest Holding Facilities. With approval of each facility being based on information provided by the FAO-OIE rinderpest joint advisory committee’s review of the application, a site inspection (where appropriate), and advice from both the Director General, the Council of the OIE and the FAO Governing body,
 - Ensure that remaining stocks of rinderpest virus containing material are transferred safely to one of the Rinderpest Holding Facilities if they are not destroyed.
3. REQUESTS the Director General:
 - Put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to monitor and evaluate approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities and, when not compliant with the Mandate, to temporarily or permanently remove their approved status according to the seriousness of the non-compliance,
 - Put in place, jointly with FAO, a mechanism for tracking stocks of rinderpest virus containing material within and between approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

MANDATE FOR A FACILITY HOLDING RINDERPEST VIRUS CONTAINING MATERIAL

The facilities in which rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing material³⁸ can be held (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’) should have a mandate which justifies their function and ensures safe storage of this material.

The Rinderpest Holding Facility has a separate mandate and approval mechanism from an OIE Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and an FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, the OIE Delegate must support the application and be fully aware of the Mandate.

The following text describes the Mandates of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility:

- A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks
 - B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.
- A) Rinderpest virus holding facilities for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:**
1. To safely hold rinderpest virus (hereinafter “RPV”) containing material at an appropriate level of bio-containment and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent its accidental or deliberate release.
 2. To accept RPV-containing material from FAO and OIE Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.
 3. To notify FAO and the OIE before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.
 4. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and the OIE.

³⁸ *Rinderpest virus-containing material* means field and laboratory strains of rinderpest virus; vaccine strains of rinderpest virus including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other clinical material from infected or suspect animals; and diagnostic material containing or encoding live virus. Recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or non-segmented) containing unique rinderpest virus nucleic acid or amino acid sequences are considered to be rinderpest virus. Full length genomic material including virus RNA and cDNA copies of virus RNA is considered to be *rinderpest virus-containing material*. Sub-genomic fragments of morbillivirus nucleic acid that are not capable of being incorporated in a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered as *rinderpest virus-containing material*.

5. To retain an up-to-date inventory of RPV-containing material and sequence data (including recording entry and exit of this material into and out of the facility), and to share this information with FAO and the OIE through the designated rinderpest database.
6. To send an annual report to the OIE and FAO
7. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity.
8. To provide technical advice or training to personnel from other FAO and OIE Member Countries on the destruction, safe shipment of RPV-containing material, and/or decontamination of facilities.
9. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
10. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.
11. To seek approval from FAO and the OIE before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of research or any other purposes, including in private sector institutions, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
12. When FAO and the OIE carry out an audit or site inspection the rinderpest holding facility shall fully cooperate and provide all the relevant reports and information.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of vaccine stocks including current and expired vaccines and any materials solely for vaccine production and to share such information with FAO and the OIE through the designated rinderpest database.
2. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines.
3. To regularly test the quality of the vaccines in accordance with the OIE guidelines.
4. To maintain and follow procedures approved by FAO and the OIE for managing vaccine stocks (storing packaged and manufactured vaccine).
5. To contribute, when requested by FAO and the OIE, to the global rinderpest vaccine bank and preparedness strategy, including through the emergency manufacture and preparation of vaccines in accordance with OIE standards.
6. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and OIE Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.
7. To notify FAO and the OIE before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure the chain of custody.
8. To provide vaccine virus seeds or vaccines to other institutes (public or private sector) for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and the OIE.

9. To send an annual report to the OIE and FAO.
 10. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity.
 11. When FAO and the OIE carry out an audit or site inspection the rinderpest holding facility shall fully cooperate and provide all the relevant reports and information.
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RESOLUTION No. 24

Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

CONSIDERING

1. The importance of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) as recognised by various international conferences including the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (hereafter the Assembly) in 2011, 2012 and 2013, the conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions for Africa (Lomé, Togo, February 2013) and the Middle East (Amman, Jordan, September 2013), the meetings of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (hereafter the Scientific Commission) (September 2011) and regional meetings organised by the OIE and its major partners such as FAO and IAEA in Southern Africa (Dar es Salam, Tanzania, June 2013), Northern Africa (Tunis, Tunisia, November 2013) or the Middle East (Amman, Jordan, March 2013),
2. That the distribution of PPR has expanded throughout the past ten years and it is now present over a large part of Africa and in the Middle East and Asia. It threatens the food security and livelihood of smallholders by affecting the development of small ruminant production as a result of the high mortality and morbidity. Since PPR is a major devastating disease of small ruminants it has been selected as one of the top priority diseases to be addressed, particularly in the Middle East, Asia and Africa,
3. The existence of strong arguments that support an effective global PPR control and eradication strategy such as the occurrence of only one serotype, the availability of very effective lifelong immunity vaccines and diagnostic tools as well as several epidemiological favourable factors such as the marginal role played by wildlife with the absence of long term virus carriage,
4. The success of the eradication of Rinderpest was built on long term continuous efforts including global and regional coordination which could serve as a model for the PPR eradication programmes,
5. That Governments and donors have increased their attention and political support for global progressive control and eradication of major transboundary diseases including PPR,
6. The well-known important difficulties to access to all areas and small holders as well as the need to address the public good dimension and the cost recovery issues of PPR control activities,
7. The recommendation given in 2011 to the OIE and FAO by the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee (Rome, June 2009 and Paris, October 2010) to establish a GF-TADs Working Group on PPR and to develop a global control strategy,
8. The on-going work by the GF-TADs PPR Working Group including the preparation of a global PPR control and eradication strategy, the organisation of several regional meetings on PPR control and the positive results of several projects for PPR control in various countries and regions,
9. The critical need for effective national Veterinary Services to define and implement national prevention and control programmes against PPR,

10. The identifiable knowledge gaps in several critical areas including the behaviour of sheep and goats small holders with vaccination campaigns, the cost of the public and private components of PPR control activities, the precise role of wild animals, the policies for the use of combined vaccines against PPR and other major diseases of small ruminants and the need to support relevant research programmes,
11. The adoption by the Assembly in May 2013 of new articles of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* allowing Member Countries to request to the Assembly a country or zone official status recognition of freedom from PPR or to propose for endorsement national PPR control plans,
12. The reports of meetings of the Scientific Commission (September 2011, September 2013) requesting the development of a global control strategy and the launching of an OIE-FAO initiative on PPR prevention and control,
13. The proposition of the Scientific Commission (September 2013) that a Resolution on the PPR global control strategy be presented to the Assembly for adoption,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. A global initiative to control PPR be launched using the GF-TADs mechanism and building on the necessity to develop and improve national as well as regional and global partnership coordination.
2. Studies be carried out in order to provide economic and social justification to decision makers for recognising the control and eradication of PPR as a global public good and for establishing economic justification for controlling PPR globally.
3. The Global Control Strategy be finalised by the GF-TADs mechanism with the support and in consultation with relevant country representatives, research organisations, private sector and donors agencies.
4. An important objective of the Global PPR Control Strategy be to contribute to poverty alleviation and improve the livelihoods of small holders in developing countries and protect and further develop the global and regional trade in animals and animal products. The PPR strategy will also include mechanisms of protection of PPR free countries. Consequently reducing PPR at source in PPR-endemic countries is a shared interest with the world community and should be considered a global public good.
5. The control of PPR is not seen as a ‘stand-alone activity’ but that it has to progress with effective Veterinary Services. Compliance of Veterinary Services with OIE standards on quality will in turn create appropriate conditions to combine PPR control with the control and prevention of other priority diseases in a cost-effective manner.
6. Accompanying tools such as a Monitoring and Evaluation tool including a Post-Vaccination Monitoring tool and a Global Research and Expertise Network be developed using the GF-TADs mechanism.

7. The PPR control global strategy be developed in compliance with OIE relevant standards and guidelines including the compliance with OIE standards of quality of Veterinary Services supported, if requested, by the use of the PVS Pathway as well as with the compliance with OIE standards of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* for vaccines and diagnostic reagents.
 8. The countries make the best use of the possibilities offered by the OIE official endorsement of national official control programmes and OIE official recognition of PPR disease free status of country or zones in order to convince national governments and donors to support national control investments, the development of trade activities as well as the prevention of disease reintroduction in free countries.
 9. The establishment of PPR vaccine banks in strategic locations and in support of regional PPR control programmes be considered with vaccines compliant with the OIE standards of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
 10. The OIE, in addition to its collaboration with FAO in this area, further enhance the capabilities of diagnostic laboratories for the rapid detection of PPR through initiatives such as the OIE laboratory twinning and PVS Laboratory programmes.
 11. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and other relevant sources of expertise, support the establishment or strengthening of epidemiological and laboratory networks at national, regional and global levels to increase transparency and timely disease reporting to OIE to protect PPR free countries and zones and to enable better monitoring of the progress of PPR control programmes in endemic areas.
 12. The OIE and FAO through the GF-TADs coordinating mechanism, provide policy and technical support to their Members Countries for the elaboration and implementation of PPR control programmes, taking into account regional specificities.
 13. Research programmes be developed in the field of socioeconomics and delivery systems, vaccines, diagnostic tools and epidemiology.
 14. An International Conference be organised on PPR control and eradication to present the global strategy developed in the framework of GF-TADs and garner support from the international community.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 25

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 thirteenth meeting in October 2013 and drafted a work programme for 2014,
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. During the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite meeting held in February 2012, FAO and WHO asked the OIE to encourage its Member Countries to designate INFOSAN Focal Points from their official Veterinary Services,
6. 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,
7. The OIE Council, during its February 2014 meeting, made some amendments to the Terms of Reference and *Modus Operandi* of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group.

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 2014 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 Terms of Reference and *Modus Operandi* of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group be revised as shown in Annex I.
 5. The Director General continue to work with Codex to implement measures to promote collaboration, in particular the adoption of systematic procedures for cross referencing between OIE and Codex standards, the enhancement of processes to identify joint priorities of mutual interest, and to strengthen collaboration at the national and regional level.
 6. 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) and other relevant organisations from the private sector to ensure their awareness of and compliance with OIE science-based animal production food safety standards.
 7. National OIE Delegates collaborate with their public health counterparts and that OIE Delegates designate the national OIE Focal Point for animal production food safety to be the same person as the INFOSAN Focal Point or, if is not possible, to nominate an officer from Veterinary Services as both the INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point and OIE Focal Point.
 8. 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 28 May 2014)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR, AND *MODUS OPERANDI*
OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope for the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group includes:

1. Consideration of all foodborne hazards arising from animals before slaughter;
2. Giving a primary focus on risk based food safety measures applicable at the farm level;
3. Consideration of food safety measures applicable elsewhere, for example during animal transport and harvesting of wild animals for food;
4. Work criteria and priorities that take into account global food safety priorities and current work programmes of relevant international organisations, especially the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), FAO and WHO;
5. Ensuring harmonisation of the food safety standards developed and under development by the OIE and relevant international organisations, especially the CAC;
6. Improving coordination between competent authorities, such as Veterinary Services and Public Health Services, with animal health and food safety responsibilities at the national and regional levels, including participation by other interested parties, as appropriate;
7. Describing the role of Veterinary Services in food safety operations.

MODUS OPERANDI

Within the above terms of reference, the Working Group's role is to:

1. Provide advice to the OIE Director General on policy and strategic issues relating to the OIE's work on animal production food safety, which has the goal of 'the development of standards on animal production food safety covering pre-slaughter issues and those prior to the first transformation of animal products, with a primary focus on food safety measures applicable at the farm level. This work will also include hazards such as pathogens that do not normally cause disease in animals'.

The priorities are:

- a) Identifying and addressing gaps, contradictions, areas where harmonisation is necessary and duplications in the work of the OIE and other intergovernmental organisations involved in food safety standards (in particular CAC);
 - b) Promoting stronger public - private sector collaboration by providing opportunities for participation for international non-governmental organisations involved in food production, transformation and food safety that have cooperation agreements with the OIE;
 - c) Strengthening the relationship to other relevant scientific and normative intergovernmental organisations working in the area of food safety (in particular CAC, FAO and WHO), through enhanced information exchange.
2. Support the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions on pre-slaughter animal production food safety;
 3. Provide the following to the Director General and relevant Specialist Commissions:
 - a) annual work programme;
 - b) policy advice;
 - c) discussion papers;
 - d) reports.
-

RESOLUTION No. 26

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,
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 have been adopted at the 2005, and subsequent General Assemblies and are regularly updated,
6. 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,
7. Two new OIE *ad-hoc* Groups on animal welfare were selected, one on the welfare of working equids and another on disaster risk reduction and management in relation to animal health and welfare,
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 in the Americas and Asia Pacific and the European platform and their associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide,
11. The OIE has introduced the Improved Animal Welfare Programme, to directly support selected OIE Member Countries seeking assistance to implement OIE international animal welfare standards for transport and slaughter.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2014 work programmes continue to be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies, with the assistance of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group members from their respective regions.
6. 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 criteria agreed by the OIE Council.
7. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.
8. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE's international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards and the need to implement OIE adopted standards worldwide.
9. The Director General to encourage Member Countries and donors to continue support for the Improved Animal Welfare Programme to improve implementation of OIE animal welfare standards in Member Countries seeking such assistance.
10. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P. and the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and other relevant organisations from the private sector to ensure their awareness of and compliance with OIE science-based animal welfare standards.
11. The Director General to encourage Member Countries to implement the adopted Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and seek for the creation of regional platforms to improve animal welfare and implementation of the OIE animal welfare chapters at the regional level.
12. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 27

**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 comments 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 chapters for the *Terrestrial Manual*:
 - 1.1.3a. Standard for managing biorisk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities
 - 2.1.3. Bluetongue
 - 2.1.4. Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever
 - 2.1.6. Epizootic haemorrhagic disease
 - 2.1.8. Leishmaniosis
 - 2.1.9. Leptospirosis
 - 2.1.11. Paratuberculosis (Johne’s disease)
 - 2.1.14. Rift Valley fever
 - 2.2.2. American foulbrood of honey bees
 - 2.3.3. Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
 - 2.3.4. Avian influenza
 - 2.3.6. Avian tuberculosis
 - 2.4.2. Bovine babesiosis
 - 2.4.9. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
 - 2.4.16. Theileriosis
 - 2.5.8. Equine piroplasmiasis
 - 2.6.1. Myxomatosis
 - 2.7.6. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
 - 2.7.10. Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis (adenocarcinoma)
 - 2.8.3. Classical swine fever (hog cholera)
 - 2.9.1. Bunyaviral diseases of animals (excluding Rift Valley fever and Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever)
 - 2.9.2. Camel pox
 - 2.9.5. Cysticercosis
 - 2.9.7. *Listeria monocytogenes*

And to adopt the following final Guidelines for the web version of the *Terrestrial Manual*:

Guideline 3.5. Managing biorisk: examples of aligning risk management strategies with assessed biorisks

Validation Guidelines:

Guideline 3.6.1. Development and optimisation of antibody detection assays

Guideline 3.6.2. Development and optimisation of antigen detection assays

Guideline 3.6.3. Development and optimisation of nucleic acid detection assays

Guideline 3.6.4. Measurement uncertainty

Guideline 3.6.5. Statistical approaches to validation

Guideline 3.6.6. Selection and use of reference samples and panels

Guideline 3.6.7. Principles and methods for the validation of diagnostic tests for infectious diseases applicable to wildlife

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 28

Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE 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 Collaborating Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,
3. All OIE Collaborating 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 Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Collaborating Centre follow the same procedure,
7. 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",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of OIE Collaborating Centres (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction
National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Diseases Defense (FAZD), College Station, Texas, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OIE Collaborating Centre for Food-Borne Parasites from the Asia-Pacific Region
Institute of Zoonosis, Jilin University, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OIE Collaborating Centre for Food-Borne Parasites from the European Region
Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES), Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety

A tri-partner consortium formed by the Veterinary Public Health Centre, SINGAPORE, the Division of Health and Environment Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University, JAPAN and the current OIE Collaborating Centre at the Research Center for Food Safety, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo, JAPAN

OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Biorisk Management

Sandia National Laboratories, International Biological Threat Reduction Program, New Mexico, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

A consortium formed by the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC), PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA and the current OIE Collaborating Centre at the mEpiLab, EpiCentre, Massey University, NEW ZEALAND

OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Public Health

Pan American Centre for Foot and Mouth Disease (PANAFTOSA/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL

OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics

Medical Research Council, University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, UNITED KINGDOM

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 29

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 Biological 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
Newcastle Disease Virus antibody detection ELISA	BioChek UK Ltd	Fit to detect Newcastle disease virus specific IgG antibodies in chicken sera and for the following purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/flock);2. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination);3. To monitor infection or disease in unvaccinated populations;4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/ flock health schemes/disease control).

2. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards, the Director General renew for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kit certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
TeSeE™ Western Blot	Bio-Rad	<p>Fit for the post-mortem detection of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) in cattle (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE), in ovines and caprines (BSE and scrapie), and in cervids (chronic wasting disease, CWD), and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To confirm TSE suspected positive samples detected at the screening laboratories in countries with active/passive surveillance programmes. Any sample with a negative result according to the TeSeE™ WESTERN BLOT assay interpretation criteria, following a positive rapid test result, should be tested with one of the other OIE certified confirmatory methods, Immunohistochemistry (IHC) or SAF-Immunoblot;<li>2. To confirm the prevalence of infection with one of the TSE associated diseases (BSE, scrapie, CWD) in the context of an epidemiological survey in a low prevalence country;<li>3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures) and to assist the demonstration of the efficiency of eradication policies.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 30

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 February 2014 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 16 of Document 82 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of Document 82 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 7, 9, 10 and 15 of Document 82 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annexes 7, 9 and 10 (Chapters 2.1., 5.1. and 5.2.) revert to the 2013 version of the *Aquatic Code*.
 - 2.2. In Annex 15 (Chapter 10.X.) Article 10.X.13 point 1b) delete the following words '(ovarian fluid and milt)'.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 31

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 2014 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 82SG/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 VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII and XXXIII of Document 82 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes IV, X, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XXII, XXV and XXVI of Document 82 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex IV (User's Guide)
 - a) In point 2 of Section A, add “internal” before “reporting”
 - b) Delete point 4 of Section A
 - c) In point 4 of Section C, replace the first sentence with the following:

“Animal health measures related to international trade should be based on OIE standards”.
 - 2.2. In Annex X (Chapter 4.7.)
 - a) In point 3 b) of Article 4.7.14., add “(not a *listed disease*)” after “Swine vesicular disease”.
 - b) In point 4 b) of Article 4.7.14., add “(not a *listed disease*)” after “Vesicular stomatitis (cattle, pigs)”.

2.3. In Annex XIII (Chapter 6.6.)

- a) In the English version only, in the 4th paragraph of Article 6.6.1., delete “the” before “all animal sectors”.

2.4. In Annex XIV (Chapter 6.9.)

- a) In point 3 b) of Article 6.9.4., replace “discourage the advertising of” with “not advertise”.

2.5. In Annex XV (Chapter 6.10.)

- a) Replace the 1st paragraph of point 1 of Article 6.10.1. with the following text:

“Antimicrobial resistance is a naturally occurring phenomenon influenced by many factors. However, the main driving force for the selection of antimicrobial resistance is the use of *antimicrobial agents* in any environment, including human, animal and other usages [under study]”.
- b) Replace “may lead” in the 2nd paragraph of point 1 of Article 6.10.1. with “has lead”.

2.6. In Annex XVI (Chapter 7.10.)

- a) Replace “These recommendations cover” in the introductory paragraph of Article 7.10.2 with “This chapter covers”.
- b) In Article 7.10.3., move the last sentence of the 1st paragraph to follow the 1st sentence, so that the paragraph reads:

“The welfare of broilers should be assessed using outcome-based measurables. Consideration should also be given to the resources provided and the design of the system. The following outcome-based measurables, specifically animal-based measurables, can be useful indicators of *animal welfare*. The use of these indicators and the appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different situations where broilers are managed, also taking into account the strain of bird concerned.”

- c) Delete the last sentence of point 8 b) of Article 7.10.3.

2.7. In Annex XXII (Chapter 8.12.)

- a) In Article 8.12.1., reinstate and amend the sentence after point 6 c) as follows:

“For the purpose of this chapter, ruminants include dromedary camels”.
- b) In point 2 a) of Article 8.12.3., add “for a minimum of ten years” after “in the country or *zone*”.
- c) Delete the sentence after point 2 b) of Article 8.12.3.

2.8. In Annex XXV (Chapter 10.4.)

- a) In the English version only, in Articles 10.4.6. and 10.4.7., add “attached” after “should be” in the last paragraph.
- b) In Article 10.4.21., modify point 2 as follows:
 - “2) these *commodities* have been processed to ensure the destruction of avian influenza virus using:
 - a) moist heat treatment for 30 minutes at 56°C; or
 - b) any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate avian influenza virus;”

2.9. In Annex XXVI (Chapter 10.9.)

- a) In Article 10.9.16., modify point 2 as follows:
 - “2) these *commodities* have been processed to ensure the destruction of NDV using:
 - a) moist heat treatment for 30 minutes at 56°C; or
 - b) any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate NDV;”

- 3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 32

**Criteria and factors for rational prioritisation of animal diseases
that should be covered by public health policies**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The strengthening of Veterinary Services (VS) is crucial to guarantee both animal and public health along with a healthy eco-system that is conducive to sustainable livestock development,
2. A number of countries and regional organisations have committed to an animal disease prioritisation approach to boost the effectiveness of VS actions,
3. The choice of priority diseases that should be covered by public policies must be based on scientifically proven criteria that take into account public health issues including food safety, food security, economic, societal and environmental concerns,
4. The prioritisation of animal diseases should assist in reaching national consensus on the priority policies of VS by key economic stakeholders, small livestock holders, communities and other partners as well as political decision-makers,
5. The prioritisation of animal diseases should enhance public policy adaptability to changing epidemiological contexts and evolution of scientific knowledge, while ensuring the sustainability of these policies for better effectiveness,
6. The animal disease prioritisation criteria should strengthen the safety of international trade in line with the SPS Agreement without creating unjustified trade barriers,
7. A country's choice of priority diseases serves to strengthen international cooperation and the implementation of international programmes to combat transboundary diseases,
8. The choice of priority diseases must be supported by suitable resources to implement animal health policies to address these diseases. This choice should continue to strengthen the VS critical competencies such as active or passive surveillance, veterinary laboratory capability, animal identification and traceability, as well as the development of preparedness and contingency plans,
9. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* are the recognised international scientific animal health reference that should guide the prioritisation of animal diseases,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE terrestrial and aquatic animal health standards, including those pertaining to zoonoses, are a basic tool for the prioritisation of animal diseases based on scientific evidence. In parallel they ensure the safety of international trade of animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified barriers.

2. The OIE provide scientific data on the main animal diseases to the Member Countries to facilitate the choice of priority diseases based on scientific evidence.
 3. The OIE consider Member Countries' experiences in formulating guidelines for animal disease prioritisation as an animal health risk management tool, taking into account a balanced consideration of public health, economic, societal and environmental issues.
 4. The OIE facilitate the involvement of essential partners to the VS in this animal disease prioritisation process, such as other competent authorities (e.g. human health authorities), political and financial decision-makers, farmers including small livestock holders, communities and other stakeholders and interested parties.
 5. The OIE prepare animal disease prioritisation guidelines and recommendations to support regional and national efforts to control priority animal diseases.
 6. The OIE also develop guidelines for aquatic animal disease prioritisation, taking into account their specific characteristics.
 7. The OIE continue to promote the PVS Pathway tools to strengthen VS compliance with OIE international standards, in concert with the prioritisation of animal diseases.
-

(Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 33

African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread

CONSIDERING THAT

1. African swine fever is a transboundary disease endemic in some African countries which was introduced into parts of Europe in 2007, with recent further spread,
2. African swine fever is a disease of global significance that poses a current threat for porcine health and international trade,
3. OIE Member Countries are obliged to notify outbreaks of the disease to the OIE,
4. The current absence of any effective vaccine or treatment seriously limits control of the disease,
5. Past experience in a number of countries demonstrates that the disease can be eradicated through collaboration and joint efforts by the different sectors involved applying strict biosecurity and elimination of sick and carrier animals and their contaminated products,
6. Early detection of the African swine fever virus is essential to enable rapid response and limit serious consequences,
7. Wild Suidae (including wild boars and feral pigs) can play an important and potentially complex role in the epidemiology and spread of African swine fever,
8. There is an urgent need to raise the awareness of hunters, others related to game and wildlife management, through their national and international organisations,
9. Effective Veterinary Services are fundamental to any African swine fever control strategy, including in promoting crucial biosecurity measures,
10. The OIE Reference Laboratories for African swine fever lead and coordinate international research and diagnostic activities, together with twinning with candidate laboratories,
11. There is extensive knowledge of the disease, which, when combined with the data gathered from various risk analyses and the appropriate diagnostic techniques available, constitutes major assets for controlling African swine fever,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Member Countries respect their obligations of reporting African swine fever outbreaks including findings in wildlife to OIE in a timely and transparent manner using the WAHIS system.
2. The OIE Member Countries base their early detection and rapid response strategies on the results of a comprehensive risk assessment.

3. The OIE Member Countries engage in controlling African swine fever through the application of biosecurity measures, development of contingency plans and by control programmes in endemic zones and the creation of disease-free zones.
 4. The OIE Member Countries base their requirements for safe trade of live animals and commodities on the relevant science-based international standards adopted by the OIE.
 5. The OIE Member Countries establish and enhance official cooperation, including through agreements, between Veterinary Services and national bodies and international organisations responsible for hunting and wildlife management in all activities aimed at, surveillance, prevention, early detection, control and eradication of African swine fever and other important diseases.
 6. Member Countries with the scientific support of the OIE promote awareness programmes for veterinarians and organise awareness and training programmes for hunters and farmers in the field of early detection of key infectious diseases, carcass inspection and viscera disposal when relevant.
 7. The OIE cooperate with international organisations for hunting and wildlife management to raise awareness on African swine fever and other relevant diseases for hunters and other persons related with game and wildlife management and to establish models of agreements with Veterinary Services.
 8. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) continue its efforts to establish a training centre on wildlife diseases for hunters to be managed by CIC with scientific support from the OIE.
 9. The OIE continue to support Member Countries to follow the OIE PVS pathway including the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme enhancing their efforts of detecting, controlling and eradicating African swine fever.
 10. The OIE Reference Laboratories continue research into the epidemiology of African swine fever in different scenarios; the development of non-invasive sampling methods for wild Suidae; the distribution and epidemiological role of ticks of the *Ornithodoros* genus in newly infected zones; the role of wild Suidae and feral pigs in high and low density populations; and the development of vaccines to combat African swine fever.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates on 29 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 34

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)**

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 Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC),

The Agreement between the OIE and the EEC that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 October 2013 (82 SG/20),

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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 35

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)**

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 Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC),

The Agreement between the OIE and the GARC that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 October 2013 (82 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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 36

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

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 Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD),

The Agreement between the OIE and the IGAD that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 October 2013 (82 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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 37

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)**

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 Veterinary Students Association (IVSA),

The Agreement between the OIE and the IVSA that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 26 February 2014 (82 SG/23),

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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 38

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care
International (AAALAC International)**

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 Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC International),

The Agreement between the OIE and the AAALAC International that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 26 February 2014 (82 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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 39

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH)**

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 Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH),

The Agreement between the OIE and the ISAH that was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 26 February 2014 (82 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 30 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 40

Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed by the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards 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 laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. 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",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratories and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus
Laboratorio de Patógenos Acuícolas, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, CHILE

OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with salmonid alphavirus
National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, NORWAY

OIE Reference Laboratory for White spot disease
National Cheng Kung University, CHINESE TAIPEI

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2014)

RESOLUTION No. 41

Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Biological Standards Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed 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 laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. 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",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian chlamydiosis (Chlamydia psittaci)
Laboratory for Immunology and Animal Biotechnology, Ghent University, BELGIUM

OIE Reference Laboratory for Peste des petits ruminants
National Diagnostic Center for Exotic Animal Diseases, China Animal Health and
Epidemiology Center, Qingdao, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OIE Reference Laboratory for Leishmaniosis
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSi), Centro di Referenza Nazionale
per le Leishmaniosi (C.Re.Na.L.), Palermo, ITALY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Babesiosis

IZSSi, Centro di Referenza Nazionale per Anaplasma, Babesia, Rickettsia e Theileria
(C.R.A.Ba.R.T.), Palermo, ITALY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Theileriosis

IZSSi, C.R.A.Ba.R.T., Palermo, ITALY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies

Centro Nacional de Servicios de Diagnóstico en Salud Animal Carretera Federal, Tecámac,
Mexico City, MEXICO

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2014)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2013**

endorsed by the Assembly of the OIE on 29 May 2014

**12th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Amman (Jordan), 23 to 26 September 2013

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Veterinary education and incorporation of the “One Health” concept

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Proper application of Halal slaughter

Recommendation No. 1

Veterinary education and incorporation of the “One Health” concept

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Most Member Countries of the OIE Middle East Region have continuing education programmes for Veterinarians;
2. Less than 50% of veterinarians in the region receive continuing education training each year;
3. There is strong awareness of OIE ‘Day One Graduate Competencies’ and ‘Veterinary Education Core Curriculum’ programmes across Members of the Region;
4. There is recognition of the One Health concept as an opportunity for Veterinary Education and continuing education for veterinarians;
5. Members prioritized several methods OIE can utilize to support continuing education programmes including;
 - a) an OIE regional veterinary education **Collaborating Centre**
 - b) the development of **Standards** on initial veterinary education
 - c) the facilitation of **Twinning** projects
6. There is a consensus among Members that the OIE should strengthen its support for veterinary education;
7. The One Health concept and approaches are gaining momentum and attention across OIE Member Countries;
8. There exists a broad understanding among Members that One Health represents multiple collaborative efforts at the interface of animals, humans and the environment;
9. A majority of Members indicated they have a One Health implementation plan in place or one to put one in place in the future;
10. There are active One Health collaborations with Public Health Agencies focused on key zoonotic diseases (e.g. brucellosis, rabies, influenza and tuberculosis) and food safety; and
11. Several opportunities exist for enhancing veterinary continuing education through utilizing active learning methodologies (e.g. wet laboratories and simulation exercises) and by integration of One Health concepts and competency based programmes; and
12. Veterinary Education includes both initial and continuing education.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE take a larger role in supporting veterinary education worldwide;
2. An OIE Regional Veterinary Education Collaborating Centre be established in the Middle East;
3. The OIE work towards the development of standards on initial veterinary education based on the OIE ‘Day One Graduate Competencies’ and “Veterinary Education Core Curriculum”;
4. The OIE continue supporting veterinary education and veterinary statutory body Twinning projects in the Region;
5. The OIE and its Members continue to emphasize and promote One Health concept as an opportunity for Veterinary Education and continuing education for veterinarians;
6. OIE actively seek collaborations and innovative methods for integrating active learning methodologies and the One Health concept into continuing education training programmes for veterinarians;
7. OIE advocate for inclusion of the “One Health” concept into veterinary education;
8. OIE and Members together highlight strong multi-disciplinary One Health collaborations, and share lessons learned in creating functional One Health partnerships;
9. The Member Countries of the Region take a better ownership of the involvement of the Veterinary Services in the initial and continuing education of veterinarians;
10. The Member Countries of Middle East use the results of evaluations performed within the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway to identify the needs for continuing training programmes and twinning actions between Collaborating Centres, between veterinary education establishments (VEE) and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB); and
11. The OIE advocate, at high political level, the importance of allocating adequate resources towards the improvement of continuing education of veterinarians.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2013
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

Recommendation No. 2

Proper application of Halal slaughter

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Religion is the foundation and major source of the culture and ethics in the Middle East Region, and most people believe it is the main driver of all aspects of their lives;
2. Until now, in many Member Countries of the Region, the understanding of animal welfare, especially during slaughter, has generally been expressed in terms of religious precepts and humane ethics rather than through regulations and legislation;
3. In spite of the fact that the majority of populations in the Region are Muslim, Halal slaughter is not being implemented in some cases as it should be, according to religious precepts;
4. Slaughterhouses in most Middle East countries need to make huge efforts to achieve better animal welfare and food safety objectives;
5. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, national and international public policy issue with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and commercial dimensions;
6. 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;
7. 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 and veterinary education;
8. 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;
9. Through PVS evaluations and other activities, the OIE has been able to assess the challenges faced by some countries in the Region of Middle East in trying to fulfil the missions inherent in good quality of Veterinary Services;
10. The lack of organisation of the various involved parties in the animal production 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; and
11. It is important to continue 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 Pathway.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Delegate of OIE Member Countries of the Region of the Middle East sensitise religious leaders and other relevant authorities of their country with regard to the cruelty that may currently occur, especially during transport and slaughter of animals for human consumption;
2. OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, with the support of the Member Countries and the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, take the lead in promoting the proper application of animal slaughter in accordance with OIE Standards, which also comply with Halal precepts, and that NGOs, national and religious authorities, producers, consumer associations and other stakeholders also be included in this process so to encourage the creation of public-private partnerships;
3. Member Countries of the Region better implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including those dealing with land transport and slaughter of animal for human consumption;
4. Member Countries improve abattoirs by equipping them with all the facilities required for the proper implementation of animal welfare standards, including the following: correct design of the facility, unloading facilities and lairage; availability of feed and water; ante-mortem inspection; control of animal movement within the slaughterhouse; equipment for restraining animals; slaughter boxes;
5. Member Countries promote the involvement of consumer associations as possible leaders to highlight the regulatory partnerships for Halal slaughter, animal welfare and food safety and quality;
6. Member Countries of the Region sensitise official veterinarians in charge of livestock, especially at abattoirs, to the concepts of animal welfare and how these relate to Islamic precepts;
7. Member Countries implement effective and continuous training and education for all personnel working in abattoirs, and especially slaughterers;
8. OIE provide technical support to the publication of a document on the best practice for Halal slaughter complying with OIE adopted standards, which should be made available to personnel in slaughterhouses and also to the general public;
9. 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, including training the trainers seminars as well as twinning actions using OIE Collaborating Centres (CC) specialised in animal welfare and between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE), or other relevant twinning activities; and
10. The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East with the support of the Member Countries and the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East work jointly on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS), which will define the required action plan for the Region and include the standards that Member Countries consider to be necessary to improve animal welfare in the Region with proper application of Halal slaughter precepts being one of the main components.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2013
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

**28th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Cebu (Philippines), 18 to 22 November 2013

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control, including practical examples from the region

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) PRRS control in the Region

