

# Final Report 2017



*Protecting animals, preserving our future* **WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**





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**85th General Session • Paris, 21–26 May 2017**

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# Final Report 2017



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### List of abbreviations

ALA	:	American Poultry Association
ARIS	:	Animal Resources Information System
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AVA	:	African Veterinary Association
AVSF	:	<i>Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières</i>
CARICOM	:	Caribbean Community
CIC	:	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
CIRAD	:	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CITES	:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
ECCAS	:	Economic Community of Central African States
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
EFSA	:	European Food Safety Authority
EPAA	:	European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GFSI	:	Global Food Safety Initiative
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IETS	:	International Embryo Technology Society
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IOC	:	Indian Ocean Commission
IZSAM	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
NACA	:	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
OECD	:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PRAPS	:	Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
Quads	:	Quadrilateral (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America)
RSPCA	:	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
STDF	:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TABST	:	Target Animal Batch Safety Test
VEEs	:	Veterinary Education Establishments
VPPs	:	Veterinary Para-Professionals
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WTO	:	World Trade Organization



# *Final Report of the Sessions*



## INTRODUCTION

1. The 85th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates<sup>1</sup> of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 21 to 25 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 26 May 2017 at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the Assembly. Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item 1 and Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati (Oman) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item 2.
2. One hundred and forty-nine Members sent delegations to the General Session.
3. Observers from five non-member countries or territories and representatives of 43 international and regional organisations having an agreement with the OIE also attended the General Session.
4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Eloit, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Khadija Id Sidi Yahia (Morocco) and Dr Samuel Thevasagayam (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) 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 Romano Marabelli and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Immediate Past President of the OIE, and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of the OIE, participated in the General Session.
8. Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, and 15 Ministers and Members of Government also participated in the Opening Session.

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■ SUNDAY 21 MAY 2017 ■

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### Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the 85th General Session, a musical group was invited to enliven the Opening Session.
10. President Modisane then welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko (Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union), Mr Falah Hassan Zaidan (Minister of Agriculture of Iraq), Mr Ghazi Zeaiter (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Rivo Rakotovao (Minister to the Presidency in charge of Agriculture and Livestock of Madagascar), Ms Vatma Vall Mint Soueina (Minister of Livestock of Mauritania), Mr Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan (Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan), Mr Abdurrahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadlii (Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia), Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal), Mr Mohamed Cheikh Nur (Minister of Livestock of Somalia), Mr Thani Ahmed bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi (Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates), Ms Gulmira Issayeva (Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Ms Luisa Celma Meque (Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Safety of Mozambique), Mr Esteban Girón (Vice-Minister of the Agricultural Development of Panama), Mr Marcos Medina (Vice-Minister of Livestock of

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<sup>1</sup> Hereafter “the Assembly”

Paraguay), Mr Luis Eduardo Pacifici Rangel (Secretary of Agricultural and Livestock Defence of Brazil), Mr Andrew Kiprotich Tuimur (Livestock Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Kenya), and Ms Maris Llorens (OIE Goodwill Ambassador).

11. In his address, the President recalled the main areas of work being undertaken by the OIE, and emphasised the importance of cooperation with the other Organisations and transparency in the information transmitted on sanitary risks. He emphasised the important role played by Delegates and encouraged them to make an active contribution to the work of the General Session. In this respect, he applauded the preparatory work of the Specialist Commissions and that of their Secretariat, and paid tribute to the former members of the Council.
12. Following his address, the President handed the floor to Ms Correia Sacko, Ms Vall Mint Soueina, Mr Bosan, Mr Al-Zeyoudi, Ms Celma Meque, Mr Girón, Mr Medina and Mr Kiprotich Tuimur. In addition, Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO<sup>2</sup>, Mr Gilbert Fossoun HOUNGBO, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health the United Kingdom, delivered a video message to the Assembly.

### **Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards**

13. Dr Modisane reminded participants that in accordance with the *Basic Texts* of the OIE, honorary awards could be made to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2017 to receive the awards: Dr David J. Paton (United Kingdom) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Konrad Sachse (Germany), Dr Nikolay Ivanov (Kazakhstan) and Dr Walter N. Masiga (Kenya) for the Meritorious Service Award.
14. Dr Modisane commended Dr Paton and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and to the veterinary world and, in particular, in his capacity as Head of the Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease at Pirbright (United Kingdom) for many years. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Sachse, Dr Ivanov and Dr Masiga and presented them each with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
15. The Ordre National des Vétérinaires de France (the French Order of Veterinarians), represented by the President of its National Council, Dr Jaques Guérin, was announced as the recipient of the 2017 World Veterinary Day prize by the President of the World Veterinary Association, Dr René Carlson. The award was for the best contribution of the year in the veterinary field on the theme “Antimicrobial resistance – from awareness to action”.
16. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony, notably to welcome participants and provide a graphic review of the achievements of 2016. The winners of the 2017 OIE photo competition, on the theme of “animal health and welfare, beyond the cliché”, selected from each of the five regions of the OIE and the network of veterinary students that took part in the competition were presented with their awards by the President.
17. Following the ceremony, Dr Modisane declared open the 85th General Session of the Assembly.

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<sup>2</sup> WHO: World Health Organization

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■ MONDAY 22 MAY 2017 ■

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**FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

18. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as Members or observers, and then gave the floor to Mr Jacques Mézard, Minister of Agriculture and Food of France.

After welcoming the participants to Paris, the Minister issued a reminder of the global food security challenges for the year 2050 and stressed the importance of the OIE's standard-setting work. He gave several examples, including the fight against antimicrobial resistance and standards with an impact on international trade, and he welcomed the "one health" approach that took into account the issues relating to animal health, human health and the environment. Lastly, he reminded participants of France's commitment to the OIE and indicated that the presence of its headquarters in Paris was a source of influence.

**Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**  
(Docs 85 SG/7 and 85 SG/8)

19. The President asked whether the participants had any comments on the agenda.
20. 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 86th and 87th General Sessions**

21. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 86th and 87th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) and Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

**Nomination of the Credentials Committee**

22. The Assembly appointed Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia) and Dr Mark 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.
23. 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 2016**  
(Doc. 85 SG/1)

24. Dr Eloit presented the salient points of the report on activities in 2016 contained in the summary of document 85 SG/1, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2016 being presented in the said report and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme was carried out under the authority of Dr Eloit, within the framework of the Sixth Strategic Plan and in application of the 3-year work programme of the Director General adopted by the Assembly in 2015.

25. The 84th OIE General Session, held in May 2016, was very well attended.
26. Two Conferences of Regional Commissions (the Americas and Europe), generously hosted by Bolivia and Portugal, were successfully held in 2016.
27. At the end of 2016, the OIE had 180 Members and 12 regional and sub-regional offices. A Memorandum of Understanding and a financial agreement relating to the provision of premises for the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia) were finalised. In accordance with the decision of the Council, the closure of the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, established in Sofia (Bulgaria) was finalised in September 2016.
28. In 2016, two agreements were signed, with the OECD<sup>3</sup> and the IOC<sup>4</sup>.
29. With regard to administrative and financial activities, details of which would be presented during the administrative session, the OIE had put in place a new organisational chart to make it more consistent with the strategic missions of the Organisation and clearer for its partners, and had enhanced the internal control system.
30. Dr Eloit reminded Delegates that the activities carried out by the OIE in 2016 stemmed from the Work Programme adopted by the Assembly in May 2016, a programme that was in line with the general framework laid down in the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020 adopted by the Assembly at the General Session in May 2015.
31. She then pointed out that details of the activities carried out were presented in document 85 SG/1 by main areas of intervention. She also indicated that during the week, other speakers would be giving more precise information on some of the programmes. Consequently, her presentation would focus rather on highlighting the work undertaken in 2016 to implement the Strategic Plan and the progress achieved. To this end, Dr Eloit based her intervention on a synthetic presentation of the actions undertaken, as summarised in the table sent to Delegates prior to the General Session (see introduction to document 85 SG/1), which reported on the results achieved during the year for each priority and each objective, respectively, of the Strategic Plan.
32. The Delegates would thus be able to precisely monitor the correspondence between the commitments made by the Director General and the results as they are gradually achieved during the period 2016–2020 of the Sixth Strategic Plan.
33. The Director General outlined the methodology employed, namely:
  - The modification of the OIE Headquarters’ organisational chart to make it more consistent with the strategic missions of the Organisation and to make it clearer to its partners;
  - The Strategic Plan to be used as the basis for a roadmap for each Department or Unit at the OIE Headquarters, with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations due to engage in a similar process in 2017. The first results, which were presented later in her presentation, reflect the strong and immediate commitment of all OIE staff members to the operational implementation of this roadmap.
34. Dr Eloit then related the main actions that had been developed, while emphasising that all of the OIE’s fields of activity or intervention had been impacted by this new work approach, though without any disruption to day-to-day work. In particular, she reported on the following work carried out:
  - the numerous working procedures that were reviewed and the concrete proposals presented to the Council and the Assembly, for example regarding procedures for selecting candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions and procedures for evaluating applications by Member Countries for official recognition of their status in terms of certain specific diseases;

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<sup>3</sup> OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

<sup>4</sup> IOC: Indian Ocean Commission

- the relations between the different statutory bodies that had been improved and revitalised, notably during the conferences of OIE Regional Commissions;
  - the communication tools that were in the process of renovation and modernisation, including for the dissemination of animal health information (e.g. the project to renovate the OIE world animal health information system, called WAHIS+) and the creation of new portals on the OIE website;
  - the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, which continued their actions to support the most fragile countries;
  - the relations with the OIE's partners, which had been strengthened especially for the development of major control strategies for animal diseases (foot and mouth disease, rabies, peste des petits ruminants, avian influenza); the Tripartite alliance created with WHO and FAO<sup>5</sup> had thus confirmed its commitment on major topics such as strengthening the capacities of human and animal health services, sharing of health information and antimicrobial resistance;
  - the improvement of internal administrative and budgetary performance, which was also undertaken, and a structured internal control procedure that was formally established.
35. Dr Eloit ended her presentation by thanking not only the OIE's teams, but also all those who had made a significant contribution to the achievement of these results: the members of the Specialist Commissions and *ad hoc* Groups, who contributed through their scientific expertise; the experts from the network of Reference Centres; the host countries of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations; the Members that placed their staff at the disposal of the OIE and those that allocated funding to enable the development of an ambitious programme of activities; and, lastly, the partners whose collaboration maximised the potential of the OIE's actions.
36. The President emphasised the productivity and quality of work of the OIE's teams as well as the new dynamism in terms of communication.
37. Japan thanked the Director General for her presentation and for the two recent on-site visits made by herself and by the Deputy Director General in charge of institutional affairs and regional activities. These visits had provided an opportunity to communicate more fully and give greater visibility to the OIE's activities. Japan also emphasised the usefulness of the PVS<sup>6</sup> evaluation mission conducted in October 2016 and, more generally, the contribution that the PVS tool was making to developed countries as well as developing countries, and encouraged Members to make greater use of the PVS tool. Then Japan expressed willingness to support the OIE activities for reviewing the PVS Pathway.
38. Senegal congratulated the Director General on her concise report on the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan and on the progress achieved in the institutional field and in the field of communication. Senegal also applauded the new orientations of the PVS tool, including the possibility of carrying out a self-evaluation. The Member Country ended by thanking the OIE for the support provided for the country's national rabies control programme and for the modernisation of its Veterinary Services.
39. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked the Director General for her brilliant presentation and for all the work achieved in such a short time. The Member Country expressed concern about the transition to a digital format for sending OIE documents and pointed out that some countries still appreciated the paper format. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also alerted the Director General to the rapid pace of the changes that had been made and to the financial resources that would be necessary to put in place the activities planned by the OIE. He wished the disparities in financial capacities between

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<sup>5</sup> FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<sup>6</sup> PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

Members to be taken into account. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also mentioned a perceived lack of coordination between the Tripartite partners regarding “One Health” and emphasised the need for alignment at institutional level. Lastly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo encouraged the transmission of OIE communication materials produced by the OIE to Focal Points for Communication to support them in their awareness-raising efforts at national level.

40. Malta, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), congratulated the Director General and the OIE’s teams on the results achieved in 2016 in putting in place the Sixth Strategic Plan, and especially on the new procedure for selecting experts to stand for election to the Specialist Commissions. The EU fully supported this initiative, which complied with the *Basic Texts* of the Organisation, and considered that it broadened participation in the Specialist Commissions while at the same time helping to improve transparency and strengthen the standard-setting work of the OIE.
41. India thanked the President and expressed concern about the capacity of the PVS tool to adapt to national specificities, such as operational structures and livestock production systems. India also stressed the importance of taking into account, during PVS evaluations, the capacities for public funding of a country’s Veterinary Services to implement the proposals put forward by the experts.
42. Paraguay congratulated the Director General on her presentation and the OIE’s teams for the work accomplished. Paraguay expressed satisfaction at the recent visit by the Deputy Director General in charge of institutional affairs and regional activities and expressed support for the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan.
43. The People’s Republic of China also congratulated the Director General on her clear and comprehensive presentation and noted that very encouraging progress had been made. The Member Country appreciated in particular two proposals, the first regarding the improvement of the information technology tools used by the OIE, especially in putting in place the new procedure for selecting candidate experts for the Specialist Commissions, and the second regarding the strengthening of cooperation with the human health sector in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, in particular for marketing authorisations for antibiotics. Lastly, the People’s Republic of China thanked the Director General for her recent visit and emphasised its wish to consolidate its cooperation with the OIE.
44. Togo, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, congratulated the Director General on her clear and concise report and thanked the OIE for its support in the region, which ranged from the management of various animal diseases to bringing the Veterinary Services into line with standards. Togo conveyed the Africa Region’s support for the OIE’s Sixth Strategic Plan.
45. Responding to the various interventions, the Director General emphasised that she understood the concerns expressed over the transformation of the Organisation. She nevertheless pointed out that changes were needed and that some were already proving effective as levers of budgetary control. She thanked Members for their comments and encouraged them to give their views on the activities of the OIE on a regular basis.
46. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1**

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2016**

47. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

## TECHNICAL ITEM 1

### **Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance: progress and opportunities for future activities under the ‘One Health’ initiative** (Doc. 85 SG/9)

48. Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Chairman of the Session, invited Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General – International Standards and Science, to provide a brief overview of recent international developments regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and OIE’s involvement, recognising that AMR has become one of the most important public health and animal health issues reaching highest political attention.
49. Dr Stone reminded the Assembly that it had adopted two Resolutions related to AMR (Resolution No. 26 in May 2015 and Resolution No. 36 in May 2016) endorsing the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the development by the OIE of a global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and the publication of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials.
50. He indicated that the political interest was illustrated by the adoption of a Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance by the UN General Assembly in September 2016. The OIE with its Tripartite partners, WHO and FAO, were supporting the work of an Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR that will follow the process of implementation of the UN Resolution and prepare a final report for the UN Secretary General for the 73th UN General Assembly in 2019.
51. He reminded the Assembly of the communication products that the OIE had developed on AMR encouraging Delegates to use these in their national campaigns, and noted that this work continues this year with the development of a new communication campaign emphasising key messages on prudent use.
52. He stressed the importance of developing monitoring frameworks including the OIE Technical Item 1, and further referred to the database developed by the Tripartite to inform on the progress countries are making on the implementation of the Global Action Plan (GAP) and the development of National Action Plans. A flyer summarising the first results based on a tripartite country self-assessment questionnaire, is available for the Delegates’ information.
53. Dr Stone made reference to the important SCAD work programme on AMR and finally recalled that the possibility of a second OIE Global Conference on AMR remained under consideration, however the OIE now needed to ensure all such activities were well coordinated with the intentions of the IACG of the UN General Assembly.
54. Dr Delgadillo thanked Dr Stone for his overview and stressed that Technical Item 1 was specifically focused on Veterinary Service challenges as a component of the wider global monitoring framework and examined the implementation of the OIE Strategy on AMR.
55. He recalled that a first OIE questionnaire had been sent to Members in 2012 to prepare the OIE Global Conference on the Prudent and Responsible use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals organised at OIE Headquarters in 2013 and introduced Dr Khadija Id Sidi Yahia, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

56. Dr Id Sidi Yahia presented her report, which included an analysis of the answers received from OIE Members to a questionnaire that had been sent to them.
57. In introducing the Technical Item 1, Dr Id Sidi Yahia stated that overall, the survey and the resulting descriptive analysis have demonstrated the great interest shown by Members on the topic of global action to alleviate the threat posed by AMR.
58. The results revealed sometimes quite substantial variations between the regions, a change in practices and ambitious objectives in the medium term. To enable these objectives to be achieved, concrete proposals were evaluated as likely to have a large impact on reducing the risk of resistance within the framework of the GAP on AMR. There were differences between regions, however, regarding the perceived feasibility of these actions.
59. Several recommendations have been made, the first of which is to continue to support, within the framework of the GAP, the intersectoral aspect, which does not yet seem to be sufficiently well-established. Measures in this regard would help to guide countries and facilitate the ‘One Health’ approach advocated by the GAP. The second recommendation is to place the emphasis on teaching about risks related to AMR in the core training curriculum and in continuing education for all those involved in the veterinary sector, using suitably adapted and updated teaching materials and tools. The third recommendation is to encourage the implementation of existing OIE Standards. The fourth recommendation is to complete the framework of standards by developing and making available to Members standards for the analysis of samples and the interpretation of results in the context of AMR. This measure would give access to harmonised tools that would allow meaningful comparison of the results obtained. The fifth recommendation is to place the emphasis on consolidating certain specific points of regulatory control, such as the requirement for a prescription before delivery of any antibiotic. A sixth recommendation is to capitalise on the progress achieved with data collection on antimicrobial use to fine-tune the available tools. The final recommendation is to continue the programmes of regional workshops on these themes for Members’ national Focal Points for Veterinary Products. Lastly, some of the Members have suggested changes that could be made to the questionnaire with a view to its future use to evaluate subsequent trends.

### **Discussion on Technical Item 1**

60. Dr Delgadillo thanked Dr Id Sidi Yahia and congratulated her on the excellent presentation. He highlighted the quality of the analysis, despite the data limitations encountered, and the insightful recommendations made to stimulate discussion and guide future actions on the part of Members and the OIE. He opened the floor for discussions and comments to enrich Dr Id Sidi Yaha’s analysis.
61. Japan expressed appreciation for the information presented by the rapporteur, congratulated the Tripartite partnership of the OIE, the FAO and the WHO, and expressed strong support for the WHO GAP and the OIE Strategy on AMR. Japan informed the Assembly of the country’s national actions against AMR in animals, which include surveillance within the animal sector since 1999, and a comprehensive risk analysis in line with the OIE Codes and Codex Alimentarius standards. Japan stated that given this evidence-based programme, national AMR levels remain low, comparable with most EU Member States. Japan is also enhancing AMR mitigation measures, including prudent use of antimicrobials, towards 2020 in line with its National Action Plan, moving towards “One Health” monitoring, a coordinated surveillance of AMR in humans and animals. Japan emphasised its commitment to working with the OIE to continue to fight the threat of AMR and expressed its willingness to share its experience with other OIE Member Countries.
62. The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE and the rapporteur for her clear and interesting report. The Netherlands acknowledged the great interest of OIE Members in a global response to the threat of AMR for human and animal health, and the important ongoing progress. The Netherlands highlighted the urgent need for all Members to continue in this effort as acknowledged by the GAP, and

reduce variation among Members. The Netherlands supported the recommendations of the rapporteur within the context of the GAP, emphasised the importance of a continued intersectoral approach, and the implementation and continued development of OIE Standards. The Netherlands informed the Assembly that a global perspective would be emphasised in the new EU Action Plan against AMR, to be adopted shortly.

The Netherlands confirmed the support of the Member States of the EU for the work of international organisations to reduce the need for antimicrobials and promote prudent use. The Netherlands recalled the importance of good hygiene practices and infection prevention when developing standards and recommendations to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents. The Netherlands highlighted the need to enhance awareness of AMR in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine for all parties and sectors under the “One Health” approach. The Member States of the EU had provided their support for two key principles to manage the risks of AMR, which were already applied in the EU, namely that antimicrobials should be delivered only under veterinary prescription, and that their use as growth promoters should be banned. Within the framework of the GAP, it was important internationally to continue to find areas for collaboration in the fight against AMR, to reduce existing variations between Members and OIE regions. The Member States of the EU were willing to support this effort through knowledge sharing and capacity building.

63. Australia thanked the rapporteur for her presentation and report. While appreciating the constraints of the questionnaire, Australia expressed concerns for the credibility of the analysis, which was grouped by region; for example, for the region of which Australia is a member (Asia, the Far East and Oceania), which is very diverse, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons. Additionally, Australia commented on the danger that any global campaign against AMR may be perceived as “top down”, as experienced with other centrally directed disease control programmes. Australia emphasised the need to develop a feeling of ownership among stakeholders and make internal country benefits more explicit, so that the GAP is driven by strong momentum from the “bottom up”, from those directly involved at the clinical and livestock level. Finally, Australia remarked positively on the number of delegations present that include AMR experts and human health sector representatives, and encouraged a continued goal of setting best practice examples for intersectoral collaboration and harmonisation.
64. The People’s Republic of China thanked the rapporteur for her rich presentation, recognised the importance of the GAP and the OIE’s actions in reducing AMR through a “One Health” approach, and stressed the importance of harmonising AMR detection techniques, communication and cooperation. The People’s Republic of China noted the particular attention paid to AMR in the country, and informed the Assembly of recent AMR control measures, such as the National Action Plan to control AMR, which includes surveillance and risk assessments in animal populations. The People’s Republic of China informed the Assembly that four fluoroquinolones (lomefloxacin, norflaxacin, ofloxacin and pefloxacin) have recently been banned in animals, including for therapeutic use, and that colistin was banned for growth promotion purposes in 2016. The People’s Republic of China expressed interest in enhancing international collaboration and communication on AMR. Finally, the People’s Republic of China encouraged the OIE to continue evaluating the meaning of responsible and prudent use, and to intensify training of professionals on AMR surveillance techniques and antimicrobial use.
65. India commended the rapporteur on her excellent presentation, and expressed the commitment to fight against AMR through its National Action Plan on AMR. India informed the Assembly that AMR and antimicrobial use were the topics of the recent Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

(RSU-SAARC<sup>7</sup>) Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Forum. India pointed out that strategies against AMR should promote better animal production in the region, and take into account the analysis that has been done and the full context of AMR. Finally, India asked the Assembly to consider how to promote best use of alternatives to antibiotics, and how to incorporate principles of “One Health” in future trade of animal products.

66. South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, commended the important work done and congratulated the rapporteur for her excellent presentation. The Africa Region declared themselves to be especially encouraged by the data, which reflected awareness and commitment amongst the majority of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region.

The Africa Region fully supported the recommendations of Technical Item 1, especially as they related to encouraging intersectoral cooperation, continuation of regional workshops and the implementation of OIE Standards on the use of antimicrobials and reducing AMR in the animal sector. The Africa Region expressed its support for the recommendation that national legislations should require veterinary prescription before delivery of antibiotics, while recognising that full implementation of such a recommendation will still require significant efforts in several African countries.

67. Norway thanked the OIE for its work against AMR, and expressed agreement with the EU in stressing the need for all OIE Members to fight AMR, particularly emphasising the need to discontinue use of antibiotics as growth promoters. Norway highlighted the importance of aquaculture as a sector with potentially high use of antimicrobial agents, and the need for more information about the sector, which can be difficult to acquire. Norway informed the Assembly that aquaculture is often in open systems in direct contact with the environment; the use of antibiotics is not sustainable in this context, and more efforts should be made towards the development of vaccines. Norway commended the rapporteur, emphasised the importance of combatting AMR and the significant effort it will require, and offered Norway’s continued support.
68. Dr Id Sidi Yahia thanked the Assembly for the comments received, and took the opportunity to respond to a comment from Australia. Regarding the analysis of results, she agreed that grouping results by region was less ideal for regions with large numbers of countries, particularly those with lower response rates. However, the rapporteur reminded the Assembly that the analysis style was intended to be more descriptive than comparative.
69. Mexico commented that using the four sections described in the questionnaire offers a very firm basis upon which countries can build national action plans, as is currently being done in Mexico. The Member Country emphasised that to build a global strategy, all countries should participate, and that antimicrobials are an issue in both human and animal health.
70. Bolivia informed the Assembly of a workshop recently held by some South American Members to analyse the AMR situation in their countries, whereby different levels of progress were noted, and where the importance of interaction with public health was emphasised. Bolivia indicated that the main recommendations from this meeting would be implemented by the current national government in combating AMR.
71. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Id Sidi Yahia on her presentation and he invited Japan, the Netherlands, Australia, the People’s Republic of China, India, South Africa, Norway and Bolivia to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

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<sup>7</sup> SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

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■ TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017 ■

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SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Biological Standards Commission

72. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met from 30 August to 2 September 2016 and from 7 to 10 February 2017, were presented by Dr Beverly Schmitt, President of the Commission (Docs 85 SG/12/CS2 A and B). She thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Franck Berthe, First Vice-President, Dr Hualan Chen, Second Vice-President, Dr Peter Daniels, Dr Mehdi El Harrak and Dr Anthony Fooks. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions by the other regular participant, Dr Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, (*Terrestrial Manual*) as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Science and New Technologies Department, have been unstinting in their support.
73. **OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)**

In March 2017, 21 chapters and the glossary that had been reviewed and approved by the Commission for circulation to Member Countries were made available on the Commission's and on the Delegates' site for consultation as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption.

The Commission is aware that there are some aspects of some of these chapters that need further review after consultation with experts, and has asked that following adoption, these chapters be put forward for further review and update in the 2017/2018 review cycle. One such chapter is the chapter on lumpy skin disease. Following first-round comment, the OIE Reference Laboratory experts had been asked to include a reference to a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and a protocol in a further revision. For the chapter on foot and mouth disease, the proposal to delete reference to the use of the bovine tongue epithelium method for vaccine production has been withdrawn; this method would be further considered by the Commission at its meeting in September 2017.

These revised chapters were presented to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE web site.

The Commission agreed, on the advice of experts, that oral vaccination of dogs should be included in the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on rabies. The Commission felt however, that in accordance with the purpose of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*, the chapter should give instructions on how to manufacture the oral vaccine. In addition, the Commission agreed to include three new diagnostic tests in the rabies chapter following review of the submitted validation dossiers. The Commission proposed that the OIE convene an *ad hoc* Group of experts to address all these issues and to update the chapter.

At its meeting in September 2016, the Commission agreed, on the advice of the two OIE Reference Laboratory experts on glanders, that melioidosis should be included in the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on glanders. The two experts had been requested to liaise in the preparation of the draft text. The draft chapter would be included in the 2017/2018 review cycle. The two Reference Laboratory experts had also advised the Commission that there is currently no test that can differentiate serologically *Burkholderia mallei* from *B. pseudomallei* and thus the complement fixation test remains the best test and cannot yet be replaced.

A letter had been received from the EPAA<sup>8</sup> in which the EPAA had recommended that all OIE standards be reviewed with the view of deleting from them all references to TABST<sup>9</sup>. In previous discussions, it had been noted that the trend to eliminate the TABST is based on the principle that the TABST is unnecessary if the manufacturing and testing procedures are well standardised, including precautionary measures such as the use of alternative *in-vitro* tests, a demonstrated lack of batch-to-batch variability (i.e. consistency), and on-going monitoring of adverse reactions for batches released into the market. The Commission sought the advice of experts from various OIE Collaborating Centres and concluded that, rather than completely eliminating them, references to the TABST in the *Terrestrial Manual* should be revised to include a note that the prescribed TABST could be eliminated in situations where other quality control measures are in place.

The Commission continues its efforts to eliminate unnecessary animal inoculation techniques from the *Terrestrial Manual* in line with the OIE's animal welfare standards, in particular the commitment to the 3Rs<sup>10</sup> in Chapter 7.8. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Commission was informed that, following a request from a Member Country, the OIE Headquarters had agreed to add the following sentence to the end of all chapters in the Codes and the Manuals: "NB: first adopted in YEAR; Most recent updates adopted in YEAR". Welcoming this development, the Commission proposed that from May 2017, the date of each update be added to the chapters.

#### 74. OIE Reference Centres

During the past year, the Commission further discussed and finalised the standard operating procedures (SOPs) document entitled: *Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories*, an undertaking that had begun in February 2016 and that had been carried out in collaboration with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

Five performance criteria for laboratory evaluations were proposed:

- i) lack of submission of an annual report;
- ii) no progress or explanation provided on achievement of accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system, ideally with relevant tests included in the scope of the accreditation;
- iii) pattern revealing lack of diagnostic activity or production and supply of reference material related to the disease or pathogen;
- iv) no response to requests from the OIE Headquarters for scientific expertise (e.g. inquiry of technical advice from OIE Member Countries, revision of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters, etc.).
- v) no response to requests from the OIE for administrative issues relating to transparency and confidentiality (e.g. not renewing the potential conflict of interests declaration or providing a confidentiality undertaking [(cf. SOP Appendices 2 and 3)]).

Any OIE Reference Laboratory scoring negatively when measured against any one of these points could be deemed to be failing to fulfil the Terms of Reference and could progress down the pathway towards potential de-listing.

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<sup>8</sup> EPAA: European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing

<sup>9</sup> TABST: Target Animal Batch Safety Test

<sup>10</sup> Article 7.8.3 The Three Rs: replacement, reduction, refinement

The document also includes details on the timeline for achievement of accreditation to a quality management system, and details of the procedure that will be followed should a Reference Laboratory fail to submit an annual report.

The SOP document was endorsed by the Council and was annexed to the report of the February 2017 meeting (Annex 3 of Doc. 85 SG/12/CS2 B). The President presented it to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the SOPs would be made available on the OIE web site.

Following the finalisation of the procedures for approval and maintenance of Reference Laboratory status, the Commission began to reflect upon the network of Collaborating Centres, including developing criteria to evaluate the performance of the Centres.

Following review of the dossiers, the Commission recommended acceptance of nine new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status.

Dr Schmitt informed the Delegates of the review and endorsement by the Biological Standards Commission of applications for three new OIE Collaborating Centres. The first is a Collaborating Centre in the Region of Asia, the Far East and Oceania for Diagnostic Test Validation Science. This Centre is a consortium of three components: the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and the University of Melbourne (Australia) and Massey University (New Zealand). The second is a Collaborating Centre in the Africa Region for Bee Health at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), in Nairobi, Kenya. The third, in the Region of Europe, is a Collaborating Centre for Research and Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Swine Diseases in Barcelona, Spain.

The expert from the OIE Reference Laboratories for small ruminant lentiviruses (caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna) informed the Commission that there is a decreasing need for international testing or reagent exchange for these diseases and that he had few activities to report. The Commission decided to delist the laboratory, but to keep the expert in the database as a disease specialist.

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 thirteen new experts are available in the reports of the meetings. These experts had been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Regarding OIE Laboratory Twinning, as of 8 February 2017, 38 projects have been completed, 29 projects are underway and 12 are awaiting funding before beginning. Demand and interest in OIE Laboratory Twinning remained high. Annual reports were received from 210 out of 217 Reference Laboratories and from 46 out of 49 Collaborating Centres all working in the field of diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission (pages 5 and 6). Annual reports would be made available on line in the near future.

With reference to the recommendations made at the 3rd Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres in October 2014, OIE Reference Laboratories were given until the end of 2017 to achieve accreditation to ISO 17025 or an equivalent quality management system; the experts agreed to this deadline. Reviewing the annual reports, the Commission noted that 81.4% of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animals indicated that they are accredited to ISO 17025 and 12.8% were in progress to achieving such accreditation.

At the end of 2017, the OIE Headquarters and the relevant Commissions will review the status of the quality management system in operation in all OIE Reference Laboratories to ensure that accreditation is to the ISO 17025 standard or equivalent quality management system. For those laboratories that have not achieved such by the announced deadline, the OIE Reference Laboratory status will be suspended with the possibility to reinstate it within 2 years should they achieve accreditation in that time. Laboratories that have still not achieved accreditation 2 years after suspension would have to re-apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status once accreditation is achieved.

**75. Past *ad hoc* Group meetings**

The outcomes of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Biobanking was summarised for the Assembly. Details are found Annex 4 of the report of the February 2017 meeting (Annex 4 of Doc. 85 SG/12/CS2 B)

Regarding the *ad hoc* Group on Replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin, which had met in November 2015, the Commission was updated on the progress that had been made with the project.

**76. Proposed *ad hoc* Groups**

The *ad hoc* Group on High Throughput Sequencing and Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG) would be reconvened before the next Commission meeting to follow up the implementation of the OIE Platform project for the collection and management of genomic sequences in animal health.

The Commission agreed with the draft Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group on the Transport of Biological Materials and proposed that the *ad hoc* Group meet before the September 2017 meeting of the Commission.

The Commission also endorsed the draft Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Group on Quality Management Systems' (QMS) implementation tools.

**77. International standardisation/harmonisation**

**a) Standardisation programme – progress on developing guidelines for the preparation and validation of antigen standards and guidelines for the preparation and validation of reagents for molecular tests**

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the document *International Reference Standards for Antigen Detection Assays*, which was annexed to the report of the February 2017 meeting (Annex 5 of Doc. 85 SG/12/CS2 B). The document was provided to an OIE Reference Laboratory expert who agreed to develop guidelines for the preparation and validation of reagents for molecular tests following the same format.

**b) Project to extend the list of OIE-approved reference reagents**

During the past year, a number of OIE Reference Laboratories were contacted as potential providers of OIE-approved International Standard sera for certain diseases, and candidate reference sera were identified for two diseases. The Commission invited the selected OIE Reference Laboratories to liaise with other OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease with the aim of organising a proficiency test before the sera would be endorsed as OIE-approved International Reference Standards.

**c) OIE Register of diagnostic tests**

After thorough review, the Commission agreed that four diagnostic kits submitted by an applicant and evaluated by a panel of experts did not meet the standards and conditions prescribed and thus would not be proposed for adoption by the Assembly. An official letter was sent to inform the applicant of this decision and mentioning the possibility to appeal it.

The Assembly was informed that according to the OIE procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. The IDEXX *Mycobacterium bovis* Antibody Test Kit, added to the OIE Register in 2012, reached the end of the 5-year term in 2017. In accordance with protocol, the kit manufacturer had been contacted to indicate whether it wished to maintain the same purposes for which its kit had been certified as validated or to add new purposes. The OIE experts for the pathogens targeted by the kit had also been contacted and asked their opinion on the need for a new evaluation of the purposes for which the kit had been certified as validated. Based on this information, the Commission proposed to renew the registration of the IDEXX *M. bovis* Antibody Test Kit in the OIE register for the same purposes and for 5 additional years.

**78. Liaison with other Commissions**

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

**79. Update on OFFLU – the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza**

A joint Steering and Executive Committee meeting was held in September 2016 and March 2017 to provide strategic direction and operational follow-up on the on-going technical activities. A significant amount of genetic and antigenic data on zoonotic avian influenza was shared with WHO at the September 2016 and February 2017 Vaccine Composition Meetings. The Influenza A cleavage site document was updated based on the latest analysis and publications on new avian influenza outbreaks; the document is available on the OFFLU website. The Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong has agreed to lead the next annual OFFLU proficiency testing exercise among the OIE-FAO Reference Centres to enable them to detect any avian influenza virus that may be encountered globally. In March 2017, the OFFLU avian influenza experts discussed ways to improve sharing avian influenza viral genetic and antigenic data to scientifically support countries in developing optimal control strategies, including potential use in selecting possible poultry vaccine seed strains against circulating low and high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses. The OFFLU wildlife group undertook regular teleconferences to provide advice and updated situation reports and guidance regarding the H5N8 and other Eurasian H5 clade 2.3.4.4 avian influenza viruses. The OFFLU swine influenza group published a research article on a phylogeny-based global nomenclature system and automated annotation tool for H1 haemagglutinin genes from swine influenza A viruses. The global swine H1 nomenclature tool was also released on the Influenza Research Database website. In March 2017, the expert surveillance panel on equine influenza reviewed the viruses characterised in 2016 and updated the equine influenza vaccine recommendations.

**80. Rinderpest: update on Resolution No. 18 (2011) and its Annex**

In May 2011, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 18 *Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest*. An Appendix to this Resolution, *Global Rinderpest Eradication: Guidelines for*

*Rinderpest Virus Sequestration*, indicates that all rinderpest holding facilities be biosafety level 3 (BSL3). The FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) noted that this criterion would create practical problems for vaccine manufacturers as some vaccine manufacturing facilities do not operate at this standard. The JAC suggested that the guidance be amended and this proposal was accepted by the Biological Standards Commission in September 2013. However, it was not taken into account in an updated Resolution adopted by the Assembly in May 2014. The Commission therefore agreed to amend the guidance in Resolution No. 18 (adopted May 2011) by removing reference to BSL3. Dr Schmitt presented the amended text to the Assembly for adoption.

81. The President of the OIE thanked Dr Schmitt for her comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
82. Australia thanked the President for her report and presentation. Australia commented on Draft Resolution No. 20 regarding the procedures for laboratory evaluation and approval. The selection criteria for the designation of an OIE Reference Laboratory and the performance-evaluating critical points are both good and useful, but it would be of value for the Biological Standards Commission to explore ways of strengthening its capacity for early detection of any under-performance issues before they turn into an actual incident or complaint. One approach might be to have the ISO 17025 accreditation providers fully understand the requirements for the designation of an OIE Reference Laboratory, and to have their reports, which are part of the ISO 17025 accreditation process, regularly submitted to the Commission. Australia would also like to see the OIE develop a laboratory strategy that explains the purpose in recognising a number of Reference Laboratories with consideration to global priority diseases, regional coverage and other laboratories covering the same topic.
83. Panama thanked the President and recognised the Commission's hard work and the difficult decisions it often has to take. Panama pointed out the value of the OIE procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits and specifically the inclusion in the register of the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) diagnostic kit for the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis. The joint use of the ELISA with the gamma interferon and the tuberculin skin tests raised the sensitivity to 98% in their context.
84. Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, congratulated the OIE on progress made in the development and application of a PVS tool for laboratories and reiterated its request to train a pool of African experts in the PVS pathway for its administration. Training on Gap Analysis of the OIE PVS Pathway could be important to enable countries to conduct self-evaluations.

The Africa Region reiterated the need to further advance the development of partnerships for laboratory twinning with established OIE Reference Laboratories, with the eventual aim of establishing more OIE Reference Laboratories in Africa.

Noting the importance of bovine tuberculosis on the continent, the Africa Region urged the OIE to persist in its efforts to expedite the development of a Replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin. This is in light of the general need to improve the ease, reliability and validity of tuberculosis testing.

85. Uruguay thanked the OIE and its Specialist Commissions for the work done in relation to *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 2.5.11 on Glanders. Uruguay commended the Commission on the decision to include melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*) in the chapter. Uruguay pointed out that there was scientific expertise on this disease in different regions, including the Americas, and signalled that experts from this region would provide valuable inputs in the review of the draft chapter, which is scheduled to be proposed for adoption in May 2018.

86. The Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated the President for the valuable work of the Commission. The Member Country had three points to make: the first concerned the laboratory twinning programme, which has been highly successful for the past 10 years. The Democratic Republic of the Congo pointed out that some imbalance remained in the geographical distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories, which would need to be addressed in the future. Secondly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested information on the current status of the OIE Virtual Biobank. Finally, the Democratic Republic of the Congo asked how to address the issue of laboratory quality management.
87. Germany, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU congratulated the Commission for its continued efforts to modernise and update the *Terrestrial Manual*. Germany thanked the Commission for having taken into account most of the comments of the Member States of the EU, which could support the adoption of the texts as proposed. In particular, Germany welcomed the adoption of the revised chapter on lumpy skin disease, which would be a crucial help to Member Countries currently affected or at risk from this disease in south-eastern Europe and neighbouring regions. Furthermore, Germany wished to thank the Commission for having addressed these questions on diagnostic test methods relayed by the Code Commission on *Terrestrial Code* chapters currently under revision. Finally, as regards the project on the replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin, Germany supported the comments made by Zimbabwe, fully supported this project and encouraged the OIE to finalise this important work as soon as possible.
88. Namibia supported the comments from Australia and stated that ISO standards are continually evolving and laboratories should conform to these standards that are important for trade purposes. Namibia asked if there was any deficiency in the ISO 17025 standard that needed to be identified and addressed by the OIE in order to have a harmonised quality management standard applicable to all veterinary laboratories.
89. Dr Matthew Stone addressed the question on the status of the OIE Biobank. The OIE virtual biobank would be a catalogue of the biological resources available from the OIE Reference Laboratory network, including information on their location. The outcome of the *ad hoc* Group included the definition of quality requirements for biobank materials and associated metadata, and technical specifications of a web-based system. Dr Stone indicated that the report of the meeting was available on the OIE website.
90. In answer to the question from Namibia, Dr Schmitt reported that the ISO 17025 standard fulfils the core requirements for an OIE Reference Laboratory. An *ad hoc* Group on Quality Management would be convened in September 2017 to develop tools for all veterinary laboratories.
91. In response to Uruguay, Dr Stone reported that the OIE was aware of concern over the lack of reliable and validated diagnostic tests for glanders. He informed the Assembly that a research programme was ongoing, supervised by the OIE, to develop a validated serological test for glanders. A review of progress would take place in July and comments from experts in the Americas would be addressed.
92. Kenya requested an update on the status of an *ad hoc* Group on Non-Tsetse Transmitted Trypanosomoses. Dr Stone would liaise with the relevant department at the OIE Headquarters to provide detailed information.
93. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17**  
**Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

94. 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  
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases**

95. 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  
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE**

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

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20  
Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories**

97. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21  
Amendments to the annex “Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration” of  
Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011 “Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest  
and Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest”**

98. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. Senegal noted a spelling mistake in the French version. The President affirmed that it would be corrected. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

**TECHNICAL ITEM 2**

**Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners  
for international animal health and livestock sector development programmes  
(Doc. 85 SG/10)**

99. Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Samuel Thevasagayam, Rapporteur for this Technical Item 2.
100. In introducing Technical Item 2, Dr Thevasagayam stated that the roles and responsibilities of Veterinary Services are continuing to expand, triggered by multiple global trends, including: the increased demand for animal protein, the (re-) emergence of zoonotic pathogens and public health risks such as antimicrobial resistance. He further underlined that the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity for Veterinary Services to significantly contribute to the achievement of these goals. He emphasised that, together, these pressures exert an unprecedented responsibility on the veterinary profession to ensure a safer and healthier global community. Hindered by the scarcity of resources and capacities within the public or private spheres of Veterinary Services, Dr Thevasagayam affirmed that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) offer a tangible and timely solution to address this complex environment and fulfil societal demands. In his report, he provided three examples of sustainable “Win-Win” partnerships where public and private sectors share common goals to deliver desired outcomes collectively. Dr Thevasagayam also announced the latest collaboration between the OIE and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study the impact of PPPs in improving Veterinary Service delivery in Africa and Asia. Linked to this and in his closing remarks, he launched an appeal to OIE Delegates to initiate effective PPPs in order to meet the demands on the veterinary profession, and thereby contributing to a better society for today and tomorrow.

## Discussion on Technical Item 2

101. Dr Al-Lawati thanked Dr Thevasagayam and congratulated him on the quality and comprehensiveness of the presentation.
102. Australia thanked Dr Thevasagayam for his excellent presentation and congratulated the OIE for its work on PPPs. Australia informed the Assembly that it has several successful PPPs that support the national animal health industry, including a not-for-profit organisation *Animal Health Australia*, which is a partnership between Australian animal industries and multiple levels of government, and which is responsible for the delivery of many animal health programmes. Australia also made reference to its partnership with the Australian Veterinary Association to enhance and deliver awareness on antimicrobial resistance. Australia believes that PPPs are a key to an efficient and effective veterinary system. With reference to the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, Australia highlighted that PPPs should reflect diversity, inclusiveness, transparency in engagement and should moreover acknowledge the Tripartite approach. In closing, Australia noted that the OIE is reviewing its own collaboration agreements with international bodies, and encouraged PPP agreements to be reviewed on a regular basis with an exit clause agreeable to all parties.
103. The People's Republic of China voiced its thanks for the presentation given by Dr Thevasagayam. The People's Republic of China affirmed that PPPs play a significant role in delivering quality Veterinary Services to the livestock sector. With reference to its national context, the People's Republic of China explained that PPPs are formalised with the national Veterinary Services through service contracts signed with the private sector. Building on this, the People's Republic of China stated that local governments and livestock production enterprises often sign strategic cooperation agreements to work together for the development of the local economy. The People's Republic of China reiterated the importance of developing PPPs, in particular, at the national level.
104. The Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated the Rapporteur for the quality of his report and encouraged the OIE to continue this approach to allow Veterinary Services to take good advantage of it. In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo highlighted the importance of transparency and communication for effective PPPs. Moreover, it is fundamental to undertake periodic evaluations of those partnerships, even if in developing countries, the public sector, representing all the government, has often been viewed negatively. The Democratic Republic of the Congo questioned whether the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had allocated 20% of its financial investments in the Agricultural sector to livestock in 2016. The Democratic Republic of the Congo remarked that the livestock sector is neglected and overshadowed by the broader agricultural sector.
105. Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, congratulated Dr Thevasagayam for his excellent presentation. Kenya confirmed that OIE Members should make a concerted effort to create an enabling environment for the successful establishment and implementation of PPPs. Kenya underscored the importance of facilitating such partnerships with enabling legislation, good veterinary governance and the accountability of national Veterinary Services. Kenya furthermore signalled to the Assembly that certain OIE African Members had had previous experiences with unsustainable PPPs, which had led to a certain distrust in the further establishment of PPPs. To this end and with particular reference to Africa, it is essential that, where resources for the delivery of sustainable Veterinary Services are often limited, PPPs should only be established if sustainability can be ensured.
106. Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked Dr Thevasagayam for his work and the interesting report on PPPs. Hungary conveyed its appreciation for the engagement of the private sector in complementing the efforts of national Veterinary Authorities towards international, national and regional animal health and livestock sector developments. In developing the livestock sector, Hungary suggested that animal welfare should also be considered. With regards to animal health, the particular situation at the livestock–wildlife interface should be considered, in the context

of the “One Health” concept. Furthermore, Hungary underlined that full transparency is needed to ensure that internationally agreed animal health and welfare standards continue to apply in all aspects of PPPs. Hungary concluded by stating that prior to implementing PPPs, both the OIE and its Members need to ensure that the financing of core public sector activities remain independent to avoid any conflicts of interest.

107. Bolivia highlighted that control efforts targeting FMD are representative of concerted interaction between public and private sectors in the Americas. In this context, the public sector undertakes a normative function, and a joint commission (formed by the public and private sectors) develops the disease control strategy. In the case of FMD, the private sector (prevalently cattle breeder associations) is responsible for undertaking the vaccination campaigns. Thanks to this approach, Bolivia informed the Assembly that FMD is being eradicated from the Americas and thus affirmed the importance of PPPs.
108. The President referred to a partnership between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a leading manufacturer of veterinary products worldwide, in several African countries. He asked Dr Thevasagayam whether this partnership was between private entities only or whether the engagement of the local public sector was envisaged. Linked to this, the President asked how Veterinary Services could be engaged in PPPs in the context of this initiative.
109. The Chair thanked the Assembly for its interventions and brought to the attention of the Assembly a specific, positive national experience of PPPs in Oman for the establishment of mobile veterinary clinics. Before giving the floor to Dr Thevasagayam, he queried the reasons for which the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had decided to engage alongside the OIE in the current initiative on Public–Private Progress and its expectations from this collaboration.
110. Further to the question from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr Thevasagayam took the opportunity to clarify the level of funding allocated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The commitment of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced in 2012, to devote 20% of all agricultural investment to livestock, was first attained in 2016. This is in contrast to the traditionally low percentage of agricultural official development aid that is dedicated to the livestock sector (globally at approximately 5%). Dr Thevasagayam made an appeal to international investors to increase their contribution to livestock development programmes.
111. Dr Thevasagayam concurred with comments made by the African Members of the OIE on the importance of sustainability. To ensure successful PPPs, it is essential that mutual objectives are aligned and that the foundations for a true win–win relationship are established from the beginning. To this effect, Dr Thevasagayam stressed that the Foundation only invests in projects whereby the issue of sustainability has been satisfactorily addressed.
112. In response to the question from the President, Dr Thevasagayam explained that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is willing to collaborate with all major companies for the development of the livestock sector worldwide. Dr Thevasagayam pointed out to the Assembly that private companies bring forth various resources to support livestock development projects and Veterinary Services, not only financial resources. In particular, their contribution and expertise in innovation, technologies, distribution, among others, were emphasised. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is forming partnerships with global companies given that the Foundation has the resources required to sustain as well as scale-up successful programmes. Concerning the specific collaboration eluded to by the President, Dr Thevasagayam specified that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing half of the required investment, with the other private partner investing the remaining portion. Discussions are currently underway to associate the OIE to this initiative, as well as local public Veterinary Services, in order to build a true public–private initiative.

113. To conclude his intervention and in response to the Chair's query, Dr Thevasagayam identified the following three reasons for which the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation decided to invest in the Public–Private Progress initiative with the OIE. Firstly and considering that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was formed in 2000, it is a young organisation that has much to learn from the OIE, a well established and credible organisation. Secondly, reference was made to the OIE's legitimacy as the organisation mandated by its 180 Members for animal health and the strengthening of Veterinary Services. Lastly, Dr Thevasagayam complimented the OIE for being one of the most efficient and effective organisations currently collaborating with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and concluded by stating that the OIE is a reliable partner that consistently delivers on its commitments.
114. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Thevasagayam for his presentation and invited the Delegates of Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Hungary and Bolivia to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution to be presented to the Assembly for adoption.

**Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE  
(Panel Discussion)**

115. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer chaired this Panel dedicated to: "Supporting Members to meet their harmonisation obligations through implementation of the OIE's international standards". She introduced the participants from the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, the World Bank and WTO<sup>11</sup>. She also indicated that, due to its General Assembly, WHO was unable to attend this year. She invited all the participants to make a brief presentation of their respective Organisation before starting the Panel discussion

**World Trade Organization**

116. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor in the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the WTO, thanked the OIE and its Director General for the invitation to attend the Panel discussion. She reminded the Assembly that the WTO SPS Agreement sets out detailed rules on how governments can apply animal health, plant health and food safety measures which affect trade, without these measures being used as disguised restrictions. She explained that the SPS Agreement specifically refers to the use of relevant international standards and recognises the OIE as the standard-setting organisation in the area of animal health and zoonoses. She stressed that, as a result, WTO members must ensure that they comply with OIE standards in the application of their national animal health measures, unless they can offer a science-based justification. Ms Fall further detailed the work of the SPS Committee related to the implementation of international standards, such as:
- the participation as permanent observers at SPS Committee meetings of the OIE, the IPPC and Codex,
  - the existence of a monitoring procedure on harmonisation which encourages WTO members to identify trade issues related to the use, or non-use, of an international standard,
  - the 2008 recommendation which encourages WTO members to notify the SPS Committee of all measures, even when they do not conform to international standards.

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<sup>11</sup> WTO: World Trade Organization

Ms Fall also highlighted the joint technical assistance and capacity-building activities which provide the opportunity for countries to discuss with the OIE the use of its standards, and noted that, since 1994, the OIE has participated in over 100 missions. In conclusion, she mentioned the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) as a successful example of the effort made by all the Organisations on the Panel to promote the use of international standards.

### **The World Bank**

117. Dr Caroline Planté, Senior Livestock Specialist at the World Bank, thanked the OIE for the opportunity to participate in the panel discussion. She briefly reminded the Assembly of the mandate of the World Bank, centered on the twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty within a generation and boosting shared prosperity. She highlighted that the World Bank Group comprises five institutions including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is a multisectoral organisation, and covers all regions of the world. She further explained that the Bank, which occasionally supports projects at the regional level, mostly works at the national level with low-income and middle-income countries in a client-focused approach (IBRD/IDA) and with the private sector (IFC). She explained that in addition to classic investment activities through loans, credits and grants, the Bank engages in national policy dialogues and knowledge-generating activities. She stressed that although the Bank's counterpart in the countries is the Ministry of Finance, projects are developed through the different line ministries to cover priority sectors defined in the country partnership framework to align investments with national strategic priorities. With regard to the Agriculture sector, she reported the increasing demand of countries to invest in livestock-related projects either stand-alone (worth circa 1 billion USD in the pipeline with about 10 projects) or as part of other Agriculture or Health projects, in particular through a "One Health" approach. This increase is particularly noted in South Asia and Africa. All these projects include dedicated funds for strengthening Veterinary Services and improving animal health in general. On this matter, she stressed the importance of collaborating with the OIE to ensure alignment of investments with its standards or joint global strategies such as the OIE/FAO PPR Global Eradication Programme. She highlighted the extensive use by the Bank of PVS reports in designing project investments in the animal health sector, and supporting monitoring and evaluation activities.

### **Codex Alimentarius Commission**

118. Mr Tom Heilandt, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), thanked the OIE and its Director General for the opportunity to address the Assembly on such a relevant topic. He reminded the Assembly of the mandate of Codex, which is to set standards to protect the health of consumers, ensure fair practices in the food trade and promote the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organisations. He highlighted four levels of cooperation between Codex and the OIE, namely:
- Codex and the OIE are standard-setting organisations facing similar issues in terms of members' involvement, consensus-building and the application of standards. To find effective solutions relevant to both organisations, he suggested closer cooperation through various means, such as the secondment of staff members from one organisation to the other. He also highlighted the need for tools to face those challenges, such as the new online commenting system developed by Codex in collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC) to increase the involvement of members.

- Codex and the OIE have common interests, given that food production has an impact on food safety and quality, and that some transversal topics, such as AMR, are relevant to all organisations. He stressed that, with good coordination, there was complementarity between Codex and OIE texts and, as an example, he noted the proposal that the topic currently covered by the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety be integrated into the fabric of both organisations.
- Codex, the OIE and the IPPC, also known as “the three sisters”, are the three standard-setting organisations mentioned in the WTO SPS agreement. He remarked that this status offered both opportunities for the application of standards and an obligation for further coordination to develop standards in a timely manner.
- Codex and the OIE are at the centre of complex debates, because animal health, plant health, food safety and food quality are influenced by environmental parameters and, in turn, influence the environment. Mr Heilandt stressed the need for both organisations to offer their respective members a coherent package of guidance, and communicate efficiently to see standards applied in order to achieve the UN sustainable development goals.

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

119. Dr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division of the FAO, stated that, as a development and knowledge organisation, the FAO incorporates international standards, including those of the OIE, Codex and the IPPC, in its capacity development inputs and its guidance to its membership. He highlighted the fact that FAO also develops numerous tools, tailored for national and local settings, that support animal disease/health surveillance, fit-for-purpose sampling and laboratory analysis, real-time event reporting, laboratory mapping and gap identification, Good Emergency Management Practices, biosecurity, and good agriculture practices that ensure sustainable production and consumer protection.

### **Discussion**

120. Dr Schwabenbauer thanked all the participants for their presentations and explained that she would ask each of them a question before giving the floor to delegates.
121. In her first question, Dr Schwabenbauer asked the representative from WTO for her assessment of the impact, for Members, of a lack of application of international standards.

Ms Fall answered that the major risk in the event of the non-application of standards was that of a trade disruption, unless measures taken were proven to be science-based or, if possible, supported by a thorough risk assessment. She noted that these trade concerns could ultimately lead to a dispute.

122. In her next question, Dr Schwabenbauer asked the representative from Codex to describe what International Organisations could do to encourage Members to implement standards.

Mr Heilandt remarked that, although Codex is the only standard-setting sister organisation without a capacity-building component in its mandate, it was very involved in the process leading to standards. He further highlighted the need for all the organisations to reflect on how to better communicate jointly and explain how their various standards fit together.

123. Dr Schwabenbauer then asked Dr Planté to describe how the World Bank currently supports Members in strengthening their capacity to implement OIE standards.

124. In response, Dr Planté mentioned a few specific examples. With regard to investment, the PRAPS<sup>12</sup> project included, at preparation stage, some experts involved in the PVS evaluation of the targeted countries who also participated to guide the design of the animal health component of the project, translating PVS evaluation findings into investment priorities. The project also used OIE Collaborating Centres to provide specific support to disease control strategies. She also described some knowledge-generating activities, such as the recently developed economic analysis of antimicrobial resistance impact, which focuses, in part, on the livestock sector and in which the OIE has actively participated. Finally, she mentioned Mongolia, where the Bank will support the development of regulations and policies translating the new national animal health Law (based on OIE standards) into concrete actions and help creating awareness among veterinary professionals and herders about the new Law and subsequent regulatory framework. In conclusion, she stated that all these examples convey the Bank's general effort to align investments with international standards, such as those voted by Delegates at the General Session.

125. Dr Schwabenbauer then asked Dr Tekola to assess, with his knowledge at country level, the constraints faced by Members in the implementation of OIE standards.

Dr Tekola first described the issue in developing countries, where the major constraint is lack of awareness of the standards and/or their purpose, leading to less engagement of policy makers and, ultimately, a lesser degree of implementation of standards. He argued that, in developed countries, legal frameworks were generally in place but would require more widespread use of tools such as the PVS Pathway to better implement international standards. Regardless of the standard and the country, Dr Tekola reminded Delegates that country requests should drive these discussions and that they should call, at national level, for the investments necessary to implement international standards.

126. Dr Schwabenbauer then invited the Delegates to take the floor.

127. India sought clarification from WTO regarding the dispute settlement mechanism, inquiring whether faster alternatives were available.

Ms Fall responded that many WTO Members had noted that the process could indeed be lengthy and costly. She reminded the Assembly that several steps could be used prior to the last-resort solution of dispute settlement, including i) holding bilateral discussions, e.g. on the margin of an SPS Committee meeting, ii) asking that the issue be added to the SPS Committee's agenda for discussion, iii) using the procedure of the good offices of the Chair, whereby the latter mediates the discussion between the two countries, and finally iv) discussing the issue with the relevant standard-setting body.

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<sup>12</sup> PRAPS: Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project

128. The Democratic Republic of the Congo raised the issue of the non-alignment of agreements signed between the World Bank and Ministries of Finance with the needs of the agricultural sector, as well as the lengthy process of confirmation of non-objections.

Dr Planté explained that, even though financing agreements are officially signed with the Ministries of Finance, the development of the projects involve the relevant Ministries and stakeholders, including those from the agricultural sector and Veterinary Services where relevant. She also explained that the procedure for the disbursement of funds sometimes encompassed prior verifications by the World Bank, as per the established rules.

129. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also requested clarification regarding the multiple structures of the FAO present at country level.

Dr Tekola explained that, although FAO collaborated with multiple Ministries, the main entry point was usually the Ministry of Agriculture, which should be considered as the main contact for Delegates. Both should then have joint discussions with other Ministries regarding activities in the animal health and livestock sector.

130. Canada asked the panel participants what could be done for animal health aspects to be better considered at policy meetings when setting food-safety standards, as both issues are intricately linked.

In response, Mr Heilandt confirmed that expertise on food safety did exist in the animal health sector and highlighted the benefits that could be derived from its engagement in discussions with the national delegations to Codex.

131. Ghana raised the issue faced by many African countries regarding the fact that funds in the agricultural sector are primarily allocated to crop production. This switches the focus to the quantity of food produced as opposed to its quality, and results in difficulties in implementing quality-focused standards.

Dr Tekola answered that both quantity and quality of food production are crucial and that food production should primarily aim to be sustainable. He agreed that, in high production systems, quality cannot be disregarded if food safety risks are to be minimised. He further noted that countries should endeavour to balance productivity and production and that biotechnologies, such as animal genetic selection, should be considered as a possible reliable solution.

132. Benin drew the attention of the Panel participants to the need for capacity-building activities to take into account national specificities. He also specifically questioned whether it would not be better to provide countries with support for disease surveillance and prevention measures rather than supply financial support only after disease outbreaks appear.

Dr Tekola agreed that preventive measures had proven to be more efficient, but also stressed the need for rapid and transparent communication of information to enable the Organisations to be able to react in a timely manner.

133. Dr Schwabenbauer asked all participants of the Panel what the future priorities of their respective organisation were. In response, Ms Fall mentioned tailoring technical assistance, seeking funding for the STDF<sup>13</sup> and continuing collaboration with the OIE through the distribution of material communicating the usefulness of international standards. Dr Heilandt mentioned increased Member participation, the need for funding of the Codex

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<sup>13</sup> STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility

Trust Fund (CTF2) and cooperation with the private sector on standardisation. Dr Planté mentioned the importance of animal health in the context of the growing global health security related initiatives, including programmes addressing preparedness for pandemics and antimicrobial resistance, as well as the fast evolving global food systems in connection with climate change, fragility, conflicts, and resilience. . Dr Tekola stressed the importance of increased communication and partnering.

134. In conclusion, Dr Schwabenbauer thanked all participants and invited all the speakers to provide an update on actions carried out at the next General Session.

### THIRD PLENARY SESSION

#### Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

##### Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

135. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in September 2016 (Doc. 85 SG/12/CS3 A) and February 2017 (Doc. 85 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), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF); the *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on Equine Trypanosomosis, including Surra and Dourine; the *ad hoc* Group on vaccination; and the Working Group on Wildlife. Three additional *ad hoc* Groups were convened to consider amendments to the chapter on infection with FMD virus (FMDV), the chapter on BSE, and the chapter on infection with CSF virus (CSFV). While evaluation of the reports of the *ad hoc* Groups and consideration of their recommendations constituted the major activities of the Scientific Commission, much time was also dedicated to evaluating Member Country comments on draft or new chapters for the *Terrestrial Code*, and to assessing annual confirmations of disease status from Member Countries.

A total of 13 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife were convened during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. Most of these meetings were also attended by a representative of the Scientific Commission. During the September 2016 and February 2017 meetings of the Scientific Commission, joint meetings were convened between the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to promote harmonisation of approaches, facilitate work integration and harmonisation and the sharing of information between the two Commissions. An additional meeting was also held between the Presidents of the Scientific, Code and Biological Standards Commissions in February 2017 to establish agreement on issues common to all three Commissions.

136. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the other Scientific Commission members and members of the *ad hoc* Groups and Working Group, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, the Deputy Director General, Dr Matthew Stone and the staff at the Status and Science and New Technologies Departments at OIE Headquarters. He noted with thanks the efforts of the Director General and Deputy Director General to ensure continual support to the Scientific Commission, especially as it relates to the work of country status evaluations. The establishment of a new Department dedicated to status recognition was especially welcomed. The intention and actions taken by the Director General to provide further assistance to harmonise and strengthen the

activities of the Specialist Commissions were also noted with appreciation. 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 for their valuable contributions, sharing of expertise and supporting role.

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

During its meetings in September 2016 and February 2017, the Scientific Commission reviewed its working programme, the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2016–2017 period in support of the annual work programme of the Director General, the provisions of the Sixth Strategic Plan, and the priorities of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 84th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities, which included: the revision of several chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and the consideration of Member Country comments on chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, namely the Glossary, African swine fever (ASF), FMD, lumpy skin disease, CBPP, PRRS, tuberculosis, vaccination, glanders, the questionnaires for disease status recognition and the ongoing revision and updating of the chapters relevant to antimicrobial resistance. An *ad hoc* Group was also convened to review the much outdated chapter on theileriosis, whilst the chapters on animal health surveillance, rabies and aspects related to surveillance for demonstration of freedom from FMD will be reviewed during the forthcoming year.

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

**a) Review of chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code***

Dr Brückner reported on the activities conducted by the *ad hoc* Group that was tasked with developing new concepts related to FMD control and to address the Member Country comments received after the adoption of the amended chapter in May 2015.

New concepts that were introduced may affect other disease-specific chapters and include a broader concept of containment zone, compartmentalisation with vaccination, implementation of emergency preventive vaccination in response to an increased risk of disease incursion, and risk of virus transmission posed by vaccinated animals. The Scientific Commission suggested that the modifications proposed in the amended chapter on FMD be taken into account in the revisions of Chapter 4.3. on zoning and compartmentalisation and in revised or new definitions for the Glossary.

The Scientific Commission reiterated the two main principles that should be considered when introducing additional provisions to the *Terrestrial Code*: trade facilitation and disease control. While the essence of the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* is to facilitate trade, they should not compromise the disease free status of a country or zone, or impede or discourage its efforts to control a disease. The Scientific Commission underlined that careful consideration was required before adding new provisions to the *Terrestrial Code* to accommodate every scenario between countries and zones with different status. A certain balance should be established to maintain and encourage the efforts of countries for controlling and eradicating the disease.

The Scientific Commission took note of the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group with regard to the risk represented by the use of serotype C for vaccination and vaccine challenge, and agreed that the OIE should formally recommend that those practices be progressively stopped. To seek the agreement of the Assembly on this point, Resolution No. 30 will be presented for adoption by this Assembly during this General Session. The Scientific Commission also strongly recommended that all Member Countries that suspect the presence of serotype C, send the samples to an OIE Reference Laboratory for confirmation.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with thanks the opinions provided by experts from an OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD on the risk assessment of FMDV transmission through international trade of milk powder and butter manufactured for human consumption following an enquiry that was forwarded to the OIE by a Member Country.

The Scientific Commission noted that appropriate heat treatment is sufficient to inactivate the virus. However, the procedure to manufacture milk powder and butter for human consumption would need to be well described and kept under control to ensure those commodities are safe for international trade.

The Scientific Commission noted the inherent risk of virus spread during the collection, transport and processing of raw milk from infected animals. This risk could extend to a commodity trade risk for processed milk if the handling of raw and processed milk was not well separated. Special attention should be made to avoid aerosols or transmission via the milk collection trucks.

To address a request from some Member Countries, the Scientific Commission asked the Director General to convene a special meeting of experts during June 2017, to consider alternative surveillance strategies for demonstration of freedom from FMD that may allow that the existing recovery periods be shortened.

**b) OIE/FAO initiative for a Global FMD Control strategy**

Dr Brückner indicated that the Scientific Commission was informed of the latest activities conducted in the framework of the Global FMD Control Strategy and under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). The regions where roadmap meetings took place or were planned for the coming months were listed. With regard to the recent roadmap meeting organised in Sri Lanka for the SAARC countries, it was emphasised that the meeting had been an opportunity to develop collaboration between the South and South-East Asian regions. In addition, the Scientific Commission was informed about successful experiences of combined vaccination (FMD – haemorrhagic septicaemia) that were described during this roadmap meeting; this was seen as a good way to motivate farmers to vaccinate against FMD and as a good example of activities under Component 3 of the Global Strategy. The Scientific Commission took note that the roadmap meeting conducted annually in west Eurasia would be replaced this year by an Epidemiology and Laboratory Network meeting to cover the technical topics that were identified as gaps during the preceding roadmap meetings.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation that the FAO/OIE guidelines for post-vaccination monitoring had been published and that the GF-TADs FMD Working Group was working on a 2-year action plan to structure and organise the activities related to the implementation of the Global Strategy.

**c) Expert missions to Member Countries**

Expert missions to selected Member Countries have now been undertaken for several years and have proved beyond doubt their value to Member Countries in helping them to move towards status recognition and also to better understand the application of OIE Standards for the control of those diseases for which there is official OIE status recognition, as well as for maintenance of that status. Furthermore, the opportunity to request expert missions enhances the technical rigour of the status recognition process. To maintain transparency in the evaluation of the findings and recommendations of

mission teams, it was agreed in consideration with the Director General, that members of the Scientific Commission will no longer be included in the mission teams visiting Member Countries.

Missions were undertaken to several Member Countries by teams of selected experts accompanied by a member of the OIE Status Department. Countries that were visited during this year, to either assess the maintenance of their status or to verify the applications of the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for status recognition, were Colombia (CSF), Kazakhstan (FMD), Romania (CSF) and Madagascar (FMD).

#### **d) OIE/FAO network of FMD Reference Laboratories**

Dr Brückner 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 the most significant events related to FMD that occurred globally in the past 12 months that would also be included in the 2016 annual report on the activities of the OIE/FAO FMD network.

The Scientific Commission noted with concern the spread of FMDV over long distances out of the well-defined virus pools ecosystem. The Scientific Commission acknowledged the importance of sharing FMDV information and commended the FMD Reference Laboratory Network for its efforts in supporting the FMD Global Control Strategy. Member Countries were urged to remain vigilant to the dynamics of FMDV strains considered exotic in their regions; to adjust their vaccination strategies aiming at ensuring appropriate protection against newly emerging FMDV and to share outcomes in achieving protective immunity from vaccination against the relevant field virus strain.

### **139. Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Global Control and Eradication Strategy**

Dr Brückner informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission had been regularly updated on the current status of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES). He reminded the Assembly that the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) was developed and officially launched on 28 October 2016 (joint FAO/OIE press release<sup>14</sup>) after its endorsement by FAO and OIE. Dr Brückner indicated the commencement of the work in 2017 to implement an FAO/OIE Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy by exploring interest from public–private partners to support the funding of the PPR-GEP.

The first round of PPR Regional Roadmap meetings was finalised with the organisation of the PPR Regional workshop for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in April 2017 in the People’s Republic of China. The second round began with the second PPR Regional roadmap workshop for the Economic Cooperation Organisation countries, which took place from 28 February to 2 March 2017 in Tajikistan. A meeting of PPR vaccine producers was also convened in April 2017 in Morocco.

The Scientific Commission noted the establishment of an OIE Internal Coordination Group with an Action Plan that was developed to support the PPR-GEP. The Scientific Commission acknowledged the work of the OIE and FAO assisting the Government of Mongolia, in response to the recent events related to massive PPR outbreaks in wildlife. The Scientific Commission was also informed of the OIE coordination activities related to

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/oie-and-fao-present-initial-battle-plan-in-global-campaign-to-eradicate-peste-des-petits-ruminants>

the Animal Health component of the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project in West and Central Africa, which aims to strengthen the capacities of the national Veterinary Services and support the surveillance and control of priority animal diseases, including PPR. Finally, the Scientific Commission took note of the development of the PPR Portal<sup>15</sup> on the OIE's website as a communication tool and for countries to easily access information related to PPR and the PPR-GCES online.

#### 140. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**

Dr Brückner presented the report of the *ad hoc* Group tasked to amend Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and for drafting a case definition, differentiating atypical from classical BSE, and adapting the surveillance system.

The Scientific Commission endorsed the case definition and the revision of the chapter to differentiate atypical from classical BSE. The Scientific Commission also noted that the provisions on risk assessment from Articles 11.4.23. to 11.4.29. were duplicated in the BSE questionnaire for the official recognition of a BSE risk status. The Scientific Commission suggested that Articles 11.4.23. to 11.4.29. on risk assessment be removed from Chapter 11.4.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged that additional work would be required to further revise the surveillance requirements. Two surveillance models were discussed (including a revised version of the BSurvE model). Both models would require that simulations be conducted to explore the impact these models may have on the Member Countries already recognised as having an official BSE risk status.

Dr Brückner informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission had extensively discussed the progress made by Member Countries in the management of BSE risk and the current risks represented by the presence of the BSE agent in view of recent epidemiological data. The Scientific Commission questioned the relevance of the current requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* given the improved global situation and recommended that the *ad hoc* Group be convened to completely revise the BSE chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, including the provisions for risk assessment and surveillance.

The Scientific Commission also questioned the maintenance of the official OIE recognition of the BSE risk status of Member Countries. It acknowledged that it would be Member Countries' responsibility to decide whether the OIE should continue with the official recognition of BSE risk status. The Scientific Commission consequently discussed and endorsed a scientific and technical review assessing the current risk associated with BSE, the OIE Standards for BSE in the *Terrestrial Code* and the link with the OIE official recognition of risk status for BSE.

Dr Brückner indicated that this scientific and technical paper had been considered by the OIE Council and forwarded to Member Countries with the report of the February 2017 meeting of the Scientific Commission. Dr Brückner reminded Delegates that Member Countries' consideration and comments on this topic would be welcome and should be addressed to the OIE Status Department ([disease.status@oie.int](mailto:disease.status@oie.int)).

#### 141. **Classical swine fever (CSF)**

As indicated during the 84<sup>th</sup> General Session, the Scientific Commission identified the need to harmonise the approaches in the CSF and ASF chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, and acknowledged with thanks the progress already made in this regard. The Scientific Commission reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group responsible for updating the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF, based on the recommendations made by previous *ad hoc*

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/ppr-portal/>

Groups and for addressing pending Member Country comments received after the adoption of the chapter in 2013. The Scientific Commission acknowledged the efforts made by the experts in harmonising the CSF chapter with chapter 15.1. on ASF, which was also under revision. Dr Brückner also clarified that the OIE would not publish self-declarations of freedom from diseases for which the OIE could grant an official country status. For this reason, references to self-declaration of CSF historical freedom should not be included in the chapter.

#### 142. **Antimicrobial resistance**

Dr Brückner noted with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and progress made regarding data collection on antimicrobial usage. The Scientific Commission commended the Group and the OIE for the publication of the 2015 “OIE Annual Report on the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals: Better understanding of the Global Situation” and took note, with appreciation, of the excellent progress with the collection of data for the 2016 annual report. The Scientific Commission encouraged Member Countries to submit the requested information for the 2016 report.

The Scientific Commission considered the updated definitions proposed for therapeutic use and the new definitions proposed for preventative use and growth promotion that were intended to be included in Chapter 6.8. of the *Terrestrial Code* for the purpose of monitoring the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. The Scientific Commission suggested making a reference to the responsibility of the veterinarian to prescribe antimicrobials and amended the definition of “preventive use”. The Scientific Commission also suggested that the *ad hoc* Group should look into the OIE list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance to further specify the classes of antimicrobial agents according to their intended use in animals and forwarded the proposal to the Code Commission.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the responses provided by the *ad hoc* Group on the technical comments received from Member Countries related to the proposed amended version of Chapter 6.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

#### 143. **Lumpy skin disease (LSD)**

Dr Brückner informed Delegates that the draft chapter was circulated for a second round of comments after the September 2016 meeting of the Specialist Commissions, with the intention of proposing it for adoption at the 85th General Session. The Scientific Commission reviewed and addressed the Member Country comments forwarded by the Code Commission.

The Scientific Commission clarified that the case definition of infection with lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV) should not be confused with the provisions for freedom from LSD. Countries or zones could only be considered either free or not free in accordance with the provisions of Article 11.11.3 or Article 11.11.3bis. The draft chapter did not consider the possibility of freedom where vaccination is applied. The Commission pointed out the importance of promoting “vaccination to live” as a preferred choice for disease control rather than suppressive vaccination (“vaccination to kill”). This approach would also be in line with the Resolution adopted at the OIE Global Conference on Vaccination, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2004.

The Scientific Commission reiterated that the recommendations for importation from countries or zones not free from LSD were based on the results of the risk assessment made by the *ad hoc* Group and by the Scientific Commission. As was the case for all the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, the provisions described were considered sufficient to mitigate the risk posed by the importation of live animals and their products from countries or zones not free from LSD. It was emphasised that Member Countries should not implement any trade restrictions to the importation of live animals or their products from countries that apply vaccination, provided the importation is in compliance with the risk mitigation measures described in the chapter.

#### 144. **Draft chapter on vaccination**

Dr Brückner informed Delegates that drafting of Chapter 4.X. was initiated in 2015. The Scientific Commission reviewed the Member Country comments on the chapter that were circulated for the first time after its September 2016 meeting.

The Scientific Commission pointed out that the purpose of this draft chapter was to provide guidance to Member Countries to successfully implement vaccination programmes in support of disease control. Thus, the recommendations should apply when designing vaccination programmes against both OIE listed and non-listed diseases, which would also include emerging diseases. The recommendations described in this chapter should also be considered when designing both official and non-official disease control programmes.

The Scientific Commission stressed that this chapter was not intended to list each and every scenario but to provide guidance to Member Countries on different technical aspects to be considered during the vaccination decision-making process.

The Scientific Commission emphasised that, unless specified in the disease-specific chapters, the use of vaccination in response to a threat should not affect the disease status of a country or disrupt trade. However, it was noted that Member Countries having an OIE officially recognised disease free status should duly inform the OIE of any change in their vaccination policy.

#### 145. **Rinderpest**

The Scientific Commission noted the modifications proposed by the Joint FAO-OIE Rinderpest Advisory Committee (JAC) on the definition of rinderpest virus-containing material included in Article 8.15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Scientific Commission reviewed the technical documents provided by the JAC, which were based on comments from a Member Country, and the supporting letter from FAO on the risk assessment of sera. The Commission agreed with the proposal to exclude from the definition sera that have been either heat-treated or shown to be free of rinderpest virus genome sequences by a validated reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay.

The Scientific Commission also considered the JAC's opinion on whether or not the full genomic material including virus RNA and complementary DNA copies of virus RNA should be maintained in the definition. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that, based on existing knowledge, it was not possible to obtain infective rinderpest virus from purified RNA. However, the Scientific Commission noted that that was feasible for other viruses (i.e. FMDV and bluetongue virus). The Scientific Commission highlighted the fact that genetic technology was advancing rapidly and that may have an impact on the efforts for sequestration and destruction of rinderpest virus. The Scientific Commission decided that full rinderpest virus genomic material may pose a risk and, therefore, should be maintained in the definition of rinderpest virus-containing material provided for in this chapter.

Dr Brückner noted the progress made on the “sequencing and destruction of rinderpest virus” projects at the Pirbright Institute (United Kingdom) and CIRAD<sup>16</sup>. These projects are part of the rinderpest post-eradication activities supported by the United States of America. All material that had been sequenced was subsequently destroyed as agreed in the project proposals.

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<sup>16</sup> CIRAD: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

The President of the Scientific Commission reminded the Delegates of their obligations unanimously agreed in previously adopted resolutions, which included annual reporting of the presence of rinderpest virus containing material (RVCM) in their countries regardless of whether they have ever held RVCM. The response ratio for the 2016 annual report was 100% (compared with 99% for 2015).

Dr Brückner updated the Delegates on the positive progress made and the important contributions on the part of several Member Countries towards reducing the risk of re-emergence of rinderpest following the declaration of its global eradication in 2011. It was noted that 11 of the Member Countries that reported in 2016 continued to hold RVCM (this figure excluded the four Member Countries hosting rinderpest-holding facilities [RHF]). This represented a significant decrease in the number of countries compared with 2015, when 17 acknowledged holding RVCM (excluding the Member Countries that host RHF).

Following the annual reporting deadline for 2016 (1 November), efforts were undertaken by two additional countries to destroy or transfer their RVCM. For the 2017 reporting period, it was therefore expected to see the number of countries holding RVCM to be further reduced.

Dr Brückner commended the efforts deployed by Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan for the transfer of part of their RVCM to an approved RHF and destruction of the remaining materials, and Austria, Germany and Israel for the thorough destruction of their RVCM stocks. It was further highlighted that continual vigilance is required to identify undetected stocks of RVCM.

As part of the efforts to ensure that rinderpest does not resurface, Delegates were reminded that any research or manipulation of RVCM must be reviewed and approved by the OIE and FAO.

Finally, it was announced that the OIE would be working with a partner to re-design the Electronic Rinderpest Reporting System for Member Countries as well as on the development of a new reporting system for the RHF.

Dr Brückner informed the Delegates that there had been no proposals for the approval of other RHF this year. The designation of one facility was still on hold pending implementation of outstanding biosafety and biosecurity measures, and two other applications were under review. Additionally, he mentioned that the five FAO-OIE approved RHF designated in 2015 should be subject to re-evaluation every 3 years. Hence, the OIE and FAO were considering the process for re-evaluation with recommendations from the JAC.

#### 146. **Case definition for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)**

A draft case definition for MERS-CoV in dromedary camel was presented to the Scientific Commission during its September 2016 meeting: “A dromedary camel with laboratory confirmation of MERS-CoV infection, with or without clinical signs”. Based on new scientific information, this case definition was finalised and agreed by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Camelid Diseases and MERS-CoV experts. The definition provides information that would help Member Countries to differentiate confirmed and suspected MERS-CoV cases in camels and to report to the OIE in accordance with the emerging disease provisions of Article 1.1.4.

The Scientific Commission recommended that the updated case definition be published on the OIE website and that the OIE question and answer document on MERS-CoV should be updated with the latest scientific information to include the new case definition.

**147. Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex**

The President of the Scientific Commission informed Delegates that a revised version of Chapter 8.X. had been circulated to Member Countries for a third round of comments after the Scientific Commission's meeting in September 2016 with the intention of proposing it for adoption at this General Session.

The Scientific Commission pointed out that only some wildlife species (e.g. wild boar, badgers and possums) had been proven to act as reservoirs. However, the reservoir role of other wildlife species was not sufficiently understood and would need to be further investigated. Based on current knowledge, it was evident that on the majority of occasions, wildlife were infected as a result of spillover from domestic animals, but they were not able to maintain the disease.

The Scientific Commission also provided peer-reviewed scientific information to indicate the scientific evidence that demonstrated the impact of *M. tuberculosis* in both livestock and wildlife in the different regions.

**148. Working Group on Wildlife**

Dr Brückner informed the Delegates that the Chairman of the Working Group on Wildlife would report separately on the activities of the Group.

**149. Update of the technical factsheet on Schmallenberg virus**

The Scientific Commission took note of the letter received by the OIE in February 2017 indicating the possible incorrect use of the risk assessment information included in the Schmallenberg factsheet for trade purposes. The factsheet is published on the OIE website.

The Scientific Commission stressed that trade restrictions due to the presence of Schmallenberg virus were not sufficiently justified and made references to the reports of previous meetings of the Scientific Commission and *ad hoc* Group, when the impact of the Schmallenberg virus was extensively discussed. The Scientific Commission noted that the scientific information included in the factsheet needed to be updated and suggested requesting the OIE to seek expert advice and recommended removing the annex of the current factsheet to avoid misunderstanding among Member Countries.

**150. Revision of Chapter 8.13. on Infection with rabies virus**

The Scientific Commission discussed the proposal to include provisions for zonal freedom for rabies in the current chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* (Article 8.13.3.). Such provisions would support Member Countries' efforts to gradually eliminate rabies, leading eventually to the total elimination in the whole territory.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged that since 2005, the OIE had organised several international conferences on rabies in collaboration with WHO and FAO (Kiev, Ukraine; Paris, France; Seoul, Republic of Korea, and Geneva, Switzerland). The outcomes of those conferences provided very important and updated information on the approach to rabies control, especially as it relates to canine rabies. The Scientific Commission recommended that this updated information be considered in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies. In view of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Agreement and Resolution No. 26 on rabies adopted during the 84th General Session, the Scientific Commission was of the opinion that the current chapter should undergo a full revision.

The Scientific Commission thus recommended that the Director General convene an *ad hoc* Group, under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, to review and update the existing chapter on rabies.

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

Dr Brückner informed the Delegates of tasks assigned to *ad hoc* Groups under the auspices of the Scientific Commission to review and amend current chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. These assignments are still works in progress including:

- theileriosis, trypanosomosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, rabies, animal health surveillance (aspects related to surveillance for FMD).

152. **OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of official veterinarians, diagnosis of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses, and control of veterinary drugs in West and Central Africa, Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV), and Laboratoire de Contrôle des médicaments (LACOMEV), Dakar, Senegal**

The Scientific Commission reviewed the proposal and supporting documents to integrate the OIE Reference Laboratory for Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products in Sub-Saharan Africa into the OIE Collaborating Centre for Training Veterinary Officials and Diagnosing Infectious Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Tropical Africa, thereby creating the Collaborating Centre for Training of official veterinarians, diagnosis of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses, and control of veterinary drugs in West and Central Africa.

The Scientific Commission was satisfied with the proposed organisation of activities and responsibilities, and recommended approval of the application by the OIE Council.

153. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of cervids: inclusion on the OIE list of diseases**

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Assembly that following a request by a Member Country, the Scientific Commission had evaluated CWD of cervids against the criteria in Chapter 1.2 of the *Terrestrial Code*, with the view to including it in the OIE list.

The Scientific Commission took note of the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group on BSE on this subject, and considered with appreciation the opinion of OIE CWD experts who had been contacted by the OIE Headquarters.

The Scientific Commission also considered the opinion provided by the Working Group on Wildlife, and the EFSA<sup>17</sup> Scientific Opinion published in January 2017. It was also noted that some countries regularly reported the occurrence of the disease in their territories through WAHIS-*Wild*.

The Scientific Commission considered that there were still significant gaps in the understanding of the epidemiology of the disease that may impede the ability of the Commission to make an informed decision. The Scientific Commission decided to postpone its decision on whether or not CWD complied with the listing criteria described in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* until further scientific information became available.

Dr Brückner encouraged Member Countries to report the occurrence of the disease and other relevant epidemiological information related to CWD through WAHIS-*Wild*.

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<sup>17</sup> EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

#### 154. Evaluation of Member Country applications for official recognition of disease status

The evaluation of applications by Member Countries constituted a major part of the activities of the Scientific Commission during this year. A total of 30 applications were assessed, while expert missions to five Member Countries were conducted to verify applications and to assess the measures in place for the maintenance of status.

With the creation of the new Status Department, several aspects relating to the transparency and integrity of the process were improved. The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the text with some revisions provided by the OIE Status Department on the criteria to be considered when planning an expert mission for official disease status recognition or the maintenance of disease status.

During its February 2017 meeting, the Scientific Commission comprehensively reviewed the annual reconfirmations of the Member Countries that were pre-selected at its meeting in September 2016. The Scientific Commission emphasised that Member Countries with an endorsed control programme must annually demonstrate progress along the timeline initially submitted to the OIE and should clearly indicate their working plan towards disease control or eradication. The Scientific Commission underlined the importance of timely submissions (by the end of November each year) of the annual reconfirmations for maintenance of official status and of endorsement of official control programmes, and agreed that lack of submission by 31 January could lead to the suspension of the official status or to the withdrawal of the endorsement of the official control programme of Member Countries.

The Scientific Commission also reviewed and endorsed the report prepared by the OIE Status Department on the remaining annual reconfirmations that were not selected for the Commission's comprehensive review, including those for which the Status Department required the scientific advice of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission concluded that the annual reconfirmations were compliant with the requirements of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of officially recognised status, and made recommendations to some Member Countries.

The Scientific Commission considered the discrepancies between the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for the official recognition of AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD with and without vaccination, and PPR freedom, as well as for retention of the list of countries and zones free from these respective diseases. The Scientific Commission confirmed the need to harmonise and update the requirements for recognition and maintenance of status. The Scientific Commission endorsed the template prepared by the OIE Status Department for the harmonisation of requirements and agreed that the OIE begin to work on this topic. Progress would be considered at the September meeting of the Scientific Commission.

The Scientific Commission commended the OIE on the good progress made with the standard operating procedures and internal protocols for official status recognition to improve the transparency and credibility at all steps from the initial official recognition of status to its continual maintenance over time. In particular, the Scientific Commission endorsed: the new structure of the procedures for the recognition and the maintenance of disease status and programme endorsement; the need to set a deadline for the submission of annual reconfirmations, with a strong incentive to respect it; a check-list on the information to look for during a mission; and the methodology being developed for a systematic and homogeneous use of the PVS reports as part of the status recognition process.

The Scientific Commission completed its review of all the questionnaires related to disease status with the aim of harmonising and simplifying some of the questions generic to all the questionnaires. The Scientific Commission is currently in consultation with the Code Commission on the need to maintain these questionnaires in the *Terrestrial Code* or rather to place them on the OIE website, which would facilitate the process of amending questionnaires when needed.

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

The President of the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated 12 applications from five Member Countries. Of these, one application was for country status free with vaccination, two for zonal freedom without vaccination and nine for zonal freedom with vaccination.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group.

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

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly support the request of the Delegate of Paraguay to recognise Paraguay as a country free from FMD where vaccination is practised.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the status recognition of FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the request of the Delegate of Botswana to recognise Zone 3(b) as described by the Delegate of Botswana as a zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the status recognition of FMD free zones where vaccination is practised***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the requests of the Delegates of Chinese Taipei and Kazakhstan to recognise the zones described by the respective Delegates in their applications to the OIE, as zones free from FMD where vaccination is practised.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised FMD free status via compliance with annual reconfirmation, were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 22.

In addition, the recommendations related to the maintained endorsement of official control programmes for FMD were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 23.

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

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from three Member Countries for the recognition of their CBPP status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Brazil and South Africa as CBPP free countries.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised CBPP free status and endorsement of official control programmes for CBPP via compliance with annual reconfirmation, were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos 24 and 25, respectively.

**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 evaluation of the four applications from three Member Countries for the recognition of their BSE risk status. The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Poland as having a negligible risk status for BSE, and recognise Northern Ireland and Scotland as zones within the United Kingdom having a negligible risk status for BSE.

The Scientific Commission also confirmed the decision that was taken by electronic consultation to re-instate France as a country having a controlled risk status for BSE.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised BSE risk status via compliance with annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 26.

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

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from three Member Countries for the recognition of their AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and no new country was added to the existing list of Member Countries free from AHS. The Scientific Commission recommended that this existing list be confirmed by the Assembly.

This recommendation was submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 27.

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

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from two Member Countries, one for the recognition of PPR status and one for the endorsement of the Country's official control programme.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Botswana as a PPR free country.

This recommendation as well as the recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised PPR free status via compliance with annual reconfirmation were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 28.

**f) Evaluation of Member Country status for classical swine fever (CSF)**

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from five Member Countries for the recognition of CSF status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Paraguay as a CSF free country.

Following receipt of an application by the Delegate of Romania for recognition as a country free from CSF, the Scientific Commission agreed with the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, but recommended to the Director General that a mission be conducted to the country to verify the ability of the Member Country to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of a CSF free status. The mission was conducted in May 2017 and, following an evaluation by the Scientific

Commission of the recommendations of the experts who conducted the mission, the Scientific Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise Romania as a country free from CSF.

In addition, the Scientific Commission discussed the application from Colombia, assessed in February 2016 and for which it had been provisionally concluded that the zone proposed by Colombia fulfilled the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. However, the Scientific Commission recommended that the Director General mandate a mission to the country, before a final decision, to verify compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of CSF. The mission was conducted in March 2017 and, following an evaluation by the Scientific Commission of the recommendations of the experts who conducted the mission, the Scientific Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise the zone in Colombia as described by the Delegate of Colombia, as a zone free from CSF.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised CSF free status via compliance with annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 29.

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

Dr Brückner presented to the Delegates the following issues identified by the Scientific Commission that would need to be attended to or finalised during the coming year:

- Review and development of chapters for the *Terrestrial Code* on rabies, animal health surveillance, theileria, FMD zoning and compartmentalisation and BSE.

156. The President of the OIE thanked Dr Brückner for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

157. Colombia commended the Scientific Commission for the work done over the past year and expressed special appreciation for the expert missions deployed in the framework of the evaluation and maintenance of official disease status. Colombia highlighted that these missions play an important role in ensuring the transparency of the process, as well as in reaching informed decisions by the Assembly when recognising the official disease status of Members.

158. Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, commended the important work done by the Scientific Commission particularly on the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on ASF, on PRRS, on LSD and on zoning and compartmentalisation. With regard to the future work on the *Terrestrial Code*, Ireland strongly recommended that the coordination between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission be strengthened to align the priorities of their respective work programmes. In this context, Ireland suggested that the revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on avian influenza and BSE be set as high priorities for both Commissions to facilitate safe trade.

With regard to the procedure for official recognition of BSE risk status, Ireland underlined the importance of the independent categorisation that the OIE offers, and asserted that reliance on self-declaration by Members for their categorisation with regard to BSE risk status would be a major step backwards, negatively affecting the fight against BSE. Ireland therefore insisted that the official recognition of Members' BSE risk status by the OIE be maintained. Ireland further confirmed the EU's full support to continue participating in and providing technical assistance to the Scientific Commission and its *ad hoc* Groups for the ongoing review of the BSE chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Furthermore, Ireland commended the ongoing efforts of the OIE and the Scientific Commission in the global fight against AMR and confirmed the EU's technical and financial support for the organisation of the 2nd Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Ireland also acknowledged the considerable work done by the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Groups on the official recognition of disease status of Members and the endorsement of official control programmes. Ireland announced the EU's support for the recognition of official status and for the endorsement of control programmes, as proposed by the Scientific Commission for adoption by the Assembly. Finally, Ireland confirmed the EU's full support for the efforts of the OIE in strengthening the procedures on official recognition of disease status, as stipulated in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, the revision of Chapter 1.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* and the maintenance of the questionnaires as OIE Standards in the *Terrestrial Code*. Ireland encouraged the OIE to continue liaising with the WTO to clarify the status of OIE recognition of the official disease status with respect to international trade.

159. Australia thanked Dr Brückner for his presentation and expressed his concern on the high number of priorities included in the future work programme of the Scientific Commission. Australia sought clarification from Dr Brückner on the manner in which these priorities were identified.
160. Canada, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, thanked Dr Brückner and the Scientific Commission for its excellent work and also underlined the need for a thorough revision of Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* according to the prevailing epidemiological situation. Canada acknowledged that the Scientific Commission had recognised that certain measures mitigate the risk and impact of BSE globally. Canada emphasised the necessity to maintain the OIE Standards on BSE to protect public health and to ensure safe international trade in animals and their products. In this regard, Canada requested that the Commission prioritise the work on the revision of the OIE Standards on BSE and then to engage the countries in discussing the need for maintenance of official recognition of BSE risk status. Canada also offered its expertise to support the OIE in the revision of this *Terrestrial Code* chapter.
161. Namibia expressed its appreciation of the work conducted by the Scientific Commission and pointed out the tremendous reduction in BSE incidence thanks to the effective control measures that have been implemented. Namibia emphasised that the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE should be reviewed to take into consideration the evolution of the disease situation. Namibia noted that a global eradication programme for BSE was not foreseen and stressed that practices at risk, such as the use of mammalian proteins in ruminant feed, still prevailed in some countries. Namibia suggested that the OIE monitor this practice globally and further promote the ban of mammalian feed for ruminants.
162. Switzerland thanked the Scientific Commission for its comprehensive report and its work. With respect to the official recognition of BSE risk status, Switzerland concurred with the comment made by Ireland on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU. Switzerland highlighted that Members have invested massive efforts in the fight against BSE, which has also contributed to the improvement of the capacity and quality of the Veterinary Services of several Members. Switzerland emphasised that the official recognition of BSE risk status by the OIE remains an essential element for international trade of animals and animal products and should not be discontinued. Switzerland offered its support to the Scientific Commission for the revision of the BSE *Terrestrial Code* chapter.
163. Japan expressed its appreciation to the Scientific Commission for its work and Japan shares the view of the Scientific Commission regarding the recent global situation of BSE risks. However, Japan highlighted its concern related to the discontinuation of the official recognition of BSE risk status by the OIE. Japan emphasised that this recognition was widely used by many Members, and noted that its discontinuation might result in disruption of the international trade of beef and beef products. Japan also requested that

the OIE provide Members with sufficient time to discuss this issue with their national stakeholders, as official status of BSE poses a significant impact on trade of various kinds of bovine-derived products. Regarding FMD, Japan requested that the Scientific Commission clearly indicate in its reports those Members that were removed from the list of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, and explain the rationale for that decision.

164. Bolivia commended the excellent work of the Scientific Commission, to the advantage of the all countries. Bolivia supported the initiative of the OIE to deploy expert missions to evaluate Members' compliance with the recommendations of the *Terrestrial Code*, as a means to increase the transparency of the official status recognition procedure. Concerning the need for revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE, Bolivia supported the position of the Scientific Commission, and drew attention to the fact that, with the provisions of the current chapter, reaching compliance with the standards has posed challenges to some Members. Nevertheless, Bolivia was in favour of maintaining BSE among the diseases for which the OIE recognises official status.
165. Djibouti, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, appreciated the establishment of a new OIE Department dedicated to official disease status recognition and its support through trainings provided at the regional level on the procedures for preparation of applications. Djibouti also asserted that the OIE should maintain the questionnaires on the OIE website.
166. Botswana commended the work of the Scientific Commission and requested more information regarding facilities currently holding rinderpest-containing material.
167. Brazil complimented the Scientific Commission for the excellent work performed during the past year. With regard to the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy, Brazil asked if a quantitative estimation of the number of necessary vaccine doses to achieve the eradication was available. Furthermore, Brazil informed the Assembly that the decision to no longer use FMD serotype C for vaccine production is enforced in Brazil. He recalled that the last identification of FMDV serotype C in the region dated back to 2004 and that only four countries are still including this serotype in their vaccines. Brazil supported the proposed Resolution.
168. The Republic of Korea thanked the Scientific Commission for its work and fully concurred with the comment made by Japan regarding BSE, in allowing Members to have sufficient time to consider the maintenance of official recognition of BSE risk status by the OIE.
169. The Democratic Republic of the Congo supported the comment made by Botswana with regard to the global risk posed by those Members that still had rinderpest-containing material in their territories, and therefore invited the Assembly to make strong commitment in completely eliminating this high risk material.
170. South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, noted the comments made by Ireland on BSE and acknowledged with appreciation the concerted efforts made by the EU and Members from other regions to significantly decrease the incidence of BSE, and the related actions taken by the OIE through its standard-setting process. South Africa mentioned that the disease was never diagnosed in the African region. Taking into account, the current epidemiological situation, South Africa urged Members to carefully consider the suggestion from the Scientific Commission to seek alternative means, other than relying solely on the official status recognition procedure, for ensuring safe international trade.