Recommendation No. 1

**The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control,
including practical examples from the region**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock play a significant role in the economies of the Region;
2. Economics is the science of the efficient allocation of scarce resources;
3. Economic analyses represent a source of information to animal disease control decision makers that will enable them to efficiently allocate monetary and human resources;
4. Diseases may have a significant negative impact on human health, livestock production and trade;
5. Diseases and their pathogens are not limited by geographic boundaries;
6. According to the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among Member Countries in the Region, 19 different animal diseases or pathogens were each considered by at least two countries to be among their five most important diseases/pathogens;
7. According to an analysis of data provided in the questionnaire, the proportion of individual countries' five most important diseases that are endemic to that country ranged from 37% to 56%;
8. Human and livestock demographic and epidemiological data are necessary to conduct economic analyses of animal disease control programmes;
9. An objective of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region for 2011-2015 is to take into account the economic impacts of “measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses”;
10. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) was identified by 78% of the questionnaire respondents as being among their five most important animal diseases;
11. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents felt that cost-benefit analysis was either very or somewhat important in disease control in their country;
12. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents felt it would be helpful to have access to unpublished reports on the socio-economic animal disease impact from other countries;
13. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that more socio-economic analyses of the impact of animal disease should be made in their country;
14. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, a vast majority of the respondents replied that animal disease control decisions made in their country should be based either absolutely or mainly on socio-economic criteria;

15. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should deliver regional workshops on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact;
16. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should produce socio-economic guidelines on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact;
17. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should maintain a register of analyses on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact; and
18. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should provide a list of experts on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries consider economic analyses in the planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;
2. The Member Countries identify the sources of demographic and epidemiological data to support economic analyses and consider the means of addressing the gaps in this information;
3. The Member Countries encourage publication and dissemination of economic analysis undertaken in their countries in order to share with one another findings and methodologies used in performing economic analyses of animal disease control;
4. The Member Countries identify economists in their Veterinary Services, universities and other institutions, and establish working relationships between these experts, policy analysts and decision makers, to support the development of capability in economic analysis of disease control and eradication programmes;
5. The OIE continue to advocate, at high level, on the economic benefit of animal disease control;
6. The OIE promote the use of economic analyses of animal disease control and eradication programmes by delivering regional workshops;
7. The OIE support economic analyses of animal disease control programmes by producing a special publication on socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact that could be then translated in relevant national languages, if resources are available;
8. The OIE support economic analyses of animal disease control programmes by maintaining an indexed register of analyses undertaken by Member Countries and providing a list of relevant experts;
9. The OIE promote the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre on the use of economic analysis in animal disease control; and
10. The OIE establish an ad hoc Group and publish guidelines on economic analysis in animal health policies including disease control and eradication.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 22 November 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

Recommendation No. 2

PPRS control in the Region

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The human and animal population of Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region, in 2013, represents the major part of the overall world human and animal population;
2. The consumption of pork in this Region will augment with the constant increase and access of the human population to middle class;
3. HP-PPRS outbreaks have continuously occurred for many years and that infection with this virus now appears to be spreading even more quickly, through, among others, a lack of proper biosecurity and management practices;
4. The increase in cross-boundary movement of people, pigs and pig products represents a high risk of spread of HP-PPRS and other infectious animal diseases;
5. Phylogenetic analysis of HP-PPRS virus isolates in some Member Countries of the Region suggests that HP-PPRS outbreaks are closely linked;
6. There is a lack of understanding regarding the epidemiology and other aspects of infection with PPRS viruses;
7. PPRS is part of OIE listed diseases ;
8. In many cases, there are no suitable vaccines available against HP-PPRS viruses; and
9. The OIE has an active *ad hoc* Group on PPRS reporting to the Code Commission and that soon, a *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on infection with PPRS virus, including standards on the conditions for trade of pigs and pig products, will be proposed for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Member Countries establish more effective measures to strengthen border controls through mutual collaboration with their neighbouring countries;
2. The OIE Member Countries systematically notify the occurrence of PPRS in a timely manner using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);

3. The OIE Member Countries develop a national disease control strategy for PRRS and other infectious diseases of swine addressing, among others, animal movement management and control to prevent the spread of PRRS virus;
4. The OIE Member Countries conduct risk and impact assessments along the production chains to add to our understanding of PRRS;
5. The OIE Member Countries increase their surveillance for swine diseases as well as their capacities at all levels, including national laboratory networks;
6. The OIE Member Countries encourage the establishment and the improvement of biosecurity measures to limit and prevent the spread of PRRS viruses;
7. The OIE Member Countries promote the appropriate use of safe and efficient vaccines matching circulating strains as a tool to reduce clinical disease;
8. The OIE Member Countries of the Region collaborate and share information, using all appropriate mechanisms, including regional GF-TADs, in order to ensure a harmonised approach to PRRS control strategies;
9. The OIE Member Countries of the Region take better advantage of the expertise available in the OIE Reference Centres;
10. The OIE Member Countries of the region be actively engaged in commenting on the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on infection with PRRS virus to be circulated soon;
11. The OIE support the National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in building capacity in terms of epidemiology, early detection, and appropriate response to PRRS;
12. The OIE promote research activities regarding pathogenicity, immunity, epidemiology, improvement of vaccines, development of a diagnostic marker to accurately predict the virulence of an isolate, and a DIVA method to differentiate vaccine strains and field viruses;
13. The OIE develop, in the *Terrestrial Manual*, new standards on the quality of vaccines for PRRS; and
14. The OIE, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations, support the development and publication of scientific information on PRRS, including on biosecurity and surveillance.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 22 November 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 82nd General Session
in Paris, 26 May 2014**

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.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 92 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: Liberia, South Sudan.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³⁹, AU-PANVAC⁴⁰, CEBEVIRHA⁴¹, CIRAD⁴², FAO, ILRI, PATTEC⁴³, SADC⁴⁴, WAEMU⁴⁵, 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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, 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.

³⁹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

⁴⁰ AU-PANVAC: African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

⁴¹ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

⁴² CIRAD: Center for International Research on Environment and Development

⁴³ PATTEC : Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign

⁴⁴ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴⁵ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

Discussions

Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu, Delegate of Zimbabwe, considered that, due to the fact that OIE Delegates reported directly to elected political leaders whose positions might often change, it was very difficult for them to guarantee the level of understanding about OIE activities.

In that regard, she expressed her great concern regarding the absence of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to the meeting of the Commission, despite the importance of that meeting. Therefore, she inquired whether that might be a reflection regarding such lack of understanding.

Finally, Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu added that, in addition to the efforts of Delegates to influence the level of understanding of their countries regarding OIE activities, it might be necessary that the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Sub-Regional offices observe those difficulties and consider special measures to raise the OIE's profile and to convince governments on the importance of actively participating in OIE activities.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, agreed with the Delegate of Zimbabwe regarding the difficulties Delegates could face in ensuring that funds for OIE activities are systematically earmarked in their countries' national budgets, enabling arrears to be paid and OIE contributions upgraded, where possible. However, Dr Samaké pointed out that Delegates were the OIE's main representatives in their countries and that the OIE gives Delegates the lead to ensure that their countries comply with their responsibilities to the organisation such as the payment of contributions. Therefore, Dr Samaké said that the OIE was always willing to assist Delegates whenever necessary to comply with their obligations. In that sense he commented that, in all meetings with political authorities of Member Countries, the OIE endeavours to underline the importance of Members Countries' active participation in OIE activities as well as the importance of paying contributions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the OIE Council, began his presentation by describing the composition of the Council. He also made special reference to the OIE's 90th anniversary.

He commented on Council matters of general interest, including: the need of a partial election in 2014 of a new member of the OIE Council to represent the Africa region; the agreement to present a draft resolution to the World Assembly of Delegates proposing the creation of two new categories of extraordinary contributions in order to increase the OIE's general budget; the selection of the Technical Item II (without a questionnaire) of the current General Session entitled "African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread"; and the validated list of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories to be presented for endorsement by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane also indicated that the Council had examined the applications for accession of South Sudan and Liberia as new OIE Member Countries with a favourable opinion.

He concluded by commenting on the expectations of the OIE Council regarding the commitment of OIE Delegates highlighting the importance of their involvement in all OIE activities and providing input on the various issues discussed in order to guide Council meetings and ensure that all Member Countries' needs be addressed properly.

4. 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, who had been unable to attend the General Session, started the presentation by extending a warm welcome to all new OIE Delegates in the region.

He gave a brief review of the last meeting of the Regional Commission, held at the 81st General Session, on Monday 27 May 2013. He reported that it had been attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries, including Liberia. He also described the agenda and the main items discussed.

Dr Rutagwenda then reminded Delegates of the composition of the Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and representatives of the region in the OIE Council and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. He informed participants that Professor Jaouad Berrada, former Delegate of Morocco, had resigned as Delegate in August 2013, leaving vacant the position of Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, this justifying the election for that position, as well as for the position of Member of the Council.

Dr Rutagwenda said that, since 2009, Africa's common position had been successfully coordinated by AU-IBAR. In his view, this had enabled Africa to speak with one voice and hence contribute to enriched discussions at OIE General Sessions. As a good example, he cited the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes by the African region.

He discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Morocco in February 2015, inviting all Delegates to attend.

He then gave a brief review of the different regional activities, highlighting those relating to veterinary education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies and to the promotion of twinning projects in these fields, as well as activities relating to: the "Reinforcement of African Governance" (VET-GOV) Programme; advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); and providing ongoing promotion and support for Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Rutagwenda concluded by encouraging countries to increase their participation in OIE activities and stressed on the utmost importance of Member Countries to implement OIE international standards in line with the OIE Strategic Plan. He highlighted the importance of statutory contributions to the OIE, and increasing them if any possible. Finally, he reiterated the importance of a common position for Africa to enable the continent to speak as much as possible with one voice.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2014, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

Regarding human resources, he said that the period covered by the report had been marked by the departure of: Dr Florência Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa; Dr Antonio Petrini, Programme Officer from the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa in Tunis; Mrs Youma N'Diaye, accountant, and Mrs Mariam Minta, secretary, both

from the Regional Representation. This had been followed by the arrival of Dr Alessandro Ripani, Programme Officer at the Sub-Regional Representation in Tunis, and Mr Abdramane Sanogo, accountant at the Regional Representation.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the collaboration between the OIE, FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), AU-IBAR, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries on the development of continental or regional control strategies, especially for foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever (ASF), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Newcastle disease. He mentioned the first inter-regional meeting (Middle East and North Africa) on FMD-PPR and the implementation of the PPR pilot project in Burkina Faso and Ghana financed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa (VSPA)).

He also discussed continued implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway and its associated programmes (Twinning, support for the modernisation of veterinary legislation, support for the organisation of round tables), as well as the involvement of all African Members in the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the appropriation of the results of activities (especially the OIE PVS Pathway and other capacity-building activities) by individual countries (substantial increase in the national budget allocated to Veterinary Services: Benin, Senegal, Togo, Niger, among others), by Economic Communities (e.g. WAEMU technical and financial support in implementing activities and its responsibility for activities requiring a regional approach, such as harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation and the CBPP and Newcastle disease control strategy), and by development partners (World Bank in the case of Mali; European Union in the case of Kenya; Belgian Cooperation in the case of Mozambique).

He gave an account of support provided to countries in different areas, including: the OIE PVS Pathway; notification to the OIE of relevant epidemiological events; and regular payment of country contributions to the OIE. This had involved courtesy visits to Kenya, Mali and Comoros.

Dr Samaké mentioned the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal), pointing out that the component one of the programme regarding animal health would be implemented by ECOWAS/CILSS⁴⁶ with the technical support of the OIE.

He remarked on the consolidation of existing networks, including the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) and Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), and the establishment of new networks such as: the veterinary laboratory network for avian influenza and other transboundary diseases (RESOLAB) and regional network of national epidemicsurveillance systems (RESEPI) in Central Africa; Southern and Eastern Africa Association of Veterinary Educational Establishments (SEAAVEE); and the South African Development Community's Livestock Technical Committee (LTC/SADC).

He informed Delegates that the OIE Council had approved a cooperation agreement between the OIE and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and that an updated cooperation agreement between the OIE and AU-IBAR would be submitted soon.

⁴⁶ ECOWAS/CILSS: Economic Community Of West African States/ Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel

Dr Samaké was pleased to announce that applications for accession to the OIE by Liberia and South Sudan had been considered favourably by a meeting of the OIE Council.

He said that the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako had been consolidated (visit by the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] Commissioner) and that the establishment of a Regional Animal Health Centre in Central Africa is still waiting final political decision.

He mentioned a preparatory mission for the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Rabat from 16 to 20 February, 2015.

Lastly, Dr Samaké gave a brief review of the work programme of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations covering the period from 1 May to 31 December, 2014.

He highlighted a number of activities: the annual coordination meeting for chief veterinary officers (concerning standards to be examined at the 82nd General Session), organised by AU-IBAR; the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and bilateral meetings on the fringes of the General Session; support for applications by Liberia and South Sudan for accession to the OIE; statutory meetings of GF-TADs for Africa Regional Steering Committee, GF-TADs Global Steering Committee and VET-GOV; participation in OIE global conferences; continued implementation of the PPR pilot project; planning for the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel; development of continental or regional strategies under the GF-TADs for Africa Five-Year Action Plan, notably for FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP and Newcastle disease; the meeting on FMD and PPR disease status, coupled with a PPR control strategy in North Africa; and a meeting on rabies in North Africa. He also discussed: the 'One Health' approach; pilot activities, including control of rabies, Rift Valley fever (seminar on Rift Valley fever prevention in North Africa) and antimicrobial resistance; raising countries' awareness of the OIE PVS Pathway; reporting epidemiological events to the OIE; regular payment of OIE contributions; and activities to build stakeholder capacity, including the seminar on rabies in Niger, a planned seminar on food safety and activities to improve the governance of Veterinary Services in Africa (VET-GOV project); the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa; World Rabies Day on 28 September, 2014; and the Annual Meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October, 2014.

Discussions

The Delegate of Senegal wondered whether the OIE could raise the awareness of more Member Country governments regarding the importance of ensuring that the OIE Delegate's position should be a stable one, as this was the only way to ensure proper implementation of OIE activities.

The Delegate of Mauritania said that it was very difficult for some countries in the Region to increase their category of contributions to the OIE. He suggested that the OIE seek a possible solution to the problem of countries with long-term arrears because most of these countries experienced financial difficulties.

In response to the Delegate of Mauritania, Dr Eloit pointed out that the OIE is virtually the only organisation to allow its Member Countries to choose their category of contribution. She explained that, when increasing contributions, the OIE takes into account higher expenses to be faced. She stressed that the OIE always requests Council approval before increasing contributions. She then reminded participants that contributions had not been increased in either 2012 or 2013. Lastly she said that the OIE is open to discussion with any countries finding it difficult to pay their contributions in order to seek a solution. She added that the most important thing was for such countries to show their willingness and intent to resolve that situation. She also added that the amount of OIE contributions is extremely low comparing to other international organisations.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Defining a strategy to achieve freedom from tsetse fly and trypanosomosis in Africa”

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

After an animated discussion involving several Delegates, a small group comprising the Delegates of Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tunisia was appointed to finalise the proposal of technical item.

The following technical item (without questionnaire) is proposed for the 21st Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Cross border movements of animals and animal products and their relevance to the epidemiology of animal diseases in Africa”

8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, first reminded participants that the Delegate of Morocco had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, then indicated, to the Regional Commission, the institutional rules regarding election of members to the OIE Council. She also provided some consideration points to take into account when electing a Delegate as a member of one of the OIE’s statutory bodies. Among these points, she highlighted the importance of considering the stability of the selected Delegate’s position in his or her country as well as the sub-regional balance of Delegates selected, which is mainly reflected by the languages. She underlined the fact that, during the current meeting, Delegates would have to reach a consensus in order to present their candidate to the World Assembly of Delegates on Friday. She reminded participants that it is the World Assembly that takes the final decision on the composition of the Council, based on the advice of the Regional Commission.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates regarding the outcomes of the Chief Veterinary Officers’ meeting in Nairobi, and in the light of the procedure described by Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Nicholas Kauta, Delegate of Uganda, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council.

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, already Member of the OIE Council, was proposed as Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement by vote.

9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new *Code* chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the *Code*.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging the special situation of many countries in Africa due to the endemic presence of African Horse Sickness.

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group will give special attention to this situation and will make provision in the HHP concept for horses from AHS affected countries. In this regard a meeting with South African representatives and OIE experts will take place during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, provided further background on the development of the proposed *Code* Chapter. He explained that the draft was confined strictly to describing the concept and that all pertinent questions and concerns would be addressed by future expert group meetings and Specialist Commissions, and presented to Members.

He added that the OIE had taken the same approach when presenting the Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare to Members.

He explained that details of the various activities, including a description of the sub-population, certification, diagnosis, testing and transport, would be part of an international biosecurity plan to be prepared by the private sector in consultation with Members, which would be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

He suggested that, when implementing compartmentalisation in their territories, Members use the same approach to develop their biosecurity plan, based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

Finally, Dr Brückner said that Delegates would have the opportunity to raise points and concerns later during the current General Session as part of the standard-setting process.

10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Delegate of Morocco, expressed his country's sincere gratitude to the OIE and to all Delegates of the region for their vote of confidence in Morocco to host the upcoming Regional Conference. He reiterated that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference in Rabat in February 2015.

He gave a general description of Morocco and the city of Rabat.

He also gave a brief account of the different actions that Morocco had undertaken to start organising the conference. He mentioned that, last February, there had been a preparatory mission to Rabat by the OIE Regional Representation accompanied by OIE Headquarters representatives.

To conclude, Dr El Abrak provided general information about hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to all participants in a timely manner.

He ended by presenting a video introducing the participants to Morocco and more particularly Rabat.

11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Modisane emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Modisane explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

He reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Modisane concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing Africa region.

12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), briefly described the development of VLSP, with a focus on recent developments in Africa.

Dr Sherman emphasised the importance of comprehensive veterinary legislation as a foundation for the effective operation of national Veterinary Services and the need for veterinarians and legal experts to work closely to produce modern, high quality veterinary legislation.

He reviewed important VLSP activities in Africa, including: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba (Tunisia) on December 2010; the first pilot training seminar, targeting the 15 SADC countries, held in Gaborone (Botswana) in November 2011; the second training seminar held for ECOWAS countries in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013; and two workshops on veterinary legislation sponsored by AU-IBAR through VET-GOV – the first in Arusha (Tanzania) for English-speaking countries in October 2013 and the second in Naivasha (Kenya) for French-speaking countries.

Dr Sherman went on to discuss OIE's anticipated future activities for veterinary legislation to be pursued through VET-GOV. The OIE is planning a series of regional workshops to build capacity for drafting quality legislation and to promote regional harmonisation of such legislation. The seminars are to be conducted in the context of the RECs. Each seminar is to focus on different veterinary themes, including: regulating the profession; animal disease control; food safety; and regulation of veterinary medicinal products. Veterinarians and legal experts will be invited from each participating country. The week-long workshops will include: presentations on the principles of drafting legislation; assessments of exemplary legislation relating to specific themes; analysis of existing legislation on each theme from participating countries; and, finally, exercises in drafting a regional bill on each theme. Multiple regional workshops are expected to be held over the next two years for both French-speaking and English-speaking Regional Economic Communities, and it is foreseen that participating countries will be involved in workshops covering at least two veterinary themes.

In anticipation of effective participation in these workshops, Dr Sherman concluded by encouraging Delegates from countries that have not yet done so to request an OIE veterinary legislation identification mission to assess the current status of veterinary legislation in their country.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started 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, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Africa.

Dr Awada also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the recent exceptional events of foot and mouth disease in Africa.

14. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

• **African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of AU-IBAR, updated the meeting on AU-IBAR achievements in animal health and World Trade Organization sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters. He said that strengthening animal health systems remained a major strategic objective of AU-IBAR, with a strong focus on policy, legislation and institutional reforms.

He said that the disease-surveillance and control capacity of RECs and IGAD had been built, in particular with two new projects in this area. He added that support had been provided to RECs to mobilise the necessary resources to implement the Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa and to build capacity and consensus on the One Health concept in Africa. The Pan African PPR Progressive Control programme is being customised by RECs and member states and is awaiting funding. According to Prof. El-Sawalhy, a strategy to control ASF in Africa is being developed jointly with FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Prof. El-Sawalhy reported that trade and marketing activities focused mainly on animal health certification, identification and traceability, and support to stakeholder organisations. However AU-IBAR also remained heavily committed to the process of supporting and enhancing the participation of African nations in the OIE standard-setting process, among others.

He also reported that the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) had been rolled out in over 30 countries, highlighting the fact that member states had benefited from advance training in data collection and management and that inter-operability with WAHIS was in the way to be completed.

Prof. El-Sawalhy concluded by saying that formulation of the livestock development strategy under the leadership of AU-IBAR was on track and was undergoing a process of intensive consultations and securing the ownership and participation of all stakeholders. It is expected to be adopted by the African Union Summit in January 2015.

- **Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)**

The representative of CEBEVIRHA started his presentation by providing details of his organisation. He described CEBEVIRHA's missions, which are mainly to contribute to the sustainable, harmonised and balanced development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors, and to growth in trade, to enable countries to optimise production to achieve food security and reduce poverty among the populations of the sub-region.

He also gave details of CEBEVIRHA's objectives, which include: supporting the quantitative and qualitative development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors; developing and harmonising trade; and harmonising and coordinating the livestock, fishery and aquaculture policies contained in Member States' development plans.

Finally, he summarised the status of implementation of CEBEVIRHA activities.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

On behalf of Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Regional Animal Health and Production Officer, Dr Juan Lubroth, FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer, reviewed FAO's outreach to Africa and the renewed partnership in animal health. Dr Lubroth reported that FAO had been implementing country and regional projects in the Africa region at the request of countries and regional bodies in various areas, in addition to pursuing its early-warning and capacity-building work under the Emergency Prevention System-Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) and missions relating to FAO's rapid response mechanism for transboundary animal disease emergencies, the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH). He added that action had taken place in the mainstream of FAO's five strategic objectives, regional initiatives and support to the CAADP framework.

Dr Lubroth briefly reviewed the lessons learned, in particular: (a) the need for stronger livestock production and health policies regionally in order to contribute globally; (b) if the livestock sector continues to grow in an unregulated fashion, the risk of diseases impacting on health will undoubtedly grow; and (c) promotion and support to apprise the private sector (producers, veterinary practitioners, value chain actors) of best practices for production and health, disease prevention, reporting and partnership with the public sector are essential and should not be downgraded in favour of the public sector alone.

- **Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)**

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat, African Union PATTEC Coordinator, said that the AU-PATTEC Coordination Office is responsible for coordinating and implementing PATTEC, in line with its mandate and role.

He added that, within this context, the coordination office had been actively engaged in efforts to develop an enduring mechanism through which countries can implement the PATTEC initiative successfully. Tsetse- and trypanosomiasis-affected countries and AU-PATTEC have used such resources as national budgetary contributions, loans, grants and technical support from relevant partners to achieve major results.

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat briefly presented a report covering the 2012-2014 period and summarised progress in implementing activities and achievements in such areas as coordination, proposal development, training, advocacy and resource mobilisation, in an effort to alleviate the burden of tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa through the African Union.

- **Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)**

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of AU-PANVAC, said that, in line with its mandate, AU-PANVAC provided satisfactory services to African Union member states. He reported on the different activities of AU-PANVAC, underlining that the number of vaccine batches received had increased. A total of 288 samples had been tested in 2013, compared with 142 batches in 2012. Vaccine seeds (162) had been sent to vaccine-producing laboratories. Training and technical assistance had been provided to laboratory technicians of African Union member states and other stakeholders in the field of vaccine production and vaccine quality control.

Dr Tounkara reported that the harmonisation of veterinary vaccine registration had been facilitated in East and West Africa.

He added that the first batch of reagents to conduct indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for detecting PPR virus antibodies had been produced and sent to laboratories in African Union member states for field validation.

Dr Tounkara said that all rinderpest materials were kept in safe custody in a biosafety level 3 laboratories, including an emergency rinderpest vaccine bank containing 1.5 million doses and 300 phials of rinderpest vaccine seed.

Dr Tounkara concluded by reporting that the scheduled activities under programme budget projects had been implemented successfully. The main ones were: developing a strategic framework for biological reagent production in Africa; OIE sub-grant to AU-PANVAC to guarantee the quality of PPR vaccines produced in Africa; and supporting food security and capacity-building in African Union member states through the sustainable control of Newcastle disease in village chickens.

- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, Senior Programme Officer at SADC, started his presentation by explaining that the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the SADC Secretariat implements strategies and programmes to promote agricultural and livestock productivity and food security region-wide.

He said that, to this end, the FANR Directorate emphasises cooperation in sustainable food security in order to achieve sustainable access to safe and adequate food at all times by all people in SADC for an active and healthy life. Mr Hulman added that the FANR Directorate had finalised the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP, 2013), which provides the overall framework under which FANR programmes and activities will contribute to executing the SADC Common Agenda for promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development.

He added that RAP focuses on implementing the Regional Livestock Development Programme, which seeks to improve regional and international trade in livestock products and their market access. Mr Hulman pointed out that, to facilitate trade in agricultural products, the SADC Protocol on Trade had been amended to take into account the requirements of the World Trade Organization's SPS Agreement.

He also reported that SADC, with the assistance of development partners, had embarked on a regional capacity-building programme to improve compliance with standards and norms for trade in livestock and livestock products.

Mr Hulman concluded by saying that the SADC Secretariat wished to bring the following two concerns to the OIE's attention.

- Freedom from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE): SADC member states are still considered to have “undetermined BSE risk” status for trade in deboned muscle meat and are required to carry out BSE surveillance and tests in order to prove freedom from the disease. Given that BSE has not occurred in any SADC member state, SADC wishes the OIE to consider the claim of SADC member states for historical freedom from BSE.
 - Revised FMD chapter: SADC submitted comments on the revised FMD chapter and hopes that they will be taken into account during the revision process. SADC wishes to reiterate that the SADC region finds itself in a unique situation with regard to FMD control because of the presence of the wild buffalo, which is a healthy carrier of the SAT virus. The recent drive to turn vast areas of the region into transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), as a biodiversity conservation initiative, will increase contact between wildlife and domestic livestock. This will make FMD control even more challenging than before. When implementing the OIE/FAO Global Foot and Mouth Disease Control Strategy, special consideration will need to be given to FMD management and control in the SADC region.
- **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

Dr Soumana Diallo, representative of the WAEMU Commission, reported that, in connection with implementing the WAEMU Agricultural Policy (WAP), the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that, first and foremost, the reforms concerned the harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation, which has helped to achieve major results, the most significant being: the adoption of a package of community legislation for all eight member states; the introduction of a single mechanism in the eight member states for the registration of veterinary medicinal products; the introduction of a community-wide mechanism for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, by setting up a

network of nine national quality control laboratories; the introduction of a mechanism to coordinate the production of regulations: the WAEMU Veterinary Committee, which is tasked with giving technical opinions on all matters of community interest in the field of livestock production, including veterinary medicinal products; and the introduction of a mechanism for the surveillance of veterinary medicinal products, with the launch of veterinary pharmaceutical inspection.

The second area of reform was to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of member states.

A further reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs, which had led to the adoption of a common regulation on sanitary safety in 2007: Regulation No. 07/2007/CM/WAEMU on the health safety of plants, animals and foodstuffs.

He went on to discuss the reform of support projects for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Through the Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD), the WAEMU Commission supports its member states in the control of certain animal diseases (anthrax, Newcastle disease). It has also commissioned two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he referred to the adoption of a directive aimed at guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU member state and at establishing a College of Presidents of national veterinary associations that will now be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area. The implementing text on the membership, powers, organisation and operating procedures of the College of Presidents has just been signed.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stephane Forman, the World Bank's representative for Africa, highlighted the steadily increasing collaboration between the World Bank and its partners involved in livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE, and described how the World Bank is strongly re-engaging in supporting the pastoral economy and resilience. He started by introducing Myriam Chaudron, the new Veterinarian and Livestock Specialist seconded to the World Bank to support him in managing the animal production and health portfolio in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He then discussed pastoralism, which is the extensive, mobile rearing of livestock on communal rangelands and is the prevailing livelihood and production system practised in the world's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). He highlighted the fact that, according to recent estimates, there are around 120 million pastoralists/agro-pastoralists worldwide, 50 million of whom reside in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the Horn of Africa, ASALs represent more than 60% of the total area, where the pastoral population is estimated to number between 12 million and 22 million and animals and their products are for self-consumption, sale in national markets or export to the growing coastal cities. In West Africa, they account for up to 65% of the beef supply. Worldwide, pastoralists constitute one of the poorest population sub-groups. The incidence of extreme poverty among African pastoralists ranges from 25% to 55%.

Dr Forman added that the recurrent food security crises in the Horn of Africa and the security situation in the Sahel are stark reminders that the root causes of vulnerability in ASALs need more attention. Requests from countries and Regional Economic Commissions had prompted the World Bank's strong re-engagement in supporting the development of pastoral areas, in line with pillar 3 (equity) of its Global Agenda for

livestock. This had led to major analytical studies, as well as to two flagship regional operations: the Horn of Africa Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (approved by the Board in March 2014) and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project, which is in the early stages of preparation.

In Dr Forman’s view, by enhancing the ability of Veterinary Services to deliver animal health services to mobile communities in dry areas, these two operations will play a key role in ensuring that the projects achieve their objectives. The OIE PVS pathway remains the core pre-operation tool for guiding investments to strengthen these Veterinary Services. Surveillance and control of transboundary, zoonotic and productivity-affecting animal diseases, including through harmonised vaccination campaigns, will indeed help to increase the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to external shocks and to improve their market access. For this, collaboration with and support from international technical organisations, such as the OIE, FAO or AU-IBAR, will be crucial to building the capacity of countries and RECs and achieving our goal. The World Bank representative re-emphasised the importance of OIE activities as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank’s support for it. He recognised the crucial work conducted by the Chief Veterinary Officers in this regard in their respective countries, both in Africa and worldwide.

The meeting officially ended at 7:00 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates
9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015
11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa
14. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)
 - Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
 - World Bank

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 97 participants, including Delegates and observers from 20 Members of the Commission and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America and Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: CVP⁴⁷, FAO, IICA⁴⁸, OIRSA⁴⁹, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁵⁰.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The proposal by Dr Francisco Muzio, from Uruguay, to include an item on the use of compartments not practising foot and mouth disease vaccination for sheep was adopted. The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and member of the OIE Council, described the status of Members' contributions. He pointed out that, although some Members still had outstanding contributions, there was a continuing trend for countries to upgrade their category of statutory contributions to the OIE, as well as voluntary contributions to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund. He encouraged countries to keep up this trend.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded participants that, as members of the OIE Council, he and Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, act as the conduit for putting the region's concerns to the OIE to ensure they are properly addressed, including matters pertaining to the logistics of the current General Session.

⁴⁷ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁴⁸ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁴⁹ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

⁵⁰ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

He said that the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014, would provide the appropriate opportunity to discuss the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, which had been distributed to Delegates of countries in the region.

He also urged countries to participate actively in the process of standard-setting and adoption of OIE standards by sending their comments on the reports of Specialized Commissions.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford reminded participants about the elections to be held in May 2015 to select the OIE Director General and members of the Council, Specialized Commissions and Regional Commissions.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas including the discussions at the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday 25 May 2014

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, reported that the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had met several times in the past year. 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 in August 2013 and prior to the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates. He also mentioned that a videoconferencing system provided by the Regional Representation was being used for technical meetings on specific situations.

The administrative activities discussed by the Bureau of the Commission included the status of Members' contributions and the organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Mexico in November 2014.

On the technical side, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that, in 2014, past and planned meetings in the region included: seminar of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA, Cuba); regional seminar for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary products (Canada); and seminar of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET, Canada).

The President described the outcomes of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body in Brazil in December 2013.

Dr Figueiredo Marques said that the virtual meeting on porcine epidemic diarrhoea had identified the need for guidelines on measures for the control, surveillance, diagnosis and movement of animals and animal products. He urged countries in the Americas to participate actively in the ongoing discussions.

He also took the opportunity to briefly comment on the discussions at the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday, 25 May 2014, which had covered: the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan; the "high-health, high-performance horse" concept; official recognition for countries free from classical swine fever; criteria for the inclusion of diseases on the OIE list and the region's position on draft amendments of certain chapters of the *Code*; the possible establishment of a regional technical committee on bee diseases; the current status of payments to the OIE for the cost of recognising countries as historically free from foot and mouth disease and African horse sickness; and the difficulties faced by some small countries in paying their contribution.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

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; progress with organising the next regional conference to be held in Mexico from 10 to 14 November 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; holding seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points; and promoting the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway, including building the capacity of the region's laboratories. He reported that experts from Member Countries of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) would be trained to enable PVS Evaluation missions to be conducted in CVP member countries every two years. He also pointed to interest among Central American countries in OIE missions to evaluate their aquatic animal health services.

He described activities to ensure OIE membership for countries in the Caribbean Sub-Region that are not yet OIE Members.

He discussed activities to ensure the effective implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease (FMD), including: 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 Strategy for the control of FMD; and expert field missions.

He reported on meetings and coordination activities with international organisations in connection with the Regional Steering Committee for the Americas of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).

He also described actions for implementing the recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body held in December 2013.

He added that the behaviour of diseases of interest to the region is being kept under constant surveillance, including porcine epidemic diarrhoea and shrimp early mortality syndrome.

Dr Barcos explained that it is imperative for Delegates to become involved in providing information to help ascertain how much progress countries of the region have made in disseminating and implementing the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas. He also pointed to the need for Member Countries' support in providing and maintaining information to run the web application on the capabilities of national laboratories in the region. He added that a survey of National Focal Points had been conducted to assess the impact of capacity-building activities.

He concluded by detailing planned activities to be carried out in the current year, thanking Member Countries that are providing financial support.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Modelling tools for the simulation and early warning of foreign animal diseases (FAD) and emerging threats”

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without 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 (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- “Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives”

8. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Delegate of Mexico, officially confirmed his country's commitment to organising the next Conference, to be held in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco, and reported on progress with its organisation.

9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, informed participants that the Delegate of Peru had stepped down, leaving vacant the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission, which requires an election to be held.

Dr Martine Dubuc, Delegate of Canada, was unanimously elected as Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

The membership 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 Martine Dubuc (Canada)

This proposal will have to be confirmed by the World Assembly.

10. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, gave the Commission a brief presentation on preparations for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Correa Messuti emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83th General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Correa Messuti explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Correa Messuti reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Correa Messuti concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Americas region.

11. OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Officer in charge of the recognition of countries' animal disease status, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, gave an overview of the OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status. She explained that an initial assessment of applications from Member Countries wishing to receive OIE official recognition of freedom from classical swine fever would be made in the course of 2014, with a view to the first applications being approved at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

She added that a series of workshops would be held in all five regions to inform Members more fully about the procedure for OIE official recognition of animal disease status. A first pilot workshop in the Americas region is planned for March 2015.

12. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on: (i) identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new *Code* chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the *Code*.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE *Ad hoc* Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that a regional workshop was organised in Panama December 2012 to present the HHP concept and to analyse the currently existing import regulations for horses into countries of the region. She mentioned that the analysis revealed a wide diversity of regulations and that some 25 diseases are regulated for the importation of horses.

She added that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools will be given at the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Mexico in November 2014.

Discussion

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, congratulated Dr Münstermann on the *Ad hoc* Group's progress and reiterated that the draft was confined strictly to the HHP concept, confirming that Delegates would have an opportunity to raise any questions and concerns during the General Session or later throughout the OIE standard-setting process.

He explained that details on such matters as the description of sub-populations, certification, diagnosis, transport and others, would be part of an international biosecurity plan to be prepared by the private sector, in consultation with Members, which would be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

It was unanimously agreed that the Delegate of Brazil would make a statement at the respective plenary session on behalf of all countries in the region to express their support for the HHP concept.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres-Soto, Acting Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing 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, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in the Americas.

Dr Cáceres-Soto also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Cáceres-Soto presented the recent exceptional events of porcine epidemic diarrhoea in the Americas.

Discussion

In this regard, Dr Delgadillo Álvarez, Delegate of Mexico, highlighted the need for a harmonised case definition of porcine epidemic diarrhoea.

On the subject of failure to report aquatic animal diseases, Dr Max Millien, Delegate of Haiti, said that this was due to lack of trained personnel. In this regard, Dr Joaquín Delgadillo, Delegate of Mexico, and Dr Alicia Gallardo, Delegate of Chile, offered their countries' support in providing such training.

For his part, Dr Figueiredo Marques stressed the importance for countries to comply with their obligation to report animal diseases within the established time frame.

14. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

Proposals by the United States of America

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, presented the Commission with two applications for new Collaborating Centres. The first was for the OIE to consider Sandia National Laboratories, International Biological Threat Program (SNL/IBTR) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Laboratory Biorisk Management”.

The second application was for the OIE to consider the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Biological Threat Reduction”.

Dr Clifford provided a brief review of the centres and their activities, adding that further details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposals by the United States, which will be presented for endorsement by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Proposal by Brazil

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Public Health”.

Dr Figueiredo Marques provided a brief review of the centre and its activities, adding that further details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Brazil, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

• **Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA)**

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Coordinator, Veterinary Public Health Project and Director of the World Health Organization’s Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (PAHO-PANAFTOSA), detailed the organisation’s activities over the past year under the “One Health” concept, in particular the sixteenth Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMS 16) and the veterinary public health programme. Activities included the surveillance, prevention and control of zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases and actions relating to the safety of food for human consumption and the prevention of foodborne disease.

• **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

Dr Julio Urzúa, CVP Acting Technical Secretary, gave a brief summary of CVP’s main activities, emphasising those under the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Plan (PAMA) and announcing that Paraguay had recovered its status as an FMD-free country practising vaccination. He pointed out that PAMA was nearing completion and, in view of its success, the CVP had begun working with PANAFTOSA to undertake stage two.

Dr Urzúa mentioned that PAMA activities had included four visits to border areas that were former high surveillance zones in order to continue the technical missions recommended by the OIE and the activities to which countries had committed, with the participation of field and laboratory technicians from CVP member countries.

He reported that the CVP had conducted visits to support sero-epidemiological sampling in two countries in the region with the aim of providing technical cooperation and enabling the countries to participate in the CVP as observers. He then reviewed the follow-up of regional assistance plans based on the results and agreements of previous missions.

He said that, in addition to the recent OIE PVS evaluation follow-up missions to Brazil and Uruguay, and the forthcoming one to Bolivia, as well as the OIE PVS evaluation mission to be carried out in Argentina, CVP activities to strengthen official Veterinary Services comprise two basic components: a mechanism for the systematic evaluation of official Veterinary Services and the training of a team of qualified professionals to implement the evaluation mechanism. To train an evaluation team, Dr Urzúa explained that the OIE would deliver a course to train CVP professionals in the use of the OIE PVS tool.

As regards activities to strengthen official Veterinary Services, Dr Urzúa reported that 16 professionals from the CVP's six official Veterinary Services had taken part in a risk communication course delivered by the IICA in 2013.

He reported that, since the last OIE General Session, meetings of two CVP ad hoc groups had been held: one on food safety (GIdEA) and one on avian influenza (GIA).

Dr Urzúa concluded by saying that an international seminar had been held to commemorate the CVP's tenth anniversary, which had featured distinguished speakers, including from the OIE.

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

In the absence of the CAN representative, it was agreed to include the summary sent by the organisation.

The activities conducted by the Andean Technical Committee on Agricultural and Livestock Health (COTASA), which stem from Decision 515 of the Andean Community Commission, form the basis for the Andean Agricultural Health System (SASA), the establishment of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and joint action programmes.

CAN harmonisation and standard-setting activities include decisions on: veterinary products; community risk analysis; quarantine control; measures for the prevention, control and eradication of foot and mouth disease; movement of livestock commodities and disease reporting.

Lastly, the activities of joint action programmes include coordination with the OIE and other international organisations.

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Dr Robert G. Ahern, Head of Agricultural Health and Food Safety at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), presented IICA's animal health activities over the past year. He detailed its hemispheric activities and projects, including: collaboration in the organisation of a seminar to disseminate OIE standards (at the consultation stage); draft good farming practices; and harmonisation of regulations on products intended for animal feed, in collaboration with the Latin American Feed Industry Association (Feedlatina).

He described regional activities and projects relating to: the research and innovation network for animal health – brucellosis and tuberculosis; the regional project CARIFORUM-European Community Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) (to support the Caribbean Forum in implementing commitments under the EPA in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures); and support for the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP).

He concluded by detailing national activities and projects conducted in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela.

- **International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)**

Dr Luis Alberto Espinoza Rodezno, Disease Control Coordinator of the OIRSA Animal Health Regional Coordination Office, reported on the main activities conducted in 2013, highlighting the following.

1. Coordination of an online course on transboundary animal diseases with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and with the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB) and Iowa State University in the United States;

2. Regional project to improve veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries (STDF/PG/358) of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), with support from the OIE and FAO;
3. Completion of prevalence studies of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in Central America; a study on the socioeconomic cost of brucellosis in countries conducted jointly with FAO; finalisation of several proposals, including the regional programme for the control and eradication of bovine brucellosis from OIRSA member countries;
4. Funding and technical monitoring of classical swine fever; establishment of the control phase in Guatemala; financial support for epidemiological surveillance in self-declared free countries;
5. Desk-top simulation of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome (AHPNS) in Honduras and a field simulation exercise in Nicaragua; preparation of a manual on epidemiological surveillance and an emergency plan for control and eradication;
6. Financial support for the animal health emergency programme to tackle the emergence of *Aethina tumida* in El Salvador;
7. Preparation of an H7N3 highly pathogenic influenza virus prevention plan for Central America; updating of the emergency plan and support for surveillance in Belize and Guatemala;
8. Training on good animal welfare practices during transport and slaughter.
9. Practical guide to best practice in the use of veterinary medicines and a manual on withdrawal periods for antiparasitic agents;
10. Coordination with Mexico in preparing the action plan for the Central American Laboratory Network.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Tito Díaz, Senior Livestock Development Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the world is experiencing severe pressure on natural resources and agriculture as a result of globalisation, climate change and population growth, in turn increasing the risk of emergence or re-emergence of animal diseases, which have a serious impact on animal production and productivity, trade and public health.

He added that, in the Americas, diseases such as foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever and New World screwworm have been prioritised under GF TADs, and that FAO, together with Veterinary Services in the region, has implemented a comprehensive control strategy to cope with disease threats, chiefly at the animal–human–ecosystems interface. This approach has been used to strengthen national control and eradication programmes, integrating animal health education as a key component of these programmes.

He said that, using this comprehensive strategic approach, FAO is working to facilitate synergy among the animal health, public health, environmental and rural development sectors, and is helping to establish public-private partnerships to reduce animal health risks and their impact on the economy.

He concluded by saying that FAO and its partners have understood that the time is right to move towards a truly global approach to animal health that takes into account regional differences, and to strive for dynamic linking of health, institutional strengthening and governance to ensure sustainable development and food and nutrition security.

16. Other matters

Chapter 8.X. (Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *melitensis* and *suis*) and Chapter 6.9. (Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine)

The Delegate of the United States of America proposed minor changes to amended Chapters 8.X. and 6.9., which will be proposed for adoption at the current General Session. The proposed changes were endorsed by the Members and it was agreed that the Delegate of the United States of America would submit them on behalf of the countries of the Americas.

Movement of animals from FMD-free zones practising vaccination to free zones not practising vaccination

The Members of the Americas endorsed the amendments to Chapter 8.6.13 on the movement of animals from FMD-free zones practising vaccination to free zones not practising vaccination. The Delegate of Mexico stressed the need to include the requirement that animals should not have been vaccinated within 12 months of being moved. It was decided that the Delegate of Mexico would submit the proposal to the Assembly on behalf of the countries of the Americas.

Use of compartments not practising foot and mouth disease vaccination for sheep

Dr Francisco Muzio said that Uruguay has FMD-free status with vaccination for cattle, but without vaccination for sheep. He reported that, as a result of public-private partnership, a compartment of around 300 hectares of free-range grazing for 1,500 unvaccinated sheep had been defined and organised. He offered to share the outcomes of this experience with other countries, pointing out that this was the very first compartmentalisation system for sheep.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas including the discussions of the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday 25 May 2014
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
8. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014
9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission
10. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
11. OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status
12. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas
14. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres
15. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA)
 - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
 - Andean Community of Nations (CAN)
 - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
 - International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
16. Other matters

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong.

International/regional organisations: FAO, ILRI, SPC⁵¹, WSPA.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania 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, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, reminded the meeting that there were six different categories of country statutory contributions to the OIE. 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 are paid in a timely manner.

Dr Schipp reported that most Regional Commission Members comply with their financial commitments to the OIE. However, he said that contributions from 5 countries are still outstanding and urged any Members with arrears to settle them promptly. He reminded participants that Members in arrears could forfeit their right to vote and participate in the corresponding OIE decision-making procedures.

He urged Member Countries to move up to a higher contribution category where possible. He thanked Singapore for increasing its contribution by one category.

⁵¹ SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

3. Report on OIE Council meetings including the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, extended the apologies of Dr Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and member of the OIE Council, for his inability to attend the meeting.

He commented on general Council issues, pointing out that the applications for accession to the OIE by South Sudan and Liberia had been examined by the Council and given a favourable opinion. He said that they would be submitted to the 82nd OIE General Session for approval by the World Assembly of Delegates.

He added that the Council had approved the signing of agreements with several international organisations, pending approval by the World Assembly at the 82nd General Session. Approved agreements are with: the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH) and the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

Furthermore, Dr Schipp gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Schipp emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Schipp explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

He reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the

operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Schipp concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Asia, Far East and Oceania region.

To date, solely Dr Kawashima and Dr Schipp had provided comments on the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. Dr Schipp urged Member Countries to send their comments by mid July 2014. He reiterated that their comments are important to ensure that OIE Sixth Strategic Plan reflects the views of the region.

Discussion

Dr Syukur Iwantoro, Delegate of Indonesia, queried whether there was further information on output '*Economic benefits due to protection of livestock and sustainable trade*' under Strategic Objective 1 - Securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management.

Dr Schipp explained that this output aims to demonstrate the importance of animal health to the larger community, including for increasing and improving animal production; and that this should be communicated to national policy makers in order to make a case for greater investment in the sector.

Dr Davinio Catbagan, commended the Council for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and also urged Member Countries to issue comments. He stated that the Philippines had no additional comments to make to the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

Dr Tashi Samdup, Delegate of Bhutan, also positively commented on the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan but suggested that further reference should be given to the ecosystem interface.

Dr Schipp agreed and noted that the ecosystem interface should be further emphasised given that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan encourages a One Health approach.

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New-Zealand, congratulated the Council, particularly Dr Kawashima and Dr Schipp. He stated that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan was a coherent and transparent document and recognised that the approach to concentrate on three strategic objectives and three crosscutting areas was helpful to sharpen the focus of future direction. With reference to item 'Headquarters and Regional/ Sub-Regional Offices' under crosscutting Area C – Governance, he requested that a clear statement be made to further elucidate the relationship between Headquarters and the Region (Regional Commission and (Sub) Regional Representations) given their important role in the governance structure of the OIE. Linked to this, he underlined the importance of good coordination between these parties.

Dr Schipp concurred and stated that there is a need to further define the strategic purpose of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He recommended better defining the roles of National Focal Points to the OIE, particularly their contribution to governance in Member Countries through their support to national Delegates to the OIE.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania including the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission. He informed the Delegates that, following the 81st OIE General Session, he had been invited to but was unable to attend the key world conference, OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, held in Foz do Iguazu (Brazil) in December 2013. Regretting his absence due to other commitments in his own country, he noted that participation by Regional Commission Members had not been very high, in part owing to the geographical distance involved. He encouraged Regional Commission Members to take steps to action the recommendations adopted by OIE Member Countries during this important Conference, in close communication with their veterinary education establishments, Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Services.

Dr Zhang reported that he had attended the seventh Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo in July 2013, where he was nominated as the new Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee, adding that a detailed explanation would be given by the Regional Representative. Dr Zhang noted that he had attended the sixth Meeting of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee, held in Rome on 29 and 30 October 2013, in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Zhang then explained that the regional core group, established pursuant to a recommendation in the Regional Work Plan Framework, continued to meet on an *ad hoc* basis while maintaining communication through email. He expected such communication to be expanded beyond core group members to all Regional Commission Members and noted that the regional Delegate site, which is about to be launched, should contribute to this aim. He said that further explanation of core group meetings and issues communicated among Members would be provided by other core group Members following his presentation.

Dr Zhang reminded Regional Commission Members of the discussion that had taken place at the Regional Commission meeting during the 81st General Session about how to improve communication with experts of Specialist Commissions elected from the region, to ensure that the region contributes effectively to OIE standard-setting process. Dr Zhang was pleased to report on the success of the special half-day regional seminar for OIE Delegates on the activities of Specialists Commissions, which had been held alongside the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission in Cebu (Philippines). Dr Zhang asked for Members' thoughts on whether this had been useful and whether and how such an initiative should be expanded.

Dr Zhang went on to describe the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission, which had been attended by a total of 105 OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 22 Members. In particular, Dr Zhang listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two technical items.

Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control, including practical examples from the region", led to recommendations that:

- Member Countries consider economic analysis in the planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;
- the OIE establish an *ad hoc* group and publish guidelines on economic analysis in animal health policies, including disease control and eradication.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) control in the region”, led to recommendations that:

- OIE Member Countries systematically notify the occurrence of PRRS in a timely manner using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);
- OIE Member Countries develop a national disease control strategy for PRRS and other infectious diseases of swine addressing such issues as animal movement management and control to prevent the spread of PRRS virus;
- the OIE develop, in the *Terrestrial Manual*, new standards on the quality of vaccines for PRRS;
- the OIE, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations, support the development and publication of scientific information on PRRS, including biosecurity and surveillance.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement at the seventh plenary session on 27th May, making their implementation binding on the overall OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Lastly, Dr Zhang reported on the Regional Information Seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates, held in Beijing (China) in April 2014. Despite the extremely comprehensive programme, with three regional core group members, including himself, as speakers, he regretted to note that participation had not been as high as desired. Dr Zhang reminded the Commission that two global conferences were planned in the region: one for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Korea in October and another for aquatic animals in Vietnam in January, encouraging Regional Commission Members to participate actively.

5. Status report on the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, discussed the report on progress with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015 provided to the Regional Commission. He explained that the framework had been developed to provide structure to the region’s work within the context of the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan. The framework has been valuable in raising both awareness of the region’s effectiveness and its profile. Regional Members have: reported more disease incidents; made a greater contribution to standard-setting process; strengthened Veterinary Services; and gained a better understanding of ‘One Health’ approaches.

He explained that, in view of previous achievements and the fact that the work plan framework expires in 2015, it was sensible to begin work on the next edition in light of the Sixth OIE strategic plan. The current work plan framework has encouraged:

- contribution to and implementation of science-based standards and guidelines;
- prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses;
- scientific excellence in information and advice through reference centres and twinning arrangements;
- stronger Veterinary Services;

- cooperation with partner agencies consistent with One Health approaches;
- enhanced cooperation and communication within the region;
- increased sharing of comments and participation in standard-setting;
- regional activities under the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan;
- increased cooperation with other multilateral agencies in the region; and
- support for GF-TADS activities.

He concluded by proposing the Regional Commission to consider the need for a new Regional Work Plan Framework and start the discussions regarding the elements it might include.

Discussion

Prof. Suresh Honnappagol from India inquired why the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania had not participated in Regional Commission meetings held in other OIE Regions.

Dr Stone replied that this was not possible during the General Session given that all Regional Commission meeting are conducted in parallel. With regard to Regional Conferences, to date, the participation of a member of the Secretariat in other Regional Conferences had not been identified as a priority and also incurred a corresponding cost and commitment. Dr Stone concluded by agreeing that participating in Regional Conferences in other regions could indeed strengthen good collaboration among regions.