171. The President of the OIE thanked all the Members for their comments. He recalled that, as indicated by Dr Brückner, the Scientific Commission welcomes Members' contributions to the revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE.
172. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the Members for their comments. In particular, he expressed his appreciation for those comments made on the maintenance of BSE in the OIE procedure for official recognition. He invited all Members to study this issue, in consultation with their stakeholders, and to send written comments to the OIE. He stressed that the revision of the BSE *Terrestrial Code* chapter was identified as a priority for the Scientific Commission and it would be included in the agenda of the September meeting, and that these comments would be taken into consideration.
173. In response to the comment made by Botswana on the location of the facilities holding rinderpest-containing material, the President of the Scientific Commission invited the Delegate to contact the Programmes Department of the OIE to access the requested information.
174. In response to the question raised by Brazil concerning the number of PPR vaccine doses needed for the PPR Global Eradication Programme, Dr Stone indicated that this number was roughly estimated as 1.5 billion sheep and goats requiring vaccination for the five first years. He noted that, in partnership with FAO, coordination had been initiated with vaccine manufacturers in order to ensure that this demand would be met.
175. In response to the comment made by Australia, the President of the Scientific Commission confirmed that the work programme was elaborated and the priorities identified in consultation with the OIE Director General and with the other Specialist Commissions. He confirmed the numerous ongoing activities and affirmed its feasibility.
176. The President of the Scientific Commission took note of the positive feedback provided by those Members that received expert missions related to the official disease status recognition. He highlighted the importance of these missions to ensure compliance of the Members with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, and as a training tool for Members.
177. The OIE Director General concurred with the comment made by Ireland on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU regarding the need for strengthened coordination between the Specialist Commissions. She indicated that the Presidents of the Specialist Commissions already meet on a regular basis to coordinate their work. Progress is made on the gradual establishment of an OIE common secretariat coordinating the tasks of the four Specialist Commissions' technical secretariats. Furthermore, she mentioned a plan to launch an electronic system for the submission and management of comments from Members on relevant *Terrestrial Code* chapters. This new system would also help in identification and coordination of comments that might be relevant for more than one Commission.
178. The Assembly noted the Report of the Scientific Commission. The President then submitted the various draft resolutions to the Assembly for adoption after confirming that a quorum had been achieved.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22**  
**Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries**

179. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23**  
**Endorsement of official control programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries**

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

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24**  
**Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries**

181. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25**  
**Endorsement of official control programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries**

182. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26**  
**Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries**

183. 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.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27**  
**Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries**

184. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 27 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28**  
**Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries**

185. 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. 29**  
**Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries**

186. 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.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30**  
**Foot and Mouth Disease Serotype C**

187. Argentina suggested that the fourth recommendation of the Resolution be addressed to OIE Members and not directly to vaccine manufacturers. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption taking into account this modification. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

**Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)**

**Working Group on Wildlife**

188. The Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Working Group held from 7 to 10 November 2016 (Doc. 85 SG/13/GT).
189. The Working Group considered the request of the Scientific Commission for an evaluation of the impact that CWD of cervids may have on wildlife health. The Working Group reviewed the available information on the current outbreak in Norway and the surveillance plan discussed in Sweden. It was noted that the outcome of the EFSA consultation, due by the end of 2016, would be of paramount importance to further define the control measures. The Working Group also noted that diagnostic tests based on taking biopsy samples from

live animals were available, but might not be practical for routine use on large numbers of animals. The Working Group discussed whether CWD should be an OIE-listed disease. The Working Group reviewed the inclusion criteria described in Article 1.2.2. of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. *Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list*, and agreed with the Scientific Commission on the difficulties of demonstrating freedom from disease. The Group concluded that CWD did not currently meet the OIE listing criteria. There is evidence from studies in the United States of America that CWD is having a measureable negative impact on some wild cervid populations in which CWD has existed for several decades. The Working Group encouraged OIE Member Countries to report the occurrence of the disease in a timely manner via WAHIS-*Wild* to increase transparency and to ensure the collection of quality data to help make informed decisions.

190. The Working Group reviewed the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE to ensure alignment of the Group's activities with OIE priorities. The Working Group was committed to contributing to the continued development of timely, current and scientifically based standards and guidelines. The Working Group recognised the strong links between the environment and emerging diseases, biodiversity issues, climate change and several of their recent activities on wildlife, and would support the OIE in addressing these issues.
191. The Working Group was informed by the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department of disease reporting in wildlife through WAHIS-*Wild* in 2015. Recent changes implemented from January 2016 regarding the disabling of the section on wildlife annual reports of OIE-listed diseases were presented. The current strategy, namely to encourage and reinforce collaboration between the Focal Point for Wildlife and the Focal Point for Disease Notification to the OIE in the collection and submission of information on diseases affecting wildlife, was emphasised. In 2016, only 39 OIE Member Countries submitted the voluntary annual report on non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife for 2015.

The Working Group suggested preparing a short annual report on non-OIE-listed diseases that would be shared with the Focal Points for Wildlife. The aim of this document would be to motivate countries to report by acknowledging their contributions to current information on non-OIE-listed diseases. The Working Group agreed that the addition of infection with *Lyssaviruses* other than *Rabiesvirus* (formerly referred to as classical rabies virus, genotype-1) will be a valuable addition to the list of non-OIE-listed diseases. The Working Group also supported the proposal of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department to clarify the names of diseases in order to facilitate disease reporting, e.g. Infection with morbillivirus (such as canine distemper).

192. The Working Group discussed new and emerging disease issues related to wildlife, including the following examples (detailed information is available in the full meeting report [Doc. 85 SG/13/GT]):
  - Supplemental feeding of wildlife: The actual and potential negative impacts of many diseases of current global or regional concern appear exacerbated by the provision of supplemental feed to wild animal hosts. Feeding stations may serve as points for intensive transmission of pathogens thereby contributing to pathogen persistence, increasing pathogen prevalence or extending geographical distribution. Feeding may also provide sufficient nutrition to maintain host animal populations of a greater number and density than could be sustained in the natural environment.

- *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*) infections: A recent study identified *Bsal* infections and associated fatalities in several private amphibian collections in Western Europe, including the first recorded detection in Spain. These results indicate that *Bsal* is prevalent in fish being traded by hobbyists in Europe and probably elsewhere. The Working Group supports consideration of this pathogen for listing by the OIE.
  - Snake fungal disease (SFD) (*Ophidiomyces ophidiicola*): In July 2015, severe dermatitis associated with *O. ophidiicola* was identified in a free-living dead grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) in southern England. Archived skin samples from carcasses and skins shed from free-living snakes were screened by PCR for the fungus. Several positive results were obtained from samples, including skins presenting mild lesions. This is the first report of SFD in free-living snakes in Europe.
  - White-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats: WNS of bats continues to occur in new locations. In 2016, the most significant finding was confirmation of WNS in Washington State on the Pacific Coast of the United States of America. This is the most western occurrence of this disease and is more than 1500 km west of previous cases in eastern and mid-western Canada and the United States of America.
193. Professor Richard Kock of the Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom, provided the Working Group with an insightful briefing on the 2015 Saiga antelope die-off in Kazakhstan. Over 230,000 animals died during this event. *Pasteurella multocida* serotype B has been identified as the primary causal agent. All animals died over a few weeks and were distributed over several thousand square kilometres. An environmental factor seems to be the most likely trigger, but has not yet been identified. No domestic animal outbreaks occurred concurrently in that location.
194. The Working Group was updated on the OFFLU wild bird Technical Activity, including the finalisation of a concept note detailing the need for and utility of a “Global surveillance programme for Influenza A viral diversity in wild birds” and how such a programme could be designed and implemented under OFFLU. The rationale, objectives, design and operation of such a global surveillance programme was presented to the OIE Working Group. Dr Karesh updated the Working Group on a “Global Virome Project” (GVP) aimed at characterising all global viruses, noting that the concept of the global avian influenza surveillance programme in wild birds would fit within its framework.
195. The Standards Department informed the Working Group that following recommendations from the Working Group on Animal Welfare, the Code Commission decided to convene an electronic consultation *ad hoc* Group to develop a stand-alone chapter on slaughter methods for reptiles farmed for their skins and meat. The work of the *ad hoc* Group will be based on a draft document already provided by experts.
196. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), of which the OIE is a member, was created in late 2012 and comprises 14 international organisations, with a Secretariat hosted by FAO. The Working Group has been asked to support the OIE in this initiative. Since the last meeting of the Working Group, several factsheets on Sustainable Wildlife Management have been drafted.

197. An annex to the OIE and CIC<sup>18</sup> Cooperation Agreement was signed in December 2015, stating that they would prioritise the following items together:
- To actively support hunter participation in wildlife disease surveillance work, with special focus on ASF;
  - To support the establishment of the CIC World Center for Enhancing Hunters' Skills and Game Conservation in Pravets, Bulgaria;
  - To plan and arrange a seminar in Pravets to train hunters and establish their role in wildlife disease surveillance, with a special focus on ASF;
  - To establish a network of people from hunting associations who are interested in the project and in wildlife diseases;
  - To produce material for hunters to collaborate on the work on surveillance of wildlife diseases with a focus on ASF.
198. The Working Group recognised and appreciated the successful effort of the OIE in engaging the Secretariat of CITES<sup>19</sup> in discussions related to the need to facilitate the rapid movement of diagnostic specimens from endangered and threatened species. At the CITES Convention of the Parties in September 2016, a resolution was passed specifying that the Secretariat query signatory parties and compile information related to the international shipment of diagnostic specimens for review by the CITES Standing Committee.
- The Working Group was briefed by the OIE Science and New Technologies Department on the Nagoya Protocol, passed in October 2010 by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), mandating terms of Access-and-Benefit-Sharing agreements between countries before exchanges of research samples containing non-human genetic material.
199. The OIE Science and New Technologies Department reported on the fourth cycle of training workshops for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife (2016–2017). This fourth cycle is focused on wildlife disease surveillance, particularly from a diagnostic perspective, with hands-on instruction on the use of WAHIS-*Wild*.
200. The Working Group noted the long and important contribution of Prof. Marc Artois to the Working Group and to the OIE, as well as his professional contribution to wildlife disease research and policy evolution in Europe and worldwide. Prof. Artois served on the Working Group from its inception in 1994 until May 2016.
201. The President of the OIE thanked Dr Karesh for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
202. The United States of America thanked Dr Karesh for his excellent presentation. He expressed concern at the low number of Members reporting in WAHIS-*Wild* and encouraged the OIE to investigate why this might have happened. The United States of America mentioned that the increase in avian influenza found in wild birds may have resulted in trade restrictions, resulting in some Members reporting less wildlife disease. He encouraged all Members to contribute data to WAHIS-*Wild*.
203. Indonesia thanked the President and Dr Karesh for his presentation. Indonesia raised concerns with three items of the Wildlife Working Group Report SG 85/13/GT.

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<sup>18</sup> CIC: International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

<sup>19</sup> CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

In paragraph 4 of the report, concerning the OIE Strategic Plan, under the topic of “*development of standards and guidelines for animal health, animal welfare, animal production food safety including guidelines and recommendations for the management, control and/or eradication of disease*”, Indonesia suggested that eradication of disease in wildlife should take into account the conservation value of species, particularly when an authority is faced with endangered species, in which eradication of disease through wildlife culling should not be regarded as an appropriate strategy. Indonesia, therefore, requested that the OIE, through the Working Group on Wildlife, provide guidance on this important issue.

Regarding paragraph 13.2 of the report on shipment of biological specimens from wildlife and the implementation of Nagoya Protocol, Indonesia requested the OIE to work closely with the CBD, especially when genetic resources of wild animals were shared among two or more nations. The 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP 13; Mexico, 2016) raised the issues of the closure/disclosure of information generated from access to genetic resources, including those of wild animals. In this regard, the OIE should also be aware of the work under development in other international organisations and treaties.

Regarding paragraph 17 of the report on other business related to biodiversity and climate change, Indonesia expressed the view that the cause of biodiversity loss was not only fragmentation of habitat, but was also related to emerging disease and the impact of animal health management. Indonesia, therefore, strongly supported that the Working Group on Wildlife continue to develop analysis on the link between diseases, biodiversity loss and climate change.

204. Australia expressed appreciation for the work of the Working Group on Wildlife, and was pleased to see some reporting on wild aquatic animal health in the Wildlife Working Group Report SG 85/13/GT and expressed the hope that, in the future, there would be further reports on marine mammal health. Australia also noticed a lack of information from the Oceania and South American Regions, and suggested that this was caused by a lack of representation of this region in the Working Group. Indeed, the wildlife disease updates in the report of the Working Group on Wildlife are sourced from its members. Australia, therefore, encouraged the Working Group on Wildlife to seek information more broadly for inclusion in its report.
205. Costa Rica thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation, and drew attention to the incidence of “neurobrucellosis” in beached and at risk cetacean populations along Costa Rica’s coasts. Costa Rica also emphasised the potential public health impact because of its zoonotic nature. Costa Rica recommended that the Working Group on Wildlife include consideration of wild aquatic animals.
206. Dr Karesh thanked the commenting Members and took the opportunity to respond to the questions posed. In response to the United States of America, Dr Karesh expressed a similar interest in an inquiry into the cause of low reporting of Members in WAHIS-*Wild*. He suggested that the reporting process may have become more burdensome, or that trade restrictions, despite repeated statements that wildlife disease should not affect trade policy, may be playing a role. Dr Karesh encouraged the OIE to undertake this inquiry and consider ways to improve reporting.

Dr Karesh thanked Indonesia for the helpful comments, and informed the Assembly that it was now widely agreed among experts that wildlife culling programmes were not effective in eradicating disease in wildlife, and might even exacerbate the problem by changing population dynamics. He mentioned that public statements by experts confirmed this opinion.

Regarding Indonesia's comments on the Nagoya Protocol, Dr Karesh informed the Assembly that the Working Group was interacting with the CBD, and that the CBD was open to input from animal health experts.

Dr Karesh agreed with Indonesia's statement that biodiversity loss and species extinction were no longer thought to be solely caused by habitat loss and hunting, and that animal disease was now being considered as a main contributor. He confirmed the interest of the Working Group on Wildlife in these issues and suggested that the Working Group on Wildlife further discuss Indonesia's comments.

In response to comments from Australia suggesting more work on marine mammals, Dr Karesh thanked Australia for the suggestion and mentioned the large number of species encompassed by the term "aquatic". He finally expressed the intention of the Working Group to further explore these topics. Regarding the number of Members reporting in WAHIS-*Wild*, Dr Karesh proposed that Delegates liaise with the appropriate Focal Points to encourage the notification of diseases through WAHIS-*Wild*. He acknowledged some regional bias and affirmed the commitment of the Working Group to reflect all the OIE regions.

In response to the comments from Costa Rica, Dr Karesh informed the Assembly that he was not yet aware of any connection between brucellosis in marine mammals and human cases, but the question was interesting and he would seek input from experts on the subject.

207. Panama thanked the President for the work of the Working Group on Wildlife, and recommended that a system be created to alert Members on migrations of wild birds. Panama highlighted that in the Americas, equine encephalitis could be found in equines and humans following the migrations of wild birds, and that avian influenza could also be transmitted to domestic animals and humans with these migrations. Panama explained that alerts on bird migrations could inform mitigation activities aimed at protecting human and animal health.
208. In response to Panama, Dr Karesh informed the Assembly that migration timing was different from one country to another and between different bird species, and he proposed to provide the names of ornithology experts at national level who would be able to provide this information.
209. The Assembly noted the report of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife. The President of the OIE thanked everyone for their comments and thanked and congratulated Dr Karesh on his report.

#### **Composition of the Working Group on Wildlife**

210. The Director General presented the composition of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife, validated by the Council, for the period May 2017 – May 2018:
  - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
  - Dr Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis (Switzerland)
  - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
  - Dr John Fischer (United States of America)
  - Prof. Ted Leighton (Canada)
  - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
  - Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)
211. Costa Rica requested further clarification on how the membership of the Working Group on Wildlife would change in the future.

212. In response to Costa Rica, the OIE Director General informed the Assembly that the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Wildlife would be updated to highlight the current and future activities of the Group, respecting the mandate of other international organisations working on wildlife issues. She further noted that these Terms of Reference would be reviewed by the Council, and then presented to Members for approval at the next General Session in May 2018. The Director General indicated that the future composition of the Working Group of Wildlife would change to reflect these updated Terms of Reference and a balanced geographical representation. In the meantime, however, she confirmed the composition of the Working Group for the forthcoming year.

### **Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Conferences**

#### **Fourth OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education: 'Learning today, protecting our future', Bangkok (Thailand), 22–24 June 2016**

213. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Senior Manager, Horizontal Coordination and Special Projects, informed the Assembly that the Fourth OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education was successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 to 24 June 2016. The Conference gathered together over 350 participants from 94 countries around the world, including OIE National Delegates, Deans and other professional educators from VEEs<sup>20</sup>, and representatives of Veterinary Statutory Bodies, international and national public and private sector organisations, and veterinary science students.
214. Dr Ishibashi reminded the Assembly that almost 3 years had passed since the previous Global Conference on Veterinary Education, held in Brazil in 2013. The main objectives of this Conference included: analysing the current situation of veterinary education worldwide, in particular the implementation of the key OIE guidance documents, namely the OIE recommendations on the Competencies of Graduating Veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') to assure national Veterinary Services of Quality and OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum; exchanging information on the experiences from the OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Programme, which aims to support VEEs with improving veterinary education through the alignment of curricula with the key OIE guidance documents; and discussing ways forward regarding how global improvements in veterinary education could be made as a response to the growing expectation that society has for the veterinary profession.
215. Dr Ishibashi reported on certain discussion points of the Conference and the consequent recommendations issued to both Member Countries and the OIE. The participants of the Conference noted that the promotion of cooperation among VEEs, for example, through joint workshops and the sharing of courses and material, yielded mutual benefits. They recommended that Member Countries encourage VEEs to continue their efforts to enhance curricula through regional cooperation and the OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Programme. The participants also discussed the importance of adopting non-traditional subject matter and interdisciplinary approaches in order to effectively develop well-rounded skills, and recommended OIE Member Countries to encourage VEEs to regularly update their curriculum content. The participants furthermore stressed the necessity of ensuring that effective mechanisms for continuing education are in place and promoted among VEEs, Veterinary Authorities, Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations.
216. Dr Ishibashi drew the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the Conference also referred to the contributions made by veterinary para-professionals (VPPs)<sup>21</sup>. While noting that their role and involvement vary widely by country and region, the participants of the Conference agreed that high quality VPPs are an important partner in achieving robust national Veterinary Services. Dr Ishibashi informed the Assembly that, following the recommendations that both the OIE and Member Countries should ensure the existence of

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<sup>20</sup> VEEs: Veterinary Education Establishments

<sup>21</sup> VPPs: Veterinary Para-Professionals

high quality VPPs, the OIE has commenced the development of recommendations pertaining to minimum competencies for VPPs and guidelines on core training curricula. She stated that the report of the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on VPPs is available as an annex to the 2017 February meeting report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission). Dr Ishibashi also indicated that although details are still to be confirmed, the OIE, in cooperation with the GALVmed, would hold a regional conference on VPPs in Asia in December 2017 where progress conducted by the OIE on enhancing education for VPPs would be presented for discussion.

217. Dr Ishibashi mentioned that abstracts, PowerPoint presentations provided during the Conference, short papers of the presentations, as well as the entire recommendations are available on the OIE website at <http://www.oie.int/eng/vet-education-conf2016/objectives.html>. She also pointed out that the OIE Global List of VEEs, which was established following a recommendation of the previous OIE Global Conference in Brazil, is available on the OIE website at <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/veterinary-education/oie-global-list-of-vees/>, and a short analysis of the list is included in the most recent OIE *Bulletin*.
218. Before concluding her presentation, Dr Ishibashi took the opportunity to thank the Government of Thailand for its excellent support as the host country of the Conference.
219. Colombia thanked Dr Ishibashi for her presentation and informed the Assembly that the National Educational Institute of Colombia, in addition to various education establishments, was offering academic training to veterinary paraprofessionals in the area of animal health and safety. Colombia stated that it could share its experiences on this topic with the corresponding OIE *ad hoc* Group.
220. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, congratulated the OIE on the organisation of the 4th Global Conference on Veterinary Education and noted with satisfaction the progress made in enhancing veterinary education globally since the first Global Conference on Veterinary Education. The Democratic Republic of the Congo conveyed the appreciation of Africa for the emphasis placed by the OIE on student participatory learning techniques, the importance of veterinary paraprofessionals, their role in society and the progress in developing minimum competencies and core curricula for VPPs.

**Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare:  
'Animal welfare for a better world', Guadalajara (Mexico), 6–8 December 2016**

221. Dr Leopoldo Stuardo Escobar, Chargé de mission, OIE Standards Department, informed the Assembly that the Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare had been successfully held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 6 to 8 December 2016. The Conference brought together over 450 participants from nearly 150 countries, including representatives of national Veterinary Services, OIE Collaborating Centres on animal welfare, animal welfare scientists, relevant international organisations holding official agreements with the OIE, international industry organisations, VEE and relevant research institutes, animal welfare NGOs, veterinary statutory bodies and veterinary associations, the donor community and civil society.

222. Dr Stuardo informed the Assembly that one of the key objectives of the Conference was to encourage and support the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards by Member Countries, with particular attention to strategies and implementation tools. He reported that the Conference also served to raise the profile of the OIE animal welfare standards in general, and to encourage Veterinary Services and the veterinary profession to take a leading role in improving animal welfare worldwide, in collaboration with the relevant partners.
223. Dr Stuardo further reported that during the Conference recommendations to Member Countries and to the OIE had been discussed. These recommendations address issues such as the development and implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards and the need for collaborative work with different stakeholders for their implementation. During the Conference, suggestions and recommendations were also made regarding the importance of the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary education programmes and in national legislative frameworks. It also recognised the importance of animal welfare in the global sustainable development context and the need to work closely with the Competent Authorities on the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards, including the management of animal health and welfare in disaster management planning at the national level.
224. Dr Stuardo also took the opportunity to recognise and thank the Government of Mexico, the European Union, the members of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, the different Conference Committees and the OIE Event Unit for their extended efforts and the success of the Conference.
225. Dr Stuardo reminded the Assembly that recommendations, abstracts, PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference and the selection of Conference posters are all available on the OIE Website at: <http://www.oie.int/eng/animal-welfare-conf2016/presrec.html>.

### **OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy**

226. Dr Stuardo presented to the Assembly the proposed OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy, which was developed from a draft prepared by the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare. Dr Stuardo noted that the proposal provides the strategic direction for coordination of the organisation's actions in this important field.
227. Dr Stuardo summarised the proposed Strategy, and highlighted the vision of the strategy and the four pillars: development of animal welfare standards; capacity building and education; communication with governments, organisations, Veterinary Services, educational institutions and the public; and the implementation of animal welfare standards and policies. Dr Stuardo also presented the proposed activities, which will allow the OIE to deliver improved animal welfare outcomes through the implementation of this Strategy.
228. Morocco, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, supported the adoption of the draft recommendation for the development of a Global Animal Welfare strategy, and noted that the development of Regional strategies on animal welfare is encouraged, as is recognition of equivalence and reciprocity on animal welfare issues. It further noted these were important as animal welfare practices might in some instances differ from other Members.
229. The United Arab Emirates proposed that the Global Animal Welfare strategy should include the concept of 'One Welfare' as it was all-encompassing. In response Dr Stone, Deputy Director General, noted that this concept had been discussed at length during the

2016 Guadalajara Conference and that it was premature to support this proposal as it was a new concept for many countries. However, the OIE did support further discussion on this concept in the OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum as planned in the strategy.

230. Japan mentioned that animal welfare is a complex multifaceted issue with scientific, ethical, economic, legal, religious and cultural dimensions. Japan believed that OIE animal welfare standards and guidance should be flexible enough to allow Members to implement them according to their specific situation. Japan supported OIE development of animal welfare standards based on science and taking into account differences in animal production and cultural backgrounds among Members.
231. The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy and acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and looks forward to continuing to contribute to the standards development process in relevant *ad hoc* Groups and to the establishment of the Forum.
232. Chinese Taipei took the opportunity to inform Members that it had recently amended its Animal Protection Act to make the consumption or possession of dog or cat meat illegal. It also noted that this amendment prohibits the killing of healthy dogs and cats in shelters. They also noted that countries faced strong pressure from NGOs to improve animal welfare in their countries. Dr Stone noted in this regard that the OIE had cooperation agreements with several NGOs and that they would be engaged in the Forum. He also noted that the development of guidance on how governments and NGOs can work together to implement animal welfare standards could be part of the discussion in the Forum.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31  
Animal Welfare**

233. The President confirmed that a quorum had been achieved and submitted Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

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■ WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2017 ■

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**FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

**Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)**

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

234. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), welcomed Delegates on behalf of all the Code Commission members and noted that he was looking forward to fruitful discussions during the meeting. Special reference was made to the condensed version of the Code Commission report which had been tabled for the Delegates.
235. Dr Bonbon expressed his satisfaction with the various activities undertaken by the Code Commission, as contained in its reports. He recognised in particular the progress made by the Code Commission towards the development of new and revised texts of the *Terrestrial Code*; however, he noted that achieving the planned objectives of its work programme still remained a challenge.
236. In presenting the main activities of the Code Commission since the previous General Session, Dr Bonbon first stated that two full Commission meetings had been held at the

OIE Headquarters, from 5 to 16 September 2016 and from 13 to 24 February 2017, to examine reports of *ad hoc* group and working group meetings, as well as Member Countries' comments on its reports and draft texts, and to identify issues which should be presented at the General Session. In that respect, Dr Bonbon noted with appreciation the OIE's new organisational structure that had been put in place with the establishment of new Departments, especially the Standards Department (SD) dedicated to the process of elaboration of standards and collaboration and coordination across the four Specialist Commissions. This strengthened the role of the Secretariat to better support the work of the Commission, and Dr Bonbon commended the staff of this new department, on behalf of the Code Commission, as well as of the other departments intervening in the process through their expertise and management of *ad hoc* Groups.

237. Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that in this process, joint discussions had been organised between the Code Commission and other Specialist Commissions, notably with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. He assured Delegates that the Code Commission would continue its efforts to strengthen partnerships, improve coordination, and ensure effective linkages among the Specialist Commissions.
238. Dr Bonbon also expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Code Commission (Drs G. Funes, E. Couacy-Hyman and M. Okita and Profs S. Hammami and S.C. MacDiarmid) for their expertise, dedication and commitment, including through their participation throughout the year, especially when invited as observers to *ad hoc* Group meetings or to participate in regional or global conferences.
239. Dr Bonbon then stressed that the standard-setting process could not be effective without the comments of Member Countries. In that respect, he expressed appreciation for the large number that had been submitted in the past year, not only by Member Countries but also by organisations that had a cooperation agreement with the OIE. He presented a chart of the recent evolution of that number. He reiterated that the Code Commission strongly encourages all OIE Member Countries to actively participate in the standard-setting work of the OIE by providing comments on its proposals along with a supporting scientific rationale for proposed amendments.
240. On the other hand, concerning the implementation of adopted OIE standards, Dr Bonbon took note of an increase in requests for assistance to the OIE Headquarters in regard to some unjustified trade restrictions on animals and animal products. Dr Bonbon encouraged the Delegates, the Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities, in coordination with other relevant government authorities, to properly use the OIE Standards and Guidelines when drafting their national sanitary measures, in order to ensure safe trade while avoiding the imposition of unnecessary barriers. He asked the OIE Headquarters, within its mandate, to continue its work on advocating correct implementation of the OIE standards and strengthening capacity of National Veterinary Services to implement them.

Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission noted that there was a need to ensure all terms are used consistently throughout the *Terrestrial Code* and requested that the OIE Headquarters prepare the 2017 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with editorial corrections of inadequate, incomplete or incorrect use of some recurrent terminology. Notably, despite the Code Commission's decision not to add a new definition of 'pathogenic agent', it requested it be used consistently and replace, where relevant, similar terms currently used in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission also requested that other terms that are used inconsistently, namely: 'slaughterhouse/abattoir', 'herd or flock', 'oocytes' instead of 'ova', 'oocytes and embryos' instead of 'embryos and oocytes' be corrected. Dr Bonbon stressed that a table presenting these editorial corrections, which will be made in the 2017 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*, was sent to the Delegates for information and transparency purposes.

#### 241. Update of the Code Commission work programme

Dr Bonbon presented the work programme of the Code Commission and invited Member Countries to provide comments and feedback on this programme, annexed to the Code Commission February 2017 meeting report.

Dr Bonbon informed the Delegates that the Code Commission had agreed upon suggestions for simplification of the table and addition of background information such as reasons for new work and current number of rounds for comments.

He stressed that as presented, the programme represented a huge amount of work that, due to time, resource and sometimes scientific knowledge constraints, would not be achievable at the same pace for all the tasks.

He explained that the Code Commission wished to reflect in its work programme the following principles:

- continuous effort to draft consistent, clear and comprehensive standards, adapted to the latest epidemiological developments and scientific data;
- inclusion of new tasks requested by Member Countries according to their priorities, taking into account the outcome of discussions with the OIE Headquarters and the other Specialist Commissions;
- ensuring consistency with the OIE Strategic Plan and support for the implementation of its goals and activities;
- taking into account the ongoing work of international organisations such as the WTO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO and the WHO, as well as scientific bodies such as the IETS<sup>22</sup>, OIE Reference Centres, etc.

He further explained that in consequence, the Code Commission work programme was a living document to be regularly updated, but could not be deeply amended, and surely not deeply augmented, each year.

Dr Bonbon then elaborated that any topic being proposed for inclusion in the work programme would be assessed by the Code Commission against the principles listed before its inclusion and prioritisation. He highlighted again the need for good coordination with the Secretariat and other Specialist Commissions, notably regarding the collection of the necessary expertise, including through *ad hoc* Groups, to allow for the best possible respect for the programme, as accepted by the Member Countries.

In line with the general frame of actions foreseen in the specific work programme and taking into account the priority order, the input from the OIE Headquarters and the other Specialist Commissions, and the outcome of the Code Commission meetings, Dr Bonbon outlined some of the main issues that needed to be addressed as a priority during the coming year:

- Revision of Chapter 1.4. on animal health surveillance;
- Revision and reorganisation of Chapter 1.6. on procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE;

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<sup>22</sup> IETS: International Embryo Technology Society

- Restructuring of Section 4 on disease prevention and control, including revision of Chapter 4.3. on zoning and adding new chapters on vaccination and outbreak management;
- Revision of Section 6 on veterinary public health, especially on general considerations (Chapters 6.1. and 6.2.) and AMR (Chapters 6.7. and 6.8.);
- Continuation of the work on Section 7 on animal welfare, with new chapters on animal welfare and pig production systems and on slaughter and killing methods of farmed reptiles for their meat and skin, and revision of Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. respectively on slaughter and killing;
- Revision of relevant disease-specific chapters in Section 8 to 15, notably Chapter 8.13. on rabies, Chapter 10.4. on avian influenza, Chapter 11.4. on bovine spongiform encephalopathy and Chapter 15.2. on classical swine fever.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that additional new or revised texts addressing the work on several chapters had been provided for Member Countries' comment in Part B of the Code Commission's February 2017 meeting report. Some other chapters still need an expert review before being proposed for amendment.

Dr Bonbon then invited the Assembly to react to his presentation.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, noted that the Chapter 12.10. on glanders that the Commission had proposed for adoption in the Code Commission's September 2016 report was not in fact being proposed for adoption at this General Session due to issues with diagnostic testing surveillance. He highlighted that glanders is a very important disease in the Americas given the movement of sport horses and requested that the Code Commission give this chapter higher priority. He also noted that the region had many experts in this disease who were willing to contribute to the review of this chapter.

France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the updated work programme and welcomed the opportunity given to Members to comment on this programme. France stressed the commitment of the EU to contribute to the work of the Code Commission and expressed the EU's willingness to provide technical support where needed. France requested that the Code Commission adhere strictly to its work plan and emphasised the urgent need for the Scientific and Code Commissions to align their work programmes and suggested that the OIE develop a procedure to ensure the better alignment of the priorities of these two Commissions. France noted that a lack of coordination had resulted in too many texts being circulated for Member comments from both Commissions and that this put at risk the quality of the work.

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, completed the intervention of France and also requested a review of Chapter 10.4. on avian influenza because of ongoing concerns that the recommendations in this chapter are not up to date and are not being implemented correctly by Members. Indeed, the latest worldwide avian influenza episode has again led to severe disruptions of international trade, which in part are due to the non-implementation of existing OIE standards by OIE Member Countries. This applies in particular to zoning following disease outbreaks. Sweden thus suggested that the chapter be reviewed to give a clear distinction between the recommendations for infection with high vs. low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses and between commercial vs. non-commercial poultry, as well as a review of the process for regaining country or zone freedom, including recommendations on the use of zoning and other risk mitigating measures taking into account the specificities of the respective viruses involved. Sweden requested that such a review be given high priority by the Code Commission and offered to provide the EFSA opinion that is currently being developed and offered the technical support of the EU. Sweden also noted that an International Conference on Avian Influenza: a Global Threat will be held in Rome, Italy, from 4 to 6 October 2017. Regarding BSE,

Sweden drew the attention of the Assembly to the EU's previous comments that this urgent revision should inter alia address the following: a risk-based and proportionate surveillance, including for regaining a higher status; a revised system of surveillance points targets taking into account concerns of countries with small cattle populations; clear guidance ensuring an effective feed ban; and targeted recommendations for atypical BSE.

Finally, Sweden recalled the EU's previous requests for a revision of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* chapter on scrapie, taking into account the recently revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* on scrapie. In particular, the EU would support replacing the concept of scrapie freedom with that of negligible scrapie risk; clarifying how continued surveillance should be designed once freedom (or negligible risk) status is reached; and clarifying the seven-year rule for scrapie free (or negligible risk) countries or zones, and taking into account the genetic resistance of sheep.

Russia encouraged Members to actively participate in the development of standards throughout the year and not just during the General Session and also that Members implement the OIE standards in order to avoid trade issues. Russia requested that the OIE consider how to make standards more prescriptive, like the WHO, as he considered this approach would ensure that Members were more active in implementing the standards.

Argentina supported the comments made by Brazil concerning the need to raise the priority of the revision of the chapter on glanders noting that, given the high movement of sport horses internationally, there was a great need to have an updated chapter to ensure their safe movement.

Dr Bonbon indicated that glanders is in fact a high priority in the Code Commission's work programme but that work was needed to align this chapter with the revised chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* in particular the case definition and text addressing surveillance. He noted that issues regarding diagnostic tests had also delayed this work.

In response to France and Sweden, Dr Bonbon confirmed that the Code Commission will follow its work programme unless urgent work arises. Regarding avian influenza, he noted that the Code Commission had commented on the need to review the chapter on avian influenza and had requested scientific expert opinion to revise this chapter. Regarding BSE he clarified that was a priority and that the Code Commission was working with the Scientific Commission on this review. Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission was awaiting the review of Chapter 1.4. before amending this chapter. Regarding scrapie, he invited Member comments on how to address the points raised.

Dr Bonbon thanked Russia for its support and called for greater Member participation in standard setting and implementation. He noted that the Code Commission works with the current *Terrestrial Code* and that the only prescriptive requirement is for notification. He encouraged Members to read the User Guide to ensure they use the *Terrestrial Code* in the correct manner.

In response to the comment by France, Dr Eloit confirmed that the OIE was committed to ensuring better coordination between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission and emphasised that quantity had not impacted on quality.

242. **Summary report on activities of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly of the sixteenth meeting of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (hereafter the 'Working Group') held at the OIE Headquarters from 13–15 December 2016 and invited Dr Stuart Slorach, Chair of the Working Group, to highlight key points addressed at the meeting.

Dr Slorach first highlighted that the Working Group had considered the extensive number of Member Country comments received following circulation of a revised Chapter 6.1. 'The role of Veterinary Services in food safety' in the Code Commission's February 2016 report. The Working Group had considered all Member Countries' comments and made a significant number of changes to improve the readability and refocus the text to provide guidance to Member Countries on the specific role and responsibilities of Veterinary Services in food safety systems. The Working Group also made amendments to better distinguish between the roles of the Competent Authority and of the Veterinary Services, to address the concern that in some countries the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services along the food chain differ, depending on the role of the Competent Authority. The rationale for the amendments made is presented in the report of the Working Group's December 2016 meeting.

The Working Group also recommended that the Commission consider reviewing the definitions for Veterinary Services and Competent Authority used in the glossary to better reflect the role that these entities play in food safety.

Dr Slorach informed the Assembly that the Working Group had formulated draft Terms of Reference for the development of a revised draft Chapter 6.2. 'Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection' for the *ad hoc* Group that will be convened to undertake this work.

Dr Slorach also indicated that the Working Group had discussed the control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) and reiterated that it is an important pathogen in bovines and some other species for both public health and trade reasons. It noted that FAO and WHO had convened an expert group, at the request of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, to work on this subject and that a second meeting will be held in late 2017. The Working Group recommended that the OIE follow the outcomes of the FAO/WHO expert group and undertake relevant work when Codex undertakes new work.

243. Dr Bonbon complimented Dr Slorach on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the Group's achievements during the past year, and noted that the full report of the Working Group sixteenth meeting was endorsed by the Code Commission, and was appended to the report of the Code Commission's February 2017 meeting and also published on the animal production food safety pages of the OIE website.

Dr Bonbon, on behalf of the Code Commission, specifically welcomed the substantial work undertaken by the Working Group to review Member Country comments and revise Chapter 6.1. 'Role of Veterinary Services in food safety'. Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Code Commission had reviewed the revised chapter and will propose it for adoption as part of its report.

Dr Bonbon further noted that the Code Commission agreed to consider the Working Group recommendation to review the definitions for Veterinary Services and Competent Authority used in the glossary as part of future work that will consider a broader review of these definitions.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Working Group for providing draft Terms of Reference for the development of a revised draft Chapter 6.2. and noted that the Code Commission had made some minor amendments to these and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this revision. Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Code Commission agreed to add control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) to its work programme and to monitor outcomes of relevant work underway by the Codex and the FAO/WHO expert group, in order to consider undertaking parallel work.

Finally, Dr Bonbon highlighted the importance of collaboration between OIE and Codex and encouraged OIE Delegates to collaborate with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach with standards developed by the OIE and Codex.

#### **Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32 Animal Production Food Safety**

244. Dr Stone reiterated that Dr Eloit had already noted in her presentation on the Annual Report that the OIE Council had reviewed the mandate of the three OIE permanent Working Groups, as part of the work to ensure that the organisation's roadmap is in line with the 6th Strategic Plan.

Dr Stone noted that since the establishment of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (Working Group) in 2002, it had provided significant advice to the OIE Director General and to the Code Commission, in particular through the development and updating of relevant chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Stone also acknowledged that the establishment of the Working Group and the commitment of its members had contributed to the development of a strong working relationship with Codex and the development of standards by the two organisations that, when implemented, ensure the production of safe food of animal origin.

Dr Stone reported that the Council considered that the OIE's work in animal production food safety was now well integrated into the work of the OIE and that they are proposing that the mandate for this Working Group not be renewed. Dr Stone assured the Assembly that this decision in no way indicates a lesser commitment by the OIE to this important area of work and he indicated that this work would continue to be addressed in other OIE forums, for example as part of the annual Tripartite meeting where strategic issues relevant to animal production food safety would be addressed by WHO, FAO and the OIE, through the ongoing work of the Code Commission, and the OIE continuing to actively engage in Codex fora in relation to the development of standards related to animal production food safety.

Dr Stone offered sincere thanks to all members of the Working Group, both past and present, for their significant contributions that have ensured that the role of veterinarians and Veterinary Services along the food production chain is well understood. Dr Stone finished by acknowledging the enormous contribution made by Dr Stuart Slorach, who has chaired this Working Group for the last 11 years. Dr Slorach has been tireless in his commitment to this Working Group but also in his willingness to participate in many focal point seminars throughout the world. For this the OIE wishes to thank him sincerely.

245. Uruguay noted that an expert from that country had participated in the Working Group since its establishment and reported that a strengthening of cooperation and collaboration between WHO, FAO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE in the area of animal production food safety had been observed during this time. Uruguay noted that this had resulted in the development of standards for relevant pathogens by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE, respectively, that address the entire food chain, and that cross-referencing between OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards is now consistently applied. Uruguay noted that this collaboration had not always been easy and that the strengthening of collaboration had taken time and understanding by all parties.

Uruguay raised concerns as to how the work would be addressed in the future if this Working Group were to be disbanded and requested more information about the mechanisms that will ensure that animal production food safety continues to be addressed by the OIE.

246. Dr Eloit emphasised that activities linked to animal production food safety were fully recognised under the mandate of the Organisation and that they would now follow the same procedures as work on animal health, i.e. activities on this topic will be overseen by the relevant Specialist Commission with the support of *ad hoc* Groups, if necessary. She noted that close relationships are now well established between WHO, FAO and Codex in this area of work and that animal production food safety is always on the agenda of the WHO/FAO/OIE Tripartite meeting. She also noted that representatives of the three organisations have regular contact with each other to ensure the alignment of relevant work. In addition she reiterated that the Council had considered that the work in animal production food safety was now well integrated into the work of the OIE and that was why they had proposed that the mandate for this Working Group should not be renewed.
247. The President noted that the 115 Members present constituted a quorum and therefore submitted Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

248. **Summary report on activities of the Animal Welfare Working Group**

Dr Etienne Bonbon informed the Assembly of the fifteenth meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group (hereafter “the Working Group”) held at the OIE Headquarters from 30 May to 1 June 2016 and invited Dr Abdul Rahman, Chair of the Working Group to highlight the key points addressed at the meeting. Dr Rahman informed the delegates of the following issues:

Regarding Chapter 7.12. on Welfare of Working Equids, as some amendments were proposed by Member Countries following its adoption in May 2016, in particular on appropriate workloads for working equids, the Working Group agreed to consult experts from within the *ad hoc* Group to respond to this query. After receiving the additional advice from the experts and the Working Group, the Code Commission agreed to retain the original text in Article 7.12.12.

The Working Group, after considering the Member Countries’ comments on Chapter 7.5 on the slaughter of animals, agreed that a more extensive review of this Chapter is needed. The Working Group recommended that a face to face *ad hoc* Group should be convened to review this Chapter, with a precise mandate and detailed terms of reference, and if possible, this work should be done in conjunction with the revision of Chapter 7.6. on the killing of animals for disease control purposes.

The Working Group noted the modifications to Chapter 7.11. on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems and to Chapter 7.10. on Broiler Chicken Production Systems adopted during the 84th General Session, and suggested to the OIE Headquarters that there was a need to conduct an editorial review of the existing chapters to ensure that defined terms are consistent with the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Working Group reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Pig Production Systems, including the proposed new draft chapter. The Working Group noted the need to include the use of outcome-based criteria or measurables as the indicators for animal welfare throughout the chapter. In this sense the Working Group worked on the

proposed new Article 7.1.X. of Chapter 7.1 to support OIE in the development of standards by the use of outcome-based measurable indicators, and OIE Member Countries in implementing the Code chapters on animal welfare.

Concerning the new developments in the OIE working programme on animal welfare, Dr Rahman informed the Delegates that the Working Group recommended that the OIE convene an *ad hoc* Group to develop a new stand-alone chapter on killing methods for farmed reptiles for their skins and meat and an *ad hoc* Group to develop a new chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems.

Dr Rahman informed the delegates that the OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres (AWCC) updated the Working Group on their activities and identified several opportunities to collaborate amongst themselves, in particular through the Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres proposed last year.

OIE Headquarters updated the Working Group on the preparatory work for the OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare planned to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico in December 2016, as well as on the concept of “One Welfare” and how this should be developed during the Conference.

It was noted, as well, that the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy would be discussed at the Guadalajara Conference and that its adoption should follow the formal OIE pathway of adoption of official documents by the World Assembly of Delegates.

The Working Group was also updated on the activities of the different Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) and the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, highlighting the successful activities conducted by the Platform and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels.

249. Dr Bonbon complimented Dr Rahman on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the Group’s achievements during the past year. He noted that the full report of the AWWG fifteenth meeting had been endorsed by the Code Commission and appended to its September 2016 meeting report, and noted that the animal welfare work had been integrated into the Code Commission’s work programme for 2017 which was annexed to the report of its February 2017 meeting which has been published on the OIE website.

#### **Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33 Animal Welfare**

250. Dr Stone also recalled to the Assembly, as it was informed by Dr Eloit in her presentation on the Annual Report, that the OIE Council had also reviewed the mandate of the Animal Welfare Working Group (Working Group), as part of the work to ensure that the organisation’s roadmap is in line with the 6th Strategic Plan.

Dr Stone acknowledged that since the establishment of the Working Group in 2002, it had provided significant advice to the OIE Director General and to the Code Commission, in particular, in contributing to the development of the OIE animal welfare standards. Dr Stone also emphasised that the work of the Working Group involved an area which is particularly diverse and challenging.

Dr Stone informed the delegates that the Council considered that the OIE’s work in animal welfare was now well integrated into the work of the OIE and that they are proposing that the mandate for this Working Group not be renewed. Dr Stone noted that development and maintenance of OIE standards for animal welfare would continue to be managed by the Code Commission. The OIE intends to establish an OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum. The

Forum will provide a platform for continuing the exchange of views and experiences of a variety of different stakeholders who have an interest in the development and implementation of OIE animal welfare standards. He recalled that the Forum is an integral part of the new OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy.

Dr Stone finished by expressing the OIE's appreciation and thanking both past and present Working Group members for their continuous support in the development and implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards. Dr Stone particularly thanked Dr Abdul Rahman, Chair of the AWWG, and he made special mention of Dr David Bayvel, former Chair of the Working Group, who passed away in 2015. He noted that Dr Bayvel will remain in our memory as one of the pillars of the OIE's successful work in the animal welfare area globally.

251. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 33. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

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

Dr Bonbon resumed the presentation on the Code Commission's report by describing the 17 new or updated *Terrestrial Code* texts that would be discussed and possibly adopted in the course of the week.

He thanked again Member Countries for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage further participation of Member Countries, especially from those who have never participated or that had only recently started to provide comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption. Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that the proposed modifications 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, and that 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 2017 meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2017, together with any new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2017 meeting and comments received at this General Session.

253. **Glossary**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission undertook an extensive review of the terms defined in the Glossary to ensure that the terms meet the criteria to be included in the Glossary and also took this opportunity to edit some terms for clarity and consistency.

Some terms were being proposed for deletion from the Glossary because these terms are adequately defined in the English, French and Spanish reference dictionaries, and are rarely, if ever, italicised in the *Terrestrial Code*: 'Post-journey period', 'Quality', 'Transport/transportation', 'Transporter', 'Travel' and 'Zoonosis'.

Dr Bonbon explained that in the process of reviewing chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission also noted inconsistencies between the current definitions of some terms and their actual meaning in the chapters. In this regard, the Code Commission proposed to revise the definitions of 'animal health status', 'infection', 'infestation' and 'notification'.

Dr Bonbon further explained that the Code Commission noted the necessity to make an editorial amendment to the definitions of ‘captive wild animal’, ‘feral animal’ and ‘wild animal’. The word ‘animal’ was proposed to be included between square brackets to read ‘[animal]’, in order to show more clearly the possible use of the terms in the context of different diseases affecting different species (e.g. ‘wild birds’, ‘captive wild pigs’, ‘wild ruminants’, ‘feral equids’).

Finally Dr Bonbon mentioned the proposed amendments to definitions of a purely editorial nature. Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission noted numerous editorial mistakes in the Glossary and proposed editorial changes that do not introduce any changes in the meaning but provide consistency and remove inaccuracies.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text of the Glossary to the Assembly.

The President having confirmed that a quorum had been achieved (and that this was the case for the entire session), the revised text was adopted unanimously.

**254. Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list (Article 1.2.1.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that in response to comments, the Code Commission had proposed to delete the words “of listing disease” in paragraph 2 of Article 1.2.1. because of issues in the French and Spanish translations and to avoid repetition and improve clarity.

Dr Bonbon noted that unless a new definition of ‘disease’ is adopted or the definition is removed from the Glossary, it was not relevant to make any changes to the title or text of the chapter. However, once a decision is made, the whole *Terrestrial Code* will be reviewed to identify where there is a need to modify as appropriate the term ‘diseases, infections and infestations’.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**255. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE (the preamble of Chapter 1.3.)**

Dr Bonbon noted that, following comments, the Code Commission had amended the preamble to clarify the purpose of this chapter and to ensure a clear cross-reference to Chapter 1.2., whilst avoiding repetition of existing text in other chapters. He also stated the same as for Chapter 1.2. regarding the term ‘diseases, infections and infestations’.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Sudan, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, proposed a change to the preamble in order to clarify the sequence of the process. Dr Bonbon noted that, as the Code Commission still had work to do on this chapter, in particular on the definition of disease, the comments should be sent to the OIE Headquarters and could be re-considered at its September 2017 meeting.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 2.1. was to be withdrawn from adoption. By way of explanation, he noted that the Code Commission had proposed the modification to this chapter with the proposition to delete the definition of ‘transparency’ in the Glossary. However, as this was not done, the Code Commission will look at the chapter again in September 2017. He also noted that comments on the proposed modifications would be considered then.

**257. Draft new Chapter on criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities (Chapter 2.X.)**

Dr Bonbon explained that, following comments on the Glossary definition of ‘safe commodity’ adopted in 2015, the Code Commission developed a draft chapter on the criteria to be used by OIE experts for assessing the safety of commodities in March 2015 and that the draft new chapter was first circulated in October 2015.

He clarified that the purpose of this chapter is not to provide guidance to Member Countries to assess the safety of commodities, but to describe how the lists of safe commodities are developed by *ad hoc* Groups and specialist commissions. Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that a similar approach is taken for ‘Chapter 1.2. Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list’.

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had addressed comments on the two articles in this new chapter at its February 2017 meeting and made minor editorial changes.

Dr Bonbon finally noted that it is the expectation of the Code Commission that the text of the chapter provide clear guidance to OIE experts to assist them in assessing the safety of commodities and if Members wished they could send comments that would be considered at its September 2017 meeting.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, proposed that the title of the chapter should include the words ‘of animal origin’ in order to provide clarity and to include additional wording in Article 2.X.2 to ensure consistency with the “General provisions” section. Finally, in the fourth paragraph of the “General provisions” section, and as commented by some Member Countries, the United States of America requested the deletion of the text of point (ii) which reads “in accordance to Good Manufacturing Practices”. Noting that, in the view of the United States of America, the quality of a product has to do with the economic value of the product and not with its inherent safety or animal or human health safety, deleting this reference removes any reference to quality but maintains the intent for having developed this chapter, which is to ensure the safety of the commodity from a pathogen risk perspective.

Dr Bonbon noted with respect to the title that the *Terrestrial Code* definition of ‘commodity’ in the Glossary only applies to animals and their products and therefore a specific reference is unnecessary. In regards to the inconsistency between the two articles there could be some legitimate concern as the criteria are based on the general provisions and the Code Commission would look at this again in September 2017.

With regard to the reference to Good Manufacturing Practices, he noted that the Code Commission had deleted quality from the Glossary as it is well defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and in French and Spanish reference dictionaries. He further noted that the Code Commission considered that quality is not only related to the economic value but also to the reliability of the processing and is in fact an added assurance of the fitness for

purpose of the product. Members were also reminded that the chapter contains criteria for application by *ad hoc* groups and the Specialist Commissions, but the Code Commission would discuss these points in September 2017.