Dr Schipp highlighted that the regional approach adopted by the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had been a model for other regions and encouraged Member Countries to participate in the definition of the new Regional Work Plan. He invited the Secretariat to commence working on this Work Plan and offered Australia's support in its development. He complimented the region's Member Countries for their active engagement in OIE standard setting activities and other arenas. He drew attention to the fact that SEACFMD Campaign had been identified as a model regional disease control and that this recognition was also manifested during the opening speeches of the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates to the OIE.

Dr Michael Appleby of WSPA congratulated the Region for its Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) and inquired whether animal welfare would remain a priority in the future Regional Work Plan.

Dr Stone confirmed that animal welfare was an important issue and therefore would continue to have high profile in the Region. He reminded the participants that a presentation on RAWS would be given later in the agenda.

6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP), started his presentation by a summary of the Regional Representation activities and by informing the Commission of recent staff changes at the Regional Representation.

He reported that capacity-building activities had included a regional information seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates, which was held in April in Beijing, attended by six new Delegates or their representatives, and noted that 13 new Delegates had been appointed in the last two years among 32 Members. He added that four seminars for National Focal Points are scheduled in 2014 (for animal production food safety; wildlife; veterinary products; and animal welfare), while the seminar for aquatic animal health had been postponed to 2015.

Dr Kugita explained that, as the Secretariat for GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Representation had held GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meetings every year back-to-back with the Steering Committee meeting of the Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (HPED) and discussed collaboration among sub-regions, international organisations and Members. He informed the Commission that the next Regional Steering Committee meeting will be held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 17-18 July 2014. He added that, to facilitate collaboration with relevant partner organisations, the Regional Representation is attending meetings of such organisations, including the meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and that of the Sectoral Working Group on Livestock of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He reported on the progress of the “OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for foot and mouth disease (FMD) control in Asia”, including development of the Roadmap for FMD Control in East Asia, which had been endorsed by the Regional Commission at the 28th Regional Conference, held in Cebu (Philippines) in November 2013. He mentioned that, in response to this roadmap, some Members in East Asia are now working to develop national FMD control plans, or to regain FMD-free status with vaccination to be endorsed by the OIE. He reported on other field activities carried out under this project, including FMD diagnosis training, FMD vaccination campaigns and FMD epidemiology studies in selected regional Members, adding that the next meetings under the project will be held in September 2014.

He informed the Commission about the new “OIE/JTF project on controlling zoonoses in Asia under the One Health concept”, launched in December 2013, saying that two meetings will be organised in August 2014: regional training on rabies diagnosis and a Regional Workshop on influenza surveillance. He then referred to other capacity-building workshops and training carried out or to be carried out in the region.

Finally, he informed the Commission that both the Regional Representation and Sub-regional Representation updated the regional website frequently to enhance the visibility of OIE activities.

7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), presented a report on the role and responsibilities of the SRR-SEA. He described the three major donor-funded programmes of the Sub-Regional Representation: Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, funded by the Australian Government’s overseas aid programme (AusAID); Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (HPED), funded by the European Union; and IDENTIFY, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr Abila reported on the successful STANDZ Mid-Term Review (MTR), which had highlighted the key achievements of the three programmes under its umbrella: the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign; the Strengthening Initiatives for Veterinary Services (STRIVES) programme; and the One Health programme with a focus on rabies. The STANDZ initiative was found to remain highly relevant to: promoting FMD control efforts in the region; improving Veterinary Services; controlling rabies and promoting a One Health approach; and helping the OIE to build its programme management capacity in the region.

He also commented on the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Myanmar. One of the meeting's key outputs was an analysis of key epidemiological changes in circulating FMD viruses, particularly serotype A. It was also recommended to review the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap in the light of the new epidemiological findings and the changes in Members' socio-economic development.

Dr Abila provided details of the following SRR-SEA activities conducted for Members:

- SEACFMD provided support for various FMD control-related activities, including advising countries on technical aspects of FMD control;
- a Concept Note for the five-year New Zealand FMD project in South-East Asia was approved. A Project Design Mission was conducted in Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos in order to fully develop a project proposal based on the approved Concept Note;
- provision of vaccines (FMD vaccines to Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from OIE vaccine banks; rabies vaccines under the HPED programme, and rabies vaccines to the Philippines under the STANDZ initiative);
- proposals for a comprehensive (2014-2016) FMD Project in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic and a rabies project in the Philippines have been submitted to the STANDZ Steering Committee for approval;
- the Veterinary Services Strategic Plans for the Philippines and Lao People's Democratic Republic were drafted on the basis of the OIE PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis reports;
- in preparation for the comprehensive rabies project, dog census and registration in Masbate, one of the two pilot provinces in the Philippines has progressed and is presently being encoded into the Philippine Animal Health Information System (PhilAHIS);
- SRR-SEA, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organised training on "Laboratory quality assurance: internal quality control and standardisation of diagnostic reagents and tests", which was held at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory;
- SRR-SEA, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), supported joint training on animal health and public health laboratories in Thailand for the detection of influenza-like illnesses.

Dr Abila also presented the following activities for the rest of the year, listed under each programme.

- SEACFMD: review of the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap; launch of comprehensive FMD control in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic and central Myanmar; conducting training on communication and outbreak investigation and management; organising meetings of National Coordinators, epidemiology and laboratory networks.
- STRIVES: follow-up PVS evaluation missions in Myanmar and possibly Cambodia; organising the fourth workshop of veterinary education establishments and veterinary statutory bodies in South-East Asia to continue to encourage the adoption of OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians (Day 1 graduates) and OIE guidelines on a veterinary education core curriculum; finalising the training module for middle management; exploring twinning of veterinary education establishments within the region.
- One Health/rabies: organising a workshop on OIE standards on rabies and training on laboratory diagnosis; launch of comprehensive rabies control projects in Myanmar and the Philippines.
- HPED: continued delivery of FMD and rabies vaccines to eligible countries and zones; assisting with follow-up PVS missions; organising training for National Focal Points for animal production food safety and participating in other focal point training to be organised by the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific; pursuing various communication and visibility activities for HPED projects.
- IDENTIFY: conducting initial laboratory strategic planning in Malaysia; conducting follow-up strategic planning in the Philippines and China; supporting Member Countries' laboratory staff for training in OIE Reference Laboratories; organising the Laboratory Directors' Forum Meeting jointly with ASEAN and FAO.

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “The relationship between animal production systems (e.g. intensive, extensive, organic, pastoral) and diseases: impact on epidemiology and control”

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015

Following proposals from Members, the following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 29th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- “The role of Veterinary Services in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?”

10. Confirmation of the venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, asked the Delegate of Mongolia to confirm her country's proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Dr Bolortuya Purevsuren, Delegate of Mongolia, informed the Regional Commission that her country accepts to host the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held during the third week of September 2015.

She also took the opportunity to announce the future international conference on pastoralism which is scheduled to take place in Mongolia in June 2015.

Dr Kugita pointed out that, owing to weather conditions in Mongolia, exceptionally the Regional Conference would be held in September instead of November, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far and Oceania.

11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group, began his presentation by saying that most of the recommendations of RAWS Coordination Group (RAWS CG) meetings in the Republic of Korea (in 2013) and Bangkok (in 2014), as well as those of the 2013 Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Cebu, have been actioned. He explained that these included publication of the second edition of RAWS and the development of a RAWS website managed by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. Other matters, such as animals in disasters, are being progressed subject to advice from the OIE.

Dr Murray added that, from the limited numbers of reports received – mainly from RAWS CG Members and New Zealand – substantive progress was being made in areas such as national animal welfare guideline developments, legislation and training. However, he considered that there was a clear need for other countries to report on national animal welfare activities so that overall progress against the RAWS can be evaluated. He reminded that OIE Delegates could usefully drive this issue using their Animal Welfare National Focal Points.

He went on to report that funding of RAWS under a deed between the OIE and the Australian Department of Agriculture (DA) will cease on 30 June 2015 and that it was highly unlikely that new funds would become available thereafter. Furthermore, the DA will no longer provide the RAWS Secretariat. He added that the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo has offered to provide the Secretariat. Although Malaysia had made a similar offer, it supported the proposal that the OIE provide the Secretariat, as this ensures consistency with other OIE activities.

Dr Murray concluded by saying that, given these developments, the future management of RAWS was a key issue. Options will be discussed at the November RAWS CG Meeting in Canberra (Australia) for consideration by the Regional Commission. Given that RAWS was a 'mature' activity, he felt that one option was for the Regional Commission to assume greater responsibility for managing RAWS, including setting up an Advisory Group and making greater use of Focal Points.

12. Rabies in wildlife – Concerns of the region

Dr Ping-Cheng Yang, Delegate of Chinese Taipei, began his presentation by mentioning that Chinese Taipei has been recognised by the international community as free from rabies in the past half a century. Immediately following confirmation by the wildlife disease monitoring programme of rabies virus infection in ferret-badgers in July 2013, the Government set up a rabies prevention network to protect people and animals.

He added that preventive strategies to help contain the epidemic in wildlife/mountain fauna were as follows: (1) to increase the rabies vaccination rate of dogs and cats; (2) to reduce contact between dogs/cats and wild animals by enhancing management of dogs and cats; (3) to set up a notification hotline through the National Bulletin; (4) to strengthen passive surveillance of animals killed on roads or that may be infected with rabies and bite people; and (5) to provide pre-exposure vaccination for people at high risk and post-exposure prophylaxis for people bitten or scratched by animals, which can protect humans from rabies infection and onset of disease.

He reported on surveillance results up to 14 April 2014, according to which a total of 351 wild ferret-badgers, one house shrew and a quarantined dog bitten by a rabid ferret-badger were confirmed to be infected with rabies. The rabies cases in Chinese Taipei were attributed mainly to ferret-badgers found in the mountains.

Dr Ping-Cheng Yang concluded that it was necessary to continue promoting dog and cat rabies vaccination in order to reduce the risk of rabies spreading. He said that various preventive measures will be strengthened, based on long-term planning, with the aim of eradicating all epidemic cases among dogs, cats and humans.

13. HPAI H5N8 event in the Republic of Korea

A representative from the Republic of Korea began her presentation by saying that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses caused considerable economic losses to the poultry industry and, in some cases, caused human infection. Since 2003, several countries have become endemic with subtype H5N1 HPAI and, in China, there have been reports of new subtypes of H5 HPAI viruses, such as H5N2, H5N5 and H5N8, which likely emerged as a result of genetic reassortment between the H5 HPAI virus and other non-H5 viruses in the 2009-2011 period.

She reported that a suspected case of HPAI, with decreasing egg production, had been reported in a breeder duck farm in the Republic of Korea on 16 January 2014. Soon after, hundreds of dead wild birds (Baikal teal) were found in Donglim Reservoir, which is located near the index case farm. H5N8 HPAI viruses were isolated from both cases. This was the first outbreak of H5N8 HPAI in the Republic of Korea, although there had been four previous outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI, all of which were successfully eradicated. Among the 35 reported suspect cases, 29 were confirmed as positive for H5N8 infection in poultry. The total number of virus isolation cases was 197, which included positive cases on farms that had been eliminated through pre-emptive culling. In addition, a total of 37 H5N8 viruses were isolated from both dead and captured wild birds.

She explained that the causative H5N8 HPAI viruses belonged to clade 2.3.4.6., which could be divided into two geno-groups. Both virus groups seem to have originated through reassortment between A/duck/Jiangsu/k1203/2010(H5N8) virus and other subtypes of avian influenza viruses, all of which co-circulated in eastern China during 2009-2012. Group A viruses were predominant, whereas group B viruses were isolated in only two cases.

She concluded by stating that HPAI control measures in the Republic of Korea were based on a stamping-out policy, with zoning, movement restrictions, disinfection, prohibition of vaccination and intensive surveillance.

14. Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) from 11 to 14 March 2014

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the outcomes of the 20th meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, held in Myanmar on 11-14 March 2014. He explained that the purpose of the meeting had been to review recent FMD developments in the region and worldwide, assess programme progress and key developments, and make recommendations on policy, strategic, technical and governance matters.

He mentioned that Delegates at the meeting had been informed of the region's FMD status and updated on reference laboratory findings. The FMD situation in SEACFMD Member Countries had also been described, highlighting the need for more input for promoting epidemiological studies (in particular the development of risk models) and for identifying areas at higher risk of FMD incursion by adopting a risk-based strategy for FMD control.

Dr Abila added that the meeting had reiterated the important role of the FMD vaccine bank and the need to advocate for funding to enable the bank to continue operating. He reported that an expert group meeting had been held at the end of the four-day meeting with the specific goal of providing recommendations on suitable serotype A vaccine strains and FMD research needs. The experts strongly advised countries to step up efforts to collect animal samples during disease outbreaks and to promote post-vaccination evaluation studies.

He said that another key focus point discussed at the meeting was the review of the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap, with the new version defining the programme strategy for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Abila mentioned that the meeting had also presented the outcomes of the independent mid-term review of STANDZ commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT has committed to provide financial support to SEACFMD until the end of the programme. New Zealand indicated possible support for a five-year FMD project to support the SEACFMD Campaign.

He reported that a separate workshop had been held for SEACFMD coordinators and observers to review key issues and advice concerning the 2014/2015-action plan and other relevant matters. A special One Health session had also been held on the last day of the meeting and prominence was given to the existing agreement between FAO-OIE-WHO (Tripartite), which represents a joint effort to resolve public health issues.

Dr Abila concluded by presenting the key recommendations and priority actions emerging from the meeting, which included priority activities for the next 12 months. They were: to work towards harmonising approaches to cross-border movements by holding high-level meetings of OIE Delegates from the Greater Mekong Subregion; to take action concerning the spread of Serotype A and monitor circulating viruses in order to develop vaccine-

matching plans using the expertise of the Regional Reference Laboratories (RRL) and World Reference Laboratories for FMD (WRLFMD), as well as that of the expert group convened on the fringes of the meeting; to conduct post-vaccination monitoring and evaluation studies; to conduct epidemiological studies on FMD outbreaks to identify risks and potential control points; and for Greater Mekong Subregion countries to design and conduct animal movement studies.

15. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Hu Suk Lee, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

He started by emphasizing 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, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. He then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Lee also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Lee presented the recent exceptional events of infection with avian influenza viruses in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

16. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

New Zealand and People’s Republic of China consortium of OIE Collaborating Centres for “Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health” in the Asia-Pacific-Far East region

An application by the People’s Republic of China for the OIE to consider the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) of the Ministry of Agriculture as an OIE Collaborating Centre for veterinary epidemiology and risk analysis, was examined by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and found to be acceptable. However, as a Collaborating Centre for veterinary epidemiology and public health already exists in the region (EpiCentre at New Zealand’s Massey University), the Commission suggested that the Chinese centre seek to form a consortium with the latter.

Accordingly, Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Delegate of New Zealand, and Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of the People’s Republic of China, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider a New Zealand and China consortium of OIE Collaborating Centres for “Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health” in the Asia-Pacific-Far East Region.

They provided a brief review of the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center, as well as of the consortium and its proposed activities, adding that more details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by New Zealand and the People’s Republic of China, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Foodborne Parasites in the Asian-Pacific Region”

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of the People’s Republic of China, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Institute of Zoonosis, Jilin University” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Foodborne Parasites in the Asian-Pacific Region”.

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.

The Commission approved the proposal by the People’s Republic of China, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

17. Report on the high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann further stated that the HHP concept had been presented at the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Cebu, Philippines, in November 2013.

She added that a regional workshop was organised in Hong Kong in February 2014 to present the HHP concept and to analyse the currently existing import regulations for horses into countries of the region. She mentioned that the analysis revealed a wide diversity of regulations and that some 43 diseases are regulated for the importation of horses.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging and commending Korea (Rep. of) for its demonstration of leadership in adoption of the principles for the HHP concept in its formulation of import measures for the hosting of the Asian games.

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group, emphasised the importance of endorsing the draft Code Chapter as this would give a mandate to the ad hoc group to develop a range of standards and guidelines in areas such as certification, testing and biosecurity guidelines as well as recommending research projects. He emphasised that the Code Chapter articulated principles and the model being used was similar to the very successful approach taken for the development of animal welfare.

18. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi informed the meeting participants that SEAFDEC⁵² was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a statement in advance to the Director General of the OIE. This statement had been included in the Regional Commission's working documents.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Dr Kenneth Cokanasiga, Animal Health and Production Team Leader of the SPC, announced that the Land Resources Division's (LRD) goal is to assist the Pacific Community to improve its food, nutritional, and, income security, as well as to sustainably manage and develop its land, agriculture and forestry resources.

He reported that the LRD's new Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017), clearly articulated the division's focus areas and approach, supporting the priorities of Pacific Island countries and territories for their land, agriculture and forestry sectors. The Strategy also complemented the programmes and support from other development partners and agencies.

Dr Cokanasiga stated that the Strategic Plan focused on four strategic objectives and their associated medium term outcomes, related outputs and activities. The work programme of the Animal Health and Production thematic team contributes to the LRD's work plan through activities resulting in specific outputs and medium term outcomes. All activities complement the four strategic objectives of the new Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017).

As an example of current operations, the SPC shared its ongoing work in the development of the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, explained that, in accordance with FAO's overall strategic objectives, the Asia-Pacific livestock programme aimed to maximise livestock's contribution to attaining food security and reducing poverty, while at the same time enhancing resilience and sustainability and reducing health risks to humans and animals (including the threat from antimicrobial resistance).

He added that FAO's work is built on strong partnerships with international 'sister' organisations (OIE and WHO regional/sub-regional offices) and is implemented in close consultation with national counterpart institutions of Member Countries, fostered through FAO country offices. Furthermore, the FAO-hosted Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) provides a long-standing forum for information exchange, mutual support and coordination of collective action in the livestock sector.