Ethiopia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, proposed amendments to Article 2.X.1. In response, Dr Bonbon noted these comments could be considered at the Code Commission's September 2017 meeting.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, stated that the Members support the adoption of the new chapter.

Australia noted that the chapeau of Article 2.X.2. uses 'should' and that this could be interpreted as applying to countries. However, with regard to Dr Bonbon's explanation on the application of the criteria, it was now clear that it also applied to the OIE.

Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, stated that retaining the reference to GMP would impose processes that have nothing to do with the sanitary status or safety of the product and in their view such processes should be excluded.

The revised text was adopted with the abstention of Costa Rica.

**258. High health status horse subpopulation (Article 4.16.3.)**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had deleted 'under study' in Article 4.16.3. and replaced the words "the relevant OIE biosecurity guidelines" with "the OIE Handbook for the Management of High Health, High Performance Horses", as the Handbook has already been published on the OIE website.

Dr Bonbon also explained that the Code Commission would further consider updating the relevant chapters on equine diseases to take into account proposals made by the *ad hoc* Group on High Health, High Performance Horses Veterinary Certificates and in light of lessons learnt from the Olympic Games and other international events.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**259. OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (Chapter 5.3.)**

Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegates for their active participation in reviewing the proposed revision of the chapter and informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed their comments and made relevant amendments at its February 2017 meeting.

In particular, Dr Bonbon noted that in response to a proposal to amend the wording in Article 5.3.1. to exactly mirror the wording in the WTO SPS Agreement, the Code Commission drew the attention of Member Countries to the User Guide which gives detailed explanation on the relationship between this chapter and the WTO SPS Agreement. Furthermore, the Code Commission considered that the text as it is currently worded is appropriate to the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bonbon also noted that a suggestion to replace 'should' with 'shall' was not accepted because the language used in the *Terrestrial Code* for recommendations is always 'should' except in cases either referring to the obligation of disease notification or referring to the incubation period of specific diseases.

Finally, Dr Bonbon mentioned that the Code Commission agreed in principle with the proposal to change the title of Article 5.3.8 on the OIE informal procedure for dispute mediation, to align it with the text. However, since the procedure for dispute mediation is the responsibility of the OIE Headquarters and this procedure is currently under review, it would not be appropriate for the Code Commission to make the change at this time. Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission had requested the OIE Headquarters consider the proposal to change ‘informal’ to ‘voluntary’ in its review of the procedure.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, suggested the word “judgement” should be replaced by “assessment” for consistency with the French version.

France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE and supported the proposal by Africa to replace “judge” and “judgement” by “assess” and “assessment”. Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had considered very carefully the use of the terms ‘judgement’ and ‘determination’ in revising the chapter and that the current text reflected the process of judgement and determination. In regard to the use of the term ‘*appréciation*’ (i.e. ‘assessment’) in the French version, the OIE Headquarters will consult with the translation staff in order to align it with the English version.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**260. Draft new Chapters on prevention and control of *Salmonella* in bovine and pig commercial production systems (Chapters 6.X. and 6.Y.)**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had simultaneously developed the two Chapters, 6.X. and 6.Y. to avoid inconsistencies and ensure alignment, where relevant, and in that respect appreciated that many Member Countries submitted the same comments for both chapters.

Dr Bonbon also expressed the Code Commission’s appreciation of the contribution made by the *ad hoc* Group on *Salmonella* in pigs and cattle, which had addressed the multiple and diverse comments and developed a clear and concise text.

Dr Bonbon noted that, in response to a comment regarding the implications of these chapters for international trade, the Code Commission reiterated that these chapters are intended to provide guidance for the prevention and control of *Salmonella* (which is not an OIE listed disease) and are not intended to be used to elaborate conditions for trade. Dr Bonbon also noted that these draft chapters are similar in status to the recently adopted Codex Guidelines for the Control of Non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in Beef and Pork Meat (CAC/GL 87-2016).

Dr Bonbon then highlighted three key points that were relevant to both chapters resulting from its February 2017 meeting.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission agreed with a suggestion to delete the example in point 5) of Articles 6.X.7. and 6.Y.7., accepting that it was up to the Veterinary Services or stakeholders to determine the most suitable period for isolation of newly introduced animals. However, Dr Bonbon reminded Members that the December 2015 report of the *ad hoc* Group on *Salmonella* in pigs and cattle provided references supporting four weeks as the most appropriate time period for separation.

Dr Bonbon also noted that, following comments on point 5) of Articles 6.X.11. and 6.Y.11., the Code Commission reminded Member Countries that the inclusion of ‘clinical enteric salmonellosis’ during the last iteration was to highlight the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance when treating salmonellosis. The Code Commission agreed that the treatment of any clinical salmonellosis with antimicrobial agents should be done in accordance with Chapter 6.9. and thus the word ‘enteric’ could be deleted.

Dr Bonbon informed the Delegates that the Code Commission agreed with a suggestion to add a reference to Chapter 4.13. in Articles 6.X.12 and 6.Y.12., whilst acknowledging that Chapter 4.13. needs revision to address disinfection in more detail. Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission had included the revision of Chapter 4.13. in its work programme.

After that, Dr Bonbon highlighted two key points that were specific to Chapter 6.X. Draft new Chapter on prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial bovine production systems.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission agreed with a comment concerning the inconsistent use of the term ‘cattle’ in the *Terrestrial Code* noting that in some chapters this term (which cannot be translated as such in French and Spanish) is not defined at all or sometimes is defined but with a varying list of species, and sometimes the *Terrestrial Code* uses the term ‘bovid’ rather than cattle. The Code Commission agreed that in light of the inclusion in the Oxford English Dictionary of a definition for the noun ‘bovine’ (‘an animal of the cattle group, which also includes buffaloes and bison’) it could now replace the term ‘cattle’ with ‘bovine(s)’, an English equivalent of the French ‘bovin(s)’ and Spanish ‘bovino(s)’, and specify in Article 6.X.3. which species are included in the use of the term ‘bovine’. Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission had decided to gradually amend all relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* in this manner as they are reviewed.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission agreed with comments to delete the text referring to ‘washing of live animals to reduce contamination of meat at slaughter’ in Article 6.X.14. because there is lack of consistent evidence regarding the efficacy of this procedure.

Afterwards, Dr Bonbon highlighted three key points that were specific to Chapter 6.Y. Draft new Chapter on prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial pig production systems.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission did not agree with a proposal to change ‘will’ to ‘may’ in point 2) of Article 6.Y.4. noting that the text as read is factual and accurate, i.e. when one limits the source of contamination one will reduce the likelihood of infection.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission did not agree with comments to amend text in Article 6.Y.7. to emphasise that the introduction of pigs into a herd is the most important factor because it considered that the current wording is correct as written and implies that it is an important factor in all herds but qualifies its importance between low, moderate and high prevalence herds.

Finally, Dr Bonbon noted that proposals to include a new article to address post-weaning preventive measures had been referred to the OIE Headquarters in order to seek expert opinion.

Dr Bonbon presented these new chapters to the Assembly.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the Quads<sup>23</sup> countries, stated that it supports the content of these chapters. As Dr Bonbon noted, *salmonellosis* is not an OIE listed disease. However it is not clear in the text that these are only guidance chapters and there may be confusion over whether they are relevant for trade. Australia requested the OIE and the Commission to consider how this distinction can be made clearer to OIE Members.

South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, proposed that the definition for semi-intensive production systems should be retained. This is because semi-intensive systems still exist where cattle are herded by day, and housed by night. South Africa also proposed rearranging the text under transportation for more clarity.

Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, noted that they agreed that the word “cattle” should be replaced by “bovines” but suggested that Article 6.X.3 be merged with Article 6.X.1 to indicate in the introduction what is meant by bovines before it is used in the rest of the chapter. In addition, Senegal also recommended that bovine should be defined in the context of each specific disease in the relevant annexes. Further to this Senegal also proposed to replace the word “animals” with “bovines” in the article related to cleaning and disinfection following transportation in order to provide more clarity to the text.

Spain, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, supported adoption of the two new chapters.

Thailand thanked the OIE for the excellent work on elaborating the new chapters on prevention and control of *Salmonella* in bovines and in pigs. In accordance with the intention of the Code Commission, these new chapters are similar in status to the recently adopted Codex guidelines for the control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork meat (CAC/GL 87-2016). Moreover these chapters are intended to provide guidance for the prevention and control of *Salmonella* (which is not an OIE-listed disease) and are not intended to be used to elaborate conditions for trade. Thailand proposed the addition of a sentence to the purpose and scope of both new chapters that would read “This chapter is not intended to be used to elaborate conditions for trade.”

Dr Bonbon reiterated that this is a veterinary public health chapter and that *Salmonella* is not an OIE-listed disease and as such these chapters were not meant to be the basis for trade certificates, however they might be used as the basis for discussion between trading partners to clarify how they are controlling the disease. He noted that the Code Commission may need to look at how this was addressed in other chapters as even in the disease chapters some articles are for trade and some are not. In regards to the specific proposal from Thailand it could possibly be addressed in the User Guide and the Commission would consider this.

In regards to the proposals from Senegal, Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission was harmonising the use of the term “bovines” in all the chapters and will try to be consistent in its approach. Regarding Articles 6.X.1. and 6.X.3., he noted that the order of chapters is introduction, definition, and scope, and that there is currently no proposed definition of bovines, but it could be revisited in the future. In regards to retaining the definition of semi-intensive production system, he noted this term is not used in the chapter and

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<sup>23</sup> Quads: Quadrilateral (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America)

therefore there is no reason to retain the definition in the chapter. With respect to Article 6.X.12. on vehicles being properly cleaned and the replacement of the word “animals” with “bovines” he noted this article was not only about the transport of bovines but could also cover the transport of other animals.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, supported the adoption of the chapter for *Salmonella* in commercial pig production systems.

Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, noted that the definition of commercial pig production in Article 6.Y.2. was not sufficiently clear as it might also refer to backyard or family farms that would then have to comply with the standards. This was not realistic as biosecurity practices and pig numbers vary, and according to this it was important to exclude traditional and family farms from the definition. Panama agreed with Costa Rica that it was important to draw the distinction.

In reply to Costa Rica and Panama, Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission considered that the definition given in the article was clear because “commercial” did not include family production systems for their own needs. He invited the Members to send these comments in writing and the Code Commission would examine them in September 2017 to see if there was any further need to clarify the definition. Noting that Article 6.Y.16. covers outdoor pig production, he proposed adoption of the chapter and the Code Commission would examine the comments in September 2017 but reiterated the Code Commission view that production for family consumption is not included.

The revised texts of the two chapters were adopted unanimously.

## 261. **Animal welfare**

### **a) Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems (Article 7.11.6.)**

Dr Bonbon informed the Delegates on the minor modifications that had been made to Article 7.11.6. in response to discussion at the 84th General Session and Member Countries’ comments to avoid confusion, by clarifying provisions that apply in situations where housing design provides only individual spaces for cows to rest.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission did not agree with the suggestions to modify the proposed new wording to point 5 of Article 7.11.6., as its view was that the currently proposed text, even if it is considered as a design-based criterion, only relates to the choice of the design of resting spaces and has a clear beneficial impact on the welfare of dairy cattle.

Dr Bonbon also noted that since the chapter was adopted recently (May 2015) and subsequent modification had been made in May 2016, the Code Commission had decided to postpone the review of the comments received after the 84th General Session until the next revision of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Japan sought clarification on the proposed sentence in Article 7.11.6, “where housing design provides only individual space for cows to rest, there should be at least one space per cow”, and whether this was based on the reference to Fregonesi *et al.*, 2017.

The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work and supported the adoption of this chapter’s modified article.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the question from Japan, confirmed that the reference was not relevant to this article. This provision was based on expert opinion.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**b) Welfare of working equids (Chapter 7.12.)**

Dr Bonbon recalled that this chapter had been newly adopted at the 84th General Session in 2016 and that at that time he had proposed to undertake further review of the comments received during the General Session at the next meetings of the Code Commission.

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had thus re-examined the chapter, taking into account the discussion at the 84th General Session and subsequent written comments received from Member Countries and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and amended the text as appropriate.

Specifically, Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission did not agree with a suggestion to delete the text that excludes equids used in research or for the production of biopharmaceuticals and equids kept solely for the production of meat, as the former are addressed in Chapter 7.8., while the latter are not considered working equids.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission did not accept a comment to remove a text that limits the working hours of working equids to six hours per day in Article 7.12.12. He added that although this recommendation is a management-based measure, it is supported by the expert opinion of an *ad hoc* Group. The Code Commission emphasised that not only does limiting the working hours have a positive effect on the welfare of working equids, it is also not possible to compare working equids with dairy cows, since lactation is not considered a ‘working activity’ (neither is standing still). It was the Code Commission’s view that more scientific arguments are needed to support the deletion of the text.

Finally, Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, acknowledged the excellent work done by the Working Group on Animal Welfare and the Code Commission to update Chapter 7.12. Welfare of Working Equids. He stated that the prescriptive number of hours indicated in Article 7.12.12. should instead focus on outcomes. Specifically, the Americas Region is concerned with the text that states: “In general, animals should work a maximum of six hours per day and should be given at least one, preferably two, full days’ rest in every seven-day period. Breaks should be given at least every two hours and drinkable water should be provided”. Uruguay also mentioned that there are many factors that can impact on the maximum number of hours that could be considered acceptable for a working equid; for example, the overall condition of the horse, the environmental conditions, and workload. Finally, Uruguay encouraged the Commission to consider these concerns along with the text that will be provided in writing for the analysis of the Code Commission.

Latvia, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, thanked the OIE for its work, and stated that their Members support the adoption of this modified chapter.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, asked the OIE to consider a comment sent in writing before the General Session at the next meeting of the Code Commission.

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the recommendation included in Article 7.12.12 is considered a management-based measure and could be considered restrictive. Nevertheless, the use of a maximum time for work has been used by some countries and organizations and is based on empirical knowledge. Dr Bonbon invited the Americas Region to provide the Code Commission with additional scientific information which could allow the Commission to ameliorate this Article at the next meeting. Finally, Dr Bonbon confirmed that the Commission would consider the written comments of the EU that were sent before the General Session at the next meeting in September 2017.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**262. Draft new Chapter on infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (Chapter 8.X.)**

Dr Bonbon first explained that Member Countries had supported the amendments proposed in May 2014 regarding combining the three Brucella species into a single multispecies chapter with status and management options per species affected. Consistent with the approach used for brucellosis, the Code Commission proposed in September 2015 to develop a new draft chapter on tuberculosis by merging Chapter 11.6. on bovine tuberculosis and Chapter 11.7. on bovine tuberculosis of farmed Cervidae. This proposal had been widely supported and an *ad hoc* Group was convened to draft the new chapter.

Dr Bonbon then noted that a significant number of comments had been received and addressed since the beginning of the drafting of this chapter. Comments received after the last circulation had been addressed by the Code Commission in collaboration with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Biological Standards Commission.

Dr Bonbon explained that in response to a question on the scientific rationale for the inclusion of *M. tuberculosis* in this chapter, the Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission had provided a list of peer-reviewed papers demonstrating the impact of *M. tuberculosis* in livestock and wildlife in its February 2017 report and that the inclusion of *M. bovis*, *M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis* in the chapter was intended to manage both human and animal health risks associated with the infection.

Dr Bonbon noted that, following questions in relation to the validity and reliability of intradermal testing in goats (Article 8.X.8.), the Code Commission noted previous discussion on this issue during its February 2016 meeting. The Code Commission decided to add a new point 3 b) providing for testing of goats to be exported, based on the requirements for bovines, on field evidence that tuberculin test performance in goats is similar to that in bovines for individual testing.

Dr Bonbon also noted that in response to a proposal to delete Article 8.X.14., the Code Commission agreed that at this stage there was not enough information to recommend tuberculosis risk management measures suitable for all Member Countries for the importation of milk and milk products from goats. In order to study this issue more fully the Code Commission urged Member Countries to provide information to the OIE Headquarters on their national tuberculosis control programmes for goats, as it is aware that several Member Countries have protocols for certifying herd freedom.

Finally, Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission had made minor amendments for clarity and consistency with other chapters and presented the new chapter to the Assembly noting that upon the adoption of this chapter, the existing chapters 11.5. and 11.6. on tuberculosis would be deleted.

Dr Bonbon presented the draft new Chapter to the Assembly.

Tanzania, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, welcomed the presentation of this chapter for adoption after intensive consultation. Tanzania appreciated the changes made to acknowledge the role of wildlife, where appropriate, without placing additional burden on Member Countries for obligatory testing of wildlife unless it is epidemiologically important to do so.

Australia stated that it believes that the proposed draft *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex chapter will diminish the focus of eradication and significance of *Mycobacterium bovis* as the primary tuberculosis species in bovids. A comprehensive bovine tuberculosis eradication programme will detect *M. tuberculosis* infections in livestock. While Australia acknowledges that the OIE Scientific Commission has provided a list of peer-reviewed papers to support the inclusion of *M. tuberculosis*, the investigations reported in these papers did not prove an epidemiological link for animal-to-human or animal-to-animal transmission of *M. tuberculosis* infection. He further noted that *M. tuberculosis* and *M. caprae* are not OIE-listed diseases, unlike *M. bovis*.

Germany, on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, thanked the OIE and supported the adoption of this new chapter. The EU proposed changing some terms in the text, such as “cattle” by “bovids”, and other terms to improve the clarity in the French and Spanish versions of the text.

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly the issue is about the relevance of the role of *M. tuberculosis* in humans and in animals, and this respects the criteria for listing of a disease enough to accept inclusion of this pathogen in the chapter. He noted that there was a need to discuss with the Scientific and Biological Standards Commissions whether *M. tuberculosis* complex should be included in the OIE List. He also noted Australia’s comments challenging the scientific expertise of the assessment and affirmed that this could be considered further once the chapter was adopted.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

#### 263. **Infection with avian influenza viruses (Article 10.4.25.)**

Dr Bonbon explained that, in response to a request from a Member Country and the International Egg Commission to update the table for inactivation of avian influenza virus in Article 10.4.25., the Code Commission had sought and received the advice of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Research on Emerging Avian Diseases on the new research data on pasteurisation of dried egg white to inactivate avian influenza virus, supported by its experimental data. Based on the research data the Code Commission agreed with the proposed changes to the table in Article 10.4.25.

Dr Bonbon noted that, in order to be clear that the table in Article 10.4.25. shows representative examples only for a variety of egg products, rather than an exhaustive list of all possible products and treatments, the Code Commission made some changes to the explanatory text under the table.

Dr Bonbon then informed the Delegates of the Code Commission’s request to OIE Headquarters to provide expert advice that may be used to inform a revision to the chapter in order to take account of the differences among Member Countries in terms of notification to the OIE, the differing needs when responding to either LPAI or HPAI outbreaks and

when recovering free status, the impacts of unjustified barriers to trade being implemented by some Member Countries, and the need to include articles on safe commodities and the need to expand those on surveillance.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Latvia, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, supported the adoption of the revised article and supported the proposed in-depth revision of the chapter.

Australia noted that the proposed time and temperature measurement for inactivation of the avian influenza virus were based on new research and that in future, it would urge the Commission to provide Members with the bibliographic references to assist them in their preparation for the General Session.

France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, noted in line with previous EU comments, that the EU very much welcomed the prospect of an in-depth review of the avian influenza chapter. That review should be very high on the OIE's list of priorities, and an *ad hoc* Group of experts should be convened before the end of the year so as to start this essential work. Indeed, the latest worldwide avian influenza episode has again led to severe disruption of international trade, which in part is due to the non-implementation of the existing OIE Standards by OIE Member Countries. This applies in particular to zoning following disease outbreaks. The recent experience has however also illustrated the urgent need to revise certain key concepts in the avian influenza *Terrestrial Code* chapter. The EU would thus favour a clear distinction between the recommendations for infection with high vs low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses and between commercial vs non-commercial poultry, as well as a review of the process for regaining country or zone freedom, including clear recommendations on the use of zoning and other risk mitigating measures taking into account the specificities of the respective viruses involved. France noted that the EU looks forward to actively participating in this essential work and will make available to the OIE the scientific opinions of the EFSA as soon as they become available. Furthermore, France also reiterated the EU offer of technical support and expertise for the relevant *ad hoc* Group of experts. Finally, France drew the attention of the Assembly to the International Conference on Avian Influenza: a Global Threat to be held in Rome, Italy, from 4 to 6 October 2017.

Thailand, speaking on behalf of the 10 Member States of ASEAN, noted the full support for the modification of this article. Additionally, Thailand supported the new work on the in-depth revision of this chapter in order to clarify the different measures to apply when countries are responding to either LPAI or HPAI, and for recovery of free status, and was also willing to provide technical support for this work.

In reply to Australia, Dr Bonbon apologised for the Code Commission not providing the link to the study in its report, noting that the Commission had assumed that the study had been published. He had since found out it had been peer reviewed but had not yet been published. He further stated that in the future the Code Commission would put it as a link for Members.

In regards to the review of the chapter, Dr Bonbon welcomed Members to submit proposals including any data that could help the OIE and the Commissions to work on this chapter.

The revised text of the article was adopted unanimously.

#### 264. **Infection with lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.11.)**

Dr Bonbon recalled that the Code Commission had proposed in its February 2016 meeting report an extensive revision of the chapter, prepared by an *ad hoc* Group on lumpy skin disease (LSD) and reviewed by the Scientific Commission, to replace the outdated current chapter, and thanked the Delegates for providing constructive comments and suggestions on the proposed text.

Dr Bonbon explained that, in response to a comment stating that the draft chapter was not sufficiently developed to be considered for adoption, the Code Commission was of the view that there had been three rounds of comments and the current chapter is outdated and of no significant use to countries dealing with lumpy skin disease. These countries and many others consider the adoption of a revised chapter is a matter of urgency and, therefore, any remaining questions could be dealt with after the chapter is adopted.

Dr Bonbon noted that all comments were addressed, when needed in consultation with the Scientific Commission and relevant experts.

Dr Bonbon then pointed out that in examining comments on Article 11.11.3bis., while not agreeing with the deletion of point 1 b), the Code Commission agreed there was a need to address the possibility of emergency vaccination, and added ‘the slaughter or killing of the last case, or after the last vaccination if emergency vaccination has been used, whichever occurred last,’ and deleted ‘a stamping-out policy has been applied’ in both points a) and b) of Article 11.11.3bis.

Dr Bonbon also explained that, with regard to a comment suggesting the deletion of Article 11.11.5. (recommendations for importation of domestic bovines and water buffaloes from countries or zones not free from LSD), the Code Commission considered that the article provides sufficient risk mitigation measures to ensure that trade of animals from infected countries is safe, especially noting that it included in point 5) a provision for testing during quarantine.

He also noted that the Code Commission considered that increasing the residency period in a free country or zone for donor males and donor females from 28 to 180 days, was unnecessary as the recommendations in these articles are for importation from countries or zones free from LSD and any animal would have been imported in compliance with the relevant import conditions.

Dr Bonbon then explained the modifications made to the periods relative to testing in point c) iii) of Article 11.11.7. to 28 days and 21 days respectively, and in point iv) changed 14 days to 28 days. This was to clarify the different testing periods relative to the incubation period (28 days) or the time necessary for seroconversion (21 days).

Dr Bonbon also explained that, in response to a Member Country questioning the scientific evidence supporting the control measures for the importation of milk and milk products in Article 11.11.10., the Code Commission was of the view that milk per se is a low risk material. Moreover, the Code Commission also considered the advice of experts who pointed

out that there is no reason to assume that LSD virus would not be inactivated by pasteurisation that has been shown to be effective against closely related viruses, and many other viruses. Dr Bonbon added that this deductive assessment is supported by decades of empirical observation on the safety of milk and milk products with respect to LSD.

Finally, with respect to a comment proposing the revision of Article 11.11.14. on surveillance regarding vaccination, serology and subclinical disease, Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission considered the proposed surveillance articles are currently sufficient to support Member Countries' surveillance strategies.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Djibouti, speaking on behalf of 54 Members of the OIE African Region, mentioned that they had supported the adoption and suggested that a preamble should be introduced before "General provisions." The sentence should read: "For the purpose of this chapter bovine includes water buffalo" This will better define the term "bovine" and ensure consistency with other chapters.

Serbia, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported the adoption of this modified chapter and acknowledged its importance for Europe.

Australia acknowledged that the urgent adoption of this chapter is important for several regions and that it is critical given the transboundary movement of this disease observed in recent times. Australia contends that the scientific basis for some articles in this chapter is not agreed. It pointed out that the Code Commission in its own report has noted that significant issues remained about vaccination, viral transmission, provisions for return to freedom and viral inactivation, yet those articles are still proposed in this chapter for adoption at this time. Australia mentioned that it is unclear how any country can claim or achieve freedom after vaccination and certainly not in 8 months with the current vaccine. Australia reminded Members that a key principle of the *Terrestrial Code* is that its standards are based on sound scientific evidence. Australia urged the Code Commission to continue working on these aspects of the chapter.

Namibia, speaking on behalf of 54 Members of the OIE African Region, welcomed the acknowledgment of the need for vaccination and supported the adoption of the chapter.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for the priority of this work and fully supported the adoption of this chapter, and stated that it has submitted some questions to the OIE prior to the General Session for consideration by the Code Commission at the upcoming meeting in September 2017.

The People's Republic of China supported Australia's point of view and its rationale.

Dr Bonbon repeated that he has already explained the use of the term bovine, and stated that the term will be reconsidered and the chapter will be reviewed at the next Code Commission meeting. Regarding vaccination and scientific basis, Dr Bonbon noted that there were still some gaps in the science, but there is an urgent need to provide Members with additional guidance to the current chapter. Furthermore, if countries are free from the disease and are not at immediate risk from getting it and have made their own risk assessment, they can use this risk assessment to protect themselves. He further noted that vaccination is considered the only reliable method of preventing the spread of the disease.

It is important to have an incentive so Members will vaccinate in order to control the disease, including through preventive vaccination if needed. After preventive vaccination without outbreaks, it is reasonable to regain free status more rapidly; it is not the same situation as when there has been an outbreak. He finally noted that surveillance is still an issue in vaccinated animals, and agreed with Australia there are still issues to address and invited Members to resend any written comments.

The draft new chapter was adopted unanimously.

**265. Infection with African swine fever virus (Chapter 15.1.)**

Dr Bonbon recalled that the task of revising the chapter on infection with African swine fever (ASF) virus had been initiated by the request from Member Countries to harmonise it with the previously amended Chapter 15.2. on classical swine fever (CSF) in May 2013, and further accelerated by the important evolution of the global epidemiological situation of the disease.

Dr Bonbon explained that a significant number of comments had been received and addressed since the beginning of the revision of this chapter in February 2015 and that the Code Commission had considered all comments received after the last circulation, where relevant, in collaboration with the Scientific Commission, and made further revisions to this chapter.

Dr Bonbon noted that for clarity and consistency, the Code Commission appropriately amended the case definition in Article 15.1.1. With regard to comments on the incubation period (15 or 19 days), the issue was discussed with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission and it was agreed to retain the original incubation period of 15 days as it is consistent both with the Terrestrial Manual and scientific evidence.

Dr Bonbon also explained that the paragraph related to the safe trade of commodities provided that the recommendations of the chapter are applied, answers directly to the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, which is to provide recommendations in order to facilitate safe trade, and that it needed to be clearly stated in a chapter where countries and zones of different animal health status can trade. Therefore the Code Commission did not agree with a proposal to delete this point.

Dr Bonbon also noted that with regard to a comment to remove reference to surveillance and *Ornithodoros* ticks in Article 15.1.3, the Code Commission agreed with the advice provided by the Scientific Commission noting that *Ornithodoros* ticks remain infectious for their entire life, thus surveillance needs to be longer if ticks are involved.

Dr Bonbon clarified that the Code Commission did not accept a repeated suggestion to test donor males, as such an additional requirement is considered unnecessary in terms of risk mitigation. Dr Bonbon further clarified that the publication provided by some Member Countries to support their request to reinstate the testing regime in Article 15.1.9. was found to be incorrect and the document cited in the said publication does not exist. After thorough review of the scientific literature and consultation with the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission did not accept the comments, as the putative risk of transmission of ASF virus through semen could be mitigated by point a) and point b) of Article 15.1.9.

Finally, Dr Bonbon clarified that, with regard to a request for scientific reference on procedures for inactivation of ASF virus, these have been under discussion for several years and some of them have been reviewed and referenced by *ad hoc* Groups on ASF and CSF as well as the Scientific Commission. Dr Bonbon also noted that procedures for the inactivation of ASF virus in some commodities are based on the best available scientific evidence and informed by common effective practices that have been successfully used by several Member Countries for many years.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, commended the work done by the Code Commission and supported the adoption of the chapter.

The People's Republic of China advised that it could not agree to adoption with the inclusion of the last paragraph of Article 15.1.2., as it considered it is not appropriate to ignore the role of wild or feral pigs in the epidemiology of the disease. The People's Republic of China pointed out some of the main risk factors of ASF: (1) wild or feral pigs are the main source of transmission of ASFV; (2) due to the ASF transmission cycle, it is impossible to prevent ASF in wildlife from spreading to domestic pigs; and (3) as there is no vaccine or treatment available for ASF, once ASF occurs it could seriously affect the food security and incur heavy production losses. The People's Republic of China further noted that the recent ASF outbreak in Eastern Europe supported these points, and cautioned that the OIE should be careful not to give inadequate guidance for such a devastating disease.

Georgia, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, thanked the OIE and supported the adoption of this modified chapter.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas Region, thanked the Code Commission for its work on developing clear and thorough standards. The United States of America noted that the following comment applied to all three swine disease chapters, ASF, CSF and PRRS. The United States of America raised concerns that all three swine disease chapters include "captive wild pigs" in the same category as domestic pigs. The United States of America added that while "captive wild pigs" include many backyard pig farms, and pigs raised for local or personal consumption, products that are widely traded in the international market are derived from domestic pigs managed under higher biosecurity measures. Therefore, the United States of America suggested that a definition of 'commercial pig production' be developed (similar to the definition offered by Costa Rica when it intervened on behalf of the 29 OIE Members of the Americas regarding the draft new Chapter on prevention and control of *Salmonella* in pig commercial production systems), and submitted the following definition:

"Commercial systems for the production of pigs: systems whose purpose includes some or all of the following operations: reproduction, breeding and management of pigs for the production of meat, excluding backyard farms and family production systems."

The United States of America also pointed out that "captive wild pigs" and "domestic commercial production pigs" cannot be considered as an equivalent epidemiological population (as noted in the chapter) because domestic commercial production pigs do not share the same risk of pathogen exposure as captive wild pigs. The United States of America considered that by simply stating that captive wild pigs are under "human supervision" does not provide sufficient assurance that this population of pigs is maintained

under the same biosecurity measures as commercial production swine. However, if certain parts of the world handle such captive wild pigs under biosecurity measures equivalent to domestic production pigs, then these measures need to be explicitly stated to remove any concern over how this population of captive wild pigs is managed.

The United States of America added that if commodities (such as wild pig meat) are widely traded, then the biosecurity measures should be as stringent, if not more so, as those in place for commercial production pigs. The United States of America considered that until there is a clear and unequivocal explanation for considering these two populations as one and the same, or clear guidance on how the captive wild pigs are managed in an equivalent manner to domestic pigs for commercial production, it is very difficult to accept that these two populations present a similar risk of disease introduction. The United States of America suggested that either the biosecurity and risk management procedures be explicitly outlined for this population, or a new definition for captive wild pigs for commercial production be developed.

The Republic of Korea supported comments made by the People's Republic of China saying that no treatment or vaccines exist for ASF and suggested to delete the last paragraph of Article 15.1.2.

Italy, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of this modified chapter.

Dr Bonbon thanked Delegates for their comments. In response to the People's Republic of China, Dr Bonbon commented that there is no argument that this is a difficult disease to manage and a vector-borne disease with no available vaccine. He emphasised that the purpose of this chapter is to give recommendations to Members to prevent the incursion and spread of the disease. He noted that the last paragraph of Article 15.1.2. states that the exporting country should comply with point 7) of this article, which requires the effective separation of domestic and captive wild pigs from the wild and feral pigs demonstrated by the relevant surveillance article. He stressed that the text is not a 'blank cheque', and if the importing country is not confident then it can impose the necessary measures for the imported products coming from an infected country. He also pointed out that captive wild pigs do not have the same risk category as wild or feral pigs because they are under human control and supervision, and their meat is more widely traded and they might be in direct or indirect contact with domestic pigs. They represent, therefore, a higher risk, and this risk may be managed.

In response to Dr Bonbon's comments, the People's Republic of China noted that its concern is that this paragraph is not relevant to the title of Article 15.1.2 on General criteria for the determination of the ASF status of a country, zone or compartment.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission intentionally put the paragraph in this Article to link it to the criteria and expressed his concerns that should this paragraph be deleted or placed elsewhere, an important incentive for Members to establish good biosecurity would be missed.

For the purpose of reconciling differences of opinions, the President of the OIE asked other Members for their comments.

Italy commented that the last paragraph of Article 15.1.2. could be placed elsewhere but if ASF occurs in wildlife, it is very crucial that the text should be kept in this chapter. In the case of Sardinia, the situation is that in the environment certain animals that are completely wild can come into contact with humans and be consumed as food. Considering this aspect, it is important to have this text in the chapter in a general sense to help convince all stakeholders to do something. Italy noted that the chapter is not useful in promoting improvement to animal health if it does not include this text.

The Republic of Korea noted that it found a scientific study that showed the difficulties of preventing the spread ASFV from wildlife to domestic pigs in Eastern Europe, due to the complexity of the epidemiology of the disease.

Dr Brückner noted that he supported what Dr Bonbon had already explained, that the reason provided is sound. Members should carefully read what it refers to in this specific article. Members had adopted the same principle for the CSF chapter so if the article is not accepted it will also have to be deleted from CSF. The *Terrestrial Code* must be read and applied as intended.

Australia noted that this point is titled safe commodities in chapters other than CSF and asked for the explanation as to why that convention has not been applied in the ASF chapter.

In response to Australia's comments, Dr Bonbon noted that the *ad hoc* Group could not come up with the list of safe commodities for ASF, and the Code Commission instead proposed to rely on the status of the country. He added that Article 15.1.2 is difficult to apply if countries have cases in the wild, but not impossible. If the criteria are not met then the status 'free in domestic' could not be achieved, but if the Veterinary Services demonstrate they meet the criteria, then safe trade under certain conditions was possible. It is an incentive to Members to protect their animals from contact with wild pigs under these circumstances and therefore for the global control of the disease.

The People's Republic of China responded that to achieve safe trade there should be a detailed risk analysis report. If the OIE can provide it then the People's Republic of China will analyse it and then decide.

Botswana noted that it is necessary to trust the credibility of all OIE Delegates that they will not export diseases to others.

On a proposal by the President of the OIE, Dr Bonbon confirmed that this particular point would be discussed again in September and a comprehensive answer be given by the Code Commission, and he presented the chapter for adoption.

The revised chapter was adopted. The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea voted against the adoption.

**266. Draft new Chapter on infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (Chapter 15.X.)**

Dr Bonbon explained that the draft new chapter on infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus has been under discussion since February 2014 following the requests of several Member Countries. The chapter had been drafted by an *ad hoc* Group on PRRS and the revised text was circulated for Member Country review several times since then.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegates for providing extensive comments and suggestions on the proposed text and explained the revised draft text discussed at the February 2017 Code Commission meeting.

First, Dr Bonbon clarified that ‘captive wild pigs’ and ‘domestic pigs’ are considered together not because they are at increased risk of being exposed to PRRS but because they pose a greater risk of themselves or their products disseminating the disease, and adding that ‘captive wild pigs’ are, by definition, ‘under direct human supervision or control’ and as such may play a role comparable to ‘domestic pigs’.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission amended point 1) of Article 15.X.1. to read ‘PRRSV, excluding vaccine strains, has been isolated from samples from a domestic or wild pig’, while adding text to point 3) of the same article to address the issue of live PRRS vaccine strains, since isolation of a vaccine-like virus should be considered a case if occurring in an unvaccinated animal.

Dr Bonbon highlighted the discussion on whether or not meat was a safe commodity and whether or not it should be included in Article 15.X.2. Although it had been clearly stated by all experts of the *ad hoc* Groups and Scientific Commission that all current epidemiological data concurred with the fact that there was no PRRS risk in trading pig meat, and considering the divergent and irreconcilable comments from Member Countries, the Code Commission proposed the reinstatement of an Article 15.X.12. providing recommendations for the importation of fresh meat of domestic and captive wild pigs having passed ante- and post-mortem inspection, and the deletion of the reference to meat in Article 15.X.2. Dr Bonbon added that, as the definition of meat includes blood, and meat has now been deleted from this article, the Code Commission considered that it would be appropriate to reinstate a reference to ‘blood products’ in point 5 of Article 15.X.2. as it was not clear what is meant by ‘blood by-products’.

Finally Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE European Region, thanked the OIE and in general supported the adoption of this new chapter.

Switzerland and Norway supported the adoption of the chapter but raised a concern that the testing regime in relation to semen collection centres is not sufficient to prevent the introduction of the virus through semen from countries that are not free, and asked the OIE to consider the article for semen in a future revision.

Australia stated that it does not believe that the measures in the proposed Article 15.X.12. adequately address the risk of PRRS transmission via meat. It has previously provided references to the Code Commission concerning the transmission of PRRS through meat and does not believe that ante- and post-mortem inspection, as proposed in draft Article 15.X.12., are sufficient to address these risks. In addition, Australia noted that it does not believe that the chapter clearly outlines which materials can and cannot be considered meat. It is concerned that higher risk material such as lymphoid tissue could also be considered to be meat. Australia requested that Article 15.X.12. be removed from the chapter for adoption and further consideration is given to these issues.

Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, emphasised that the *ad hoc* Group considered that meat should be safe when it is derived from pigs that have passed ante- and post-mortem inspection, and therefore fresh meat should be included in the safe commodities definition. Denmark also mentioned that no PRRS risk is associated with fresh meat and therefore should not create unjustified barriers to trade. Denmark also supported Norway and Switzerland's position.

South Africa supported Australia's comment on PRRS in regards to removal or replacement of Article 15.X.12. due to its concerns ante- and post-mortem inspections are insufficient. As an alternative South Africa proposed that the definition of meat could be clarified regarding the status of associated lymphoid tissues.

Argentina agreed with Australia and South Africa that the chapter is insufficient in ensuring the protection of livestock. It noted that there is not sufficient scientific consensus for this chapter to be adopted as an international standard. Therefore it proposed that the article on meat needed to be considered further.

New Caledonia also supported the position taken by Australia, Argentina and South Africa.

The United States of America stated that risk analyses so far show pig meat is not a concern and supported the EU in adopting the chapter.

New Zealand supported the adoption of the chapter with two points to note. Firstly New Zealand would support research on semen, if needed. Secondly, in regards to maintaining its free status without vaccination, New Zealand would reserve the right to maintain additional import measures on uncooked pigmeat and this would be based on its risk assessments.

Chile recalled its scientific evidence provided to the *ad hoc* Group that meat is a risk-free product. Chile informed the Assembly that the Region of the Americas agreed with its content in a recent meeting on this scientific evidence, and therefore could support adoption of the chapter.

Argentina emphasised that there was not full agreement in the Americas Region on this point.

Colombia stated that all the literature available suggested that meat does not carry risk, and fully concurred and supported the position of Chile and the EU.

Dr Bonbon drew the Assembly's attention to the February report in which it was noted that there were irreconcilable comments from Members about whether meat should be considered as a risk material. He stressed that the *Code* is made for 180 Members that have their own specific disease status, and as such, Members can still take measures stricter than those in the *Terrestrial Code*, as exemplified by New Zealand's approach and its measures supported by a risk assessment. He stressed that the main transmission pathway is not through meat, but piglets and semen, which are the commodities that need to be addressed carefully.

Dr Bonbon invited Members to consider the User's Guide and Chapter 5.3. when making their own risk assessment. If a country can provide such a risk assessment then this would be a discussion between the exporting and importing Members. Dr Bonbon reassured Members that recommendations in the draft chapter provided that trade in meat would be subject to certification, and Members could then require additional assurances on the basis of their risk assessments. He emphasised that the *Terrestrial Code* is not meant to deal with all specific sanitary situations, but to provide standards that can be applied globally for this disease. Dr Bonbon pointed out that it was not the objective of the standards to

impose global trade barriers that would result in condemning parts of the world pigmeat trade to mitigate something that has never been proven to be a risk. He gave as example other chapters where specific measures for trade were not imposed on the whole OIE membership although some countries with specific status could take specific measures justified by their risk assessment.

The new chapter was adopted. Argentina, Australia, New Caledonia and South Africa voted against the adoption.

**267. Somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock and horses (Article 4.11.4.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that, following comments to modify the terminology in Article 4.11.4. points 2 and 4, the Code Commission had reviewed the rationale submitted by a Member Country on the Article and had amended the text as appropriate at its September 2016 meeting.

Dr Bonbon noted that due to the limited extent and nature of the amendment and since the comments received at its February 2017 meeting were all supportive of the proposed revised article, it could be proposed for adoption this year.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text, which was adopted unanimously.

**268. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.**

**269. Electronic Certification**

Before the end of the session, Chile took the floor to reiterate the need for the OIE to start working on the subject of electronic certification for live animals and animal products. Chile stated that all efforts made at farms and abattoirs could be lost if Members are not capable of guaranteeing the sanitary requirements through a reliable certification process. Chile mentioned that one of the main problems associated with the certification process is the possibility of false certification leading to sanitary risks. Finally, Chile mentioned that it has been implementing and working with some partners to develop electronic certification schemes. Even if WTO and the OIE already have some guidelines on this matter, certification problems still cannot be sufficiently avoided. Chile urged the OIE to take a more active role to initiate a project to develop specific guidelines in Chapter 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* to include more detailed guidelines on electronic certification.

In support of Chile, Paraguay highlighted the importance and the potential of the use of electronic certification.

Dr Stone thanked Chile for bringing this to the OIE's attention again this year and noted that the OIE has fully considered comments from last year and is working towards the development of a project that seeks to understand the needs of Members and to perhaps define a role that the OIE might play. He noted that the other standard-setting bodies were also working on electronic certification and that the OIE had developed a concept note that could be the basis of an STDF project and that the OIE would need interested countries to form a reference group of Members to work on this with the Organisation.

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

270. The President informed the Assembly that, in addition to the Panel held during the second plenary session, the following International Organisations having an agreement with the OIE were invited to address the Assembly during this plenary session.

#### **International Egg Commission**

271. Mr Tim Lambert, Vice Chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC), presented the organisation to the Assembly. He underlined the fact that the IEC, founded in 1964, is the only organisation to represent the interests of egg farmers and the producers of eggs and egg products on a global basis, with members in 85 countries.
272. Mr Lambert reminded the Assembly that the IEC first started working with the OIE in 2001, which led to the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. Since then, the IEC has been supporting the OIE through the promotion and dissemination of OIE activities and standards to the egg industry, as well as working with the OIE on animal welfare and OIE standards on the pasteurisation of eggs to deactivate avian influenza virus.
273. Mr Lambert further underlined the major challenge for the egg industry of control and elimination of avian influenza and explained that the IEC has established the IEC Avian Influenza Global Expert Group, tasked with developing a range of practical solutions to tackle this major disease. He pointed out that the OIE has a permanent seat on this group to ensure that all steps are taken in a collaborative and effective way.
274. Mr Lambert also highlighted the importance of biosecurity as one of the most effective tools in the fight against avian influenza and further stressed the need for the OIE's proposed standards for laying hen production systems to be flexible, outcomes-based, and adapted to each region.
275. In conclusion, Mr Lambert stated that the IEC is looking forward to continuing to work with the OIE and participating in defining standards that are practical and applicable by egg farmers, as well as effective in improving egg production in a way that also helps tackle the very serious threat posed by avian influenza.

#### **International Organization for Standardization**

276. Ms Sandrine Espeillac, Secretary of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee for food products (ISO/TC 34), thanked the OIE for the opportunity to present the Organisation to the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organisation with a network made up of the national standards institutes of 163 countries.
277. She further explained that ISO develops voluntary, consensus-based, market-relevant international standards and forms a bridge between the public and private sectors, aiming in particular at facilitating the international coordination and unification of industrial standards. Ms Espeillac also underlined the fact that ISO is an observer at the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee) and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee).
278. Ms Espeillac reminded the Assembly that ISO and the OIE signed a cooperation agreement in 2011 that led to the creation of an ISO working group on animal welfare in the food chain, gathering more than 130 experts from all regions of the world, with a wide participation of developing countries and a large variety of stakeholders (competent authorities, OIE focal points, farmers, industry, NGOs, consumers, etc.). She further underlined the objectives of the working group, namely, to develop an ISO standard that would provide guidance for the implementation of public or private animal welfare

standards and relevant legislation that at least meet the standards of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, and to facilitate the integration of animal welfare principles in business-to-business relations between suppliers and customers.

279. In conclusion, she highlighted the output of the working group: ISO/TS 34700 “Animal welfare management — General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain”. This ISO standard, which is the first to be based on the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, was presented during the Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Guadalajara (Mexico) in December 2016.

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

280. Mr Michael Ryan, Senior Policy Advisor at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented the activities of the Organisation to the Assembly. He underlined that the work of the OECD focuses on three areas, namely, conducting economic analysis leading to specific recommendations at national level, providing a forum for discussion around policy options, and promoting policy dialogue. He stated that the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is at the heart of the current collaboration between the OECD and the OIE, and further explained that the OECD takes an integrated economic and policy approach to its AMR work across human health, and animal health and welfare.
281. Mr Ryan detailed how the current work of the OECD on AMR focuses on a cost and benefit analysis of both antimicrobial use in food animal production and the transitioning to alternatives. He further described the scope of the work performed in the health sector, which includes impact assessments of agricultural policies on AMR, identification of the drivers for the use of antimicrobials and promotion of alternatives to antimicrobials.
282. In conclusion, Mr Ryan stressed that a key goal of this work is to identify best production practices and policy options to promote economically sustainable systems for food animal production and underlined the fact that the OECD aims at complementing the ongoing technical work in other international organisations, in particular the OIE. He concluded that the OECD looks forward to continuing its close collaboration with the OIE.

### **Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere**

283. Mr Quincy Lissaur, Executive Director of Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) presented the Organisation to the Assembly. He explained that SSAFE was established in 2004, out of a meeting with partners from industry and intergovernmental organisations, to collectively combat the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). He noted that SSAFE currently comprises nine private-sector members, but also engages with public-sector partners that are key stakeholders in the food safety field, such as the OIE. He further described the current mission of SSAFE as aiming to foster continuous improvement and global acceptance of internationally recognised food production systems and standards through public–private partnerships. He also described the Organisation’s vision, namely, the integration of food safety with human, animal and plant health across the food supply chain to improve public health and well-being.
284. Mr Lissaur described how SSAFE’s activities encompassed promoting i) collaboration between intergovernmental partner organisations, academic institutions and the industry, ii) the sharing of good practice between members and iii) a number of specific projects, such as the implementation of the ISO technical specification for animal welfare or the delivery of food safety training and capacity building.

285. Reminding the Assembly of the 13-year-long partnership between the OIE and SSAFE, Mr Lissaur further highlighted some activities that specifically championed OIE standards and principles, among which, the activities carried out in 2004 to educate communities and help protect them against HPAI, the effort to align “private certification” with official WTO SPS recognised standards, and the promotion of the standards of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* recognising the safe trade of cooked poultry products regardless of a country’s avian influenza status.
286. Mr Lissaur concluded by noting the current topics under discussion with the OIE, namely antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and the support for further roll-out of the PVS Pathway. He also noted with interest the forthcoming establishment of an Observatory relating to the implementation of OIE international standards.
287. The President thanked all the speakers for their excellent presentations. He stated, on behalf of the Assembly, that it was a privilege for the OIE to work closely with other international organisations for the public good. He concluded that this collaboration offered the opportunity to gather complementary expertise and invited all partners to further their cooperation.

<b>FIFTH PLENARY SESSION</b>
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**Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)**

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

288. Dr Ingo Ernst, 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 had met at the OIE Headquarters from 12 to 16 September 2016 and again from 22 February to 1 March 2017 to consider Member Country comments on the report of its September 2016 meeting and to progress its work plan.
289. Dr Ernst expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Edmund Peeler (Vice-President), Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Maxwell Barson, Dr Joanne Constantine and Prof. Mohamed Shariff Bin Mohamed Din (Members) for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of the experts of the Commission’s various *ad hoc* Groups, as well as individual experts who provided scientific assistance. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Ernst gratefully acknowledged the support and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Commission by members of staff at OIE Headquarters.
290. Dr Ernst stated that preventing the emergence and spread of aquatic animal diseases is essential given the growing importance of aquatic animal production for human nutrition and the severe production impacts of diseases. The standards in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* represent the primary and globally agreed approach for preventing the spread of transboundary aquatic animal diseases to ensure safe trade. These standards must continue to evolve to ensure that they remain relevant to the changing characteristics of aquaculture and aquatic animal trade.
291. Dr Ernst highlighted the new emerging disease, Tilapia lake virus (TiLV), and the serious risk that this pathogenic agent poses to the global aquaculture industry, and reminded Delegates of the requirements for reporting emerging diseases that are described in Chapter 1.1. of the *Aquatic Code*.