⁵² SEAFDEC: South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre

He added that, functionally, FAO activities in the Asia-Pacific region fall into five broad areas: (i) strategy/policy guidance; (ii) coordination; (iii) information-generation and knowledge-sharing; (iv) capacity-building; and (v) support for field programme implementation.

Dr Lubroth concluded by saying that the main focus of FAO work over the past 12 months had been in four areas: (i) H7N9 management; (ii) sub-regional control of FMD, (iii) capacity-building in disease diagnosis, surveillance and management; and (iv) assessment of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic pathogens and indicator bacteria from livestock.

The meeting officially ended at 6:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings including the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania including the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013
5. Status report on the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015
6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015
10. Confirmation of the venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)
12. Rabies in wildlife – Concerns of the region
13. HPAI H5N8 event in the Republic of Korea
14. Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) from 11 to 14 March 2014
15. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania
16. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

17. Report on the high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
 18. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
-

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 130 participants, including Delegates and observers from 45 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: COPA/COGECA⁵³, Council of the European Union, European Commission, EEC⁵⁴, EuFMD⁵⁵, FAO, FESASS⁵⁶, FVE⁵⁷, IZS⁵⁸-Teramo, ICFAW RSPCA⁵⁹.

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 Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain), Vice-President 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.

⁵³ COPA/COGECA: Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union
⁵⁴ EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission
⁵⁵ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
⁵⁶ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
⁵⁷ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
⁵⁸ IZS-Teramo: Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
⁵⁹ RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, congratulated the Members of the Regional Commission on the fact that outstanding contributions from almost all countries (only 2 countries are late by three years in their statutory contributions) had been paid.

He encouraged OIE Members to increase their category of contribution. It was noted that three countries increased their level of contributions over the past year.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, informed participants that the Council had met three times since the last General Session: in October 2013, in Berlin, and in February and May 2014, in Paris.

She reported that, apart from the traditional agenda items (reviewing the past General Session, preparing budget documents for the next General Session, discussing new applications, etc.), the main focus of deliberations had been on preparing the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

She regretted the departure from the Council of Professor Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco, who had resigned as Delegate in August 2013. As he was the elected Vice-President of the Assembly, this position has been vacant for all subsequent meetings of the Council.

She concluded by reminding Delegates that they could access the summaries of Council discussion outcomes on the OIE Delegates website.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, described the composition of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe, underlining the recent resignation of Dr Nihat Pakdil as OIE Delegate of Turkey. As a consequence, he pointed out the necessity to hold 'partial' election to nominate a new Secretary General of the Bureau until the general elections in May 2015 (refer to section 7). He informed the audience about the newly opened OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan, in October 2013, which now increases the number of OIE offices in Europe (Sofia, Brussels, Moscow and Astana) to four.

With regard to the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Pärtel provided the participants with an update regarding the latest developments of the OIE regional standard setting mechanism for Europe, mentioning the two meetings of the Task Force in Vienna, Austria in November 2013 and in Belgrade, Serbia in April 2014 to identify common positions for the 82nd General Session of the OIE. In total, 29 common positions were agreed and will be presented on behalf of the 53 OIE Members of the region.

In his capacity as President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Pärtel attended several meetings, including a meeting of the Bureau (Kiev, Ukraine in August 2013), the TAIEX⁶⁰ meeting on African swine fever and Classical swine fever (Vilnius, Lithuania in September 2013) and the 5th meeting of the GF-TADs⁶¹ for Europe Steering Committee (Brussels, Belgium in October 2013).

Dr Pärtel concluded by emphasising the importance of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Bern, Switzerland in September 2014.

⁶⁰ TAIEX : Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (EC/DG ENLARG)

⁶¹ GF-TADs : FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the work programme of all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional representations and office in Europe, on behalf of Prof N. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria), Dr K. Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow (Russia), and Dr A. Kozhayev, technical assistant at the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan (SRO-Astana).

She informed Delegates that, in October 2013, Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, had signed a cooperation agreement with Mr A.S. Mamytbekov, Kazakhstan's Minister of Agriculture, establishing a new OIE office with diplomatic status based in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana, aimed at supporting the prevention and control of animal diseases – particularly FMD – in the country and sub-region.

Starting by mentioning the first ever OIE Representation in Europe, Dr Leboucq commended the active role of Prof Belev in maintaining regular dialogue with the highest authorities in Bulgaria (Prime Minister; Chairperson of the National Assembly; Minister of Agriculture; university and faculty deans; President of the Veterinary Union; CVO; etc.), to ensure the participation of Bulgarian authorities in the opening ceremony of the 82nd OIE General Session (Paris, May 2014) and the continued compliance of Bulgarian Veterinary Services with OIE international standards. Another important topic for discussion had been the fruitful on-going cooperation between OIE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), with the preparation and implementation of a robust joint agenda for the 2014-2015 period, including: (a) the OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on detection and prevention of African Swine Fever and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface (30 June-1 July 2014 in Paris, France); and (b) the project to establish a CIC hunters' training centre for wildlife diseases in Bulgaria. The Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (RR-Sofia) is staffed by Prof N. Belev (Regional Representative), Dr A. Miteva (technical assistant) and Mrs R. Kostova (secretary).

Dr Leboucq went on to discuss the work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (SRR-Brussels) for 2014, which had focused on the same two areas of intervention as in previous years: (i) participation in OIE capacity-building activities in Europe, in close collaboration with the other OIE offices in the region; and (ii) providing a collaborative interface for Brussels-based organisations with a regional mandate (European Commission, European Parliament, FVE, COPA-COGECA, European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV), etc.) and those with a global mandate (World Customs Organization [WCO], North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]). Of note is the fact that SRR-Brussels was recently assigned two new responsibilities: hosting the Secretariat of the newly launched OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, and serving as the regional contact point for the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS/WAHID) to provide basic country assistance for disease notification to the OIE. SRR-Brussels continues to be staffed by three veterinarians: Dr N. Leboucq (Sub-Regional Representative), Dr S. de la Rocque (chargé de mission following WHO relations) and Dr S. Ralchev (technical assistant).

With regard to the first area of intervention, SRR-Brussels organised and participated in the OIE regional seminar for newly appointed Delegates (February 2014 in Brussels, Belgium). SRR-Brussels is also now actively implementing the 2014 work programme of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, aimed at: (i) developing a dedicated website, with pages and documentation in both English and Russian; (ii) preparing a

regional seminar on stray dog population control for Balkan countries (June 2014 in Bucharest, Romania); and (iii) preparing a regional awareness campaign on stray dogs. The second Steering Group meeting of the Platform took place in Moscow (Russia) in May 2014, monitored progress in implementing the Platform's Action Plan. The Secretariat has had the opportunity to present the OIE Platform at several regional stakeholders' meetings over the past six months. In November 2013, SRR-Brussels also participated in a PVS Gap Analysis mission in Israel.

With regard to the second area of intervention, SRR-Brussels has taken part in around 40 coordination meetings since the last OIE General Session, including a photo exhibition and a second symposium entitled "Preventing human pandemics by improving animal health" at the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium) in November 2013. Close collaboration with the European Commission continues on a wide range of topics.

Dr Leboucq also reported that, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe, SRR-Brussels had organised the fifth meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe Regional Steering Committee (Brussels, Belgium in October 2013), aimed at enhancing regional coordination and collaboration for seven priority transboundary diseases in Europe. In 2014, SRR-Brussels is still an active member of the two global GF-TADs Working Groups on FMD and "peste des petits ruminants".

Dr Leboucq also mentioned Dr de la Rocque's important roadmap focusing on improving strategic options for delivering the One Health agenda at global, regional and national levels. In March 2014, 'pilot' workshops were held in Baku (Azerbaijan) (by the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow and SRR-Brussels) and Bangkok (Thailand) (SRR-Brussels) to understand country perspectives and see how countries could best use the outcomes and outputs of assessments under the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations Monitoring Framework and OIE PVS Pathway to identify gaps and opportunities for improving collaboration at the public health- veterinary interface.

RR-Moscow, which opened in 2013, is at the forefront when it comes to prevention and control of African swine fever (ASF) in the region, which is currently a great concern for Europe, with Lithuania and Poland reporting their first ever outbreaks in 2014. Dr Lukauskas provided technical advice and participated in several meetings on ASF: (a) a Technical Assistance Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) meeting on ASF and classical swine fever, organised under the GF-TADs umbrella (Vilnius, Lithuania, in September 2013); (b) meetings with senior Lithuanian officials, including the Prime Minister (Berlin, Germany, and Vilnius, Lithuania, in January 2014), after wild boars had been found dead in Alytus, southern Lithuania; (c) a meeting entitled "Situation assessment of African swine fever in wild boar in Lithuania", with experts from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO), European Union Reference Laboratory for African Swine Fever (EURL-ASF) (Madrid, Spain), Federal Centre for Animal Health (ARRIAH) (Russia), Belarusian State Veterinary Center's animal disease control laboratory (Belarus) and other country representatives (Lithuania in January 2014); (d) a mission by the Community Veterinary Emergency Team on ASF (Warsaw / Poland, on 26-28 February 2014), aimed at providing on-the-spot assistance to develop the most suitable control and eradication measures for ASF; the Community Veterinary Emergency Team also conducted a mission in Lithuania in March 2014, with the participation of SRR-Brussels, to provide targeted support to the Lithuanian authorities in drawing up a plan for ASF surveillance and possible eradication; and (e) the OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on ASF (Paris, France, on 30 June–1 July 2014).

Dr Leboucq reported that the OIE Regional Representative in Moscow is also very involved in diplomatic dialogue with the Russian authorities (meeting with Russia's Minister of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014), as well as with authorities in neighbouring countries (meeting with the State Secretary of Latvia's Ministry of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014; meeting with Estonia's Minister of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014). He also participated in regional technical meetings relating to good governance of Veterinary Services (National Animal Health Program [NAHP] Steering Group Meeting, in Tbilisi, Georgia, in February 2014; mission on the status of Veterinary Services and veterinary laboratories, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in March 2014; fourth International Veterinary Congress of Russia in Kazan, Russia, in April 2014). Finally, RR-Moscow was responsible for organising and conducting the OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points on wildlife in St Petersburg, Russia, in April 2014. RR-Moscow is staffed by Dr K. Lukauskas (Regional Representative) and Dr E. Panina (technical and administrative assistant).

One of the first actions of the newly established SRO-Astana Office was to organise and participate in the fifth West Eurasia roadmap meeting (Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2014), organised under the GF-TADs umbrella – which showed that virtually all 14 participating countries were moving towards achieving the regional vision (freedom from clinical cases of FMD by the year 2020). Dr A. Kozhayev, technical assistant at SRO-Astana will be in charge of implementing the meeting's recommendations.

Dr Leboucq concluded by presenting the following programme of activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and SRO-Astana for the coming months:

- participation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana) in the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Bern, Switzerland, in September 2014);
- organisation and participation (SRR-Brussels) in the OIE Seminar for National Focal Points for communication, to be held in Estonia in July 2014;
- participation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels) in OIE seminars for National Focal Points (for animal disease notification, in Chisinau, Moldova, in October 2014; and for veterinary products, in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in November 2014);
- implementation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana) of further capacity-building activities for national Veterinary Services in Europe, based on the OIE PVS Pathway;
- implementation (SRR-Brussels) of the 2014 work programme of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and participation in related meetings (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels) and activities (SRR-Brussels);
- implementation (SRO-Astana) of the FMD West Eurasia roadmap and recommendations; and
- routine collaboration with partners and stakeholders in the region (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana).

Dr Leboucq also reminded participants that all the activities of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Europe and the SRO-Astana Office are published regularly on the OIE regional website for Europe (www.rr-europe.oie.int), managed by SRR-Brussels (with a section for Russian speaking countries).

6. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Members would provide the OIE *ad hoc* Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the HHP concept is in line with the free movement of registered horses in the EU and that it is indeed intended to expand this movement beyond the EU region and its approved third countries.

She added that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools will be given to the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Bern in September 2014.

7. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, informed the participants that the Delegate of Turkey had stepped down, leaving vacant the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission, which requires an election to be held.

Dr Budimir Plavšić, newly appointed Delegate of Serbia was unanimously proposed as Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

This decision will be submitted for endorsement by vote of the World Assembly during the week.

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- "Economics of animal health: direct and indirect costs of animal disease outbreaks"

9. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 26th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- “Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe”

10. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Bern (Switzerland) from 22 to 26 September 2014

Dr Hans Wyss, Delegate of Switzerland, reiterated that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the Conference to be held in Bern from 22 to 26 September 2014.

He gave a brief account of the different actions that Switzerland had undertaken to start organising the conference.

Dr Wyss also provided general information about hotel accommodation including the special procedure put in place through a tourist agency for ensuring hotel reservations for all participants attending the Conference. He then commented about transport facilities that would be provided to all participants.

Dr Wyss concluded his presentation giving assurances that full details would be sent to all participants in a timely manner.

11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates together with Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, Delegate of Russia and member of the OIE Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. Dr Schwabenbauer informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

She reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Schwabenbauer emphasised that the aim of her presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. She said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

She reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE’s strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE’s operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;

- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Schwabenbauer explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Nepoklonov reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Schwabenbauer concluded by inviting Delegates - especially non EU Member Countries - to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. She emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Europe region.

Discussions

Dr Spyros Doudounakis, Delegate of Greece, commended the quality of the first draft provided on behalf of the 28 countries of the European Union and announced that the comments will be provided within the next two months. Dr Pärtel proposed that comments be made on behalf of the 53 Members of the Regional Commission, following the model of the regional standard setting mechanism. Dr Kristina Landsverk, Delegate of Norway, appreciated that aquatic animal issues had been adequately taken into account.

12. African swine fever situation in Europe

Dr Dietrich Rassow, Veterinarian Adviser, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, informed the Regional Commission that African swine fever (ASF) has continued to spread through parts of Eastern Europe since it was introduced in Georgia and Russia in 2007, affecting both wild boars and domestic pigs. The disease is currently considered to be a major threat to other parts of Europe. In early 2014 the virus was detected in wild boars found dead in Lithuania and Poland, both near the border with Belarus.

He further stated that the epidemiological situation and measures taken by Lithuania and Poland have been assessed on several occasions by international experts including OIE representatives.

From 23 to 25 April 2014 the OIE *ad hoc* Group on ASF met at the OIE Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to work on updating the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 15.1. on ASF, align, as far as possible, with the recently amended Chapter 15.2 on Classical Swine Fever and address issues of ASF specific surveillance. The *ad hoc* Group report will be dealt with by the Scientific Commission in its next September meeting.

Dr Rassow confirmed that the two European OIE Reference Laboratories for ASF located in Spain and the United Kingdom respectively are actively involved in the support of national reference laboratories and the coordination of international research.

The Regional Commission was reminded that Technical Item II of the General Session is dedicated to ‘African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread’ which will be presented on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

Considering the epidemiology of the disease and the need to raise the awareness of hunters and other persons involved with game and wildlife management, the OIE has engaged with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to host a Joint International Meeting on early detection and prevention of ASF and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface. The meeting scheduled for 30 June and 1 July 2014 will focus on the efforts made by both hunters and Veterinary Services to establish and improve current surveillance and early detection systems for ASF.

For further information, OIE Members were encouraged to follow the second Technical Item (without questionnaire) to be presented on the following day.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe

Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing 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, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Europe.

Dr Popovic also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Popovic presented the recent exceptional events of African swine fever in Europe.

14. FMD control in Eastern Europe

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, started his presentation by providing the FMD official status worldwide.

He commented on the overall FMD situation in the Eastern Europe region since 2011, highlighting the FMD recent outbreaks in Central Asia.

Dr Lukauskas commented on the vision of Shiraz meeting in 2008 regarding West Eurasia region becoming free from clinical FMD by 2020. He said that, following that vision, the OIE opened, on 15 October 2013, the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan, which works under the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow and cover directly OIE activities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

He explained that the objectives of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana were to: strengthen FMD control in the 5 OIE Members of Central Asia; develop a uniform FMD approach and strategy at regional level; and ensure regional cooperation for FMD control between Veterinary Services and OIE FMD experts of the region.

Dr Lukauskas commented on the objectives of the fifth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 23 and 24 April, 2014. He highlighted the following objectives:

- to share information on FMD virus circulation within the West Eurasia FMDV ecosystem;
- to review the progress of each country along the Regional Roadmap;
- to assist countries preparing national control programmes, and submissions to the OIE for official control programme endorsement and possible FMD status recognition for countries and zones;
- to emphasise the role of the newly established OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana; and
- to set up a sub-regional vaccine bank.

He then presented the West Eurasia FMD control roadmap to 2025 and listed the countries where FMD outbreaks had been reported. He provided a general overview regarding the situation of the roadmap after Baku meeting in 2013 and then after Astana meeting in 2014.

Dr Lukauskas concluded by commenting on the recommendations of the fifth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held recently in Astana (Kazakhstan). He highlighted the following recommendations:

- Countries with a provisional PCP-FMD stage 2 should submit the revised control plans for review no later than October 2014 to the GF-TADs FMD Working Group;
- Each country should identify 3 focal points (for PCP-FMD, for laboratory and for epidemiology) to facilitate communication and coordination;
- Countries should be actively involved in the OIE PVS Pathway and Governmental Authorities should support the development of an 'Enabling Environment' for controlling FMD, of which the reinforcement of Veterinary Services is an integral component;
- Countries should consider reciprocal and regular communications with neighbouring countries;
- More effort should be made to achieve the rapid sharing of laboratory information (transparency) on FMD virus circulation between countries of the region; and
- All countries consider official recognition by the OIE of their national FMD Control Programmes as a priority.

15. OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Dr Stanislav Ralchev, Technical Assistant, OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, began his presentation by saying that, after the concept note of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe had been adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe at the 81st OIE General Session (May 2013), the OIE developed a detailed Action Plan for 2014-2016, which was put forward for discussion and adoption by the first meeting of the Platform's Steering Group in Paris in December 2013. The meeting was attended by all Steering Group members and a number of countries invited as observers. SRR-Brussels hosts the Platform's Secretariat.

He explained that the strategic objective of the Action Plan for 2014-2016 is to empower Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards. More specifically, the Action Plan aims to: (i) raise awareness and achieve a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Europe region; (ii) progressively advance with the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare; and (iii) encourage the participation of Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in the OIE standard-setting process.

Dr Ralchev added that the specific work programme for 2014 includes implementation of the following key activities: creation of the Platform website, with pages and documentation in English and Russian; a 'pilot' workshop on stray dog population control for the Balkan countries, with a methodology involving regular assessment and monitoring of the situation; and an awareness campaign on stray dogs, with a focus on rabies risk. He said that until the Platform website was operational, an interim webpage had been created that can be accessed via the OIE regional website for Europe.

Dr Ralchev mentioned that the European Commission and France had already confirmed their technical and financial support for the OIE Platform. An advocacy document has been produced to present the Platform and its Action Plan to other donors in the region with an interest in animal welfare and to encourage possible additional funding.

He added that the second meeting of the Steering Group was held in Moscow, in May 2014, to report and discuss implementation of past and forthcoming activities.

Dr Ralchev concluded by saying that the Platform's achievements would be regularly communicated to OIE Member Countries, partners and stakeholders of the region, using the Platform website, a twice-yearly newsletter and presentations at various meetings, including meetings and conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

16. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

OIE Collaborating Centre for "Foodborne Zoonotic Parasites from Europe Region"

Dr Jean-Luc Angot, OIE Delegate of France, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Foodborne Zoonotic Parasites from Europe Region".

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that more details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Members of the Regional Commission expressed their strong support for this application.

The Regional Commission approved the proposal from France. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics”

Dr Nigel Gibbens, OIE Delegate of the United Kingdom, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics”.

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.

The Members of the Regional Commission expressed their strong support for this application.

The Commission approved the United Kingdom’s proposal. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

17. 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 of the European Commission highlighted the activities of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (EC/DG SANCO) in the area of animal health and animal welfare in Europe, including transboundary animal disease control programmes in the EU and neighbouring countries, TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument) and BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) activities, the OIE platform on animal welfare for Europe and other OIE capacity building activities financed by the European Commission, and provided an update on the state of play of the EU Animal Health Law.

• **Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)**

Dr Vladimir Subbotin, Deputy Head of Department for sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures, Eurasian Economic Commission highlighted that the Customs Union (CU) has been in operation as of 1st July 2010. There are three states in the CU: Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. Currently Armenia is undergoing the process of accession to the CU. The issue of accession of Kyrgyzstan to the CU was also raised.

He noted that the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is a permanent supranational regulatory body of the CU and the Single Economic Space (SES). Decisions of the EEC are binding within the territory of the CU and the SES member-states.

Dr Subbotin mentioned that the work of the EEC comprises separate functions, each supervised by a Board Member (Minister) and each encompassing a number of industries and areas of economic activity. There are 23 Departments in the EEC which coordinate with the relevant government bodies within their respective fields of expertise. Issues relating to the SPS measures apply to the competence of the SPS measures Department.

He explained that the EEC is involved in the international cooperation in order to promote the vision of the Eurasian Community and attract key partners from the European and Asia-Pacific regions into the integration processes. He concluded that the Memorandum of Understanding between the EEC and the OIE has been signed and its aim is to ensure optimal collaboration between the OIE and the EEC by coordinating their efforts and the activities in areas of common interest.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr. Henk Jan Ormel, Senior Veterinary Policy Advisor, Animal Health Service, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO (Rome, Italy) , started his presentation by saying that FAO's assistance to its Member Countries is based on country programming frameworks, regional priorities and outcomes of the FAO Regional Conference, and contributes to achieving five strategic objectives: (1) help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; (2) make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; (3) reduce rural poverty; (4) enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels; and (5) increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

He explained that FAO provides: technical and institutional assistance; policy advice on prevention and control of priority transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses; and advice and capacity-building for reinforcing existing progressive control pathways for brucellosis, FMD and ASF.

Dr Ormel concluded by saying that other important FAO priorities are to: provide assistance through capacity-building, technology transfer, knowledge management, epidemiological analysis and risk assessment; strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for food safety and quality; and build veterinary public health capacity, including traceability of livestock and food of animal origin.

18. Other matters

Dr A. Pärtel, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, indicated that, at the initiative of the Bureau, a questionnaire was prepared to gather the feed-back from the Delegates on the role of the Bureau of the Commission to see how collaboration can be further improved. The questionnaire was distributed and responses are expected by 15 June 2014 (to be provided to Dr A. Pärtel and L. Carbajo Goñi). The results of the questionnaire will be presented during the 26th Conference of the OIE regional Commission for Europe (Bern, Switzerland in September 2014).

The meeting officially ended at 5:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana
6. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
7. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
9. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
10. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Berne (Switzerland) from 22 to 26 September 2014
11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
12. African swine fever situation in Europe
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe
14. FMD control in Eastern Europe
15. OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
16. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres
17. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
18. Other matters

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 46 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

Observer countries/territories: France, India, Morocco, Palestine, and United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: FAO, ICFAW, IFHA, WSPA, WVEPAH⁶².

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President, assisted by Dr Abdulghani Y. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia), Vice-President and Dr Salah Fadhil Abbas (Iraq), Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional 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

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, 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 to the OIE by regional Member Countries. However, as several Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East belong to and contribute to other Regional Commissions, only 12 Members in the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East contribute. As most of these Members are not in the highest contribution categories, the share of the regional Members' contribution is insufficient to supply the annual budget required by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to implement its programme of activities.

⁶² WVEPAH: World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health

Therefore, Dr Al-Qahtani encouraged Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development in order to support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation more fully, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding for its activities.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman and member of the OIE Council, reported that the Council had met in Berlin from 1 to 3 October 2013 to hold a free-ranging, open discussion stimulated by an environmental scan and blueprint pathway in preparation for developing the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

He gave general details regarding the main characteristics of the future Strategic Plan and concluded by saying that he would provide more details on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan during discussion of the agenda item in question.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East including the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013

Dr Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, stated that the main objectives of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East are 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. In that regard, he commented on the seminars held in 2013-2014 on: aquatic animal diseases; wildlife; animal production food safety; and animal welfare.

Lastly, Dr Al-Qahtani reported on the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Amman (Jordan), from 23 to 26 September 2013, which had been attended by a total of 70 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 16 Member Countries and 4 observer countries and senior officials from four international organisations.

Dr Al-Qahtani commented on the two recommendations developed following discussions of each of the two technical items. Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "Veterinary education and incorporation of the 'One Health' concept", and Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled "Proper application of Halal slaughter".

To conclude, Dr Al-Qahtani reminded the Regional Commission that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the seventh plenary session on 27th May 2014, making their implementation binding on the OIE.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

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.

He said that countries in the Middle East had demonstrated increasing interest in the work of the OIE in 2013-2014. This was reflected in the extensive participation and range of topics discussed at the multiple events and meetings held over the past year.

The activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East in 2013-2014 were aimed at helping to build the capacity of Veterinary Services to control and manage animal health and welfare, in particular transboundary animal diseases.

The Regional Representation is also involved in: harmonising regulations for regional trade in animals and animal products; improving animal disease information systems; strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations; holding conferences and seminars to help target specific animal- and public health-related issues; and promoting the establishment of a network of regional reference laboratories and coordinating their activities.

Dr Yehia also described the main outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Amman (Jordan) in September 2013, and of the seminars for OIE National Focal Points held during the past year: one on aquatic animal diseases, in Byblos (Lebanon); one on wildlife, in Gaborone (Botswana), held jointly with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa; one on veterinary medicinal products, in Algiers (Algeria), held jointly with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa; one on animal production food safety, in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates); and one on animal welfare, in Amman (Jordan).

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory OIE Twinning projects.

He also presented the conclusions of the inter-regional consultative meeting on foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), held in Amman (Jordan), which was an important step in gaining an overview of countries' progress on the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) roadmap and assisting them in preparing national control plans.

The Regional Representative also confirmed that the OIE was working towards the establishment of an OIE Sub Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in a Gulf Cooperation Council country.

Dr Yehia outlined the activities programmed for the coming year, including: a regional conference on camel diseases scheduled to be held in Cairo (Egypt), to review a common strategy with other camel-producing countries; and a regional conference on vector-borne diseases that was yet to be confirmed. A seminar for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary laboratories is scheduled in September 2014.

He also said that the OIE was working to prepare the region's first veterinary education Twinning project. The project would most likely involve Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Dr Yehia acknowledged the support of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia in Palermo (Sicily) in organising a training course on equine diseases diagnostic.

In the past year, training courses were held in Amman (Jordan) and Muscat (Oman) as part of the OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP), reflecting the aims of the regional strategy on animal welfare endorsed by Members last year.

Dr Yehia concluded by saying that the Regional Representation for the Middle East would continue to work towards building the technical capacity of Members' Veterinary Services in the region.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Interpretation of results of NSP (non-structural protein) tests in epidemiological situations with different vaccine uses”

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- “Prevention of the re-emergence of vector-borne diseases”

The Commission also identified Brucellosis as another topic for consideration during the conference.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, requested the Delegate of Oman to confirm his country's proposal to host the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission.

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman, informed the Regional Commission that his country would be willing to host the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in November 2015.

Dr Yehia pointed out that, exceptionally, the Regional Conference is being held in November instead of September, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. This is because the OIE Regional Conference for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, due to be held in Mongolia in 2015, will take place in September owing to weather conditions in that country. This requires the dates of the two conferences to be switched.

9. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman and member of the Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on preparations for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Al-Sahmi emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Al-Sahmi explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Al-Sahmi reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Al-Sahmi concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Middle East region.

10. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged for the past two years in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the early ideas for the HHP concept had been presented at a regional meeting on glanders, held in Dubai in April 2012, and that input from the participants had been received. She added that the HHP concept was also presented to the Regional Commission for the Middle East in Amman in September 2013.

She informed the participants that the OIE plans to hold a Regional Conference on the HHP concept and the existing import regulations in the countries of the Middle East in November 2014.

Dr Ghazi Yehia followed up Dr Münstermann's presentation with some additional comments. He emphasised that the draft Code chapter proposed for adoption strictly describes the concept of HHP horses, while all pertinent questions and concerns will be addressed by future expert meetings and relevant Specialist Commissions, in line with the approach already used when presenting the guiding principles on Animal Welfare to Members. Details of the various activities on the description of the sub-population, certification, diagnostic testing, among others, will be part of an international biosecurity plan, which will be prepared by the private sector in consultation with Members and will be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines. He pointed out that Members already use the same approach when implementing compartmentalisation in their territories and when developing the related biosecurity plans, based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

11. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) situation in the Middle East

Dr Keith Hamilton, Officer in charge of the reduction of biological threats, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, provided the meeting with an overview of the evolving situation with respect to the number of human cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and recent OIE activities designed to gain a better understanding of the role that the presence of the MERS-CoV strain of coronavirus found in camels may play in the current outbreak. Evidence from a limited number of studies suggests that there is an association between MERS-CoV and some infections in humans and camels.

Dr Hamilton provided a brief overview of the history of the current human epidemic indicating that MERS-CoV had not been reported in humans before April 2012. As of May 23, 2014 there had been 635 laboratory confirmed human cases including 193 deaths. The countries affected include Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition, cases have been reported in Egypt, Tunisia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Philippines and the United States of America in individuals who had recently travelled to the Middle East.

Most human cases of MERS-CoV have been confirmed to have had exposure to other human cases of MERS-CoV. However, MERS-CoV does not appear to be easily transmissible from human to human. The dynamics of infection and transmission of MERS-CoV in camel populations, between camels and humans, and between humans are not fully understood.

Serological studies suggest that camels sampled in several countries in the Middle East and Africa have been exposed to MERS-CoV or a similar coronavirus. In sampled adult camel populations the seroprevalence has been high. In younger camels there has been a more variable seroprevalence. Given the limited number of cases of MERS-CoV in humans that have had direct contact with camels, it appears that the MERS-CoV does not appear to be easily transmitted from camels to humans. The involvement of other species of domestic animal or wildlife in the epidemiology of MERS-CoV cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Although MERS-CoV has been isolated from camels showing signs of mild respiratory disease, it is not yet known whether the virus causes clinical disease in animals. Preliminary data suggest that infective camels shed virus in nasal and ocular secretions (to a lesser extent in faeces). Therefore the OIE is aligned with the World Health Organisation in its recommendations that precautionary public health measures be taken to limit contact between camels which are known to be infected with MERS-CoV (PCR positive and/or virus isolation) and other camels that have been in close contact with known infected camels, until the end of the infective period, and to follow general hygiene recommendations when handling all camels.

There is no evidence about the presence or absence of MERS-CoV in the milk or meat of infected camels. Experimental studies show that the MERS-CoV can survive in raw milk. The risk of (cross) contamination between nasal secretions and milk cannot be ruled out. Consequently, the OIE supports the precautionary public health message to avoid drinking raw milk and/or uncooked meat from camels until more is known about the presence or absence of MERS-CoV in these untreated food products and the potential for cross contamination with other secretions or excretions.

According to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE considers that MERS-CoV is an emerging disease owing to its impact on public health and that OIE Member Countries should report detections of MERS-CoV in animals to the OIE as an immediate notification. This is important for informing public health measures. At the national level, the OIE urges Veterinary Services to immediately report confirmed virological or PCR positive cases of MERS-CoV in camels (or other animals) to the Public Health authorities.

Dr Hamilton stressed that there is a need to gain more knowledge about the dynamics of MERS-CoV infections in animals including the routes of virus shedding; the incubation and infective period in camels; the infectivity of the virus amongst camel populations; the likely prevalence (stratified across age groups) of infection in camel herds; the geographical and temporal distribution of camel infections; and risk factors for disease spread.

OIE urges Member Countries to carry out a full epidemiological investigation on confirmation of MERS-CoV infections in animals. This should be done in collaboration with public health authorities.

OIE also urges countries to conduct surveillance in the camel population to better understand the temporal and spatial distribution of infection.

The OIE is working closely with its partner organisations FAO and WHO to collate and share data to gain a better understanding about the possible disease situation in animals and to assess implications for animal and human health.

The OIE has convened the ad-hoc Group on Camelid Diseases to advise the Director General in terms of both research needs and possible guidance once more knowledge becomes available and has posted a series of questions and answers on the OIE website to raise awareness and to inform Delegates of the latest information.

The OIE has also undertaken missions to several Member Countries and additional missions are planned to gain further insights into the in country situation.

Discussion

Dr Mehdi El Harrak, President of the OIE ad-hoc Group on Camelid Diseases, stressed once more the lack of current knowledge regarding MERS-CoV in camels. He also underlined the need for increased veterinary laboratory capacity for testing the virus and the need for further epidemiological investigations to identify at-risk animal populations.

Dr Vincenzo Caporale, President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, recommended caution when interpreting current published surveillance data in the absence of fully validated tests for MERS-CoV in camels. He underlined the importance of gaining a better understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease and suggested that experimental infections be undertaken.

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in the Middle East

Dr Aziza Mustafa, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing 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, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in the Middle East.

Dr Mustafa also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Daria Di Sabatino, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the recent exceptional events of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Middle East.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Markos Tibbo, Livestock Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began his presentation by saying that FAO assists countries by building their capacity in the areas of: disease surveillance; prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, lumpy skin disease [LSD], PPR) and zoonoses (H5N1 avian influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [MERS-CoV], brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and fostering use of genetic resources. The interruption of animal disease control systems in several countries, increasingly unregulated movements of animals and other factors have heightened the risk of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Near East and North Africa. Dr Tibbo reported that FAO had provided training in: strengthening veterinary quarantine systems; good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. FAO had also provided a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

He added that FAO provides direct support with animal disease surveillance, diagnosis, and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, LSD, Rift Valley fever, H5N1 avian influenza, Newcastle disease).

He said that FAO and OIE have jointly organised regional events under GF-TADs, including for the FMD-PCP roadmap/strategy and PPR Control Strategy.

Dr Tibbo concluded by stating that FAO: provides technical, institutional and policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and the mobilisation of experts in specialised fields to transfer technologies for sustainable livestock production; assists countries in assessing animal feed resources and their management; assists smallholders engaged in dairy, small ruminant and honeybee production to improve their yield, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks; and assists countries in breed characterisation and adding value to local breeds and their products to support their development and market access.

14. Other matters

Making reference to the previous discussions on MERS-CoV, Dr Vincenzo Caporale suggested that some experts on camel diseases of the Region participate in the OIE Global Conference on Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to take place in Rep. of Korea in October 2014.

The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
 3. Report on OIE Council meetings
 4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East including the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013
 5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
 7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
 8. Confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
 9. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
 10. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
 11. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) situation in the Middle East
 12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East
 13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 14. Other matters
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