292. Dr Ernst 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.
293. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, he assured the Assembly that all Member Country comments were considered by the Commission. Dr Ernst 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, and also as stand-alone documents on the OIE website, included important information and he encouraged Member Countries to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.
294. Dr Ernst 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 Ernst also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including annexes to the report on the OIE public website. This is an important communication channel to inform organisations and the general public of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and to communicate their contribution to that work. Dr Ernst also noted that Aquatic Animal Focal Points were notified when the unofficial and official versions of the meeting reports are uploaded and encouraged Delegates to make provision for them to access these documents.
295. Dr Ernst noted that the Conference bags contained a USB flash drive with the complete reports of the September 2016 and February 2017 meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission, including annexes such as *ad hoc* Group reports. He noted that the folder distributed at the General Session contains only the introductory text and texts presented for adoption from the February 2017 report. Dr Ernst advised Delegates that detailed comments on proposed new and amended texts should be submitted by early August each year for consideration by the Commission at its September meeting and by early January each year for its February 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 meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February meeting during the discussion at this General Session.
296. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the two meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission had overlapped, enabling the Presidents to meet whilst each Commission was meeting. Both Commissions agreed that this was a good initiative that facilitates harmonisation of relevant chapters when under review by the respective Commissions. In addition, Dr Ernst noted that he had also held a tele-conference call with the President of the Biological Standards Commission prior to the Aquatic Animals Commission September meeting to discuss agenda items of relevance regarding Reference Centres to ensure alignment between the two Commissions.
297. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *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 Resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

298. Dr Ernst 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 25 of Doc. 85 SG/12/CS4 B. Before introducing the texts for adoption, he invited reactions to his introductory comments.

The People's Republic of China appreciated the extensive work undertaken by the Commission and OIE staff and their rapid response in providing information and guidance on emerging diseases such as AHPND and TiLV, which ensures that Members can take appropriate responses to prevent the introduction and spread of these diseases. The People's Republic of China noted that it has the largest production of aquatic animals in the world and they wish to contribute actively to the sustainable development of aquaculture globally.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for its work and for having addressed some of their previous comments. Finland supported in general the proposed texts for adoption in the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* and indicated that it would make further specific comments on the individual Annexes.

Brazil congratulated the Commission on their extensive work. Brazil requested the Commission to continue to review TiLV against the listing criteria noting that tilapia production is a major industry in Brazil. Brazil indicated that it will provide comments for the Commission to consider at their September 2017 meeting regarding diagnostic testing in support of listing this disease.

Chile expressed thanks for the excellent work of the Commission in the revisions of the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual*. Regarding work to revise the list of susceptible species in the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual*, Chile will provide information indicating that Coho salmon is not susceptible to infection with infectious salmon anaemia. Regarding TiLV, Chile encouraged Members to report this as an emerging disease and appreciated the development of a Technical Disease Card by the Commission. Chile indicated that they could offer the assistance of its OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA to support the diagnosis of TiLV. Chile supported the work to be undertaken by the new *ad hoc* Group on biosecurity and is in favour of minimum biosecurity requirements for quarantine.

Dr Ernst appreciated the People's Republic of China's comment on the importance of emerging diseases noting that Members need to improve their ability to respond to emerging diseases to prevent the serious economic impact of these diseases.

Dr Ernst welcomed Brazil's offer of technical information regarding TiLV. He noted that the Commission had not provided specific details about further requirements for validation of TiLV diagnostic testings and stated that this will be provided at its next meeting, acknowledging that this information would be important to guide research.

Dr Ernst responded to Chile highlighting that an *ad hoc* Group had started work on the assessment of susceptible species for fish diseases and welcomed the offer of information on Coho salmon. Dr Ernst also welcomed the offer of assistance for the diagnosis of TiLV by the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA in Chile.

## **AQUATIC CODE**

### **299. Glossary**

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had revised the definition for 'aquatic animals' having recognised that there is an inconsistent use of the terms 'aquatic animals' and 'live aquatic animals' in the *Aquatic Code* and that the current

definition only refers to live aquatic animals. The Commission proposed a revision to the definition for aquatic animals to make this point explicit and also deleted text regarding the end uses of aquatic animals as this was considered to be unrelated to the definition of an aquatic animal.

Dr Ernst noted that some Member Countries had suggested that the definition of aquatic animal should distinguish between farmed and wild aquatic animals, as is the case in the *Terrestrial Code*. However, the Commission did not agree with this proposal because it considered that the definition must serve the purposes of its use in the *Aquatic Code*, including to facilitate safe trade of aquatic animals and their products. He noted that there are distinct differences between trade in aquatic animals and terrestrial animals, with 50% of traded aquatic animals originating from the wild, and the risk for disease transmission is more dependent on species susceptibility than on origin from wild or farmed populations.

The Aquatic Animals Commission did not agree with a proposal from a Member Country to delete the last phrase referring to the origin of animals as they considered this phrase provides clarity for the defined term, i.e. includes both farmed and wild aquatic animals. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that measures in the *Aquatic Code* apply to susceptible aquatic animals regardless of their origin, i.e. wild or farmed.

Dr Ernst noted that, once adopted, where the word 'live' appears before 'aquatic animals' will be deleted throughout the *Aquatic Code*, as it will be redundant.

Dr Ernst commented that the Commission had revised the definition of 'zone' as they considered that the current definition was not appropriate and differed markedly from the *Terrestrial Code*. The definition was further amended in response to several Member Country comments and also amendments being proposed by the Code Commission to the term 'zone' in the *Terrestrial Code* in order to ensure alignment, where relevant, and improve readability and clarity. The Commission agreed with a Member Country comment that the term 'contiguous hydrological system' was unclear and agreed it was unnecessary text and should be deleted.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission proposed to replace the words 'infectious agents' with 'pathogenic agents' in the definition for 'biological products' in line with the work to ensure consistent use of the defined term pathogenic agent throughout the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission proposed to replace the words 'aetiological agents' with 'pathogenic agents' in the definition for 'disease' in line with the work to ensure consistent use of the defined term 'pathogenic agent' throughout the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst explained that although the Commission has been progressively ensuring the consistent use of the defined term 'pathogenic agent' throughout the *Aquatic Code*, there were still some places where other terms such as 'pathogen' and 'aetiological agent' needed to be replaced by the defined term 'pathogenic agent'. The Commission had agreed to make relevant amendments in a progressive manner as chapters come under review.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Botswana, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, acknowledged the hard work of the Commission. Botswana suggested the inclusion of ‘hydrological area’ in the definition of ‘zone’ because aquatic systems are transboundary and the population at risk is within a hydrological water system or ‘watershed’ not necessarily within the political boundaries. Botswana noted that this comment had been addressed in the revised definition.

After confirming that a quorum had been achieved (for the entire session), the President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### 300. **Criteria for the inclusion of diseases in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that a revision of Chapter 1.2 was first proposed by the Commission in its March 2015 report after reviewing the report of the *ad hoc* Group on notification of animal diseases and pathogenic agents.

Dr Ernst reported that the revised chapter had been circulated for Member Country comments on five occasions and that the majority of Member Country comments received at the Commission’s February 2017 meeting were supportive of the revised criteria and that other comments received had been submitted previously and had been addressed by the Commission at previous meetings.

Dr Ernst highlighted that in considering Member Country comments and possible amendments to the text, the Commission noted that Chapter 1.2. of the *Aquatic Code* states ‘the objective of listing is to support Member Countries’ efforts to prevent the transboundary spread of important diseases of aquatic animals through transparent and consistent reporting’. The Aquatic Animals Commission noted that some Member Countries requested revisions that were inconsistent with this objective. Therefore the Commission amended the text to improve clarity and to achieve the objective for listing diseases.

Dr Ernst also emphasised that to achieve the objective of listing, the criteria must be responsive and flexible for the dynamic circumstances of aquatic animal diseases, such as the rapid growth and expansion of aquaculture, high volumes of trade, diversity of species, the frequent emergence of aquatic animal diseases and the difficulty in achieving eradication. He noted that during the last 20 years, 19 new aquatic animal diseases had been added to the OIE list. In addition, 16 aquatic animal diseases had been de-listed since 2005.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission proposed some amendments that differed from those proposed in the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*; these differences are justified because of differences in applying the criteria for disease listing in the aquatic context.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had not accepted a Member Country’s comment to align criterion 1 of Article 1.2.2. with text used in the *Terrestrial Code*, i.e. to insert ‘has been proven’ rather than ‘is likely’, noting that it would be contrary to the objective of listing to wait for the ‘international spread of an agent’ to be proven when scientific evidence and international trade patterns indicate that spread is likely. This is important for aquatic animal diseases given the factors described above and in particular the challenge of successfully eradicating aquatic animal diseases once they have spread.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had reiterated that it did not agree to change ‘may’ to ‘has’ regarding the demonstration of country freedom (in criterion 2), as they considered the word ‘may’ is more appropriate because Member Countries are required to have basic biosecurity conditions in place for at least 2 years prior to making a self-declaration of freedom.

The Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment to define the terms ‘precise’ and ‘reliable’ in criteria 3, noting that the use of these terms is consistent with the Oxford English Dictionary and Chapter 1.1.2. of the *Aquatic Manual*.

Finally, Dr Ernst recognised that some Member Country comments noted the difficulty of interpreting the criteria and informed the Assembly that the Commission would develop a guidance document to support application of the criteria. This guidance document will be used by the Commission when it is overseeing an assessment to ensure consistency in the interpretation of the criteria. The Commission will also share this document with the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Canada acknowledged the progress that had been made by the Commission in revising this chapter and supported its adoption. Canada also supported the Commission’s plan to develop a guidance document to avoid any difficulties in interpreting the criteria to ensure consistency and objectivity when applying the criteria. Canada looks forward to the opportunity to review this document.

The People’s Republic of China strongly supported the improved criteria, which are clearer and more applicable. The People’s Republic of China suggested that the OIE provide precise information to guide Members in the use of these criteria when countries list diseases at the national level.

In response to Canada, Dr Ernst clarified that the Commission will provide the guidance document in their report once developed.

In response to the People’s Republic of China, Dr Ernst noted that the development of a disease list at the national level is beyond the scope of the criteria.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### 301. **Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.)**

Dr Ernst noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had amended names of all listed crustacean diseases in line with the accepted convention: ‘infection with pathogenic agent X’. He noted that for diseases commonly recognised by the name of the disease (rather than the pathogen), the disease name would be retained in brackets in the relevant chapter title, e.g. ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (Crayfish plague)’.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the Commission in its February 2016 report had proposed *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* for listing under Article 1.3.4. having concluded that this pathogen met the criteria for listing in Chapter 1.2. Some Member Countries had questioned whether Criterion 8 of Article 1.2.2. had been met (i.e. a repeatable and robust means of detection/diagnosis exists). The Commission reconsidered this criterion and confirmed that it had been met as there are repeatable and robust diagnostic tests available for this pathogen.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had further amended the listed name to ‘infection with Ranavirus species’ agreeing that the revised name better reflects the scope of this listed disease, which is intended to include any species within the Genus *Ranavirus* (excluding epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, which is listed separately).

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Australia noted that disease events associated with emerging diseases are often not reported by Members in accordance with the requirements of the *Aquatic Code*. In recent years, very significant disease events involving AHPND were not reported to the OIE as emerging disease events. Australia also emphasised that disease events associated with another emerging disease, TiLV, have not been reported by Members. This is despite the very serious threat that this virus presents to aquaculture globally.

Australia is concerned that such failure to comply with reporting requirements undermines transparency among OIE Members and also undermines the efforts of the global community to control the spread of important emerging diseases. Australia encourages Members to comply with the reporting requirements for emerging diseases that are described in the *Aquatic Code*.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of this chapter but noted that AHPND is the only crustacean disease to which the new naming convention of ‘infection with [disease name]’ has not yet been proposed. Finland requested an explanation for this approach.

Dr Ernst thanked Australia for their comments on the lack of reporting of emerging diseases and affirmed that the Commission shares these concerns. The Commission has discussed possible reasons for the lack of reporting and concluded that this is not due to any deficiency in the *Aquatic Code*, but rather the result of other factors at national level.

Dr Ernst responded to Finland noting that the different approach to naming AHPND was deliberate because the causal agent is complex and the disease has only recently emerged. The Commission expects that additional species of bacteria will need to be added to the list of causal agents in the future and agreed to use this approach to avoid constant updating of the name until more is known about this disease.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### **302. Disinfection of aquaculture establishments and equipment (Chapter 4.3.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and made relevant amendments to improve clarity and readability. He noted that given this new chapter had been circulated extensively for Member Country comments prior to adoption in 2016, the Commission only proposed amendments that significantly improved the clarity of the text.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Eritrea, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, suggested the deletion of ‘disinfection’ in Article 4.3.9. point 1 because disinfection is part of biosecurity.

Dr Ernst explained that the text was written to address the situation where disinfection may not be required, for example, large volumes of water that cannot be disinfected due to the quantity of chemicals required but could be disposed of biosecurely without disinfection. Therefore, Dr Ernst wished to maintain the text as proposed in order to keep the option of disinfection or biosecure disposal.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**303. Recommendations for surface disinfection of salmonid eggs (Chapter 4.4.)**

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had considered Member Country comments and made relevant amendments to improve clarity and readability.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The United States of America supported adoption of this revised text but noted that they were unable to find published scientific literature in support of the use of saline solution as described in the protocol. The United States of America will submit some relevant information for consideration by the Commission at its September 2017 meeting.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**304. General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had considered Member Country comments made during the 84th OIE General Session regarding the need for alignment with Chapter 5.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* and had amended point 2 of Article 5.1.4. accordingly. Dr Ernst emphasised to Member Countries that the term ‘incubation period’ that appears in a similar article in the *Terrestrial Code* was not included in this text because it is not used in the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Ernst noted that unlike terrestrial animals, a wide variety of host species and environmental variables make determining the incubation period of aquatic animal pathogenic agents impractical.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**305. Crustacean disease-specific chapters:**

**Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) (Chapter 9.1.), Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 (Chapter 9.2.), Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 9.3.), Infectious myonecrosis (Chapter 9.4.), Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Chapter 9.5.), Taura syndrome (Chapter 9.6.), White spot disease (Chapter 9.7.) and White tail disease (Chapter 9.8.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had undertaken a thorough review of all disease-specific crustacean chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and noted that this would also be done in other disease-specific chapters as the work related to susceptible species is applied.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had amended the list of susceptible species in Article X.X.2. of the crustacean chapters, with the exception of crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) and white spot disease, after consideration of the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of crustacean species to infection with OIE listed diseases, which had applied to ‘Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen’ (Chapter 1.5).

Dr Ernst noted that, given the similarity between the crustacean chapters, the Commission had considered Member Country comments made in each chapter and applied them to all crustacean chapters, where relevant, to ensure alignment between all chapters.

The Commission reviewed and amended, where relevant, the scope in Articles 9.X.1. to ensure they were aligned with proposed amendments to disease naming. In response to a Member Country comment, the Commission deleted the phrase ‘For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.’ in Articles 9.X.2. as it considered this to be unnecessary.

The Commission also made some amendments in a number of articles to ensure better readability and clarity.

The Aquatic Animals Commission agreed to use the FAO terminological database ‘FAOTERM’ as the source for common names used in the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual*.

Dr Ernst noted that in addition to the amendments of a horizontal nature, the Commission confirmed that in Chapter 9.1. on crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) the listing of susceptible species in Article 9.1.2. will remain unchanged until the issue of species with a broad host range is finalised.

Dr Ernst noted that in addition to the amendments of a horizontal nature, the Commission confirmed that in Chapter 9.3. on infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN) the Commission did not agree with the proposal from a Member Country to remove *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* from the list of susceptible species in Article 9.3.2. as they considered there was sufficient evidence to support the inclusion of this species in the list. Dr Ernst noted that since the February 2017 meeting of the Commission, he had become aware of new scientific information regarding susceptibility of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* to IHHN and proposed to place this species under study so that the Commission could undertake further assessment of its susceptibility.

Dr Ernst noted that in addition to the amendments of a horizontal nature, the Commission confirmed to include in Chapter 9.5. on necrotising hepatopancreatitis, ‘*Candidatus*’ in Article 9.5.1. when referring to the taxonomic name for this bacterial agent. However, for ease of reference the term ‘*Candidatus*’ will not be used in the disease name ‘Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei*’.

Dr Ernst noted that in addition to the amendments of a horizontal nature, the Commission confirmed that in Chapter 9.7. on white spot disease the listing of susceptible species in Article 9.7.2. will remain unchanged from the 2016 edition of the *Aquatic Code* until the issue of species with a broad host range is finalised. A proposed approach to this issue has been provided to Member Countries for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts of Chapters 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7 and 9.8 to the Assembly.

Regarding the proposed listing of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* in Article 9.3.2. Thailand indicated that the published scientific information did not support the listing of this species as susceptible and appreciated Dr Ernst's proposal to put *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* under study in Article 9.3.2.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**306. New chapter on Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (Chapter 9.X.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that since the adoption of the listing of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) in Chapter 1.3., it had been working to finalise a new disease-specific chapter. He noted that amendments of a horizontal nature made in other crustacean disease-specific chapters had also been included in the draft chapter.

The Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment to change AHPND to 'infection with *Vp<sub>AHPND</sub>*' because the Commission considered it likely that the species of *Vibrio* associated with this disease would change over time. Using the disease approach will enable new pathogenic agents to be added to the definition of the disease in Article 9.X.1.

The Commission also did not agree with several Member Country comments to broaden the scope in Article 9.X.1. beyond the inclusion of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. The Commission noted that, at the time of this meeting, there was insufficient published data to support other *Vibrio* species as causative agents of AHPND. Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission will continue to monitor AHPND research and amend 9.X.1. if supported by relevant scientific data.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The People's Republic of China welcomed the addition of AHPND on the OIE list in 2016 and the development of new chapters on this disease for the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* as these chapters will assist Members to take measures to prevent and control the spread of this disease. The People's Republic of China noted recent reports of additional *Vibro* species associated with AHPND and highlighted the need to consider revision of the chapter as new evidence comes to light.

Dr Ernst stated that the Commission regularly reviews the scientific literature and will consider recent information on AHPND at its next meeting and make relevant amendments as warranted.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

**307. Revised Article X.X.8.**

Dr Ernst reminded Member Countries that the Commission had revised Article X.X.8. to more adequately describe the requirements for the importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *disease X*.

Dr Ernst noted that the majority of Member Country comments were supportive of this amendment. In response to a Member Country comment to amend the term quarantine in relation to lifelong holding, Dr Ernst reminded Member Countries that quarantine is a defined term in the *Aquatic Code* and includes ‘a specified length of time’. When importing aquatic animals from a country not free of a specific pathogenic agent, a lifelong period would be appropriate. The Commission also added the word ‘imported’ in several places to clarify the reference to imported aquatic animals.

Dr Ernst noted that the proposed amendments had been applied to the revised crustacean chapters that were proposed for adoption and, once adopted, these changes would be made in all disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### **AQUATIC MANUAL**

#### **308. Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) (Chapter 2.2.1.), Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 2.2.3.), Infectious myonecrosis (Chapter 2.2.4.), Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Chapter 2.2.5.), Taura syndrome (Chapter 2.2.6.) and White tail disease (Chapter 2.2.8.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had undertaken a thorough review of all disease-specific crustacean chapters and noted that this would also be done in other disease-specific chapters as the work related to susceptible species is applied.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had amended the list of susceptible host species in Section 2.2. of the crustacean chapters of the *Aquatic Manual*, with the exception of crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*). These changes are consistent with the changes made in the *Aquatic Code*, and in consideration of the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of crustacean species to infection with OIE listed diseases, which had applied to ‘Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen’ (Chapter 1.5. of the *Aquatic Code*). The Commission reviewed and amended, where relevant, Section 1. (scope) to ensure they were aligned with proposed amendments to disease naming that have been applied in the *Aquatic Code*.

The Commission also made some amendments in a number of sections to ensure better readability and clarity.

Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the *ad hoc* Group on the *Aquatic Manual* is finalising a new disease chapter template for the *Aquatic Manual*. The new template will provide an improved structure for the chapters, in particular for case definitions, and information on validation. Once the new template has been finalised, all the *Aquatic Manual* chapters will be revised in the format of the new template.

Dr Ernst also reminded Delegates that requests for changes to the molecular test methods should be accompanied by the rationale along with evidence of equivalency of test performance under the new test parameters.

Dr Ernst confirmed that the susceptible species in Section 2.2. of the Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) chapter (Chapter 2.2.1.) will remain unchanged until the issue of species with a broad host range is finalised.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had agreed that in Chapter 2.2.5. Necrotising hepatopancreatitis, faeces could be included as one of the samples on which the PCR test can be undertaken if information on validation of the assay for this purpose is provided.

Following the proposal to place *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* under study in Chapter 9.3. of the *Aquatic Code*, Dr Ernst proposed that ‘giant river prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*)’ be placed under study in section 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.2.3.

Dr Ernst informed Delegates that in Chapters 2.2.4. and 2.2.6, there are errors in the RT-PCR protocols and proposed that these sections remain unchanged until they undergo further review.

Thailand appreciated Dr Ernst’s proposal to place giant river prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) under study.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the modified Chapter 2.2.1. but suggested the addition of a new section 2.2.2. ‘Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility’, in line with other newly revised crustacean chapters.

Australia appreciated the work of the Commission to improve the quality and consistency of the disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Manual*. In particular, it noted and supported the emphasis being placed on improving case definitions and providing clear guidance on the validation status of diagnostic tests. Australia acknowledged that improving the quality and consistency of *Aquatic Manual* chapters is a major undertaking and offered the continued support of its experts to assist in this important work.

Thailand supported the adoption of Chapter 2.2.4, but requested that the last sentence in section 2.3.3. ‘Geographical distribution’ be deleted because it is not in line with the most recent information on the geographical distribution of the disease.

In response to Finland, Dr Ernst explained that section 2.2.2 in Chapter 2.2.1. will be revised in line with other crustacean chapters when work on reviewing the list of susceptible species has been completed.

Dr Ernst appreciated Australia’s comment and noted that the Commission was now supported by an *ad hoc* working group dedicated to the *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Ernst agreed with the suggestion of Thailand and proposed the deletion of the last sentence in section 2.2.3 ‘Geographical distribution’ of Chapter 2.2.4.

Dr Ernst presented revised Chapters 2.2.1., 2.2.3., 2.2.4., 2.2.5., 2.2.6. and 2.2.8 to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### 309. **Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (new draft Chapter 2.2.X.)**

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had discussed a proposal to broaden the scope of the chapter on acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) to include other *Vibrio*

species. Although some other *Vibrio* species have been isolated in association with AHPND, at the time of this meeting there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that these species can cause the disease.

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that all the necessary references in the sections on susceptible host species and species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility can be found in the report of the *ad hoc* Group on susceptibility of crustacean species to infection with OIE listed diseases.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

### 310. Texts circulated for Member Countries' comments

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the following texts have been revised and circulated to Member Countries for their comments in the Commission's February 2017 meeting report and that all comments received will be considered by the Commission at its September 2016 meeting.

For the *Aquatic Code*: Criteria for listing species as susceptible (Chapter 1.5.) and Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Chapter 5.4.).

For the *Aquatic Manual*: White spot disease (Chapter 2.2.7).

Dr Ernst noted that details regarding the rationale for these revised texts can be found in the February 2017 Report of the Aquatic Animal Commission, which is available on the OIE website. Dr Ernst encouraged Delegates to participate in the OIE standard-setting process through the provision of written comments to the OIE.

### 311. Reference Centres

Dr Ernst, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his ongoing appreciation for the support and expert advice provided to the OIE by the Reference Centres.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had reviewed and accepted an application for an OIE Reference Laboratory for Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease. However, since this decision was taken the proposed designated expert has left the laboratory. The Commission decided to put the application on hold so that it could review the curriculum vitae of the proposed replacement expert at its meeting in September.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had identified the need to designate OIE Reference Laboratories for infectious haematopoietic necrosis, infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome), infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis* and infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists for these diseases.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had noted that the OIE Reference Laboratories for infectious haematopoietic necrosis and bacterial kidney disease (*Renibacterium salmoninarum*) at the US Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle,

USA had resigned their status in light of the retirement of the designated expert, Dr James Winton. Dr Ernst thanked Dr Winton for his contribution to the work of the OIE both as a Reference Laboratory expert and a former member of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had noted the request from the OIE Reference Laboratory for Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy at the Graduate School of Biosphere Science, Hiroshima University in Japan be removed from the list following the retirement of the designated expert Professor Toshihiro Nakai. Dr Ernst thanked Professor Nakai for his valuable contribution to the OIE since the OIE Reference Laboratory gained its designation in 2000.

Dr Ernst also informed the Assembly that the Commission had approved the proposed change of the designated expert at the OIE Reference Laboratory for Koi herpesvirus disease at CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) in Weymouth (United Kingdom) Dr David Stone to replace Dr Keith Way following his retirement. Dr Ernst thanked Dr Way for his valuable contribution to the OIE since the OIE Reference Laboratory gained its designation in 2007.

Consistent with the recommendations of the 3rd Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres in October 2014, OIE Reference Laboratories must achieve accreditation to ISO 17025 or an equivalent quality management system by the end of 2017. Following review of the annual reports, the Commission noted that 63.4% of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animals indicated that they are accredited to ISO 17025, 4.8% had an system in place equivalent to ISO 17025, and 19.5% were in the process of achieving such accreditation.

At the end of 2017, the OIE Headquarters and the relevant Commissions will review the status of the quality management systems in operation in all OIE Reference Laboratories to ensure that accreditation is to the ISO 17025 standard or equivalent quality management system.

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the standard operating procedures for designation of OIE Reference Laboratories, which had been presented to the Assembly by the President of the Biological Standards Commission, had been developed in consultation with the Aquatic Animals Commission. He informed Delegates that both Commissions would implement the procedures when designating OIE Reference Laboratories and evaluating their performance.

### 312. **Future work**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission, at each meeting, reviews and updates its work plan, taking into account Member Countries' comments, Headquarters' comments, and completed work. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work plan provides them with an overview of current and upcoming activities and includes significant new activities including the development of a new chapter on aquatic animal biosecurity and a review of the conditions required for self-declaration of freedom from OIE listed diseases at the country, zone or compartment level.

313. Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, commended the Commission and the OIE secretariat on their work in the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual*, which are much improved, particularly with respect to readability.
314. Zambia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, thanked the Commission for the development of the Technical Disease Card on TiLV given the potential impact of this disease on the aquaculture industry in Africa.

315. Zimbabwe, as a landlocked country that imports a lot of marine products, asked where they could find information to assist them regarding ciguatoxin.
316. The People's Republic of China reported on a successful Twinning project on IHN that has improved the People's Republic of China's ability to diagnose this disease. The People's Republic of China is preparing an application for an OIE Reference Laboratory for IHN.
317. Dr Ernst appreciated the support of Members in the work of the Commission.
318. Responding to Zimbabwe, Dr Ernst offered to discuss this request outside of this session.
319. In response to the People's Republic of China, Dr Ernst highlighted the value of Twinning projects, noting that this was a good example where the candidate laboratory had developed its capability and could submit an application for designation as an OIE Reference Laboratory.
320. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

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■ THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 ■

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SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

**Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends**

(Doc. 85 SG/2)

321. Dr Paula Cáceres, Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, stated that this presentation had been prepared on the basis of the various notifications that countries submitted to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) up to and including 10 May 2017. She indicated that the presentation would relate to five OIE-listed diseases and infections, namely: infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds, infection with rabies virus, infection with peste des petits ruminants virus, infection with foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. She added that the presentation would be followed by a summary of the global situation relating to diseases of aquatic animals and diagnostic capabilities. She informed the Assembly that the last chapter of the presentation on the WAHIS renovation process would be presented by Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department.
322. **Global situation regarding five terrestrial OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest**

Dr Cáceres indicated that information on animal health status for the selected diseases and infections was derived from the reports submitted to the OIE, providing statistics on the reports submission as of 10 May 2017. She declared that Members with pending reports for 2016 and previous years were encouraged to submit them as soon as possible so that their animal health information could be updated.

323. **Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds**

To begin, Dr Cáceres presented the situation relating to infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (HPAI) in birds within the context of the significant spread of the disease that occurred in 2016 and early 2017, mainly related to the dissemination of H5N8 subtype.

She showed the distribution of HPAI, detailing the subtypes notified, and indicated that more than 30% of countries reported the disease as present, representing the highest number of countries affected since the 2006 crisis.

She highlighted that for the first time since 1998, the subtype notified by the highest number of countries at global level was H5N8, and not H5N1 as previously reported. She indicated that a high number of notifications for subtype H5N8 had been received by the OIE after a wave of the disease had spread from Asia into Europe, Africa and the Middle East. She added that in terms of virus diversity, it was of great epidemiological interest to highlight the significant number of events reported for subtype H5N5, which had not been notified since 2005 through WAHIS. She indicated that H5N5 was a reassortment of H5N8 that had been described as ‘highly aggressive’, raising concerns over its potential spread and impact on animal health. She recalled that considering the recombination and mutation capacity of influenza A viruses, the increasing diversity of subtypes and the huge spread of HPAI since the previous General Session, the sanitary risk posed by HPAI viruses seemed to be increasingly serious. She indicated that the global impact of the disease on animal and public health during this period was huge, with millions of poultry birds destroyed, and more than one hundred human deaths. She stressed that for these reasons, sustained efforts to monitor avian influenza should be seen as a primary objective, in both domestic and wild birds.

Then, Dr Cáceres described the trend in notifications for all subtypes of the disease since 2006 to provide more background historical information and to illustrate the impact on OIE Members. She indicated that the percentage declined between 2006 and 2010 and then increased between 2012 and 2016, showing that the big crisis in 2006 was followed by a period of lower activity for several years and then higher level of spread again in the last period.

She continued presenting the next part of the analysis which described in more detail the epidemiological dynamic of H5N8 subtype in the last years, in terms of time evolution and spatial spread. She explained that the dynamic of H5N8 constituted an interesting model of the potential evolution of a subtype posing an increased threat in terms of diffusion and impact on animal health, given that there were large gaps in the history of the H5N8 subtype and multiple years without any isolation of this subtype.

She described the analysis performed, covering the period from 2013 to 2017, divided in four periods.

She first presented the epidemic curve, which showed two major H5N8 episodes in the last four years, the first one in the period 2014/2015 and the second one in the period 2016/2017. She highlighted that the H5N8 influenza peak reached its maximum in the period 2016 to 2017, the peak being in fact almost three times higher than the cumulative number of outbreaks reported during the three periods before.

She then showed the spatial analysis of H5N8 spread, and explained that a kernel density estimator (KDE) was applied to the geographic locations of the outbreaks, in order to highlight the distribution of the critical areas affected by the H5N8 subtype during the period of study. Moreover, she indicated that, to better understand the spatial spread of the virus, the migratory flyways were used as an additional explanatory layer. She observed that the geographic diffusion of H5N8 in the period 2016/2017 was 66% larger than in the period 2014/2015, showing a larger international spread.

Dr Cáceres raised interesting considerations on the virus spread behaviour. She first indicated that East Asia acted in both cases as a source of the epidemic waves, and therefore recommended that the report of the subtypes in this area should be followed by a global surveillance for the possible occurrence of a new epidemiological event in other countries. She then said that the international spread of the subtype shows “core areas” for the dissemination of the virus: in both epidemic waves, Europe was the main “recipient area”. On the other hand, she pointed out that big differences were observed between the

periods in terms of international spread: North America was involved only in the first epidemic event, while the second disseminated over the Middle East, Asia and Africa. She indicated that the different temporal manifestations of the two epidemic events could have been explained by different patterns of migratory birds, climatic factors and virus characteristics.

Dr Cáceres concluded that the analysis carried out provided interesting information on the past and present dynamic of HPAI at global level, indicating that the number of countries reporting the disease present during the last year had already exceeded the number of countries affected in the previous 2006 pandemic.

She added that the number of circulating subtypes was still increasing and posed serious threats to animal and public health, in particular with subtypes H5N8 and H5N5. She informed the Assembly that, to better understand the current and potential evolution of the disease dynamic, the OIE had implemented the conception of a genetic platform, using data from OIE Reference Laboratories and connected to WAHIS+.

Concerning the gaps of H5N8 historical information, Dr Cáceres indicated that they might be explained by lower screening efforts being conducted in wild birds during periods when the virus did not cause symptomatic disease in poultry. She specified that the OIE encouraged its Members to improve surveillance in wildlife and to continue timely reporting of outbreaks through WAHIS. She emphasised that the notification of HPAI in wildlife served the purpose of ensuring epidemiological understanding of the current risk situation for preparedness purposes and should not have an impact on trade in poultry and poultry products, in accordance with OIE standards.

#### 324. **Infection with rabies virus**

Dr Cáceres then presented the rabies virus situation in relation to the global goal of elimination of dog-mediated human rabies, which was agreed at the Conference organised in conjunction with the World Health Organization and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in May 2016.

She recalled that rabies had been an OIE-listed disease since 1924 and that since 2012, the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*), Chapter 8.13., had defined rabies as a disease caused by the Rabiesvirus. She highlighted that for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, diseases caused by other members of the Lyssavirus genus were not considered as “rabies”.

She showed the recent distribution of the disease in 2016 and early 2017 indicating that altogether, rabies was reported present in almost two-thirds of the reporting countries and territories in 2016 and early 2017, mainly through six-monthly reports.

She then indicated that rabies infection was maintained in two epidemiological cycles, one domestic and one sylvatic. She declared that in the domestic rabies cycle, dogs were the main reservoir host and predominated in areas of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. She mentioned that the sylvatic cycle was the predominant cycle in the northern hemisphere and that, in some ecological contexts, wildlife played a key role in the epidemiology of the disease, providing several regional examples.

She stressed that throughout the world, the transmission of rabies virus to humans was most commonly mediated by dogs, since it was estimated that more than 95% of human cases were caused by bites from infected dogs. She explained that through annual reports, the OIE collected information gathered by national official Authorities on human rabies cases and provided the percentages of affected countries.

She then presented the temporal dynamics of infection with rabies virus in dogs on a global level, explaining the methods used. She showed that the percentage of reporting countries and territories notifying the disease in dogs gradually decreased during the past 12 years, indicating an improvement in the global situation between 2005 and 2016, which was consistent with the eradication programmes implemented during this period by several countries around the world.

She gave detail on the analysis repeated at Regional level, which showed an improving trend in the Americas and Europe. She highlighted that the trend in Europe was consistent with the observation that, since 2005, five countries had submitted to the OIE self-declarations of freedom from the disease and maintained their free status. Conversely, she indicated that in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, the situation had remained stable and that in Oceania, during the period under study, no countries reported rabies.

Afterwards, she summarised some points of the conclusions of the WHO/OIE Conference on Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies, in 2015.

She then showed the regional differences in terms of occurrence of rabies in humans and in dogs in 2015/2016, as well as the trend of preventive official vaccination of dogs from 2005 to 2016 and the methods used.

She indicated that Africa, Asia and the Middle East were highly impacted by rabies in humans in 2015 and 2016, and that in Africa in particular, almost 90% of the countries in the Region experienced human rabies cases during this period. Likewise, she declared that in the same three regions, high percentages of countries notified rabies cases in dogs, and provided the relative risks of cases being notified in humans if cases were notified in dogs. She indicated that in Africa the percentage of countries implementing official vaccination of dogs increased regularly during the period under study. In contrast, she declared that the Americas and Europe were affected to a far lesser extent by rabies in humans in 2015 and 2016 and about one third of countries notified rabies cases in dogs, which was consistent with information provided by WHO, stating that dog-mediated human rabies had been eliminated in many Latin American countries. She pointed out that bats had become the source of most human deaths due to rabies in the Region in recent years. Dr Cáceres then provided official vaccination data in Europe and the Americas.

She concluded that rabies was one of the most important zoonotic diseases still widespread and that strong regional differences emerged from the analysis.

She recommended the systematic and consistent vaccination of dogs in high-risk areas to achieve elimination of human dog-mediated rabies. She explained that the OIE had programmes and initiatives to support Members in their efforts to achieve global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030 (vaccine bank and technical support for the implementation of national dog-mediated rabies elimination programmes).

She specified that the OIE urged affected countries to implement the recommendations highlighted in the conclusions of the Conference on Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies and in Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 84<sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE, to accelerate this decrease in the number of notifications of rabies in dogs, so that the goal of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies can be achieved by 2030.

Lastly, Dr Cáceres encouraged Members to make timely reports to the OIE on the evolution of their national epidemiological situation, so that WAHIS could measure progress towards the global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies.

### 325. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus**

Dr Cáceres recalled that the infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (PPR) is one of the priority diseases indicated in the GF-TADs and in the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR by 2030.

She then presented the recent distribution of the disease in 2016 until 10 May 2017. She indicated that, around 30% of the reporting countries and territories reported the disease present, and that it was reported by means of immediate notifications by six countries.

Afterward she indicated that since December 2016, PPR has caused more than 3000 deaths in Mongolian Saigas, a sub-species classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. She indicated that the OIE is working closely with FAO to assist the Government of Mongolia in dealing with the PPR outbreaks to protect both livestock and wildlife, in particular through Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) missions and follow-up of their recommendations.

She presented the distribution of Members that were officially recognised as free from the disease or as having a PPR free zone during the last General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE, in May 2016. Afterwards she presented the trend of the disease since 2005, indicating that the percentage of reporting countries and territories notifying the disease increased during the overall period of analysis. Later she showed the same analysis at Regional level, where the situation deteriorated in particular in Africa and Asia. She added that no significant trend was observed in Europe and the Middle East, and that the Americas and Oceania have been historically free from PPR.

She specified that the objectives of the analysis were to 1) describe the recent evolution of the regulated international trade of live small ruminants, as a potential route for disease spread; and 2) evaluate the role of regulated vs. unregulated international trade of small ruminants in PPR spread over the past eleven years.

She indicated that data on regulated international live ruminant trade were extracted from the UN Comtrade, for the period from 2005 to 2016 and that social network analysis techniques were applied. According to these data, she specified that each year an average of 164 countries and territories were involved in regulated international trade of live small ruminants and 541 import or export links between two countries were recorded. She indicated that the countries where the transport of animals was very intense for both import and export were nodes where vigilance must be kept high.

Afterwards she showed the evolution of the global live ruminant trade network from 2005 to 2015, and she stressed that regulated international trade significantly increased from 2005 to 2015, both in terms of monetary value and network density.

She explained that this context of increasing movement of live animals in international trade could lead to increasing the risks of spread of transboundary animal diseases, such as PPR.

Then she pointed out that, for PPR events reported to the OIE as first occurrences in countries since 2005, genetic links with previously existing viruses in other countries were identified, based on bibliographical research of studies reporting viral sequences. She then explained that the links between the regulated trade routes and virus sequences were then compared. She emphasized that considering availability of genetic and trade data, this analysis only included 10 events from 2007 to 2016. She concluded that for nine disease events, disease spread could not be explained by regulated trade, according to assumptions derived from genetic sequencing.

Therefore she indicated that despite increasing regulated trade in live small ruminants over the last 10 years, this was not the primary driver of the observed spread of PPR. She stressed that the recent international spread of PPR appeared more likely to be due to unregulated animal movements on routes that were not aligned with regulated trade, and that was confirmed through immediate notifications and follow-up reports as the source of four transboundary PPR introductions during the period of analysis.

She concluded that the analysis demonstrated that regulated international trade in live small ruminants has played a less important role than unregulated trade in the spread of the disease to newly affected countries during the past 10 years. She added that the results of the analysis suggest that implementation of the standards developed by the OIE and recognised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) had been effective.

Moreover, she mentioned that the massive PPR episode in wildlife reported in Mongolia also raised the question of the role of wildlife in PPR in the context of the Global Strategy for its control and eradication. In this context, she indicated that the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had started to clarify with reporting countries and territories the situation of the disease in wildlife.

Finally, she said that this analysis has shown the high value of genetic information in helping to understand disease spread, and she added that genetic information will be linked to epidemiological information in the next version of WAHIS.

### **326. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus**

Dr Cáceres indicated that the infection with foot and mouth disease virus (FMD) was among the three most frequently notified OIE listed diseases through the OIE early warning system during the period 2016 and early 2017. She pointed out that three countries submitted immediate notifications for the occurrence of a new strain: Armenia and Iran (genotype VII of serotype A), Russia (serotype Asia 1). She added that Mauritius, reported the first occurrence of the disease in the country (serotype O).

She presented the recent reported distribution of FMD, from 1 January 2016 to 10 May 2017, by serotype. She pointed out that nineteen countries and territories notified the presence of FMD during the period without providing information on the serotype involved.

She presented the distribution of Members officially recognised as free from the disease or as having a FMD free zone during the last General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE, in May 2016. She added that some Members had requested the OIE to endorse their official control programme (including the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, India and Venezuela).

She indicated that the percentage of reporting countries and territories notifying the disease present from 2005 to 2016 was stable. Afterwards she analysed the trend at regional level, noting that the Region with the highest disease prevalence in the last 12 years was the Middle East, followed by Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. She specified that, in Africa, if we compare the sub-Regions, the epidemiological situation in Northern and Southern Africa was favourable, compared to the Eastern, Western and Central Africa. She concluded that, in Oceania, the disease had not been reported during the period of study.

She showed that the percentage of countries and territories reporting the disease present significantly decreased in the Americas and that this improvement was reflected in the evolution of the annual List of Members and zones recognised as free from FMD. Conversely, she noted that in Africa, the percentage of countries and territories reporting the disease present significantly increased. Finally, she added that in Asia and the Middle East, no significant evolution in the percentage of countries and territories reporting FMD present had been observed. She indicated that these results highlight the need for a regional approach to control the disease.

Dr Cáceres said that information collected by the OIE since its creation in 1924 formed a valuable database to track and evaluate not only the current but also the historical evolution of the listed diseases. She added that the progressive decrease of FMD serotype C incidence was evaluated through the analysis of reports collected and stored by the OIE from 1981 and she showed the results. She highlighted that the serotype has not been detected by any OIE Reference Laboratory in the world for more than 10 years and that the last reports of serotype C based on virus isolation were in 2004 (Kenya, Brazil and Pakistan), while only serological evidence was provided in events reported by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia in 2011, and by South Sudan in 2014.

She stressed that, considering the importance of confirming evidence of serotype C eradication, more effort should be directed at the quality of the information provided by Members. She added that in particular, complete and accurate information on the circulating FMD serotypes should always be provided through WAHIS, when available. She pointed out that from the analysis of reports for the period 2005 – 2016, an average of 39% of the Members reporting the disease present were unable to provide information on the FMD serotype(s) involved showing a significant decrease along the years. She added that Africa was the Region with the highest percentage of countries that were unable to provide this information, followed by Asia and the Middle East and she emphasised that in these Regions, the diagnostic capabilities of Members should be strengthened.

She concluded saying that this analysis identified regional trends in disease prevalence, for this reason the control and surveillance of FMD should consider a regional approach.

Furthermore, she said that the reporting of serotypes was of the utmost importance to help provide evidence of the possible eradication of serotype C, and she reminded that the OIE network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres could provide support to these Members.

Finally, she indicated that improving the capacity to detect and follow the evolution of the disease through genetic typing should be considered of utmost importance in the future. She concluded that in this context the OIE is developing its new platform “WAHIS +” in order to make genetic information available in a timely and accurate manner, which will significantly contribute to the investigation of the evolutionary and spatial pathways linked with FMD epidemics.

### 327. **Lumpy skin disease**

Dr Cáceres presented the situation relating to lumpy skin disease (LSD), in the context of the significant spread that has occurred in 2016/2017, above all in Europe.

She described the recent distribution of the disease in 2016 and early 2017 as of 10 May 2017, indicating that the disease was reported present in around 30% of the reporting countries and territories. She pointed out that the disease was reported by means of immediate notifications by 12 countries, more than half of them in Europe, and that almost 90% of the outbreaks reported through immediate notifications started in the months from April to July 2016.

She showed the trend of the disease from 2005 to 2016, stressing that the percentage of Members notifying the disease present significantly increased. She pointed out that the increasing trend was mainly due to the spread of the disease in Europe, which was henceforth considered a new LSD-affected Region in addition to its traditional range in Africa and the Middle East.

She showed the significant movement of the virus northwards, indicating the latitude values of outbreaks reported through immediate notifications and follow-up reports to the OIE. She pointed out that the virus made a jump of about 30 degrees (more than 3000 kilometres) northwards in the last 10 years.

She declared that close monitoring of at-risk areas was important for a country's preparedness and disease control.

She added that, LSD spread and geographical distribution were significantly influenced by environmental conditions and that, considering the above, the main aim of the analysis had been to identify the variables associated with disease occurrence and subsequently to use them to identify the zones at higher risk for disease introduction.

She said that the distribution of the disease during the period of study was modelled using the LSD outbreaks notified to the OIE through immediate notifications and follow-up reports in the period 2005 – 2017 and she presented the results.

She indicated that the raster dataset used for the modelling process was composed of 41 environmental covariates and explained the statistical model used. She added that sixteen different variables were selected in the final model.

She indicated that the results showed that, when proper climatic (temperature and precipitation) conditions exist, land use cover allowing optimal humidity conditions to be preserved, played a major role in disease spread. She added that land use cover guaranteed the long-term survival of the vectors (ticks and mosquitos) and that applying the results allowed to derive a predictive map for the areas with highest risk of LSD spread. She pointed out that the model identified several high-risk areas in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Dr Cáceres said that under this scenario, and to prevent further viral spread, it was important to evaluate and apply the best strategies for LSD control. She indicated that the European Commission, following the spread of the disease in Greece, Bulgaria and other Balkan countries in 2016, asked the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to provide a scientific evaluation of the most effective methods to control the disease and that several experts agreed that vaccination was the most effective option for controlling the disease spread. She concluded that in particular, vaccination was most effective if applied before the virus entered a region or a country and so the availability of a predictive risk model was an effective tool to prioritise areas to apply preventive vaccination and improve the cost-effectiveness of the intervention.

She highlighted that LSD was an emerging threat to free countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. She added that attempts to model LSD spatial epidemiology had been minimal globally, and thus the most important goal of this analysis was to characterise the factors affecting the spatial dynamics of LSD at global level.

She stressed that precise identification of factors having caused the huge spread of the disease in recent years was still under discussion, but the results of the analysis presented in this chapter highlighted the crucial role that environmental and climatic conditions could play.

She reported that these results might contribute to the design of surveillance programmes that selectively target high-risk areas with specific demographic and environmental factors and guide epidemic preparedness efforts in neighbouring LSD-free countries. Moreover, she said that considering the important role of vaccination programmes for disease control and prevention, risk modelling could play a major role in targeting high risk areas for their implementation.

To conclude she indicated that this analysis demonstrated the importance of linking the data provided by Members through WAHIS with international databases to improve epidemiological evaluation of Members' vulnerability to diseases. She said that for this reason, the OIE wishes to include in the new version of WAHIS the integration of commonly used open source datasets of climatic, environmental and health data.

**328. Global situation regarding diseases of aquatic animals: worldwide diagnostic capabilities**

In the second part of the presentation, Dr Cáceres showed the global situation regarding diseases of aquatic animals. She presented the percentage of Members that had submitted their six-monthly report on aquatic animal diseases. She indicated that these percentages were much lower than those for terrestrial animal diseases and therefore, the aim of this section was to describe the current situation of reporting on aquatic animal diseases, and discuss the gaps in diagnostic capabilities in the different OIE Regions.

She explained that firstly, the trend in reporting to the OIE over time was assessed during the period from 2012 (when reports for aquatic animal diseases were separated from those for terrestrial animal diseases) to 2015 and she provided the results.

Afterwards, she presented the factors influencing the notification of aquatic animal diseases. Firstly, she indicated that the submission of six-monthly reports was measured against their 2015 aquaculture production in tonnes, as reported by 2015 statistics of FAO Global Aquaculture Production and she showed the results.

Likewise she showed the percentage of Members having submitted information to the OIE for 2016 (as of 10 May 2017), by OIE Region. She declared that Europe had the highest percentage, followed by the Americas, and that the level of report submission by these two Regions was higher than the global average. Finally, she added that the Region with the lowest level of information submitted was Africa.

Afterwards she described information contained within these reports. Indeed, she said that some countries might have submitted six-monthly reports to the OIE on a regular basis, but with very little information contained in the reports. She presented the distribution of OIE-Listed diseases of aquatic animals in 2016 and early 2017 (by group of species: amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs). She highlighted that significant gaps of information had been observed in particular in Asia and Africa.

Dr Cáceres listed the immediate notifications received during the period 2016 and early 2017 (as of 10 May 2017), related to diseases of aquatic animals.

She went on saying that the percentage of Members that reported the presence of at least one disease in their reports was measured, showing regional differences. She added that these results should be considered in the context of productions levels, as well as the distribution of OIE-listed diseases.

She added that these results might also be interpreted as revealing a lack of diagnostic capabilities of countries in some Regions, especially in those with Members with low aquaculture production tonnages.

She continued saying that to identify potential gaps in national diagnostic capabilities for aquatic animal diseases, information on national Reference laboratory capacities indicated in Members' latest annual reports was analysed, and she showed the results globally and broken down by region. She highlighted that the highest percentages of Members that reported diagnostic capabilities for aquatic animal diseases were observed in the Americas and Europe.

She stressed that these percentages might have been underestimated, as Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE were not always aware of changes in national Reference laboratories, and Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories were rarely involved in completing WAHIS annual reports, partly because of the current difficulties in accessing and using the current version of WAHIS. She added that the OIE was exploring how to address these issues in the next version of WAHIS, and that furthermore, the OIE was seeking to increase the involvement of Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories in updating information on national Reference laboratories each year through the annual reports, as emphasised in the recent training sessions.

Afterwards she presented the impact of availability of diagnostic capabilities for aquatic animal diseases at national level on proper reporting, measured using the odds ratio. She indicated that countries with diagnostic capabilities were more likely to submit reports than those without and that countries with diagnostic capability were more likely to report the presence of at least one disease in 2016 than those without.

She pointed out that OIE Reference laboratories for OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases are currently present in 14 Members in the world, but none is in either of the Regions most in need, namely Africa and the Middle East.

Finally, she analysed the use that Member Countries have made of OIE Reference Laboratories for the diagnosis of OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases in the period 2005 – 2017. She added that this information was analysed in order to assess the use made of national Reference laboratories, private laboratories, OIE Reference Laboratories or Reference laboratories of other countries for confirmation of aquatic animal disease events during this period. She provided the percentage of involvement of each type of laboratory in the process of confirmation.

She concluded saying that this chapter had shown that, despite the importance of aquatic animal diseases, the level of global reporting was much lower than for terrestrial animal diseases, and that this had unfortunately been a stable trend for the past five years. She highlighted that no improvement had been observed despite encouragement from the OIE.

She indicated that the geographical disparities of information highlighted in this chapter could be partially explained by the lack of diagnostic capabilities in certain Regions, and that the OIE provided the following mechanisms to address gaps in this respect: 1) provision of support by OIE Reference Laboratories in case of specific need; and 2) twinning programmes involving an OIE Reference Laboratory and a national Reference laboratory.

She added that the OIE also helped its Members to fulfil their obligations on notification of aquatic animal diseases by encouraging the nomination of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, giving them access to WAHIS, providing regular dedicated training, and through the e-learning platform on WAHIS.

329. Following her address, Dr Cáceres handed the floor to Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department.

330. Dr Neo Mapitse presented the WAHIS renovation project stating that the aim of the new WAHIS+ was to enhance transparency of animal health in an innovative and effective way for the benefit of the Members.

He said that a dynamic and more intuitive system with new features and powerful digital technologies, including extended data mining, customisable data queries and enhanced mapping features and displays, would support users. He pointed out that genomic data linked to epidemiological information would strengthen disease traceability. He added that WAHIS+ would enable countries to work with their national data online and in a dynamic way. Moreover interoperability between WAHIS+ and national/regional databases, as well as the ability to adapt WAHIS+ data analysis and display at national and regional levels was foreseen and that would support regional programmes and initiatives, such as Europe, Africa and Asia regional cores, initiatives such as PVS, AMR activities, the OIE's disease eradication strategies and linkage with official disease status. In addition, he declared that integration with other databases and platforms for enriched risk assessment would make WAHIS+ a reliable, real-time source of knowledge supporting policy decision making.

Dr Mapitse informed the Assembly that the project was being delivered in three phases and explained that the first phase had laid down the project deliverables, timelines and governance. He added that the project was now in the second phase, and that user needs assessment and the write up of functional specifications were ongoing and that the third and last phase would cover WAHIS+ development, deployment and data migration.

Dr Mapitse mentioned that following an international call for tender, a consultancy firm had been subcontracted to provide assistance to the contracting authority (ACA company) and two consultants have been placed at the OIE Headquarters to work closely with the OIE WAHIS+ core team. He indicated that in parallel two surveys have been conducted in order to gather information from WAHIS users (Delegates and Focal Points and stakeholders). He provided a few details on the feedback received that have laid the foundation for drafting functional specifications to be finalised in June 2017.

He said that the recruitment process for the Technical Project Manager was ongoing. He then briefly presented the upcoming activities regarding the development and construction phase. He stated that the envisaged selection of an IT company for WAHIS+ development would be a two-step process starting with a Request for Information (RFI) and subsequent tendering.

Dr Mapitse pointed out that WAHIS+ would be developed with Agile methodology, guaranteeing a faster delivery. He added that by breaking down the project into manageable units (modules), the project team could focus on high-quality development, testing, and collaboration.

He described the three main stages and durations of the WAHIS+ roll-out strategy; the foundation stage (18 months), evolution stage (6 months) and the advanced stage (6+ months).

Dr Mapitse explained that a WAHIS+ project Steering Committee (SC) chaired by the Director General had been established to review progress and provide strategic guidance to the project. He added that the SC received reports on project progress from the Operational Committee. He indicated that the OIE intended to establish a Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the composition and terms of reference of which would be defined subsequently by the general management.

Dr Mapitse concluded by saying that as the funds required to implement the project had not yet been totally secured, fundraising for WAHIS+ was ongoing and a number of communication aids to engage donor support and promotion of the project had been developed.

331. Dr Mapitse then gave Dr Cáceres the opportunity to close the presentation.
332. Dr Cáceres thanked her staff for their contribution to the preparation of the report and for their daily commitment to processing of notifications of Members and she highlighted the involvement of the colleagues of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for their great help in the process of notification. She also made special mention of the exceptional work carried out by the Focal Points as well as the National Veterinary Services, which went to great lengths to ensure good quality information is available in WAHIS at all times.
333. Dr Eloit, Director General of the OIE, announced the launch of a new e-learning platform on WAHIS. She thanked Iowa State University (United States of America), which had collaborated with the OIE on the development of this platform. She also thanked the European Union for providing financial support for the project. Dr Eloit highlighted that the interactive platform would provide useful updated training material on WAHIS not only for recently appointed Focal Points but also for experienced WAHIS users. She informed the Assembly that certificates would be delivered to users after they had completed the modules and passed the corresponding tests. She added that the platform was initially launched in English, but that it would be available in French and Spanish by the end of the year. Finally, she encouraged the Assembly to explore the platform and she thanked the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department for the work accomplished.
334. Before opening the discussion, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, President of the OIE, thanked Dr Cáceres and Dr Mapitse for their presentations. He stated his concerns about the non-reporting of FMD serotypes and the non-reporting on aquatic animal diseases by Members. He urged Members to request assistance if needed and to submit reports on aquatic diseases.
335. The United States of America remarked that WAHIS had been a source of many complaints in the past from Delegates and was impressed with the rapid progress the OIE had made on WAHIS. The United States of America acknowledged the responsiveness of the OIE for listening to the Delegates and moving this issue forward. The United States of America highlighted its awareness of the amount and difficulty of the work required to complete the WAHIS+ project.
336. Botswana remarked that although the report was very informative regarding the global animal health situation it did not cover Ebola disease virus. Botswana also sought clarification on an apparent discrepancy on its FMD and LSD situation as indicated in this report.
337. Australia noted that disease events associated with new and emerging diseases were often not reported by Members in accordance with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes* (the *Codes*). In recent years, this had been a particular problem for aquatic animal diseases, with very significant diseases such as acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease not being reported to the OIE.

Australia expressed concern that such failure to report undermined transparency among Members and efforts to control the spread of new and emerging diseases. Australia encouraged Members to comply with the requirements of the *Codes* by reporting new and emerging diseases.

Australia expressed interest in knowing what steps the OIE took to investigate instances where reporting requirements for emerging diseases had not been followed and whether these actions resulted in improved reporting.

338. The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU with regard to avian influenza, reiterated that the EU very much welcomed the in-depth revision of this important *Code* chapter envisaged by the Code Commission. The Netherlands recalled that the EU had recently faced its largest avian influenza epidemic ever and that the risks posed by avian wildlife had played a major role during the course of the epidemic, which had been unprecedented in amplitude and geographical distribution. The Netherlands added that, as a consequence, EU Member States had experienced and were still experiencing trade barriers being imposed by some OIE Members, that did not follow the OIE principle on zoning and regionalisation, and that this non-implementation of OIE standards by its Members was not acceptable, whereas, on the other hand, the EU made ample use of regionalisation for the poultry imports by its trading partners.

In addition, the Netherlands stated that the recent experience had illustrated the urgent need to revise the chapter's definitions, the status of a country or zone for infection with both low and high pathogenicity viruses. The Netherlands outlined that provisions for zoning around outbreaks that reflected the specific epidemiology of the infection were needed and that it would support and facilitate importing countries with decision-making on the appropriate regionalisation measures. The Netherlands added that the standards for regaining freedom of a country or zone following outbreaks also needed to be re-evaluated.

With regard to infection with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, the Netherlands reported that the risk mitigating measures should be proportionate to the risks posed by low and high pathogenicity viruses for outbreak management and trade in different poultry commodities. The Netherlands mentioned that there was currently little incentive for Members to carry out intense surveillance for avian influenza viruses and that detections of low pathogenicity viruses often led to unjustified barriers to trade. The Netherlands stated that the articles on surveillance should therefore also be critically re-assessed.

The Netherlands indicated that the EU very much looked forward to actively participating in this review and would make available to the OIE the scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority as soon as it became available. The Netherlands also reiterated the offer of technical support and expertise for the *ad hoc* group of experts, which should start work as soon as possible.

The Netherlands declared that the EU therefore fully supported the future work on this chapter.

Finally, the Netherlands pointed out that, in this context, the EU would like to refer to a thematic session on regionalisation due to take place in the margins of the next WTO SPS Committee meeting on 11 July in Geneva (Switzerland), to which all WTO members were invited.

339. Bahrain emphasised the importance of anthrax and expressed concerns about its emergence in 2016 in many countries, including in Europe. Bahrain requested clarification on why anthrax was not addressed in this report.
340. Benin endorsed the other Members that had previously mentioned the quality of the presentation. Benin reported that rabies continued to strike, especially in Africa, and asked the OIE to reinforce all programmes and initiatives designed to eradicate rabies by the year 2030. Benin pursued the theme of FMD, declaring that certain countries often did not have the ability to carry out typing, and were not aware of the serotypes in circulation. Benin added that the national laboratories were experiencing difficulties and recommended that the OIE alleviate the conditions for sending samples and access to suitable vaccine strains, in particular for Africa. As for lumpy skin disease, Benin was trying to see if the prediction model for risk periods referred to in the presentation was applicable to Africa. Finally, Benin spoke about anthrax and the ravages it was causing and suggested that the OIE should put more emphasis on this disease.

341. Chile noted that the quality of the report and analysis came as a pleasant surprise every year. He reported that the country used the WAHIS system for notification and surveillance. However, as the system had gone down early in the year, Chile suggested that the OIE implement a backup system. Chile added that it would be very useful to receive the schedule of analyses in advance.
342. Mauritius updated the Assembly regarding its FMD situation, including the surveillance and control measures undertaken to eradicate the disease. Making special reference to the presentations by Dr Bruckner and Dr Bonbon, Mauritius pointed out that the country had been hard hit by the disease in July/August 2016, after 100 years of absence. Mauritius thanked the OIE and the EU-FMD Commission, as well as the Indian Ocean Commission, for the timely and much needed support so that the appropriate vaccine could be made available in September 2016. Mauritius stated that the country had completed the third vaccination campaign and had started the post-vaccination surveillance, as per OIE guidelines. Finally, Mauritius informed the Assembly that no new clinical cases of FMD had been observed since September 2016, and that the country would shortly be applying for official status recognition for FMD.
343. Malta, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, welcomed the initiative of the OIE to profoundly redesign WAHIS, as it would allow the technical constraints of the current system to be overcome, while modernising and expanding many of its features. Malta stated that the EU was well aware of the challenges the new information system needed to overcome while staying true to its core mandate to provide early warning for important disease outbreaks. Malta expressed the EU's support and confidence in the OIE, and in its World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department in carrying out this challenging task in an efficient and timely manner. Malta then thanked Dr Cáceres and her team for their good work and congratulated them on the e-learning platform.
344. Eritrea requested that the OIE consider existing regional and international database systems such as AU-IBAR's ARIS<sup>24</sup> in the development of WAHIS+.
345. Panama welcomed the mobile application initiative, which was the result of the perseverance of Dr Cáceres and her staff. Panama added that molecular sequencing was a tool used to ascertain the origin of disease in both humans and animals. With regard to avian influenza serotype H5N8, related to migrating birds, Panama said that it would be advisable to review triggering factors, such as sandstorms, increased grain production and increased numbers of birds of prey, all factors that contributed to increased migration and spread of the disease.
346. Senegal commented on the presentation on avian influenza, emphasising the global threat represented by the disease. Senegal underlined that the implementation of OIE standards by Members concerning zoning, compartmentalisation, biosecurity, traceability and risk analysis could help to reduce significantly the risks associated with trade as they played an important role in food safety. Concerning rabies, Senegal added that the country was experiencing particular difficulty in capturing stray dogs for parenteral vaccination. Senegal therefore requested that every effort be made to develop a vaccine for oral administration.
347. Canada appreciated the work done by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department team and was supportive of the initiative on WAHIS+. Canada believes interoperability should be of prime importance in the expansion of WAHIS based on the country's recent experiences. Canada offered its support to the OIE to enable it to benefit from Canada's experiences.

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<sup>24</sup> ARIS: Animal Resources Information System

348. Namibia noted the linkage made between PPR and wildlife and, in the context of the global strategy for the eradication of PPR by 2030, requested the OIE to investigate further the role of wildlife in the spread of PPR. Regarding the LSD model that was presented, based on climatic factors as predictive variables, Namibia highlighted that the country experienced outbreaks of the disease also in winter and during dry spells, when vector activity was low. For this reason, Namibia suggested improvements in the models, taking into consideration other potential factors. Namibia added that the monitoring of wildlife and vaccination campaigns should be considered for better control of the disease. Finally, Namibia recognised that in terms of prediction of outbreaks in Namibia the model on LSD was accurate.
349. Dr Modisane welcomed the comments and asked Dr Cáceres to answer the general questions. All countries with more specific observations regarding the presentation could discuss them directly with the Department.
350. Dr Cáceres welcomed the observations.
351. In response to the comment from Botswana, she explained that Ebola virus disease in animals was reported through the voluntary annual wildlife report and she encouraged countries to submit any information they might have.
352. In response to Australia's comment on lack of notification of emerging diseases, especially in aquatic animals, Dr Cáceres confirmed that it was not easy to diagnose such diseases and congratulated those countries that did their best to share such information, enabling the Scientific Commission and Code Commission to analyse it in the light of their experience.
353. With reference to the comment by the Netherlands, Dr Cáceres agreed that Member Countries should comply with all the standards set out in the Codes relating to regionalisation and compartmentalisation, as the Codes had been developed to facilitate trade and not to erect barriers. She welcomed the European Union's support for the new WAHIS+ project, especially the offers of technical support
354. In answer to comments from Bahrain, Benin and Senegal on anthrax, Dr Cáceres pointed out that this disease was reported through immediate notifications only occasionally and that, in most countries, the anthrax situation was stable and the disease was notified in the six-monthly reports. She added that their comments would be taken into account for the next General Session or for one of the Regional Conferences.
355. With regard to the WAHIS technical problem mentioned by Chile, she explained that, since the beginning of 2017, the OIE had been strengthening all IT hardware and software under the leadership of Dr Dop, to ensure that the problem would not recur.
356. Dr Cáceres then congratulated Mauritius on the progress it had made in controlling foot and mouth disease in the country.
357. In response to the request from Eritrea and Canada, she said that the new WAHIS+ system was expected to facilitate both interoperability with other local and regional databases and data exchange. She expressed special thanks to Canada for its offer of technical support.
358. With reference to Panama's suggestion, Dr Cáceres agreed on the importance of using information relating to genetic sequencing. She said that it was inconceivable for the new WAHIS not to have a genetic platform and reported that work was underway with the Science and New Technologies Department, under the leadership of Dr Erlacher-Vindel, to develop the genetic platform in the new WAHIS+.

359. Dr Cáceres agreed with Senegal on the issue of implementing vaccination to reduce rabies in the region and on the value of being able to use oral vaccination.
360. In response to Namibia's comment regarding lumpy skin disease, she said that the models used in the analysis were based on data from immediate notifications. She added that the information sent by Member Countries through the six-monthly reports could not be used because there was no georeferenced data.
361. Dr Eloit, Director General of the OIE, in response to Botswana, informed the Assembly that the OIE was developing a project on Ebola virus disease in collaboration with three scientific partners and including 10 African countries. She added that the project was at its starting point and Members would be updated in due course.
362. In reply to Benin and Senegal, Dr Eloit informed the Meeting that, following the Global Conference held in December 2015, work on the eradication of rabies by the year 2030 was continuing with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Organisation for Food and Agriculture (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) on both the technical and financial aspects. On the technical side, she indicated that the Biological Standards Commission had focused on the question of oral vaccination and was working with an *ad hoc* Group to formulate specific standards. Dr Eloit also reported that the OIE had established contacts with vaccine manufacturers to study the possibility of developing vaccines for oral administration in dogs. On the financial side, Dr Eloit stated that a financing plan and potential investors were under study, with the help of an external consultant, in order to start discussions with investors before the end of the year.
363. To conclude the session, Dr Modisane thanked the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department for the work it had accomplished and the quality of the presentation, encouraging the Members to continue with notification to the OIE and to use the new e-learning platform.

#### **Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions**

##### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34 Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

364. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 34 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

##### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 35 Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

365. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 35. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

##### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 36 Amendments to the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

366. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 36. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 37  
Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres**

367. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 37 for adoption.
368. Benin pointed out that the words “Chargé de Recherche au” were not necessary in the address of the Collaborating Centre in Senegal. The Director General affirmed that the address would be verified and corrected.
369. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 37 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 38  
Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance:  
progress and opportunities for future activities under the ‘One Health’ initiative**

370. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 38, and invited Dr Matthew Stone to provide background information.
371. Dr Stone thanked the rapporteur of the Technical Item and the drafting committee of the Resolution for their hard work. He advised the Assembly that those Members who had provided interventions were invited to the drafting committee and explained the process undertaken. Dr Stone reminded the Assembly of the previous Resolutions on antimicrobial resistance adopted in 2015 and 2016, and the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials. Resolution No. 38 of this year was meant specifically to reflect the findings of Technical Item 1 and to introduce new recommendations rather than repeat past work.
372. The United Kingdom thanked the President and, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, proposed amendments to recommendations 3, 4, 6, 10 and 11:

For recommendation 3, the EU proposed: “*The Delegates of Member Countries and Focal Points interact at national level with their counterparts in food, health and environment policy areas under the ‘One Health’ approach, to ensure sustainable collaboration and coordination to the development of international standards on AMR.*”

For recommendation 4, the EU proposed: “*The OIE promote approaches to reduce the need to use antibiotics by encouraging good biosecurity and best practice in animal husbandry, alternatives to antibiotics and the development of new vaccines.*”

For recommendation 6, the EU proposed: “*The OIE support Member Countries in the implementation of a national action plan and international standards, especially with regards to responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in order to combat AMR more effectively, including the prescription and delivery, where appropriate, of antimicrobial agents by well-trained veterinarians or suitably trained persons authorised in accordance with national legislation.*”

For recommendation 10, the EU proposed: “*The OIE complement the specific standards and recommendations on laboratory methodologies for antimicrobial susceptibility testing to determine bacterial resistance and interpret the test results in the context of AMR working with WHO and FAO within the Tripartite collaboration to ensure integrated surveillance and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in human and animal health, environment and agriculture.*”

For recommendation 11, the EU proposed: *“The OIE put in place tools to monitor the actions undertaken by Member Countries, including foreseen timescale, to implement its strategy on AMR, while also taking into account the evaluation developed in collaboration with its Tripartite partners and the future work of the United Nations interagency group to coordinate global action to fight antimicrobial resistance effectively and sustainably.”*

373. In reference to the amendments suggested for recommendation 3, Dr Stone reminded the Assembly that Members have been encouraged to work intersectorally in previous recommendations and in the Strategic Plan, and that the aim of this recommendation was particularly intended to highlight the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, which has a specific committee currently working on AMR, with a mandate for standard-setting similar to the OIE.

Regarding recommendation 4, Dr Stone suggested rewording the recommendation to reflect the comments from the EU.

Dr Stone highlighted that recommendation 6 already takes into account that non-veterinarians deliver antimicrobials, but that it would be preferable that they would have some training provided.

Regarding recommendation 10, Dr Stone appreciated the proposal from the EU of highlighting the role of the Tripartite, especially to achieve integrated surveillance.

374. Australia stated that the comments provided by the EU were difficult to consider, as the Assembly did not receive them in writing. Concerning recommendation 3, Australia stated that the original proposal better reflected the purpose of the recommendation, which was to stress the collaboration between the OIE and the Codex as standard-setting organisations, and proposed to retain the original wording.
375. Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, remarked that recommendation 4 should remove reference to new vaccines, as improving the quality and affordability of existing vaccines should also be promoted. Furthermore, regarding recommendation 6, Dr Lubroth added that the appropriate diagnostics are also an efficient tool to ensure the right treatment is being provided.
376. Japan remarked that the EU proposal for recommendation 4 duplicates previous Resolutions. In addition, Japan proposed that a written version of the new proposals for Resolution No. 38 be provided to the Assembly, to allow non-native English speakers to consider the text carefully.
377. Uruguay also expressed difficulty in following the proposed revisions without seeing a written version, and suggested that the group drafting Resolution No. 38 be reconvened during the lunch break to provide the Assembly with a new proposal in the three languages.
378. The Director General reminded the Assembly that the Global Action Plan affirming the Tripartite collaboration was already adopted by all Members. She also affirmed that Resolution No 38 will not change previous Resolutions that were adopted but would only add to them.

Concerning recommendation 3, the Director General stressed that specific mention to the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission was appropriate as the aim of the recommendation was to highlight the development of international standards.

Based on the discussion, the Director General proposed to focus on the EU comments on recommendations 3, 4 and 10. She proposed retaining recommendations 6 and 11 as drafted, as the suggested changes did not significantly improve the essence of the Resolution.

379. After revision, the suggested recommendations 3, 4 and 10 were projected for the Assembly in three languages. The revisions were proposed as follows:
3. The Delegates of Member Countries and Focal Points interact at the national level with their ‘One Health’ counterparts in particular with those participating in the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, to ensure sustainable collaboration and coordination on the development of international standards on AMR.
  4. The OIE promote approaches to reduce the need to use antibiotics by encouraging good biosecurity and best practices in animal husbandry, alternatives to antibiotics and in particular the development of vaccines.
  10. The OIE complement the specific standards and recommendations on laboratory methodologies for antimicrobial susceptibility testing to determine bacterial resistance and interpret the test results in the context of AMR, working with WHO and FAO to achieve integrated surveillance.
380. A discussion was held on the amendments proposed to recommendation 4. After expressing its gratitude to Dr Eloit for providing an opportunity to review the revised text in writing for the sake of ensuring transparency and democracy of the organisation, Japan pointed out that Dr Stone had explained that the focus of the draft resolution was put on new elements rather than repeating recommendations in the previous resolutions. Japan therefore agreed to the text ‘to reduce the need to use antibiotics’ while suggesting that the rest of the amendments be reverted to the original proposed draft Resolution. Dr Stone responded to Japan’s comment with appreciation, and highlighted the work OIE has already undertaken supporting alternatives to antibiotics, such as the most recent 2nd International Symposium on Alternatives to Antibiotics. Sweden expressed appreciation for the additional reference to “reduced need for use of antibiotics”, highlighting the importance of promoting a preventative approach taken by livestock farmers. Japan, in response to the Swedish intervention, expressed its concern that adding already adopted recommendations might weaken the new element, i.e. development of new vaccines. United Kingdom, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, expressed appreciation for Japan’s comment. United Kingdom reiterated that the change was meant to reflect that biosecurity should not be considered as an alternative to antibiotics but, however, agreed to revert to the original formatting.
381. Senegal suggested two changes to the French translation of recommendation 3, proposing that the term “*interagissent*” should be replaced with “*œuvrent*” or “*travaillent*”, and that the term “*contreparties*” should be replaced with the word “*homologues*”. The Director General supported the second replacement, but asked to retain the word “*interagissent*” to ensure coherence between the three language versions.
382. No comments were made on amendments to recommendation 10.
383. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 38 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 39**  
**Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners**  
**for international animal health and livestock development programmes**

384. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 39 with the proposed modifications. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 39 at the end of this report.

**SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION**

**Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions**  
(Docs. 85 SG/11A and B)

**Regional Commission for Africa**

385. Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 85 SG/11B AF).
386. He also presented the recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Swakopmund (Namibia), from 20 to 24 February 2017.
387. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference held in Namibia.

**Regional Commission for the Americas**

388. Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados), Vice-President of the Commission, on behalf of Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 85 SG/11B AM).
389. He also presented the recommendations of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), from 14 to 18 November 2016.
390. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference held in Bolivia.

**Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

391. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People's Republic of China), President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 85 SG/11B AS).
392. The Assembly noted the report.

**Regional Commission for Europe**

393. Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 85 SG/11B EU).
394. He also presented the recommendations of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Lisbon (Portugal), from 19 to 23 September 2016.
395. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference held in Portugal.

**Regional Commission for the Middle East**

396. Dr Majid Al-Qassimi (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 85 SG/11B ME).
397. The Assembly noted the report.

### **Dates of the 86th General Session (May 2018)**

398. The Assembly decided that the 86th General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 20 to Friday 25 May 2018. The Director General stated that the 86th General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

### **Technical Items for the 86th General Session (May 2018)**

399. 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:
- Implementation of OIE Standards by OIE Member Countries – state of play and specific capacity-building needs

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

400. Further to a previous decision of the Council, there will not be a second Technical Item for 2018 on account of the elections to be held for the Council, the Specialist Commissions and Regional Commissions.

### **Technical Items for the 87th General Session (May 2019)**

401. 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 presented by Dr Mark Schipp (Australia):

- How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required

402. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2019 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2019 prior to the 87th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

### **Issuing of certificates**

#### **Animal health status**

403. Before the disease status recognition certificates were awarded, Dr Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department, informed the Assembly of the revision of the standard operating procedures for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of official control programmes. The existing document has been divided into four separate documents relating to: (i) the procedure for submitting a dossier for the official recognition of a disease status or for the endorsement of an official control programme, (ii) the annual reconfirmation of the official status, or the endorsement of a programme, (iii) the suspension and recovery of the official status, and (iv) the missions to ensure that the countries comply with OIE Standards for official status or validated programmes. In addition, each procedure has also been restructured and more details have been included so as to facilitate the understanding and transparency of the procedures for official recognition and maintenance of disease status and for validation of official OIE control programmes.
404. Dr Stone paid tribute to the sustained efforts made by the countries being recognised, as well as to the countries not yet officially recognised but continuing their efforts in disease control and eradication and in striving to achieve official disease status recognition.

405. The OIE Members listed hereafter were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised by the OIE as having a disease free status or a BSE risk status: Botswana, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, South Africa, United Kingdom.
406. The President of the OIE reminded the Delegates of the point raised in the presentation given by Dr Weber-Vintzel, namely that the obtainment of an official disease status was the start of a commitment in order to maintain the recognised official status. The President of the OIE encouraged Members to continue their efforts and to submit their annual reconfirmation on time, namely no later than the end of January.

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■ **FRIDAY 26 MAY 2017** ■

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**FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

**Report of the Director General  
on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2016**  
(Doc. 85 SG/3)

407. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, in charge of institutional affairs and regional actions, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2016 and the distribution of Member Countries by contribution category.
408. He went on to present the main points regarding administrative activities and the distribution of the Organisation's human resources between the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.
409. Lastly, he presented a breakdown of staff according to their source of funding, namely the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the secondment of staff by Member Countries. He recalled the importance of the input provided by Members through contributions in kind, in particular by secondment.
410. The President commended the OIE for the work accomplished, a remarkable achievement considering the number of staff, which totalled only 166 persons.
411. Botswana thanked Dr Dop for the comprehensive review on human resources and requested clarification regarding the desirable balance between the different sources of funding.
412. Dr Dop explained that it would be beneficial to increase the number of secondees, but stressed that this should be done taking into account the different types of activities. He specified that some core activities, such as those of the Status and Standards Departments, were by nature contingent on the independence of the staff assigned to the teams and should be preferentially funded through the Regular Budget. In contrast, other activities could benefit from an increase in the number of staff seconded by their country.
413. Dr Eloit reminded Delegates that the mandate of the OIE was highly institutional and fully justified having permanent staff. She drew attention to the fact that the current rate of staff funded through the Regular Budget (57%) represented the lowest threshold the Organisation could sustain to function appropriately.
414. In response to Benin's request for clarification regarding the distribution of staff and the publication by the OIE of vacancies available for secondments by Members, Dr Dop provided, additionally to point 3 above, explanations with respect to the distribution of sources of funding between the Regular Budget, the World Fund and secondments funded by Members.

415. New Zealand commended the OIE for the launch of the Observatory on the implementation of standards and remarked that the design of this project would require high critical thinking. New Zealand asked how the OIE was intending to involve the Members in the design of this project. In response, Dr Dop mentioned that the Director General would be addressing this issue in her presentation and pointed out that, for this project, the seconded staff provided by Members – two Members having already given a commitment to this effect – was an excellent example of how Members could contribute in kind to the work of the OIE.
416. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2016. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

**Assignment of Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia status  
to the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana**

417. Dr Dop presented a proposal to attribute the status of Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia to the Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit in Astana, approved by the Council in recognition of the extension and usefulness of the activities of the Unit beyond simply control of FMD.
418. Draft Resolution No. 15 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

**OIE Financial Report for the 90th Financial Year  
(1 January – 31 December 2016)  
(Doc. 85 SG/4)**

419. Dr Alain Dehove, Director of Finance, indicated that the administrative documents and financial reports had been sent to the Delegates within the time limit stipulated in the Basic Texts (i.e. 60 days before the General Session), using electronic mail and giving Delegates the option of receiving printed copies on request, and he stated that the documents had been made available for consultation on the Delegates' website.
420. Before presenting the details of the Financial Report, Dr Dehove reminded the Assembly of the salient points that had impacted budgetary implementation in 2016, as presented in a summary note. This note along with the annual financial statements and all the accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by the OIE were provided in document 85 SG/4.

**Regular Budget and Regional and Sub-regional Representations**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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**World Animal Health and Welfare Fund**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor  
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 90th Financial Year**  
(Docs 85 SG/15 and 85 SG/16)

436. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors, Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati (Oman) and Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), confirming the proper management of the OIE accounts, and the report of the External Auditor, Mr Didier Sellès, appointed by the OIE.
437. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor and his recommendations, both in terms of the question of funding for the Regional Representations, in Africa in particular, and of control of the operating expenses of these representations, and in terms of the importance of internal control and strengthening purchasing and procurement procedures.

438. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked the Director of Finance for his presentation and noted that the figures relayed are coherent with the information contained in the financial report. He requested clarification concerning the fact that the External Auditor also performs the functions of Registered Auditor. The Democratic Republic of the Congo furthermore requested additional information on the main points outlined in the External Auditor's report.
439. Zimbabwe commended the Director of Finance and the External Auditor for the quality of their reports. Noting the expense registered under the World Fund, further information was requested concerning the mechanism in place for OIE Vaccine Banks and the corresponding responsibilities for beneficiary countries.
440. In response to the question raised by Zimbabwe, the Director of Finance clarified that the funds expended for vaccine banks correspond to the purchase and transport of vaccines funded by voluntary contributions through the World Fund. The OIE has the following three active vaccine banks: PPR in West Africa; FMD for South-East Asia; and rabies. OIE Vaccine Banks are established further to an international call for tender and ensure that the vaccines delivered comply with OIE international standards on quality.
441. Concerning the first query by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Director of Finance stated that the OIE External Auditor is a Magistrate at the French Court of Auditors with longstanding experience and a renowned reputation. Further to the retirement of the previous Registered Auditor, the External Auditor agreed to undertake both roles in parallel. The Director of Finance also took the opportunity to remind the Assembly that, in accordance with the OIE Basic Texts, two members of the OIE Council had reviewed the OIE accounts and had thus undertaken the functions of Registered Auditor. Lastly, and concerning the request for additional information on the various budgets and funds of the OIE, the Director of Finance stated that:
- An exchange rate risk study for the World Fund had been implemented in 2016 further to a specific request by the External Auditor. The recommendations contained therein had been accepted by the Director General and efforts had been made to address the outcomes of the report.
  - The Reserve Fund needs to be reconstituted further to the use of such funds to contribute to the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony. For clarification, the Director of Finance informed the Assembly that the purpose of the Reserve Fund is to pay for OIE staff salaries in the case of exceptional events (e.g. war or major crises), which could impact the capacity of OIE Members to pay their statutory contributions. In continuation with previous years, the OIE proposed to once again transfer funds (50 K€) to the Reserve Fund in 2016. It was clarified that, although the Reserve Fund has been integrated into the General Budget, it is managed separately.
442. The Director General outlined that the observations highlighted by the External Auditor in his report concerning the Autonomous Old-Age Fund correspond to the difference in treatment between present or former salaried staff of the OIE, depending on whether or not they are affiliated to the French general pension scheme for salaried staff. Efforts will be made in the future to address such issues. The Director General reiterated that this solely corresponds to a difference in treatment and that no financial risks exist for the Autonomous Old-Age Fund.
443. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 90th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

**Acknowledgements to Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions  
or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the Organisation of OIE meetings  
and the provision of personnel**

444. The Director General conveyed her warmest thanks to the partners:

- To Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People’s Rep. of), Djibouti, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America;
- To the World Bank, OIRSA and the European Union (European Commission and European Parliament);
- To the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the Hashemite Fund, the Maris Llorens Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2016;

- To Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, China (People’s Rep. of), Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mali, Panama, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe;

for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2016;

- To Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Korea (Rep. of) and United States of America;

for providing staff remunerated directly by their country to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2016.

445. Draft Resolution No. 4 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

446. The Director General also conveyed her warmest thanks to Canada and France for their extraordinary contributions, and to Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People’s Rep. of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey, Turkmenistan, 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, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. She also said that the subscription period remained open with a view to modernising the buildings, purchasing the part of the building not yet placed on sale and facilitating partial early repayment of the bank loan currently being repaid in part from rental income.

447. Draft Resolution No. 10 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

**Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor**

(Doc. 85 SG/9)

448. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the appointment of Mr Didier Sellès as External Auditor of the accounts of the OIE for a further year.

449. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

**2017 Budget**  
(Doc. 85 SG/5)

**Regular Budget**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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## World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

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#### **Presentation of the programme of activities 2017–2018**

(Doc. 85 SG/6 – Appendix 1)

463. The Director General presented the broad lines of the Organisation's annual programme for 2018, which remained firmly based on the policies set by the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan, and indicated that the activities proposed took into account the objectives already achieved and the actions already undertaken in 2016 or during the first months of 2017. She pointed out that the programme had been drawn up in accordance with the roadmap developed during the first six months of 2016 for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Details of the activities are given in Appendix 1 of doc. 85 SG/6.
464. Bearing in mind the institutional mandate underpinning the standard-setting work and the responsibility for monitoring the world animal health situation, which are the two founding pillars of the Organisation, Dr Eloit detailed the major themes on which the work programme for the months ahead had been built:
- The continued implementation or follow-up of strategies already approved, such as the control strategies for rabies, FMD and PPR, as well as running the OFFLU network, activities in the field of biological risk reduction, work relating to the fight against antimicrobial resistance, training of veterinary para-professionals, animal welfare activities, etc.
  - Operational implementation of projects finalised in 2016/2017 designed to strengthen the scientific excellence, transparency and robustness of the procedures: such as the organisation of elections for the Specialist Commissions in accordance with the new procedure, and the procedures for evaluating disease status application dossiers.
  - Practical implementation of the major strategic projects already initiated, including renovation of WAHIS and further development of the PVS Pathway.
  - The creation of an Observatory on OIE standards, as the Organisation must also look at how they are being implemented. Dr Eloit stated that a main aim of project was to identify the difficulties or constraints faced by Member Countries, in order to provide the appropriate response, either:
    - by revising the standard in question, through feed-back of information with the relevant Specialist Commissions;
    - by drafting help documents to aid comprehension of the standard, or guidelines that make the standard easier to interpret, thereby improving its implementation;
    - by organising training workshops for Delegates and/or relevant Focal Points; or
    - by including some additional critical competencies in the OIE PVS tool.

Dr Eloit also indicated that the project model would be developed during the months ahead and that several pilot experiments should enable the model to be validated in 2018-2019 before being launched on a larger scale.

Dr Eloit also pointed out that two countries, namely France and Argentina, had now confirmed their support for this project by seconding two officers.

– The internal governance and the functioning of the OIE, including:

- the development of a human resources policy with the definition of a table of posts, which will be complemented by the revision of the table of salary scales and its adaptation to the table of posts. The impact on payroll expenses will be evaluated and the dossier will be presented to the Council before any decision is taken;
- the Organisation's continued commitment to performance management, to ensure that activities are properly planned, supported and controlled so that adjustments can be made according to the results obtained;
- internal control, with actions being prioritised according to the risk map drawn up in 2017;
- a plan for the renovation of data processing and office automation equipment, based on the Information Systems Master Plan due to be finalised by September 2017. As an illustration, Dr Eloit cited the need to have the appropriate tools to accompany the policy of reducing the use of paper-based formats for documents and publications and also the development of a tool to facilitate the collection and processing of Member Countries' comments on the *Codes* and *Manuals*;
- a strategy for mobilising resources: taking into account the structural constraints of the Regular Budget, the purpose of which is to cover the staffing and operating expenses stemming from the institutional activities of the Organisation (i.e. the functioning of the statutory bodies, the standard-setting activities, the evaluation of application dossiers for official disease status and activities relating to WAHIS), Dr Eloit informed the Assembly of discussions underway to put forward proposals for the setting up of partnerships and innovative financial mechanisms. The question of methods of funding for the OIE would be discussed with the Council before any decision.

465. In conclusion, taking into account the sanitary issues involved which justify effective action on the part of the OIE, the Director General invited Members to support the draft 2018 Budget estimates in spite of the proposed increase in statutory contributions.

### **Proposed 2018 Contributions Scale and 2018 Budget Estimates**

(Doc. 85 SG/6)

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

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**SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

**Process for Selection of Experts for Nomination for Election to the OIE Specialist Commissions**  
(Doc. 85 SG/17)

495. The President presented document 85 SG/17 and informed the Assembly that the OIE had developed a procedure for the selection of experts for election to the four Specialist Commissions of the OIE, while respecting the framework defined in the Basic Texts of the Organisation. He noted that the procedure took into consideration input from the Council and that it had endorsed the procedure at its February 2017 meeting. He invited Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General – International Standards and Science, to briefly outline the procedure prior to the World Assembly’s consideration of the draft Resolution.
496. Dr Stone stated that an information document outlining the process had been provided to Delegates, together with the draft Resolution, well in advance of the session of the Assembly and he hoped that Delegates had taken the time to acquaint themselves with the information provided in order to ensure that they fully understood the proposed procedure. He noted that the procedure involved an open call for nominations of experts; submission of nominations to OIE under the endorsement of the Delegate of the Member where the expert is based; evaluation of the nominations against defined criteria by a committee, chaired by a Member of the Council, established under the authority of the Director General, submission of a proposed list of experts suitable for nomination for election to the Specialist Commissions to Council for endorsement; and circulation of short biographies to Delegates in advance of the elections during the General Session. The procedure for the election itself remains unchanged.

497. Dr Stone further noted that the procedure was necessary in order to support implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan, in particular Section A: Scientific Excellence, and Section B: Diversity, Inclusiveness, Engagement and Transparency and that the procedure would also respond to Delegates requests that the OIE improve transparency of the election process for the elected members of the Specialist Commissions.
498. Dr Stone also stated that the procedure was in line with best practice approaches used by many other international and national bodies. This strengthened the role of the OIE Council and OIE Delegates and at the same time ensured that the best scientific advice was provided to support the development of OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations.
499. Dr Stone finished by stating that the implementation of the procedure would commence immediately after its adoption, to ensure that the selection of candidates for nomination for election would be followed for the elections to be held in 2018.
500. The President invited Delegates to comment on the draft procedure.
501. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that the procedure as described in SG/17 provided details of the administrative process and that it covered all of the information required for Delegates; however, it might be presented in a different administrative order to improve clarity with regard to potential conflicts of interest and the need for the endorsement of the Delegate, while still maintaining the independence of the candidate.
502. Brazil welcomed the improved transparency of the procedure for the selection of highly qualified experts. Brazil noted two important points had been discussed during the meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas. These were the need to respect geographical representation and prerequisites for the profile of the candidates, for example the members of the Scientific Commission needed to be qualified scientists but this was not necessarily the same for the other Commissions, and Brazil sought clarification on where these prerequisites were spelled out.
503. Spain supported the idea of the procedures, but in its view it was a contradiction that the candidate had to be endorsed by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) whilst remaining independent and that there was a possibility that a CVO might only support candidates with certain ties to the organisation. Spain stated that in addition to having scientific expertise, the expert required management and organisational skills, and the Evaluation Committee should take this into account during the evaluation process.
504. Malta, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the proposal and the way it had been drafted. He noted that while no law was perfect this was a very transparent way to select experts and that the criteria were fully in line with the Basic Texts and respected the involvement of the Council.
505. Dr Stone, in response to Member comments, emphasised that SG/17 was a guidance document developed to assist Members by giving a clear understanding of the process and noted that the procedure was presented in more detail in the Appendix to draft Resolution No. 16. With respect to the comment from Brazil, Dr Stone informed the Members that the prerequisites for each of the Specialist Commissions were contained in the Basic Texts and would be included in the call for nominations, so that candidates would need to identify to which Specialist Commission they were applying. With regard to the question of geographical balance, Members will be presented with a list of suitable candidates that will respect the need for geographical and gender balance, but of course the final balance will depend on the outcome of the election.

506. In responding to the question of conflict of interest, Dr Stone noted that the OIE had a process for managing conflict of interest that applied to all experts of Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups. Dr Stone provided an example of how this is managed, for example, Scientific Commission experts would exclude themselves from any discussion relating to their country with regard to status recognition.
507. Brazil sought further clarification with regard to whether experts needed to be fluent in English as it would be important not to reject a good candidate who did not speak English.
508. Dr Stone clarified that the working language for the Specialist Commissions was English and that in order to fully participate, experts needed a good working knowledge of English.
509. The President presented the draft Resolution No. 16 to the Assembly for adoption.
510. Draft Resolution No. 16 was adopted. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Swaziland abstained. The text appears as Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.
511. Finally, Dr Stone thanked Delegates for adopting the procedure and outlined the next steps: the process would start in July with dissemination of the call for nominations; applications to be submitted to the OIE Headquarters by 11 September 2017; endorsement by the OIE Delegate; an Evaluation Committee to be established in September under the chairmanship of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Immediate Past President), with the Evaluation Committee report to be submitted to the Director General in December. Following this, the Council at its February meeting would endorse a list of suitable candidates and finally, 60 days before the General Session, the list of suitable candidates along with short profiles would be sent to Delegates. Dr Stone finished by encouraging Delegates to engage in this process and reflect on experts able to commit the necessary time and effort as the Commissions meet in Paris twice a year.

#### **Activities of the Council**

(Doc. 85 SG/18)

512. The President presented document 85 SG/18 summarising the activities of the Council between May 2015 and May 2016, chiefly devoted to monitoring the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan and the strategic orientations of the OIE. In particular, the Council monitored progress with the WAHIS+ project and discussed the procedure for the election of members of the Specialist Commissions, the terms of reference and the composition of the Working Groups, as well as the arrangements for financing PVS missions. In terms of the functioning of the Organisation, the Council prepared the General Session and examined the budget, paying particular attention to the situation regarding the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The Council also discussed changes to the statutory contributions to contend with the development of activities.
513. The Council was kept informed of relations with international partners and approved the signing of agreements with HealthforAnimals, the Pan American Association of Veterinary Science (PANVET), and the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA).
514. The President informed the Delegates of his journeys to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled him to observe the many achievements of the OIE.
515. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 85 SG/18).

### **Examination of the application by Curaçao for accession to the OIE**

516. Dr Dop reminded Delegates of the procedure for examination of applications for accession to the OIE, as adopted by the Assembly during the 81st General Session (Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013). After a reminder of the legal framework, the President informed the Assembly that the Council had examined the application by Curaçao for accession to the OIE at its meeting in February 2017 and had approved it unanimously. Consequently, the President now sought the approval of the Assembly.
517. Draft Resolution No. 14 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report. Curaçao thus becomes the 181st Member of the OIE.
518. The newly designated Delegate of Curaçao thanked the President of the Assembly and the Delegates as well as the Authorities that had assisted Curaçao in the accession process and expressed his gratitude for becoming the 181st Member of the OIE.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and HealthforAnimals**

(Doc. 85 SG/19)

519. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with HealthforAnimals, approved by the Council.
520. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

### **Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Pan American Association of Veterinary Science (PANVET)**

(Doc. 85 SG/20)

521. Dr Dop presented the draft Agreement with the Pan American Association of Veterinary Science (PANVET), approved by the Council.
522. Draft Resolution No. 12 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA)**

(Doc. 85 SG/21)

523. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA), approved by the Council.
524. Draft Resolution No. 13 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

### **Election of Members of the Council**

525. Following the termination of office of Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for Africa, the Assembly elected Dr Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh (Sudan), as Member of the Council.

The results of the vote were as follows (115 votes cast out of 115 Delegates present):

Yes:	100%
No:	0%
Abstentions:	0%

526. Following the termination of office of Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the Assembly elected Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) as Member of the Council.

The results of the vote were as follows (115 votes cast out of 115 Delegates present)

Yes:	100%
No:	0%
Abstentions:	0%

**Election of a Vice-President and a Secretary General  
of the Regional Commission for Africa**

527. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for Africa to fill the vacancies for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary General within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposals:

Vice-President:	Dr Djamila Hadj Amar (Algeria)
Secretary General:	Dr Mahamat Guindé (Chad)

**Election of a Vice-President and a Secretary General  
of the Regional Commission for the Americas**

528. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for the Americas to fill the vacancies for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary General within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposals:

Vice-President:	Dr Bernardo Jaén Hernández (Costa Rica)
Secretary General:	Dr Harpreet Kochhar (Canada).

**Election of two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General  
of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

529. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to fill the vacancies for the positions of two Vice-Presidents (Dr Sovann having been previously elected to the Council) and Secretary General within the bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposals:

Vice-President:	Dr Kazuo Ito (Japan)
Vice-President:	Dr Tashi Samdup (Bhutan)
Secretary General:	Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore).

**Election of the President and Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East**

530. The President reminded Delegates of the proposals by the Regional Commission for the Middle East to fill the vacancy for the position of President and the subsequent vacancy for the position of Vice-President of the Commission (Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, previously Vice-President, having been elected President of the Commission).

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposals:

President:	Dr Majid Al-Qassimi (United Arab Emirates)
Vice-President:	Dr Fajer Al-Saloom (Bahrain)

**EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION**

**Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report**

531. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report is printed in two documents (the Technical Sessions and then the Administrative Sessions).
532. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
533. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report for the technical sessions, 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 2017** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). He stated that, beyond this date, the report would be considered to have been adopted in its final form.
534. Due to the late completion of the morning's proceedings, the draft Final Report of the administrative sessions could not be finalised, and would therefore be sent to the Delegates at the beginning of the following week. As for the Final Report of the technical sessions, the Delegates had until 15 June 2017 to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions).

**Closing Session**

535. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He 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. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 85th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
536. He invited the Delegates to return for the 86th General Session in May 2018.

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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports



# *Resolutions*

**Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates**

**during their 85th General Session**

**21 – 26 May 2017**



## LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. 1](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2016
- [No. 2](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2016
- [No. 3](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 90th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2016)
- [No. 4](#) Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the provision of personnel
- [No. 5](#) Modification of the 2017 Budget
- [No. 6](#) OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 92nd Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2018)
- [No. 7](#) Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2018
- [No. 8](#) Planned work programme for 2017-2018
- [No. 9](#) Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor
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- [No. 11](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and HealthforAnimals
- [No. 12](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET)
- [No. 13](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA)
- [No. 14](#) Accession of Curaçao to the OIE
- [No. 15](#) Assignment of Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia status to the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana
- [No. 16](#) Process for the Selection of Experts for Nomination for Election to the Specialist Commissions
- [No. 17](#) Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- [No. 18](#) Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
- [No. 19](#) Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE
- [No. 20](#) Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories
- [No. 21](#) Amendments to the annex, “Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration”, of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011 “Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest”
- [No. 22](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries
- [No. 23](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries
- [No. 24](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

- [No. 25](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries
  - [No. 26](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries
  - [No. 27](#) Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries
  - [No. 28](#) Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries
  - [No. 29](#) Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries
  - [No. 30](#) Foot and Mouth Disease Serotype C
  - [No. 31](#) Animal Welfare
  - [No. 32](#) Animal Production Food Safety Working Group
  - [No. 33](#) Animal Welfare Working Group
  - [No. 34](#) Amendments to the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
  - [No. 35](#) Amendments to the *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code*
  - [No. 36](#) Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
  - [No. 37](#) Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres
  - [No. 38](#) Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance: progress and opportunities for future activities under the ‘One Health’ initiative
  - [No. 39](#) Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners for international animal health and livestock development programmes and the implications for the OIE
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RESOLUTION No. 1

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2016**

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 2016 (85 SG/1).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management,  
Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2016**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2016 (85 SG/3).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 3

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 90th Financial Year of the OIE  
(1 January – 31 December 2016)**

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 90th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2016) (85 SG/4).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 4

**Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made  
Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE,  
or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the provision of personnel**

HAVING NOTED the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2016 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2016,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Djibouti, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America;

The European Union (European Commission and European Parliament), the OIRSA and the World Bank;

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Hashemite Fund, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the Maris Llorens Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2016.

2. Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, China (People's Rep. of), Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Mali, Panama, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe;

for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2016.

3. Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Korea (Rep. of) and United States of America

for the provision of personnel paid directly by their country to support the implementation of the programmes of the OIE in 2016.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 5

**Modification of the 2017 Budget**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**



RESOLUTION No. 6

**OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 92nd Financial Year  
(1 January to 31 December 2018)**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**



RESOLUTION No. 7

**Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2018**

**RESERVED FOR DELEGATES**

RESOLUTION No. 8

**Planned Work Programme for 2017-2018**

CONSIDERING

The Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2016-2020 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2018 (Appendix I of document 85 SG/6), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Planned Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the general budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other subsidies to support the OIE activities.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2017)

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 his mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of 1 year (2017) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as OIE External Auditor.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 10

**Acknowledgements to the Governments of Members 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 among Members and other donors to contribute to this acquisition,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

- The Governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. Of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey, Turkmenistan 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 Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the Latin American Poultry Association.

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains open, until further notice, to the Members 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.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 11

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and HealthforAnimals**

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 HealthforAnimals,

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and HealthforAnimals was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 3 March 2017 (85 SG/19),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 12

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET),

That the Agreement between the OIE and PANVET was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 3 March 2017 (85 SG/20),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 13

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA)**

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 of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and GAPFA was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 3 March 2017 (85 SG/21),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 14

**Accession of Curaçao to the OIE**

HAVING REGARD TO

Article 6 of the International Agreement,

The Organic Rules, particularly article 3 designating the organs in charge of the functioning of the Organisation, and article 5 stating that the OIE is under the authority and the control of the Assembly,

The General Rules, particularly 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 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,

The Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013 establishing a procedure for examination of applications for accession to the OIE, applicable only to membership applications received after 31 May 2013,

The application of 12 January 2017 sent by the Kingdom of Netherlands for Curaçao,

CONSIDERING

The decision of the Council at its meeting held on 28 February 2017, which was expressed unanimously in favour of accession of Curaçao to the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To accept the application for accession of Curaçao that becomes Member of the OIE.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 15

**Assignment of Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia status  
to the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana**

HAVING REGARD TO

The General Rules, and in particular article 33,

The attention paid by the OIE to regional and sub-regional matters,

The objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020,

The current network of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations established, with the support of the Council of the OIE, in Bamako (Mali), Bangkok (Thailand), Beirut (Lebanon), Brussels (Belgium), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Gaborone (Botswana), Moscow (Russia), Nairobi (Kenya), Panama City (Panama), Tokyo (Japan), and in Tunis (Tunisia),

The agreement of 16 October 2013 between the OIE and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the establishment of a Sub-Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana,

CONSIDERING

The diversity of activities within the mandate of the OIE, which have been successfully developed by the Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana for the benefit of the Central Asian Member Countries,

The proposition of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the opinion of the Council, which unanimously expressed itself in favour of the assignment of a status that better reflects the mandate and the diversity of the activities of this Sub-Regional Coordination Office,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

DECIDES

To assign the status of "Sub-Regional Representation of the OIE for Central Asia" to the current Sub-Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Coordination Office in Astana (Kazakhstan).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 16

**Process for the Selection of Experts for Nomination for Election to the Specialist Commissions**

HAVING REGARD TO

The objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020, in particular Section A: Scientific Excellence, and Section B: Diversity, Inclusiveness, Engagement and Transparency,

Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the General Rules of the OIE relating to the appointment of the members of Specialist Commissions by the Assembly on the proposal of the Council or of the Members of the Assembly,

CONSIDERING THAT

It is desirable that participation in the OIE's decision-making processes should reflect the global membership of the Organisation, the informed scientific opinion of specialists including those familiar with cutting-edge scientific developments and technologies, as well as the opinions of specialists in economic, social and environmental areas,

It is desirable to ensure that the membership of the Specialist Commissions is reflective of the demographics of the respective professions while continuing to respect geographic and expertise parameters,

It is desirable to ensure the transparency of the selection process of experts for nomination for election to the Specialist Commissions and to avoid any actual, apparent or potential conflicts of interest in such selection process,

It is desirable to make improvements in the selection process and establish term limits for the elected members of the Specialist Commissions.

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE COUNCIL

DECIDES

To adopt the Process for the Selection of Experts for Nomination for Election as Members of the OIE Specialist Commissions as contained in the appendix to this Resolution.

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.../Appendix

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2017)

**PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF EXPERTS FOR NOMINATION FOR  
ELECTION AS MEMBERS OF THE OIE SPECIALIST COMMISSIONS**

1. The OIE Specialist Commissions are established by the Assembly in accordance with Chapter 5 of the General Rules. The OIE Specialist Commissions each consist of a Bureau (composed of a President and two Vice-Presidents) and three other members.
2. For each Specialist Commission, the Assembly elects the members of the Bureau individually and then three other members, taking into account the need for geographically balanced representation, and the need for relevant expertise.
3. In order to establish a list of suitable experts from which the OIE Delegates to the Assembly will elect members of the Specialist Commissions for a term of three (3) years, the Director General will publish a call for nomination for election as a member of the OIE Specialist Commissions. The call for nominations will include administrative arrangements for submitting applications and the selection criteria against which applications will be evaluated. The call for nominations will be:
  - a. notified to the OIE Delegates, who will inform their national academic institutions and other relevant entities;
  - b. published in the OIE *Bulletin* and on the OIE website; and
  - c. notified through the OIE's Reference Centre network.
4. The call for nominations will be disseminated in the July of the year preceding the election.
5. In accordance with Article 16 of the General Rules members of Specialist Commissions are appointed by the Assembly in agreement with the OIE Delegates of the Member Countries in question. Therefore, applicants will be required to seek the endorsement/support of their country's OIE Delegate.
6. Applications will be submitted to OIE Delegates of their country of residence and to the OIE Headquarters. In the case of applications that are received (directly by the OIE Headquarters) without having been endorsed by the OIE Delegate, OIE Headquarters will endeavour to obtain the endorsement from the Delegate on the applicants behalf, in order not to delay the evaluation process.
7. Applications received by OIE Headquarters by the deadline specified in the call for nominations will be checked for eligibility by the OIE Standards Department.
8. An application will be considered eligible if the covering letter and CV are found to address the scientific and technical expertise and it provides examples of the applicant's personal attributes and skills. A record of all applications received, the date received and whether they were found to be eligible will be kept by the Standards Department. The Standards Department will not make any judgements on an individual's capability to meet the criteria of the positions on the Specialist Commissions.
9. All applicants will receive notification of receipt of their applications and advice as to whether their application is to be evaluated further.

10. The Director General will establish an Evaluation Committee to undertake independent evaluations of eligible applications received in response to the call for nominations, in accordance with the Evaluation Guide.
11. The membership of the Evaluation Committee will include representatives from the following (the first four being from within the OIE Headquarters):
  - a. DDG / standards and science;
  - b. Standards;
  - c. Scientific and New Technologies;
  - d. Status; and
  - e. (4) external evaluators
12. The names of the proposed external evaluators will be provided to the OIE Council in the September preceding the election.
13. The Chair of the Evaluation Committee will be selected by the Council (it may be either a member of the Council or other person who can act independently and is an experienced Chair). The Secretariat for the Evaluation Committee will be provided by the OIE Headquarters.
14. The Evaluation Committee will prepare a report, containing recommendations for candidates suitable for election for each of the Specialist Commissions. The report will be provided to the Director General no later than the end of December in the year preceding the election of experts to the Specialist Commissions. The report will not make any recommendations with regards to suitability of candidates for the positions of President or Vice President of the respective Specialist Commissions.
15. The Director General will provide the list of suitable experts to the Council in due time preceding the February meeting of the Council. The Council shall consider and endorse the list of candidates; the list must observe the need for balance of scientific and technical skills, together with regional and gender balance.
16. Based on the list endorsed by the Council, and at least 60 days before the General Session, the Director General of the OIE shall provide the OIE delegates with a proposal on the candidates (including profiles prepared by OIE Headquarters) who will be submitted to the Assembly for election at the next General Session.
17. Delegates will also be provided with a copy of the OIE *Guide to assist delegates in the preparations and nominations for statutory OIE elections for Specialist Commissions*.
18. Experts nominated for election will be advised in writing of their nomination sixty days before the General Session. In the event that they wish to withdraw their application they will be required to notify the OIE no less than thirty days before the Assembly so that they can be withdrawn from the election process.
19. Within thirty days of the conclusion of the Assembly, after the election process, the Director General will notify successful candidates in writing and provide each of the elected members with a copy of:
  - a. the Internal Rules and Terms of Reference for the Specialist Commissions;
  - b. the work program for the Specialist Commission;
  - c. proposed dates of the meetings of the Specialist Commission; and
  - d. declaration of interest and confidentiality for their signature.

20. Members of the Specialist Commissions are elected for a period of three years and are eligible for re-election.
  21. The members of the Specialist Commission will exercise their obligations in accordance with the Internal Rules, Terms of Reference of the OIE Specialist Commissions and Qualifications of their Members.
  22. In accordance with the Sixth Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and Resolution No. 13 adopted in May 2015, the performance of the elected members will be evaluated in accordance with the performance monitoring framework applied to the Specialist Commissions, before the end of their first term.
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RESOLUTION No. 17

**Amendments to 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 texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:

Glossary

- 1.1.5. Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories
- 1.1.9. Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use
- 2.1.6. Echinococcosis (infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* and with *E. multilocularis*)
- 2.1.8. Foot and mouth disease (Infection with foot and mouth disease virus)
- 2.1.20. Trichinellosis (Infection with *Trichinella* spp.)
- 2.2.5. Infestation with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle)
- 2.2.6. Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.
- 2.3.8. Duck virus hepatitis
- 2.2.13. Marek's disease
- 2.4.4. Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
- 2.4.12. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
- 2.4.14. Lumpy skin disease
- 2.5.1. African horse sickness (Infection with African horse sickness virus)
- 2.5.9. Equine rhinopneumonitis (infection with equid herpesvirus-1 and -4)
- 2.7.1. Border disease
- 2.7.2. Caprine arthritis/encephalitis & Maedi-visna
- 2.7.13. Sheep pox and goat pox
- 2.8.9. Teschovirus encephalomyelitis

- 2.9.3. Infection with *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*
  - 2.9.9. Toxoplasmosis
  - 2.9.11. Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates
2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 18

**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 classical swine fever*  
China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC), Haidian District, Beijing, CHINA  
(PEOPLE'S REP. OF)

*OIE Reference Laboratory for classical swine fever*  
Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI), Council of Agriculture, Tansui District, New Taipei City, CHINESE TAIPEI

*OIE Reference Laboratory for American foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with Paenibacillus larvae)*

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Institute of Infectology, Insel Riems, GERMANY

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Small hive beetle infestation (Aethina tumida)*

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Institute of Infectology, Insel Riems, GERMANY

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Varroosis of honey bees (infestation of honey bees with Varroa spp.)*

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Institute of Infectology, Insel Riems, GERMANY

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies*

Kimron Veterinary Institute, Veterinary Services and Animal Health, Bet Dagan, ISRAEL

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Contagious agalactia*

Mycoplasma Group, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Palermo, ITALY

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Echinococcosis*

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna, Sassari, ITALY

*OIE Reference Laboratory for Classical swine fever*

Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA), Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA), Bellaterra, (Barcelona), SPAIN

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 19

**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

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
<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Antibody Test Kit	IDEXX Laboratories	Fit for the detection of antibody to <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> ( <i>M. bovis</i> ) in cattle serum and plasma samples and to be used as a supplemental test, in conjunction with other methods, for diagnosing and managing tuberculosis infection.  The test also has utility when performing sero-surveys to understand prevalence and risk at a herd management level.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 20

**Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) during the 54th General Session in 1986 adopted the report of the meeting of the Biological Standards Commission (formerly the Norms Commission), which included Appendix VII Criteria for Designation, Function and Responsibilities of the OIE Reference Laboratories;
2. At the 61st General Session in May 1993, the Assembly adopted a formal set of Mandates and Rules for OIE Reference Laboratories, and the Rules setting out the procedures for applications, designations, entitlements and obligations, which were included in the OIE's *Basic Texts*;
3. At the 79th General Session in May 2011, the Assembly adopted new Terms of References and Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres;
4. The scientific integrity and credibility of the OIE relies heavily on this network of over 250 OIE Reference Laboratories;
5. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria by the relevant Specialist Commission;
6. The need for clear criteria and procedures for designation and de-listing OIE Reference Laboratories has been identified;
7. The Biological Standards Commission developed these procedures in consultation with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission;
8. The procedures were appended to the report of the meeting of the Biological Standards Commission February 2017 meeting (Annex 3 of Document 85 SG/12/CS2 B);
9. The procedures have been endorsed by the OIE Council;

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To adopt the procedures proposed in Annex 3 of Document 85 SG/12/CS2 B.
2. To request that the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission implement these procedures when reviewing OIE Reference Laboratory applications and evaluating their performance.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text on the OIE website and to ensure that the document is kept up-to-date through periodic review by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 21

**Amendments to the annex  
“Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration”,  
of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011  
“Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures  
to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest”**

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made by Members, non-Members, OIE, FAO, IAEA, other international organisations, regional organisations, the veterinary profession, the scientific community, donors and other partners to eradicate rinderpest,

CONSIDERING the contributions made by OIE and FAO towards global freedom from rinderpest,

NOTING the conclusions of the Final Report of the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication that rinderpest virus has ceased to circulate in animals,

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,

MINDFUL of the need for the international community and the responsibility of national authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the world remains free from rinderpest,

RECALLING the Resolution No. 23, adopted by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates during the 82nd General Session which specifies the approval procedure and mandate for facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material,

FULLY AWARE of the scientific deliberations on rinderpest from the relevant Specialist Commissions and the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee since the declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest in 2011,

THE ASSEMBLY

1. PROCLAIMS to adopt the attached Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration;
2. ACCEPTS to cancel and replace the “Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration” which were an appendix to Resolution No.18 adopted during the 79th General Session in 2011.

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.../Appendix

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

Appendix

**GLOBAL RINDERPEST ERADICATION:  
GUIDELINES FOR RINDERPEST VIRUS SEQUESTRATION**

Endorsed with amendments on 28 January 2010  
by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE

Endorsed with amendments on 14 April 2010  
by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication

Endorsed with amendments on 10 February 2017  
by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE

**Introduction**

The global eradication of rinderpest creates a duty for the international community to prevent the re-emergence of the disease through release of virus from laboratory sources. To this end FAO and OIE shall establish the principle of international oversight and regulation of facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material. The objective of the present guidelines is to ensure secure handling and sequestration of rinderpest virus in the post-eradication era. FAO and OIE and Member states undertake to reduce the number of virus repositories in order to minimise the risk of accidental release.

FAO and OIE, in collaboration with Member states, will put in place global contingency plans and will ensure approval of a minimum number of repositories and Reference Centres/Reference Laboratories necessary to maintain preparedness against releases of the virus into the environment. These plans will include, amongst others, vaccine production, vaccine banks and deployment of vaccines in case of emergency. Vaccines should be available to countries for immediate dissemination in case of emergency. The following guidelines deal with biosafety and bio-containment measures to be observed in laboratories and other facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material.

**Definitions**

For the purpose of these guidelines the following definitions apply:

An approved rinderpest holding facility is a facility that is jointly approved by FAO and OIE. The facility should comply with mandates underlined in Resolution No. 23 adopted at the 82nd General Session (2014) and undertake a risk assessment for rinderpest using Chapter 1.1.4. in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* as guidance. The *Veterinary Authority* must be aware and support the mandate stipulated in Resolution No. 23 adopted at the 82nd General Session (2014).

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*.

Veterinary Authority means the Governmental Authority of an OIE/FAO Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

## Guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration

1. All manipulation of *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine production and testing for quality control, shall be forbidden unless approved by FAO and OIE, supported by the *Veterinary Authority*, and is taking place at an *approved rinderpest holding facility*.
2. All countries shall either destroy or transfer all remaining *rinderpest virus-containing material* to an *approved rinderpest holding facility* under biologically secure conditions and under supervision from the *Veterinary Authority*, ensuring that the OIE and FAO are notified in advance. The *Veterinary Authority* shall be kept aware of and be held responsible for any activity involving *rinderpest virus-containing material*.
3. Should there be the need to manufacture additional stocks of rinderpest vaccine, the production must take place under strict biosecurity and biosafety measures in an *approved rinderpest holding facility*.
4. All rinderpest virus containing materials must be maintained in an approved rinderpest holding facility.
5. Transfers of *rinderpest virus-containing material* to an *approved rinderpest holding facility* located in another country must be notified to FAO and OIE beforehand; such material may remain the property of the country of origin.
6. Transport (intra and inter-country) arrangements for *rinderpest virus-containing material* shall be agreed by the relevant *Veterinary Authorities* in advance and be done in accordance with the related FAO-OIE Standard Operating Procedure<sup>49</sup> and chapter 1.1.3. of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, pertaining to *Transport of Specimens of Animal Origin*.
7. FAO and OIE shall establish and maintain a single global inventory on all existing *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine stocks and the facilities holding such stocks and any movement of such materials. The global database shall be kept up-to-date on a permanent basis.
8. FAO and OIE shall develop a mechanism to facilitate and standardise reporting of *rinderpest virus-containing material* by *Veterinary Authorities* to update the global database.
9. FAO and OIE shall widely publicise the availability of internationally accessible rinderpest vaccine stocks to assist in convincing national authorities that they do not need to continue holding *rinderpest virus-containing material*.
10. FAO and OIE shall develop a set of guidelines and standard operating procedures to govern the maintenance of rinderpest vaccine stocks and their use for emergency purposes.
11. FAO and OIE, through their Reference Centres and Reference Laboratories, (including the laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA division) shall advise regional, national and international partners on laboratory-related issues having to do with rinderpest virus, including virus sequestration, destruction and disinfection protocols and diagnostic quality control.
12. FAO and OIE shall oversee the development of diagnostic kits that do not require the use of live virus within the kit itself or during the manufacture of the kit.

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<sup>49</sup> Handling, Packaging and Shipping of Rinderpest virus Containing Materials

RESOLUTION No. 22

**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 (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 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 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Italy	Portugal
Australia	El Salvador	Japan	Romania
Austria	Estonia	Latvia	San Marino
Belarus	Finland	Lesotho	Serbia <sup>50</sup>
Belgium	Former Yug. Rep. of	Lithuania	Singapore
Belize	Macedonia	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France	Madagascar	Slovenia
Brunei	Germany	Malta	Spain
Bulgaria	Greece	Mexico	Swaziland
Canada	Guatemala	Montenegro	Sweden
Chile	Guyana	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Haiti	New Zealand	The Netherlands
Croatia	Honduras	Nicaragua	Ukraine
Cuba	Hungary	Norway	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Iceland	Panama	United States of America
Czech Republic	Indonesia	Philippines	Vanuatu
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	

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<sup>50</sup> 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 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones<sup>51</sup> where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. 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: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:

– one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;

– one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);

– one zone covering Zone 4a;

– one zone covering Zone 6b;

one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

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);

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galapagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Kazakhstan: one zone consisting of the regions of Akmola, Aktobe, Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay, Mangystau, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan, as designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

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;

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<sup>51</sup> 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.

- 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;
- Russia<sup>52</sup>: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;
- 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 zones<sup>53</sup> where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. 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);
- Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

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<sup>52</sup> With the exclusion of the containment zone.

<sup>53</sup> 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.

- 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;
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:
- one zone consisting of Almaty region;
  - one zone consisting of East Kazakhstan region;
  - one zone including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;
  - one zone including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;
  - one zone including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;
- 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 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.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 23

**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 (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, 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. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 the endorsement of Member Countries' 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 an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of)	Morocco	Thailand
India	Mongolia	Venezuela
Kazakhstan	Namibia	

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 24

**Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as CBPP free according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France	Singapore
Australia	India	South Africa
Botswana	Mexico	Swaziland
Brazil	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Canada	Portugal	United States of America
China (People's Republic of)		

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a CBPP free zone<sup>54</sup> according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2015.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

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<sup>54</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as CBPP free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 25

**Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia  
of Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 the endorsement of Member Countries' official control programme for CBPP 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 CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries with an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 26

**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 (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 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 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Hungary	Panama
Australia	Iceland	Paraguay
Austria	India	Peru
Belgium	Israel	Poland
Brazil	Italy	Portugal
Bulgaria	Japan	Romania
Chile	Korea (Rep. of)	Singapore
Colombia	Latvia	Slovakia
Costa Rica	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Croatia	Lithuania	Spain
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Sweden
Czech Republic	Malta	Switzerland
Denmark	Mexico	The Netherlands
Estonia	Namibia	United States of America
Finland	New Zealand	Uruguay
Germany	Norway	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Canada	France	Ireland
Chinese Taipei	Greece	Nicaragua

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having zones<sup>55</sup> recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. 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;

United Kingdom: two zones consisting of Northern Ireland and Scotland, as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General respectively in September and October 2016.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a zone<sup>1</sup> recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

United Kingdom: a zone consisting of England and Wales as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016.

AND

5. 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 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

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<sup>55</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Member Countries recognised as having a BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 27

**Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 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 Republic	Kuwait	Poland
Andorra	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal
Argentina	Ecuador	Latvia	Qatar
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Romania
Austria	Finland	Lithuania	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Former Yug. Rep. of	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Belgium	Macedonia	Malaysia	Slovenia
Bolivia	France	Malta	Spain
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Mexico	Sweden
Brazil	Greece	Morocco	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Myanmar	Thailand
Canada	Iceland	New Caledonia	The Netherlands
Chile	India	New Zealand	Tunisia
China (People's Rep. of)	Ireland	Norway	Turkey
Chinese Taipei	Italy	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Colombia	Japan	Paraguay	United Kingdom
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Peru	United States of America
Cyprus	Korea (Rep. of)	Philippines	Uruguay

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 28

**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 (the 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France	Norway
Australia	Germany	Paraguay
Austria	Greece	Philippines
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Bolivia	Iceland	Portugal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Romania
Botswana	Italy	Singapore
Brazil	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovakia
Canada	Latvia	Slovenia
Chile	Liechtenstein	South Africa
Chinese Taipei	Lithuania	Spain
Colombia	Luxembourg	Swaziland
Cyprus	Malta	Sweden
Czech Republic	Mauritius	Switzerland
Denmark	Mexico	Thailand
Ecuador	Myanmar	The Netherlands
Estonia	New Caledonia	United Kingdom
Finland	New Zealand	United States of America

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a PPR free zone<sup>56</sup> according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2014.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

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<sup>56</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as PPR free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 29

**Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from CSF,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries. The document, published on the OIE website since then, has been kept up-to-date,
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 CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as CSF free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia	Ireland	Portugal
Austria	Italy	Romania
Belgium	Japan	Slovakia
Canada	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Chile	Luxembourg	Spain
Czech Republic	Mexico	Sweden
Denmark	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Finland	New Zealand	The Netherlands
France	Norway	United Kingdom
Germany	Paraguay	United States of America
Hungary	Poland	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having CSF free zones<sup>57</sup>, according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2014;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins, Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea, in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

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<sup>57</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Member Countries recognised as CSF free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 30

**Foot and Mouth Disease Serotype C**

CONSIDERING

1. The adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates of Resolution No. 19 Towards Global Control and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease and Resolution No. 15 on the Sharing of foot and mouth disease viral material and information in support of global foot and mouth disease prevention and control in May 2011 and May 2013 respectively;
2. That the OIE and FAO have been mandated to launch and implement the Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control Strategy;
3. That OIE Member Countries must notify FMD outbreaks to the OIE using the WAHIS mechanism;
4. That it is paramount that any changes in the circulating field viruses and in virological characteristics of FMD viruses resulting in increased risks to animal health and animal production are detected early;
5. All information about FMD viruses that can lead to the development of more effective prevention and control policies is a global public good and should be put into the public domain without delay;
6. Countries reporting outbreaks of FMD are responsible for sharing material and data with the international scientific community in a timely manner to assist in the implementation of the Global FMD Control Strategy;
7. Genetic information about current circulating field viruses is needed for the early development and production of FMD vaccines, for the adaptation of the vaccination strategy, and for facilitation of accurate laboratory diagnosis;
8. The network of OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories for FMD has not isolated any FMDV serotype C since 2004;
9. The network of OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories for FMD considered that the production of FMDV serotype C vaccines and their use in vaccine challenge experiments represent a risk of virus escape;
10. The highly contagious nature for animals and economic importance of FMD, all laboratory manipulations with live viral cultures or potentially infected/contaminated material such as tissue and blood samples must be performed at an appropriate containment level and as outlined in Chapter 1.1.4. of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (2016). Countries lacking access to such specialised national or regional laboratory should send specimens to an OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory. Vaccine production facilities should also meet these containment requirements.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries, other organisations or laboratories suspecting or identifying the presence of FMDV serotype C should as soon as possible share FMD viral material and information about the FMD viruses with OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories for confirmation and report its presence through the WAHIS.
2. The OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory network provides services to OIE Member Countries and to the OIE to assist with confirmatory testing of suspected FMD serotype C samples and reporting to the OIE of any positive results.
3. OIE Member Countries should assess the risks and the relevance of practices related to the use of FMDV serotype C for vaccination to progressively stop unjustified practices and consider the benefit of replacing routine vaccination against FMDV serotype C by its inclusion in vaccine antigen banks.
4. OIE Member Countries should urge vaccine manufacturers to stop the use of FMDV serotype C in vaccine challenge experiments and to consider halting the production of FMDV serotype C vaccines and inclusion in multivalent FMD vaccines except for holding in vaccine banks.
5. Countries and laboratories with the support of the network of OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories for FMD are encouraged to participate in and coordinate diagnostic and research activities related to surveillance for FMD serotype C at the international level partaking in the Global FMD Control Strategy.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 31

**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, and political and trade policy dimensions,
3. The Director General will establish the OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum, through which the OIE will continue to develop relevant animal welfare issues and priorities in consultation with scientists, industry, and civil society,
4. Additional work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards for pig, layer hen production systems and the killing methods for reptiles commercially processed for their skins and meat,
5. Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health have been published on the OIE website,
6. Regional animal welfare strategies, animal welfare platforms and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide,
7. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 confirming the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE adopt and implement an OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy as developed in document 85 SG/14.
2. Within the framework of OIE agreed Global and Regional strategies and implementation plans, 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 animal welfare mandate.
3. Veterinary Services of each Member Country continue to take steps to implement OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, those that will strengthen their regulatory frameworks for animal welfare.

4. Veterinary Services of each Member Country take steps to engage with governmental and non-governmental organisations to implement the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health including, as appropriate, consider the possible need to strengthen their relevant regulatory frameworks, and improve their capacity to respond to any kind of disaster.
  5. The OIE Regional Commissions and their respective Member Countries continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Animal Welfare Platforms.
  6. The OIE encourage OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to explore opportunities for collaborative and partnership projects in support of the animal welfare programme in Member Countries and in their Regions, including through twinning projects.
  7. The OIE identify additional institutions that could be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.
  8. The OIE continues to monitor the “Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare” and its recognition of OIE’s international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.
  9. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.
  10. The Director General continue to organise seminars for national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates,
  11. The Director General takes the necessary steps to follow up on recommendations of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Mexico, in December 2016.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 32

**Animal Production Food Safety Working Group**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its sixteenth meeting in December 2016,
2. The Working Group's membership includes high level experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and internationally recognised experts in animal production food safety from around the globe,
3. The Animal Production Food Safety Working Group has, since its establishment, made a significant contribution to the development of a strong working relationship with Codex and the development of standards that, when implemented, ensure the production of safe food of animal origin,
4. The Animal Production Food Safety Working Group has contributed to the development and revision of chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* that address relevant food safety pathogens,
5. The OIE's work in animal production food safety is now well integrated into the work of the OIE,
6. 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, food borne zoonotic diseases and related issues,
7. During the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meeting held in February 2017, it was agreed to establish an inter-agency coordination group with representatives from FAO, WHO, OIE and the Codex Secretariat. The purpose of this group is to ensure ongoing collaboration and coordination between FAO/WHO/OIE in regard to international food safety standard setting,
8. The inter-agency coordination group will report to the Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meetings.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The mandate of the permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety not be renewed.
2. The OIE actively participate as a member of the newly established Tripartite permanent inter-agency Working Group on food safety.

3. The Director General continue to ensure that the OIE remains active in the area of animal production food safety, in particular ensuring harmonisation of the food safety standards developed and under development by the OIE and relevant international organisations, especially Codex.
  4. The OIE thank all the current and past members of the Working Group and acknowledge the important contribution this Working Group has made in animal production food safety.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 33

**Animal Welfare Working Group**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE on animal welfare includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,
2. Resolution No. XIV, from the 70th OIE General Session of May 2002, established a permanent working group on animal welfare to coordinate and manage animal welfare activities of the OIE,
3. Since 2002, the Animal Welfare Working Group, has provided guidance for the development and the implementation of the OIE animal welfare programme,
4. That the standards setting work in relation to animal welfare is now well integrated into the work of the OIE, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,
5. The AWWG has achieved its objectives and the mandate of the Animal Welfare Working Group should be reviewed,
6. The OIE strategy related to Animal Welfare is currently well defined, in particular through the OIE Strategic Plans, the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy and the Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms,
7. The OIE is establishing a Global Animal Welfare Forum, through which the OIE will continue to develop relevant animal welfare issues and priorities in consultation with scientists, industry, and civil society, in order to adjust its activities among the existing Strategic plans.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS

1. The mandate of the permanent Animal Welfare Working Group not be renewed.
2. The Director General take steps to continue developing the OIE Animal Welfare programme according to the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy as developed in document 85 SG/14
3. The OIE thank all the current and past members of the Working Group and acknowledge the important contribution this Working Group has made to the OIE animal welfare programme.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 34

**Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous General Sessions;
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2017 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 85 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 of Document 85 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. 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 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 35

**Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous OIE General Sessions,
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations of the February 2017 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 25 of Document 85 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, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of Document 85 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 11 of Document 85 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
  - 2.1. Annex 11 (Chapter 9.3.)
    - a) In Article 9.3.2. “giant river prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*)” be placed [under study].
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 36

**Amendments to 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 revised chapters were sent to Member Countries for comment:

Chapter 2.2.X. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease

Chapter 2.2.1. Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) (Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* [Crayfish plague])

Chapter 2.2.3. Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus)

Chapter 2.2.4. Infectious myonecrosis (Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus)

Chapter 2.2.5. Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* [Necrotising hepatopancreatitis])

Chapter 2.2.6. Taura syndrome (Infection with Taura syndrome virus)

Chapter 2.2.8. White tail disease (Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus [White tail disease])

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised chapters for the eighth edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 19, 20, 23 and 25 of Document 85 SG/12/CS4 B in English, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 21, 22 and 24 of Document 85 SG/12/CS4 B in English, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
  - 2.1. Annex 21 (Chapter 2.2.3.)
    - a) In Section 2.2.1.: “giant river prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*)” be placed under study.

2.2. Annex 22 (Chapter 2.2.4.)

- a) In Section 2.3.3. “Geographical distribution”, the last sentence be deleted.
- b) In Section 4.3.1.2.3., sub-section “*RT-PCR for detection of IMNV*”, text to remain unchanged from the previously adopted text.

2.3. Annex 24 (Chapter 2.2.6.)

- a) In Section 4.3.1.2.7.2. “*Reverse-transcription (RT)-PCR method*”, text to remain unchanged from the previously adopted text.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 37

**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 Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region*

CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Victoria, AUSTRALIA

Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences (FVAS), The University of Melbourne, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

EpiCentre, Institute of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, Palmerston North, NEW ZEALAND

*OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa*

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), P.O. Box 30772-00100,  
Nairobi, KENYA

*OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of official veterinarians, diagnosis of infectious  
animal diseases and zoonoses, and control of veterinary drugs in West and Central Africa*  
Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV), Laboratoire de  
Contrôle des médicaments vétérinaires (LACOMEV), Dakar, SENEGAL

*OIE Collaborating Centre for Research and control of emerging and re-emerging swine  
diseases in Europe*

Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA), Centre de Recerca en Sanitat  
Animal (CReSA), Bellaterra, (Barcelona), SPAIN

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 38

**Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance:  
progress and opportunities for future activities under the ‘One health’ initiative**

CONSIDERING

1. The adoption of several Resolutions by the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and in particular Resolution No. 25 of May 2009 on ‘Veterinary products’, which took into account previous Resolutions on harmonisation of requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products, their responsible and prudent use and monitoring of AMR,
2. The adoption by the Assembly, in May 2015, of Resolution No. 26 on ‘Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals’ during the 83rd General Session, including the setting up by the OIE, in application of this Resolution, of a database to collect information on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, as well as the follow up, by OIE Member Countries, of the principles of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, developed with the support of the OIE to promote the ‘One Health’ concept, in particular through the development of national action plans,
3. The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials published in November 2016, in accordance with Resolution No. 36 adopted by the Assembly during the 84th General Session of the OIE (May 2016), which is based on the WHO Global Action Plan and outlines the objectives and the tactics used by the OIE to help Member Countries to combat AMR, by promoting the implementation of national action plans with a One Health approach and international standards at national level,
4. The willingness of OIE Member Countries to develop harmonised short-, medium- and long-term initiatives consistent with the OIE strategy, to combat AMR more effectively, notably through the action of OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products,
5. The organisation of regional training seminars for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products their positive impact on the way Member Countries take into account the topics covered during these seminars,
6. That in order to promote veterinary supervision to ensure the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, it is important that veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals receive appropriate training and have relevant and updated information on AMR,
7. The measures taken by the OIE to make communication tools available to Member Countries to enable the organisation of awareness campaigns on the sanitary risks posed by AMR and on the need to adopt responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents,
8. OIE Member Countries’ wish to have standards for the analysis of samples in order to be able to determine bacterial resistance and interpret the results in the context of AMR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Member Countries fulfil their commitment under the Global Action Plan by applying OIE standards and guidelines, in particular those on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents, which include specific recommendations on antimicrobials of critical importance, and the phasing out of the use of antibiotics for growth promotion in the absence of risk analysis.
2. OIE Member Countries continue their efforts regarding the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and send the information annually to the OIE using the questionnaire specifically developed for this purpose.
3. The Delegates of Member Countries and Focal Points interact at national level with their ‘One Health’ counterparts in particular with those participating in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to ensure sustainable collaboration and coordination on the development of international standards on AMR.
4. The OIE promote approaches to reduce the need to use antibiotics by encouraging alternatives to antibiotics in particular the development of vaccines and best practice husbandry and hygiene.
5. The OIE continue to implement its work programme according to the four objectives of its Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, in close collaboration with its Tripartite partners, WHO and FAO, with the help of other relevant partners and stakeholders, and to promote intersectoral coordination and cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national level.
6. The OIE support Member Countries in the implementation of a national action plan and international standards, especially with regard to responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in order to combat AMR more effectively, including the prescription and delivery of antimicrobial agents by well-trained veterinarians or suitably trained persons authorised in accordance with national legislation.
7. The OIE review the List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance including considering the purposes for use of antimicrobial agents in animals, in particular ionophores.
8. The OIE contribute to strengthening teaching on risks related to AMR and measures to be taken to control AMR in the core training curriculum and continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
9. The OIE continue to organise training seminars at regional level for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (5th cycle), to improve awareness of its standards, guidelines and recommendations and the systems for improving the collection of data on the antimicrobial agents used in animals.
10. The OIE complement the specific standards and recommendations on laboratory methodologies for antimicrobial susceptibility testing to determine bacterial resistance and interpret the test results in the context of AMR, working with WHO and FAO to achieve integrated surveillance.
11. The OIE put in place tools to monitor the actions undertaken to implement its strategy on AMR, while also taking into account the evaluation developed in collaboration with its Tripartite partners and the future work of the United Nations interagency group to coordinate global action to fight antimicrobial resistance effectively and sustainably.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

RESOLUTION No. 39

**Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners for international animal health and livestock sector development programmes and the implications for the OIE**

CONSIDERING

1. The critical role the animal health and livestock sectors play in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
2. That the engagement of private sector entities, including corporations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), private foundations and philanthropists, can accelerate progress towards the accomplishment of the SDGs,
3. That Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) provide an optimal mix of the unique strengths of both the public and private sectors and can often accomplish much more than the most determined effort by any one operating alone,
4. That PPPs are a recognised mechanism for sourcing and engaging complementary resources, expertise and capabilities and offer substantial opportunities in meeting the SDGs as well as other national specific priorities,
5. That the private sector is keen to complement the efforts of national Veterinary Authorities, provided that there is a clear delegation of responsibilities, transparent governance, functional regulatory framework, consistent application of rules, regular review and clear exit arrangements,
6. That private sector partners require clear objectives and measureable impacts be defined prior to engaging in PPPs and although these may differ from the public sector, the results of the PPP will be of mutual benefit and create a win-win situation,
7. That internationally agreed animal health and welfare standards continue to apply in all aspects of PPPs, and that the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* glossary definition of Veterinary Services includes both the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures, thus recognising private sector organisations, veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals as vital contributors to national Veterinary Services,
8. That PPP arrangements should and often do reflect the OIE Strategic Plan with an emphasis on diversity, inclusiveness, transparency and engagement, and also acknowledge the Tripartite approach,
9. That the OIE assesses the capacity of Veterinary Authorities to interact with interested stakeholders through the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway,
10. That the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as a private partner, thus has specific objectives for its investments which must align with the Foundation's vision to help reduce inequity,
11. That, in October 2016, the OIE signed a three-year collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation entitled Public Private Progress to study the impact of PPPs in improving Veterinary Service delivery in Africa and Asia, and, as such, has started garnering positive experiences with PPPs at the global level,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE develop a global resource mobilisation strategy targeting private investors, and engage with them in order to stimulate investments in international/regional/national animal health and livestock sector development programmes in collaboration with relevant partners,
2. The OIE and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in the framework of their collaboration, use the results of the Public Private Progress initiative to demonstrate the positive impacts of PPPs and disseminate best practices to support OIE Member Countries in developing successful and sustainable PPPs in the field of animal health and livestock sector development,
3. In recognition of the fact that the growth of the private sector often outpaces that of Veterinary Authorities, the required resources be allocated to Veterinary Authorities to create enabling environments for PPPs,
4. The Member Countries encourage and facilitate the organisation of producer (commodity or industry) groups that can serve as partners with the public sector as a prelude to developing the enabling environments for the Veterinary Authority to support the development of the livestock sector through expanded production and trade,
5. The Member Countries take stock of the best practices identified by the OIE and promote, develop and implement policies and legislation to incentivise collaborations with the private sector to improve animal health and livestock sector development,
6. OIE Member Countries make every effort to appropriately manage any perception of conflict of interest arising from any PPPs,
7. When developing PPPs, Member Countries ensure that such arrangements also contribute to existing global efforts for the control of animal diseases such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), rabies or avian influenza,
8. Where relevant, Member Countries are encouraged to request a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission to monitor country progress in complying with OIE standards including their capacity to interact with interested stakeholders, as assessed in fundamental component III.

AND INVITES

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other investors to take action, in collaboration with the OIE, and continue to advocate and support the development of suitable private sector partners with which national Veterinary Authorities can engage to create an enabling environment for PPPs targeting the development of the livestock sector and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

# *Recommendations*

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2016**

**Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE  
on 25 May 2017**



**27th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Lisbon, Portugal, 19 to 23 September 2016

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Control and elimination of rabies in Europe: challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Lumpy skin disease: current situation in Europe and neighbouring regions and necessary control measures to halt the spread in South-East Europe



Recommendation No. 1

**Control and elimination of rabies in Europe:  
challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. In sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interfaces, the Tripartite (FAO, OIE, and WHO) have identified rabies as a priority disease;
2. The OIE and WHO have developed the “Operational framework for good governance at the human–animal interface: Bridging WHO and OIE Tools for the assessment of national capacities”;
3. The Global Framework for the Elimination of dog-mediated Human Rabies (Global Framework) was elaborated in accordance with the consensus reached by participants at the Global Conference: Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies held in Geneva in 2015 with the vision of achieving zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030;
4. The Blueprint for Rabies Prevention and Control developed by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control;
5. During its 84th General Session in 2016, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates endorsed the Resolution No. 26 on the Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies;
6. The GF-TADs for Europe has established rabies as one of the 7 priority diseases in Europe and calls for regional coordinated and harmonised measures to control it;
7. The current rabies epidemiological situation indicates that rabies is endemic in either wildlife or in both dog and wildlife species in 49% of the Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe (hereafter referred as ‘European countries);
8. Over the last 10 years, 9 European Countries reported human cases of rabies;
9. A minority of European Countries (12) has followed the procedure for rabies freedom self-declaration described in Chapter 1.6 (Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE) and Chapter 8.13 (Infection with Rabies Virus) of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
10. The publication, by the OIE, of rabies freedom self-declaration is the best way to document and communicate on the progress made by Member Countries towards global elimination of dog-mediated rabies;
11. Good veterinary governance and intersectoral collaboration under the “One Health” concept is a prerequisite to achieve rabies elimination;
12. Stray dog (and cat) populations are considered by European countries as a problem in rabies control and elimination efforts; and

13. Vaccination has proven to be the most cost-effective way to eliminate rabies at the animal source and sustainably prevent human rabies.

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

#### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. All Member Countries make rabies a notifiable disease in humans, domestic and wild animals and fulfil their reporting obligations as WHO and OIE Member;
2. The Member Countries considering themselves as free from rabies, if not already done, apply the provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* for rabies freedom self-declaration and inform the OIE of their claimed status for publication;
3. The Member Countries having already applied the provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* for rabies freedom maintain their status by:
  - Having early disease detection system in both domestic and wild ;
  - Ensuring animal movement and border security are in compliance with international standards and in close collaboration with customs' authorities;
  - Having contingency plan for the rapid response to any suspected or confirmed rabies case in animals;
4. The Member Countries share their experience and collaborate on rabies control and elimination through bilateral or regional activities using mechanisms such as the GF-TADs;
5. The human and animal health sectors of rabies endemic Member Countries join their efforts to convince their decision makers of the cost-effective advantage of eliminating rabies at the animal source and thereby consider rabies elimination, in both dogs and wildlife, as a priority, with a view to allocating appropriate long-term public investment;
6. The rabies endemic Member Countries use the Global Framework for the Elimination of dog-mediated Human Rabies as well as the Blueprint for Rabies Prevention and Control to guide the development of their stray dog population management and national rabies control and elimination strategy;
7. The OIE continue to provide support to the Member Countries of the Region on stray dog population control through the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare in Europe and extend the use of the OIE self-assessment questionnaire on dog population management to other relevant sub-regions;
8. The OIE and WHO in collaboration with other international organisations, continue to support Veterinary Services and human health services by organising National Bridging Workshop on the International Health Regulations (IHR) and OIE PVS Pathway promoting intersectoral collaboration following the “One Health” concept ;
9. The OIE promote and support the use of rabies vaccines, in both dogs and wildlife, complying with the OIE Manual and, in collaboration with WHO, support the use of the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank in order to ensure the timely provision of high quality vaccines for dogs to requesting Member Countries of the Region; and

10. Member Countries, in collaboration with the OIE, increase rabies public awareness by conducting communication campaign adapted to their socio-cultural context, in particular by taking advantage of the annual World Rabies Day.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 23 September 2016 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)



Recommendation No. 2

**Lumpy skin disease: current situation in Europe and neighbouring regions and necessary control measures to halt the spread in South-East Europe**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Despite control and eradication measures taken by some OIE Member Countries, the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is continuing, mainly in unvaccinated animals, within the Middle and Near East, South-East Europe and Northern Caucasus;
2. The current knowledge on LSD indicates the following:
  - a. LSD is mainly transmitted mechanically by a variety of blood-feeding vectors present in cattle populations' environment;
  - b. LSD virus has the potential to survive for prolonged periods in the environment, and the disease appears to be of seasonal nature, with reappearance after cold season;
  - c. Effective vaccines against LSD are commercially available;
  - d. Large-scale vaccination combined with stamping-out and strict biosecurity measures have proven to be effective at controlling the disease; and
  - e. The transport of viraemic cattle with sub-clinical or unnoticed infection is one of the main risk factors for LSD spread.
3. There are still many gaps in knowledge that need to be filled by research, among others;
  - a. To better understand the disease transmission;
  - b. To improve the understanding on the protection provided by different vaccines and vaccination protocol; and
  - c. To improve diagnostic technique and capacity.
4. During its 6th Regional Steering Committee meeting, the GF-TADs for Europe has identified LSD as an emerging priority and since then a Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe (SGE LSD) has been established under GF-TADs umbrella;
5. The High Level Ministerial Conference on Lumpy Skin Disease held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 8 and 9 September 2016 provided a series of technically-sound conclusions to best assist countries in their efforts to combat this disease ; and
6. The OIE *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 2.4.13 on Lumpy Skin Disease has been updated in May 2016 and the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 11.11 on Lumpy Skin Disease (caused by Group III virus, type Neethling) is currently under revision.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries increase their preparedness for LSD by ensuring proper legislation, surveillance and early detection, contingency planning, diagnostic capacity, provisions for vaccination, and awareness campaigns for relevant stakeholders, according to their assessment of the risk of disease incursion;
2. Member Countries affected by LSD implement, without delay, strict cattle movement control, consider the application of a stamping-out policy, and the vaccination of cattle in an area large enough to prevent vector-borne spread, using vaccines complying with the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*, to prevent the spread of the disease to the other parts of the country and to neighbouring countries;
3. Member Countries at risk of LSD consider preventive vaccination in the regions at risk in a timely manner using vaccines complying with the standards of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* to prevent the introduction or spread of the disease;
4. Member Countries notify the OIE in accordance with the deadlines set out in Chapter 1.1 of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and apply the recommendations of the Chapter 11.11 on LSD;
5. Member Countries affected with or at-risk of LSD be actively involved in the activities of the Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe under GF-TADs umbrella (SGE) and implement the recommendations of this Group, including those under discussion, related to the establishment, implementation, and monitoring of a regional action plan on LSD;
6. According to their assessment of the risk of disease incursion, Member Countries increase their capability and capacity to properly diagnose LSD by participating in annual ring-trials and proficiency testing organised by OIE Reference Laboratories and other appropriate laboratories such as the EU reference laboratory for LSD;
7. Member Countries, in collaboration with the OIE and relevant international and regional organisations, set up international research collaborations and networks and initiate research projects addressing the current knowledge gaps on LSD;
8. Member Countries better communicate to interested parties the following messages: (i) LSD represents no risk for human health as it is not a zoonosis; (ii) meat and milk for human consumption are not considered to be significant risk factors for transmission and the risk posed by milk destined for animal consumption can be mitigated by pasteurisation; and (iii) hides are more likely to be contaminated with virus than meat or milk and require specific risk mitigating measures;
9. Member Countries be fully involved in commenting the revised Chapter 11.11 on Lumpy Skin Disease (caused by Group III virus, type Neethling) of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, especially by reviving the relevant Task Force of the Regional Commission for Europe, and urge for the adoption of the revised Chapter in May 2017;
10. The OIE, in collaboration with OIE LSD Reference Laboratories and providing funding be available, undertake Twinning Projects on LSD in order to increase the technical capability and capacity in affected or at-risk Member Countries;
11. The OIE, the FAO, and the European Commission continue to show leadership by maintaining and developing the activities of the SGE on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe;

12. The OIE continue to update and publish the Technical Disease Card on Lumpy Skin Disease taking into account the most current scientific knowledge; and
  13. The OIE and the FAO, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations, and preferably under the GF-TADs umbrella, promote and stimulate inter-regional cooperation and coordination on LSD, especially with the Member Countries of the Middle East region.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 23 September 2016 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)



**23rd Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 14 to 18 November 2016

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability in the Americas: overview of current status and impact for international trade

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Highly pathogenic avian influenza: Challenges encountered and measures for preventing its spread



Recommendation No. 1

**Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability in the Americas: overview of current status and impact for international trade**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the level of development and performance of animal traceability system varies greatly among Member Countries of the Americas;
2. Many Member Countries of the Americas have not yet adopted national legislation on animal traceability;
3. The vast majority of Member Countries of the Americas believe that animal traceability is a priority and this topic will remain a worldwide priority in the coming years;
4. Across the Americas, the levels of development, interest and readiness for animal traceability amongst species are, in order from highest to lowest: bovine, porcine, poultry, equine, ovine, and caprine;
5. In the Americas, of the three important components of animal traceability, the lowest level of performance is in domestic movements registration, whereas performance for animal identification/registration, the quality of import/export information, and establishment registration is generally stronger;
6. The vast majority of Member Countries of the Americas consider that a very important outcome of animal traceability is to support disease control and surveillance activities;
7. The main impediments in the development of an animal traceability system identified by the Member Countries of the Americas are, in decreasing order, the lack of: financial resources to support implementation, interest from industry, infrastructure to read, report and collect animal traceability information, legislative support, technical support and willingness to modify current practices;
8. The OIE *Terrestrial Code's* chapters 4.1 on “General principles on identification and traceability of live animals” and 4.2 on “Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability” provide key elements for the development and implementation of an animal traceability system;
9. The OIE PVS Tool identifies “Identification and Traceability” as a Critical Competency and an essential component in the quality of Veterinary Services; and
10. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) provides complimentary standards relevant to the development and implementation of animal traceability systems.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Member Countries include in the development of their animal traceability systems, including related national legislation, the principles of animal traceability found in Chapter 4.1 and 4.2 of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* with the purpose of supporting disease control and surveillance activities;
2. Member Countries use the OIE standards and cooperate in ensuring that traceability requirements for both imports and exports are appropriate in ensuring safe trade;
3. Member Countries improve their capacity for the traceability of terrestrial and aquatic animals as well as for beehives prioritising aspects providing more obviously favourable benefit-cost and/or industry support, including initial lower cost options such as export market, species/production system, vaccination, zoning or 'book-end' (origin, death, import, export) only traceability systems;
4. Member Countries assess and share lessons learned and best practices on traceability for terrestrial and aquatic animals as well as for beehives;
5. Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway and request missions of this programme in order to assess their compliance with OIE standards and get support on their animal health strategies, including for animal traceability;
6. Member Countries encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Center on animal identification and traceability which could provide and coordinate capacity building activities on animal traceability to Member Countries, including at regional level;
7. Member Countries consider the implementation of other relevant international standards such as those of ISO in their animal traceability systems, noting that the adoption of such standards is free and can support the interoperability of traceability systems at regional and international levels;
8. The OIE work with OIE Delegates to advocate the importance of animal traceability systems to high level decision-makers so to trigger proper resourcing; and
9. The OIE continue to provide proper resourcing of the PVS Pathway in order to provide Member Countries with missions to improve their Veterinary Services, including for identification and traceability, in a timely manner.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 18 November 2016 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)

Recommendation No. 2

**Highly pathogenic avian influenza  
Challenges encountered and measures for preventing its spread**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The global human population continues to grow and become wealthier, and the demand for animal protein, particularly for poultry meat and eggs, is correspondingly increasing;
2. Highly pathogenic influenza (HPAI) continues to have a significant impact on poultry health and production across the globe;
3. Many countries worldwide are experiencing or have experienced unprecedented HPAI events which threaten animal health, public health, food security, agricultural productivity, farming community livelihoods and global trade;
4. While geographical barriers may still help in preventing the spread of avian influenza, strains of the virus have now been shown to spread intercontinentally by wild waterfowl and other wild birds;
5. The understanding of how avian influenza viruses can spread within continents is critical to the development of successful strategies to reduce the impact of influenza outbreaks in commercial poultry;
6. The proximity to the aquatic wild bird flyways and the presence of wetlands as aggregation areas for aquatic birds, increases the risk of epidemiological contacts and introduction of avian influenza in domestic poultry, such as evidenced during the 2014/2015 outbreak of HPAI in the United States of America;
7. The implementation of effective biosecurity measures prevents and reduces the risk of introduction and subsequent spread and amplification of the avian influenza virus in domestic poultry;
8. Early detection of HPAI virus is key to rapid control and eradication of the virus;
9. During the 2014/2015 outbreak of HPAI in the United States of America, depopulation of commercial poultry premises and disposal of carcasses were the most demanding disease control response activities in terms of human resources;
10. The OIE has adopted numerous standards for the prevention, detection, and control of avian influenza, including those related to zoning and compartmentalization.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries conduct active wild bird surveillance to track and monitor avian influenza viruses in the wild bird population, in particular in aquatic wild birds, and the poultry producers be informed of meaningful results, on a timely manner, to strengthen their biosecurity;

2. Member Countries continue to provide detailed spatial and temporal information on avian influenza occurrence in both domestic poultry and wildlife through WAHIS;
3. Member Countries develop contingency plans for disease control activities and ensure adequate material and sufficient human resources are available for HPAI disease control activities, notably for depopulation of commercial farms and disposal of carcasses;
4. Member Countries assess and share lessons learned and best practices on the application of the relevant OIE standards in the management of HPAI outbreaks;
5. Member Countries promote the implementation, by the poultry sector, of appropriate biosecurity measures in line with the *OIE Terrestrial Code's* Chapter 6.4 on “Biosecurity procedures in poultry production”, by the development of specific biosecurity plans jointly with the industry;
6. Member Countries submit avian influenza samples to Reference Laboratories for sequencing and strain collation in support to the joint OIE and FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenza (OFFLU);
7. The OIE encourage the identification of the multifactorial determinants of animal health risk needed to support risk analysis, surveillance and intervention strategies, including updated evaluations on the risk associated with migratory flyways and that the enhancement of this capacity be considered in the upgrade of WAHIS;
8. The OIE undertake joint capacity building seminars dedicated to Wildlife, Animal Disease Notification, and Laboratory National Focal Points in order to favour synergy at national level in terms of notification of wildlife diseases such as avian influenza; and
9. The Member Countries strongly consider the establishment of bilateral and multilateral agreement on the recognition of zones and compartments to facilitate trade during outbreaks implementing the principles defined in Chapter 4.3 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on “zoning and compartmentalisation”.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 18 November 2016 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)

**22nd Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Swakopmund, Namibia, 20 to 24 February 2017

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa



Recommendation No. 1

**Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and  
challenges for Veterinary Services**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Pastoralism in Africa remains a fundamentally important cultural and socio-economic activity for the continent, particularly in terms of survival of communities, creation of livelihoods, diversification of income, and cultural integrity of socio-ecosystems, but also in terms of food security and sovereignty;
2. Pastoral livestock systems present major strengths and potential benefits in giving governments and their people very real prospects for sustainable development and elaborating sound land use planning policies;
3. These production systems are faced with increasingly greater challenges, including from climate change, which will have to be addressed if we are to avoid that pastoralism and all its potential benefits disappear in the very near future;
4. Access to basic public services, notably targeting public health and animal health (Veterinary Services), is one of the main priorities for pastoralist communities;
5. Movements of animals are one of the essential components of pastoral livestock management practices to ensure resilience to drought, among others;
6. The animal health situation in Africa is characterised by the persistence of major infectious transboundary animal diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), and this is having significant repercussions on livestock productivity and, consequently, on the living conditions of human populations;
7. There is a very great disparity in African countries between the contribution that the livestock sector in general, and pastoralism in particular, makes to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the share of the national budget that is allocated to it;
8. The Veterinary Services in African countries have for some thirty years been suffering from chronic and virtually generalised underinvestment, resulting in a very significant reduction in the capacity of these Services;
9. Border controls and the establishment of disease surveillance and control systems have a crucial role to play in limiting the spread of animal diseases; and
10. The demand for animal protein in Africa is set to grow at least as fast as the population, which is expected to double by 2050.

## THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries' Delegates advocate at the highest level for livestock production and animal health in general, and especially for pastoralism in arid and semi-arid zones, to redress the imbalance between the budget allocated to the livestock sector, including Veterinary Services, and the sector's socio-economic importance;
2. Member Countries be committed to strengthening the capacity and accessibility of Veterinary Services to all livestock populations, including those involved in pastoral systems, as a national priority, including by taking advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway as an independent mechanism based on international standards to prioritise and advocate for improving Veterinary Services with national decision-makers and donors;
3. Member Countries, with the support of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, mobilise resources to increase the effectiveness of national border animal health controls and epidemiological surveillance systems and explore regional approaches that would make a significant contribution to controlling the major transboundary animal diseases in Africa, including zoonoses;
4. Member Countries' Veterinary Services sensitise and directly engage their pastoralist communities in the implementation of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR-GCES) and its Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) (2017-2021), developed jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
5. Member Countries strengthen relevant stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of the "One Health" concept and explore ways to develop synergies between animal health and human health systems to improve both human and animal health in pastoralist communities;
6. Member Countries encourage the identification of a centre of excellence in understanding and managing pastoralism, particularly its intersection with animal and veterinary public health, that could eventually be proposed as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Pastoralism in Africa;
7. The Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa, once reactivated, consider the inclusion of pastoralism as a priority topic in its Five-Year Action Plan;
8. The OIE organise a multiregional conference on pastoralism in Africa in 2019 in order for countries to share their experiences and explore solutions to address animal health issues of pastoral livestock systems;
9. The OIE consider convening an *ad hoc* group on pastoralism to explore the possibility to develop guidelines on animal and veterinary public health in pastoral systems;
10. The OIE improve the understanding of its Member Countries of the "One Health" approach, including its operational aspects, by providing, to requesting countries, workshops on bridging the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) and the OIE PVS Pathway ; and

11. The OIE continue to secure proper resourcing of the PVS Pathway in order to provide Member Countries with missions to guide and advocate for strengthening their Veterinary Services in a timely manner.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 24 February 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)



Recommendation No. 2

**Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of  
peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The region of Africa accounts for 32% of the global population of small ruminants (sheep and goats);
2. The transboundary spread of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa over the past decade continues to cause a severe animal health impact and heavy economic losses in infected countries, and poses a threat to countries historically free from PPR and potentially to wild ruminant populations;
3. The Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR-GCES) and its Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) (2017-2021), developed jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with key partners, provide the framework, approach, tools and provisions for investment needed to meet the challenge of global PPR eradication;
4. The eradication of PPR by 2030 will contribute significantly to food security, poverty reduction, enhanced resilience of smallholder farmers and herders especially, the creation of animal production opportunities and the economic development of countries where the small ruminant sector is important;
5. The PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP combine three core synergistic components:
  - a progressive, step-wise approach to PPR control leading to eradication;
  - strengthening of Veterinary Services;
  - control of other priority small ruminant diseases.
6. The FAO and the OIE, under the auspices of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), have established the PPR Global Secretariat which is responsible for the overall coordination of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP's implementation;
7. The successful implementation of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP, particularly in Africa, requires:
  - political will and ongoing commitment at continental, regional and national levels;
  - a coordinated and harmonised regional and sub-regional approach that takes into consideration all national and regional specificities;
  - strengthening of the activities of regional laboratory networks and regional epidemiology networks, which are considered to be key fora for information exchange, the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills at regional and national level, and the harmonisation of national strategic plans;

- ongoing support to countries for the implementation of planned activities;
  - the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders and all actors in the small ruminant sector at all levels – national, regional and continental.
8. The OIE provides Member Countries with international standards, support programmes for strengthening Veterinary Services including the OIE PVS Pathway, procedures for the endorsement of official national PPR control programmes and for official recognition of PPR free status, and the voluntary supply of high quality vaccine via OIE global and regional vaccine bank arrangements;
  9. The PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) is the established process to formally identify a country's PPR stage and plan for its progression towards PPR eradication, and it has clear provision for OIE PVS Evaluation report results to be formally integrated into every PMAT process;
  10. The OIE is developing and piloting OIE PVS Pathway missions which, while continuing to evaluate the whole national animal health system and veterinary domain, will also be supplemented by a specific focus and content on national PPR eradication, with pilot missions taking place in the Europe and Asia, the Far East and Oceania in the first half of 2017; and
  11. Early official notification of animal health events to the OIE through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is essential to improve the transparency, efficiency and speed with which global animal health information is disseminated.

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

##### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries take full ownership of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP by ensuring that their Veterinary Services have the required authority, capacity and resources to implement the related activities;
2. Member Countries, that are not free of the disease, appoint a dedicated PPR national coordinator, establish a PPR national committee, develop a PPR national strategic plan specifying the required resources , and actively participate to all the activities supporting the implementation of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP;
3. Member Countries agree that their existing OIE PVS Pathway reports, where available and not outdated, should be utilised to assist in national PPR eradication evaluation and planning, as aligned with the PPR-GEP component relating to strengthening Veterinary Services, and as formally linked to the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT);
4. Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway for strengthening their Veterinary Services by requesting OIE PVS Pathway missions, including considering the new availability of PVS Pathway missions with specific PPR content, which will continue to be developed and refined subsequent to initial piloting in the first half of 2017;
5. Member Countries submit their dossier for endorsement of official control programme and free status as relevant to their stage of progression;

6. The African Union- through the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)- and Regional Economic Communities continue their work to align their existing strategies and/or programmes for the control and eradication of PPR with the PPR-GCES approach and with PPR-GEP activities, particularly the use of PMAT and the OIE PVS Pathway;
7. The AU-IBAR, the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Regional Economic Communities, and development partners:
  - support the performance of regional roadmap activities and the implementation of regional strategies;
  - support countries in adopting a harmonised and coordinated regional vision when preparing national PPR plans and implementing national activities planned to achieve PPR eradication;
  - continue to strengthen regional epidemiology networks and regional laboratory networks and their role in the exchange of information and expertise on the surveillance, diagnosis and control of transboundary animal diseases, including in wildlife;
  - assist countries and regions in developing communication and awareness strategies to consolidate an effective public-private partnership and secure the effective involvement of all livestock sector actors in the implementation of national and regional strategies to control and eradicate PPR;
  - support countries in the production and/or use of PPR vaccines that meet OIE standards.
8. The OIE and FAO reactivate the GF-TADs for Africa by proposing a new governance leading to an active participation of all interested parties to be adopted during the 10th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee to be held in 2017;
9. The OIE continue to support Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway and develop, refine and offer PPR dedicated content as part of PVS Pathway missions in Africa;
10. The OIE continue to maintain the OIE Regional PPR Vaccine Bank for interested countries with an ongoing or sudden demand for external sources of readily available high quality PPR vaccine;
11. The OIE staff its Representations in Africa with PPR dedicated officers; and
12. The OIE organise training seminars to support Member Countries to:
  - prepare their application for endorsement of their official control programme for PPR or for official recognition of PPR free status;
  - comply with their obligation to submit quality animal disease notifications and information.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 24 February 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)



# *Reports*

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions  
held during the 85th General Session**

**Paris, 22 May 2017**

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**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, 22 May 2017**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 113 participants, including Delegates and observers from 37 Members of the Commission, 5 observer countries, and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Observer countries: Canada, France, Italy, United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AVA<sup>34</sup>, AVSF<sup>35</sup>, AU-IBAR<sup>36</sup>, ECCAS<sup>37</sup>, CIRAD, Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, FAO, Indian Ocean Commission, and WAEMU<sup>38</sup>.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the World Assembly of Delegates, and Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Komla Batawui gave a special welcome and congratulated the newly appointed OIE Delegates attending the meeting.

## **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, including two additional presentations (from the FAO and a short intervention from Dr Mark Schipp, on behalf of the Credentials Sub-Commission), was unanimously adopted.

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<sup>34</sup> AVA: African Veterinary Association

<sup>35</sup> AVSF: *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*

<sup>36</sup> AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

<sup>37</sup> ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

<sup>38</sup> WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

## **2. Short intervention from the OIE Council**

Dr Mark Schipp, in his capacity as Member of the Credentials Sub-Commission, which was adopted by the World Assembly in the morning session, informed Delegates that, following the resolution adopted by the Assembly, those Delegates from countries with arrears of five years or more would forfeit the right to vote at the General Session and would not be eligible to receive the per diem usually allocated for participation in the General Session.

He noted that, while the OIE Basic Texts stated that countries should be ineligible to vote after two years' arrears, the Council had decided to extend the time for settling arrears to five years.

Dr Schipp invited any Delegates concerned to resolve this situation as soon as possible in order to recover their good standing and hence the right to vote in OIE elections.

Finally, making reference to future elections in the region, Dr Schipp urged the Regional Commission to propose candidates from countries in good standing.

## **3. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region**

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He began his presentation by explaining that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), approved by OIE Delegates in May 2015, had been translated into a Regional Roadmap to be implemented by Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

He added that, based on an inclusive approach involving all stakeholders and following a review of the activities of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters, the Regional Roadmap had been developed at the annual meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October 2016.

Dr Letshwenyo provided details on the reasons for developing a Regional Roadmap, namely to support the OIE Headquarters Roadmap, to harmonise activities among the regions, to incorporate the specific needs of each region, and to strengthen collaboration within and between the regions and between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the Regional Commissions, and OIE Headquarters.

To conclude, Dr Letshwenyo said that, while fully committed to implementing the activities identified for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas, the Africa region faced many challenges, the main ones being:

- financial, relating to the low payment rate of statutory annual contributions;
- limited human resource capacity with regard to the number of specialist animal health experts, in some cases due to retirement or attrition;
- inadequate resources for the implementation of PVS Gap Analysis recommendations;
- limited availability of specialist infrastructure for animal health ; and
- inadequate coordination capacity of animal health organisations operating in Africa.

**4. Outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017**

Dr Komla Batawui, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Togo, informed participants of the outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Dr Batawui explained that the Conference had provided an opportunity to propose a new format for these institutional events, including a poster session, a panel discussion and working group sessions. The new dynamic was very well received by Delegates from the region and other participants.

He noted with particular concern the low level of participation from Member Countries of the region and took the opportunity to remind them that Regional Conferences were statutory events. Therefore, it is part of the OIE Delegates' obligations to attend those meetings in which issues of relevance for the region, including recommendations to be proposed for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates are discussed.

Dr Batawui briefly commented on the main outcomes of the Conference highlighting, among others:

- The importance for Members of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions to clearly understand and apply their role and prerogatives as per stated in the OIE Basic Text, as well as the need for the Members of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions to take into account that they are key actors in the work of the OIE, thus, they should act as a bridge between the OIE and the countries of the region in order to support the implementation of OIE's activities at national level, and to collaborate on the improvement of the technical and/or financial contribution of the countries to the OIE activities;
- Member Countries should enhance surveillance and control efforts and observe the principle of transparency, including timely and detailed reporting through WAHIS, in order to successfully manage diseases in the Region;
- African Delegates should continue and even improve their much appreciated written inputs in the OIE standard-setting process as well as their most valuable verbal interventions each year during the meeting of the General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates;
- Member Countries having an officially recognised status or an endorsed official control programme should provide the relevant information supporting annual reconfirmation in November each year, including any supporting information deemed necessary, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
- Political will and commitment are key to support disease control and eradication. Thus, the Regional Commission for Africa should sensitise high level authorities to support Veterinary Services in preparing their official control programmes and reaching and maintaining disease free status;
- The two technical items developed during the conference – (i) “Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services” (with questionnaire) and (ii) Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa” (without questionnaire) – were particularly timely themes. Recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 85th General Session;

- Awareness of the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was raised; countries were exhorted to consider the implementation of good farming practices as the first step to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents, without waiting for alternatives to the use of these agents, such as vaccines and probiotics, for which the development is not guaranteed;
- Participants were requested to reflect on the possible evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway. On the basis of working groups and an open discussion, they considered how to enhance the value of PVS Pathway to countries. The results of the discussions served as a cornerstone for the current debate on improving the OIE PVS Pathway, further discussed during the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum in Paris in April 2017.

**5. Selection of the venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019**

The Delegate of Cameroon expressed the wish for his country to host the Conference.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The precise dates of the Conference will be soon decided between the Host Country and the OIE in order to launch the organisation of the Conference well in advance.

**6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- The PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa

**7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Adoption of the ‘One Health’ approach as an unavoidable path for prevention and control of emerging and reemerging diseases

**8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the OIE Council**

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of South Africa, reminded participants that the Delegate of Uganda 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.

He suggested Delegates to take into consideration the information provided by Dr Schipp at the beginning of the meeting regarding the countries in arrears and to keep in mind OIE Basic Text before making proposals for a Member of the Commission to join the Council.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, Delegate of Soudan, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President and Secretary General**

Dr Batawui reminded participants that the Delegate of Algeria and the Delegate of Cameroun had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018:

**Vice-President:** Dr Djamila Hadj Amar, Delegate of Algeria;

**Secretary General:** Dr Mahamat Guindé, Delegate of Chad.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**10. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum**

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Bastiaensen gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Bastiaensen said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

**11. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants**

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world’s poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

## **12. Overview of the financial situation of the OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations in Africa**

Dr Alain Dehove, Director of Finance of the OIE, began his presentation by reviewing the mechanism for the collection of Member Countries' statutory contributions and the portion reserved for the operation of the Regional Representations.

He explained that, in 2016, the theoretical amount of statutory contributions represented only 74% of general budget revenues for the year (€ 10.7 million). In the case of Africa, 40 countries contributed under category 6, seven under category 5, four under category 4 and two under category 3. Statutory contributions provided only 11% of the revenues of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, while 11% came from voluntary contributions from host countries, 66% from the World Fund (70% in 2015) and 12% from other voluntary contributions and other sources of revenue, totalling a budget of around EUR 6 million.

Dr Dehove went on to express concern about the annual accounts of the Regional Representation in Bamako and the Sub-Regional Representations in Gaborone and Nairobi which, in 2016, were once again in deficit.

Finally, the Director of Finance emphasised that, as the OIE's 12 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (including four in Africa) were now recognised as a key component of the network supporting the Organisation's missions, their operation should not rely chiefly on voluntary contributions. He pointed out that this was one of the reasons that had led the Director General to request an increase in statutory contributions in 2018.

Dr Modisane exhorted Delegates to make a commitment for paying outstanding contributions. He highlighted the importance of sensitising national governments on this issue so to avoid going to the next stage which means the country being restraint of vote.

**13. Update on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies)**

Dr Samuel Wakhusama, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, gave a presentation on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies) whose ultimate goal is to make progress towards building African Veterinary Services that deliver effective governance, health safety, food security and food safety for their citizens.

He began by explaining that the SVSDC project, funded by the European Union, had two components and five result areas and had been signed on 24 December 2015, under a direct management grant contract of the European Union (EU), for an implementation period of 36 months.

Dr Wakhusama summarised the components and results as follows.

Component 1: Strengthening Veterinary Services

- Result 1: Enhance the legislative framework of African Veterinary Services through the implementation of regional seminars. Five seminars for OIE national focal points have been held.
- Result 2: Gradually bring national Veterinary Services up to the standards of the OIE through the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions and of their recommendations. Twelve PVS Pathway missions have been scheduled for the entire period of the project. For the time being, all upcoming missions are funded through the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) programme to maximise expenditure before the programme ends in July 2017.
- Result 3: Develop a PVS Pathway-based tool to enable Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to exploit data from national PVS Pathway missions conducted in their Member States to develop, for instance, regional investment plans. Development of a PVS Pathway-based tool is underway. The database will serve as an internal tool to consolidate data contained in OIE PVS Pathway mission reports and will facilitate the follow-up of country progress.

Component 2: Rabies control

- Result 4: At the national level, support the implementation of the national Strategic Plan to eliminate human rabies in Kenya, in collaboration with relevant partners. In August 2016, the National and County Rabies Elimination Coordination Committees (NRECC & CRECC) were launched and a rabies website was established. In addition, a toll-free line for reporting dog bites was commissioned in Western Kenya and a total of 200,000 doses of rabies vaccine were delivered to Kenya from the OIE Regional Rabies Vaccine Bank.
- Result 5: At the regional level, set up an OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for canine rabies in Africa and provide technical expertise for the development and implementation of regional strategies (in North Africa). Following the establishment of an OIE Regional Rabies Vaccines Bank, a total of 200,000 vaccine doses were sent to Tunisia, after which a vaccination campaign was launched. Workshops have been also planned to train vaccinator teams in dog handling and dog vaccination in the field.

The project has developed an array of project visibility materials.

Mirroring the activities carried out in Kenya and Northern Africa, in 2015 the OIE, with funding from the Federal Government of Germany, launched a project entitled “Technical Support for Namibia in Eliminating Rabies in Dogs” to undertake vaccination campaigns against dog-mediated human rabies in Northern Communal Areas (NCA). The project, managed by the OIE, has overseen the vaccination of 30,000 dogs, in addition to a campaign to enhance awareness of dog-mediated human rabies among 42,000 children in 119 schools from 11 constituencies in the Oshana region. The project, now in its second phase, starting on 6 April 2017, will run until May 2018 and will receive a total of 150,000 vaccine doses from the OIE Rabies Vaccines Bank.

#### **14. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa**

Dr Kisa Juma Ngeiywa, Delegate of Kenya, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)” as an “OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa”.

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 Kenya’s proposal.

#### **15. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations**

##### ***Indian Ocean Commission***

Mr Hamada Madi, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) gave a brief overview of the IOC, which has just signed an agreement with the OIE to establish cooperation in the fields of animal health and veterinary public health. He pointed out that the IOC was the only regional organisation in Africa composed entirely of islands. Its members are: Union of the Comoros, France on behalf of Réunion, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius and Republic of Seychelles.

The Secretary General explained that the IOC disease monitoring project had sprung from a crisis that had never been forgotten: the chikungunya epidemic of 2006, which had caused real turmoil in the islands. In response, IOC members decided to take collective action to prevent and manage animal health crises more effectively. It led the IOC, with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), to launch an Epidemiological Surveillance and Alert Management (SEGA) Network in 2009.

He went on to give a detailed explanation of the SEGA network, saying that it acted as a real watchdog. With more than 250 human and animal health professionals, it constantly monitored health, facilitated the exchange of information, helped to build human and material capacity, mobilised expertise in a crisis and, most important of all, took holistic action by linking human and animal health.

The Secretary General concluded by saying that proof of the practical value of the SEGA network was a charter signed by IOC members to ensure its sustainability.

##### ***African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)***

Professor Ahmed El Sawalhy, Director of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), began his presentation by informing participants that, since June 2016, AU-IBAR had continued to carry out interventions in partnership with member states, RECs, the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), the African Union, the OIE, FAO, national and international research institutions, academic institutions, national, regional and continental organisations of farmers and other stakeholder and non-governmental organisations.

He provided brief details on the different activities carried out by AU-IBAR highlighting, in particular, the implementation of the project on “Sustainable development of livestock for livelihoods in Africa” (Live2Africa) in support of the AU Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), supporting member states in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in developing and validating their national livestock policies. In the area of advocacy, AU-IBAR engaged Pan African parliamentarians and built their capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

With regard to animal welfare, he said that, since 2015, AU-IBAR had been supporting the development of an African Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) and an action plan to be submitted to AU member states and RECs for validation, as well as for the establishment of an African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW).

Prof. Elsalwaly reported that, under the VET-GOV programme, AU-IBAR, in collaboration with the OIE and FAO, continued to support AU member states and RECs in developing national livestock policies. AU-IBAR is also a member of the FAO/OIE ad hoc group on an international preparedness plan for rinderpest.

He added that the AU-IBAR Standards and Trade Secretariat, designed to sustain the building of common African positions on international standards for animal health and food safety, was up and running.

The AU-IBAR Director concluded by informing participants that a revised draft Pan-African PPR Programme (2017-2021) had been developed to initiate the implementation of the Pan-African PPR strategy, aligned with the Global PPR Programme developed in 2016 by the FAO-OIE Global PPR Secretariat.

#### ***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, the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that the reforms were aimed, first and foremost, at harmonising veterinary pharmaceutical legislation. The second area of reform is to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of Member States. In that regards, he referred to activities done in collaboration with the OIE, including among others, OIE PVS Evaluation and OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions as well as round tables to find potential donors for WAEMU members.

He then referred to the reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs thanks to which a regional scientific committee to assess food safety risks and to provide scientific advice was established.

Dr Diallo 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 controlling certain animal diseases, such as anthrax, Newcastle disease and rabies. With OIE support, it has also developed two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated national control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he reported on the adoption of a directive guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU Member State, and establishing a College of Presidents of national orders of Veterinary Doctors that henceforth will be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area.

***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)***

Dr Berhanu Bedane, Animal Production and Health Officer from the FAO Regional Office for Africa, provided participants with brief details regarding FAO programmes and projects that contribute to the vision of eradicating hunger and malnutrition and eliminating poverty.

He highlighted the fact that, in Africa, all FAO programmes and projects were aligned with global priorities (Sustainable Development Goals) and continental priorities (Agenda 2063 and Malabo Declaration on Agriculture and Post-harvest Losses).

Dr Bedane noted that FAO's presence on the ground, through its country representations, allowed the organisation to deliver immediate support to all its Member States

Regarding progress made in Africa during the reporting period, Dr Bedane pointed to the: preparations for global control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants; progressive control of foot and mouth disease, tsetse and trypanosomosis; prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza; introduction of modern technology in real-time disease reporting; promotion of the One Health concept; and management of emergency disease outbreaks.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Short intervention from the OIE Council;
3. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
4. Outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017;
5. Selection of the venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019;
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa;
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the OIE Council;
9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President and Secretary General;
10. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
11. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
12. Overview of the financial situation of the OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations in Africa;
13. Update on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies);
14. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa;
15. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations:
  - *Indian Ocean Commission;*
  - *African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR);*
  - *West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU);*
  - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Paris, 22 May 2017**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 93 participants, including Delegates and observers from 21 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Rep., Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay.

International/Regional Organisations: ALA<sup>39</sup>, CARICOM<sup>40</sup>, CVP<sup>41</sup>, FAO, GFSI<sup>42</sup>, IEC<sup>43</sup>, IICA<sup>44</sup>, OIRSA<sup>45</sup>, PAHO-PANAFTOSA<sup>46</sup>, and WTO.

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.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

At the proposal of Delegates, two items were added: one concerning the proposed 20% increase in annual contributions as from 2018 and the other on the procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions.

The Agenda was adopted unanimously as described in the Appendix.

**2. Proposed increase in annual contributions for 2018**

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE Director of Finance, explained the basis of the proposal to increase the amount of annual contributions by 20% as from 2018, which had been submitted for adoption at the current General Session. He detailed the management improvements made by the OIE and the Organisation's operational constraints that could be resolved through increased contributions.

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<sup>39</sup> ALA: American Poultry Association

<sup>40</sup> CARICOM: Caribbean Community

<sup>41</sup> CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

<sup>42</sup> GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative

<sup>43</sup> IEC: International Egg Commission

<sup>44</sup> IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

<sup>45</sup> OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

<sup>46</sup> PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

This proposal includes improvements in the operation of both OIE Headquarters and Regional Representations, as well as in *ad hoc* group meetings and the implementation of the many actions that the OIE has included in its Sixth Strategic Plan.

### **3. Procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions**

Ms Ann Backhouse, Head of the OIE Standards Department, responded to the concerns raised by Delegates regarding the proposed procedure for adoption. She explained that it was planned to keep the details of any experts who were not selected and that regional balance in the selection of nominated experts would be ensured. Finally she described the schedule of actions for compliance with this procedure.

### **4. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region**

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented the activities for the Regional Roadmap of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and provided details on the actions of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas of the Plan.

With regard to Strategic Objective 1 “Securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management”, Dr Barcos described the actions carried out by the regional and sub-regional offices in support of the OIE mandate, in particular the latest online meeting held in December 2016 to discuss standards under review in which 20 countries had participated, thanks to the development of a tutorial for the WebEx platform. He said that the objective had been for Delegates to reach agreement on the chapters under review. Dr Barcos highlighted the support provided by Canada and a group of Delegates that had worked to compile the proposed comments.

With respect to official recognition of countries’ animal disease status, the Regional Representative mentioned the support provided to the Status Department to ensure the timely submission of annual reconfirmations and the support provided to Member Countries.

Referring to the coordination of disease control and eradication, he described actions to support control plans for foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever and to support the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas, highlighting the revision of the list of priority diseases.

On the subject of antimicrobial resistance, he welcomed the increase in the number of replies to the questionnaire on antimicrobial use, as compared with the previous year, acknowledging that this had been due to both country efforts and follow-up work by the regional and sub-regional offices, including online meetings and customised tutorials. He recommended that Veterinary Services make resources available to facilitate responding to questionnaires, as this would be an annual task. He also pointed out that the OIE Strategy required countries to develop their National Plans in line with the OIE Strategy and in a “One Health” spirit. Lastly, he stressed the importance of private-sector participation in this process through the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), for example.

In connection with animal welfare, Dr Barcos confirmed the continued applicability of the Regional Strategy and highlighted the work initiated jointly with the Collaborating Centre and OIE Headquarters to develop the Action Plan.

With regard to Strategic Objective 2, “Establishing trust through transparency and communication”, Dr Barcos described the mandate for continuously improving the transparency of disease reporting and requested Delegates to continue to play an active part on this important activity. He noted that transparency also included publicising the results of OIE PVS Pathway missions.

On the subject of communication, he commented on the duties of the recently created post of Regional Communication Correspondent and on the redesign of the regional website, which would be launched at a later date. He also commented on the development and dissemination of communication materials and on the need to broaden their reach to all stakeholders.

With regard to Strategic Objective 3, “Ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services”, the Regional Representative referred to the OIE mandate for strengthening Veterinary Services through the PVS Pathway. He stressed the need for Member Countries to make progress in all stages of the PVS Pathway, including through PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions, and to consider formally integrating the OIE PVS Pathway into national strategic planning.

Dr Barcos mentioned support for the OIE Twinning Programme, inviting Delegates to take advantage of this tool. He also detailed the need to extend OIE actions to Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Dr Barcos made the following comments on the cross-cutting areas.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area A, “Scientific excellence”, he said that coordinated actions within the Tripartite Agreement between the OIE, FAO and World Health Organization (WHO) needed to be promoted in countries.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area B, “Diversity, inclusiveness, engagement, transparency”, he highlighted the commitment to promote the participation of all Member Countries in the region in the Specialist Commissions, Regional Commission and OIE Council.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area C, “Governance”, he provided details on actions to support the Regional Commission, including the preparation of the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commission.

On the subject of partnerships, he provided details on links with other organisations, highlighting the future joint meeting with the World Customs Organization and GF-TADs activities, and mentioned relations with other OIE Regional Commissions. He also referred to on-going linkages with Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies. Finally, he pointed to partnerships with the different private sector’s actors.

Dr Barcos concluded by stressing the importance of paying annual contributions to the OIE to enable it to carry out its activities. He also discussed the opportunity to send Veterinary Service staff to work in Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

## **5. Report on OIE Council meetings**

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Mexico, began his presentation by informing the Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session. The meetings were held in September 2016 and in February and May 2017, and addressed issues of strategic importance to the OIE, including administrative matters, some of which will be presented at the 85th General Session. He reminded Delegates that the summary of the Council minutes were available on the Delegates website.

Dr Delgadillo Álvarez summarised the most important issues discussed by the Council at the above meetings, some of which were as follows:

- A detailed assessment was made of the 84th OIE General Session with a view to making improvements to the 85th General Session;
- The Council suggested applying an increase of 20% to Member Countries' annual contributions to the OIE, to be submitted for approval at the 85th General Session;
- As the next elections of experts for the Specialist Commissions will be held in 2018, the procedure for their nomination by Member Countries was discussed;
- An evaluation was made of the proposals to be submitted for approval by the World Assembly of Delegates regarding new Collaborating Centres and cooperation agreements to be signed;
- The Council expressed the wish to provide the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations with long-term financial stability. It also mentioned the need to analyse the choice and number of regional and sub-regional offices, using well-defined criteria;
- It was explained that two new Members of the Council would be elected at the current General Session: one for the Africa Region and the other for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.

With regard to preparing the 85th General Session, Dr Delgadillo Álvarez said that the Council had considered the Director General's proposals for preparing the General Session and had reviewed the nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit categories. The Council also approved the annual report on OIE activities in 2016 presented by the Director General, prior to its adoption by the Assembly.

To conclude, Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Paraguay stressed the importance of the online meetings held with Delegates of Member Countries in the Americas prior to and after each Council meeting. These online meetings, in which there was a high attendance rate from the region, keep countries informed about Council activities and discussions. He also encouraged those present to continue to take part in such meetings. He cited as an example proposals received at online meetings that had been submitted to the Council.

Lastly, Dr Idoyaga Benítez took the opportunity to say once again that the Members of both the Council and the Bureau represented all Member Countries in the Americas region and would be happy to answer any queries or provide any support they might require.

**6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, including the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016**

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Brazil, began his presentation by describing the composition of the Bureau, elected in May 2015 at the General Session, which currently had two positions vacant (Vice-President and Secretary General) to be filled at the current General Session.

Dr Figueiredo Marques detailed actions to encourage the active participation of Member Countries in the region in the comment-submission process for OIE standards under review. He pointed to the face-to-face meeting held in November 2016, prior to the Regional Conference, to discuss and reach consensus on the standards under review, as well as the online meeting of December 2016, pointing to the high attendance rate and the need to make further progress in this area.

Referring to the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Dr Figueiredo Marques explained that the main aim of the recommendation for Member Countries arising from Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “*Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability in the Americas: overview of current status and impact for international trade*”, was for Member Countries in the Americas to extend the application of OIE standards on animal traceability, using them as a basis for developing or improving their own systems and applying them to import and export systems. The resulting application of traceability standards in national legislation will support disease control and surveillance activities.

The recommendation for the OIE was that it continue to promote the use of its traceability standards in line with the OIE PVS Pathway, as a means for improving Veterinary Services, including identification and traceability.

With regard to Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “*Highly pathogenic avian influenza: challenges encountered and measures for preventing its spread*”, Member Countries were recommended to: conduct active surveillance in wild birds in order to track and monitor the avian influenza virus in this population; develop contingency plans that include the activities required to control this disease; and promote the implementation of biosecurity measures that are in line with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

With regard to the additional technical item entitled “*Depopulation and/or movement of animal populations during animal health emergencies and natural disasters: experience in the region*”, it was agreed that resilience to natural disasters and animal health contingencies was achieved by integrating Veterinary Services’ disaster reduction and management plans into national platforms.

It was also recommended that the OIE organise joint seminars for National Focal Points for wildlife, animal disease notification and laboratories in order to foster nationwide synergies in the notification of diseases affecting wildlife, as is the case with avian influenza.

Finally, Dr Figueiredo Marques reported that, as in previous years, on Sunday 21 May a meeting of Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had been held to discuss standards under review and to adopt common positions for the region.

Dr Figueiredo Marques described participation in meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas and in the CAMEVET seminar, highlighting CAMEVET support for the OIE’s work on antimicrobial resistance.

The President of the Regional Commission concluded by thanking the staff of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America for its work in support of all Member Countries in the region.

## **7. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2018**

Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez, OIE Delegate of Dominican Republic, reiterated her country’s offer to host the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Conference will be held tentatively in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) in November 2018.

**8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session:

- Implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation in disease control and the maintenance of safe trade

**9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- Role of private veterinarians in official Veterinary Service programmes: mechanisms for interaction, accreditation and quality control in a globalised world

**10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as Vice-President and Secretary General**

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques first reminded participants that the Delegates of Guatemala and Canada had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional, which will be held in May 2018:

**Vice-President:** Dr Bernardo Jaén Hernández, Delegate of Costa Rica;

**Secretary General:** Dr Harpreet Kochhar, Delegate of Canada.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**11. Request of Curacao to become an OIE Member Country**

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques informed participants of an application by the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the accession of Curacao as an OIE Member Country, which had been approved by the Council and would be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval. He added that this was in line with the objective of increasing the number of Caribbean Members of the OIE.

**12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum**

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five

concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Caya gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Caya said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

### **13. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas**

Dr Paula Cáceres Soto, Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

She began by providing detailed regional indicators on compliance with reporting in 2016. Based on an analysis of the indicators for reports received for 2016, Dr Cáceres Soto confirmed the great commitment Members had shown to disease reporting and to compliance with notification requirements.

Dr Cáceres Soto also gave an overview of some of the elements of tracking events not notified to the OIE and encouraged Members to provide feedback to clarify the situation when requests had been made.

To conclude, Dr Cáceres Soto asked for support from the region to recommend one animal disease notification focal point from the region to join the Technical Advisory Committee, which is one of the governance bodies of the WAHIS+ renovation project.

### **14. OIE relevant standards to be adopted during the General Session – Regional approach**

It was explained that a number of meetings had been held ahead of the 85th General Session: an online meeting in December 2016 and two face-to-face meetings, in November 2016 and May 2017.

The Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas reviewed the various items proposed for adoption at the 85th General Session. This involved the selection of items relevant to the region, including the: criteria for assessing the safety of commodities; chapters on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome; African swine fever and classical swine fever with regard to the definition of pig categories; support for furthering the work on glanders; welfare of working equids; prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial pig production systems; and updating of criteria for the official recognition of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

### **15. Presentations from international and regional organisations**

#### ***Caribbean Community (CARICOM)***

Dr Gavin Peters, Animal Health Specialist at the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), presented CARICOM and the objectives and missions of CAHFSA and its relationship with the OIE. He went on to list and detail the animal health

activities on which CAHFSA was currently working. He concluded by referring to the accession of Caribbean Islands to the OIE.

***Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)***

Dr Jorge Berrios, representing the CVP, began by presenting the current status of OIE PVS Pathway missions in Member Countries of the Americas. He then detailed the missions conducted in CVP member countries and presented a comparative analysis of the result relating to the chapter on access to markets. Dr Suárez Hurtado concluded by encouraging those present to request PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions to the OIE.

***International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)***

Dr Efraín Medina Guerra, OIRSA Executive Director, listed the actions undertaken by OIRSA in 2016: a laboratory test accreditation project conducted jointly with the OIE; support for screwworm and foot and mouth disease surveillance; control and eradication of classical swine fever in Guatemala; and sampling for avian influenza. To conclude, he announced that a workshop for OIRSA member countries on legislation and biological threat reduction would be held jointly with the OIE in Panama in June 2017.

***Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO)***

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Director of PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO, described the outcomes of the 44th meeting of the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) and the Pre-COSALFA Seminar. This included the final stages of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and the risk analysis for serotypes A, O and C. He also described the establishment of a regional antigen and vaccine bank and the biosecurity guidelines in accordance with the current stage of eradication. He concluded by highlighting collaboration with other organisations.

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Proposed increase in annual contributions for 2018;
3. Procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions;
4. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
5. Report on OIE Council meetings;
6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, including the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016;
7. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2018;
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas;
10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as Vice-President and Secretary General;
11. Request of Curacao to become an OIE Member Country;
12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
13. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas;
14. OIE relevant standards to be adopted during the General Session – Regional approach;
15. Presentations from international and regional organisations:
  - *Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO);*
  - *International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA);*
  - *Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP);*
  - *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 22 May 2017**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of ~), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of ~), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France and Hong Kong SAR.

International/regional organisations: FAO, Humane Society International, International Veterinary Student's Association, NACA<sup>47</sup>, and the World Bank.

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 regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

**2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region**

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, gave a presentation about the OIE Regional Roadmap, which had been developed in accordance with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

He explained that the OIE Regional Roadmap aimed to: support the OIE Headquarters Roadmap; better harmonise activities among the regions; remain flexible in order to be able to incorporate the specific needs of each region; and strengthen collaboration within and between regions and between the OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters.

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<sup>47</sup> NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

Finally, Dr Kugita mentioned several specific challenges for the region, such as furthering coordination between the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) 2020 Roadmap and the Roadmap for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in East Asia under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) mechanism.

After the Annual Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in October, further details will be provided at the Regional Conference in Malaysia in November.

### **3. Report from OIE Council meetings**

Dr Mark Schipp, Vice-President of the Council and OIE Delegate for Australia, reported on OIE Council activities for the past year. He reminded Delegates that they could find summaries of each Council meeting on the OIE website via the secure Delegates' site.

He then explained that elections would be held at the 85th General Session to fill a number of vacancies for the one-year period until the 2018 general elections. In the Asia, Far East and Oceania region, elections will be held to fill one vacancy on the Council and two vacancies on the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Vice-President and Secretary-General).

Finally, Dr Schipp spoke of the financial situation in the OIE, measures to reduce costs and the proposal to increase statutory contributions.

### **4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of the People's Republic of China, gave a presentation on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Zhang began by explaining to Delegates the current composition of the Regional Core Group, which had been established pursuant to the Regional Work Plan Framework: namely the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and Members of the OIE Council from the region. Regrettably, three members of the Group (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Vice-President of the Commission; Dr Matthew Stone, Secretary General of the Commission; and Dr Toshiro Kawashima, member of the OIE Council) had resigned their posts as OIE Delegates after the 84th General Session, which had left vacancies in the Group. He reminded Delegates that the election to fill the vacancies would take place during the current General Session.

Dr Zhang gave information on disease reporting in the region, particularly aquatic, and called for an improvement of notification to the OIE.

He stressed the importance of having regional representation of experts in the OIE *ad hoc* groups and Specialist Commissions.

Second, Dr Zhang emphasised that the current situation regarding transboundary animal diseases in the region, including foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza and peste des petits ruminants, was serious and that Member Countries in the region needed to continue cooperation to control these diseases. He briefed them on the 9th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo on 20-21 July 2016, in which he had participated as President of the Regional Commission and as the Chairperson.

Third, Dr Zhang said that the development of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session had been initiated, in accordance with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020. The procedure had been provisionally agreed by Member Countries in the region and would be discussed and formally approved by them at the current meeting.

Finally, Dr Zhang encouraged Member Countries in the region to participate in the teleconferences of the Regional Commission, which were held after OIE Council meetings to share information about issues raised by the Council, saying that they took place via the Regional Delegates' Secure Access System, which had been established to facilitate their engagement in the OIE standard-setting and updating process.

Dr Zhang discussed PVS Pathway tools and encouraged Members to take advantage of this OIE programme.

**5. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Malaysia, in November 2017**

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam, OIE Delegate of Malaysia, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference. The proposed city is Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Malaysia.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Malaysia had made to start organising the conference. Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam provided general information about visa issuance, hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

**6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets

**7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- One Health approaches to surveillance and effective animal movement control to prevent the spread of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses

**8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the OIE Council**

Dr Mark Schipp reminded participants that the Delegate of Japan had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as Vice-President and Secretary General**

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu reminded participants that Delegates of Nepal and New Zealand had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which required an election to be held.

As Dr Sen Sovann is currently a Vice-President of the Regional Commission, if he takes up a Council position this opens up two Vice-President positions.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018:

**Vice-President:** Dr Tashi Samdup, Delegate of Bhutan;

**Vice-President:** Dr Kazuo Ito, Delegate of Japan;

**Secretary General:** Dr Him Hoo Yap, Delegate of Singapore.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**10. Process for election to Specialist Commissions**

Dr Mark Schipp stressed the importance of the Specialist Commissions, saying that they played a key role in the OIE's mandate for international standard-setting and official recognition of animal disease status, making it vital to have highly effective Specialist Commissions. To this end, he explained to the Regional Commission the proposal for elections to the OIE Specialist Commissions, to be submitted for the approval of the Assembly at the 85th General Session. Dr Schipp said that the new selection process had been developed with a view to achieving a better and fairer selection of experts, aligning the selection process with the objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and assessing the credentials of experts more fully. He added that it was a transparent process, with clear criteria for candidates, a clearly established timetable for nominations and an effective management process.

Dr Zhang suggested it could be possible to use electronic platform and ensure the Regional Commission can draw from the expertise in the region. He also raised the issue of language making it difficult for experts in the region needing fluency in English. This may limit the pool of experts.

Dr Schipp acknowledged these comments and suggested Dr Sen Sovann as new Council member could take these comments on behalf of the region.

**11. Discussion and Approval of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session**

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu invited Dr Kugita to give a presentation on the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session, for formal approval by Member Countries in the region.

He said that the procedure was developed in accordance with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2017 to develop a regional position for all Member Countries of region concerning the *Codes* and *Manuals* and work programmes of the OIE Specialist Commissions, which would be stated during plenary discussions of the OIE General Session.

Dr Kugita emphasised that the procedure had already been provisionally agreed by Member Countries in the region on an email basis. He reported that, by January 2017, the draft was circulated twice among Member Countries in the region for comment, with no objections.

He explained the procedure and concluded his presentation by requesting Member Countries in the region to approve the procedure unanimously.

After discussion among Delegates, Dr Zhang interjected to suggest adoption of the procedure today and let it work for some time and, if it needs improvement, to reconsider it.

Several Delegates raised issues for consideration at this General Session, but there was not enough time to reach a consensus.

## **12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum**

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Abila gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Abila said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

## **13. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants**

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world’s poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

**14. Outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 10 March 2017, in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Dr Sen Sovann, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Cambodia, began his presentation by informing participants that a SEACFMD Sub-Commission Steering Committee Meeting and a Progress Assessment Meeting for the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) had been held on 8 March 2017, back to back with the 23rd Meeting of the OIE SEACFMD Sub-Commission.

Dr Sen Sovann highlighted the objectives of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE SEACFMD Sub-Commission: to revise and endorse the status of SEACFMD Member Countries within the PCP-FMD; to update participants on the current global and regional foot and mouth disease situation and to discuss major challenges in the region; to share experiences and lessons learned from implementing the SEACFMD Roadmap; and to discuss the 2017/2018 priorities and action plan of the SEACFMD Campaign.

Dr Sen Sovann confirmed that the discussions had been fruitful and went on to give a brief presentation of the outcomes of the meeting, highlighting the following.

- Revision of the requirements in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* that are relevant to foot and mouth disease trade, vaccine and diagnostics.
- Discussions on the latest global and regional foot and mouth disease situation and challenges.
- Update on the progress of the SEACFMD Campaign against SEACFMD Roadmap milestones, including selected case studies from Member Countries to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the SEACFMD Roadmap.
- The meeting highlighted that, to achieve foot and mouth disease eradication, vital prerequisites were: a regional governance and coordination mechanism and Veterinary Service capacity-building; a tailored regional surveillance and mass vaccination strategy; sustained political and financial commitment by Member Countries; and strong private-public partnerships.

- The meeting endorsed the evaluation outcomes of applicant countries for their PCP-FMD status. It was pointed out that the future success of the foot and mouth disease programme relied on a proper risk assessment in Stage 1. It was recommended that countries at PCP Stage 1 should make a more accurate assessment of the foot and mouth disease situation and impact at a national level, and that countries completing PCP Stage 1 should consolidate their national plans and base control measures on the risks identified in Stage 1.

Finally, Dr Sen Sovann reported that, after reviewing the SEACFMD Campaign priorities and action plan for 2017/2018, the meeting had concluded with key recommendations, which would serve as a guideline for the SEACFMD Campaign's work in the following year. Among the key recommendations, Dr Sen Sovann highlighted the endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference of the SEACFMD Sub-Commission which has changed the composition of the Sub-Commission to OIE Delegates (CVO/DG) of the member countries, and for which the presidency would be elected among the OIE Delegates of the SEACFMD member countries.

#### **15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region**

Dr Mark Schipp, Vice-President of the OIE Council and Delegate of Australia presented on behalf of Australia and New Zealand as Dr Tony Zohrab, OIE Delegate of New Zealand, had to leave the meeting. He presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS) of the University of Melbourne and the Massey University EpiCentre as a Collaborating Centre for "Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific region".

He provided a brief review of the centre and proposed activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Australia and New Zealand.

#### **16. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations**

##### ***Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)***

Mr Eduardo Leño from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific presented the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) Reporting System, which had been established in 1998 in collaboration with FAO and the OIE.

He said that, at the outset, 22 countries had participated in the reporting system but that it now covered all OIE Member Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including French Polynesia (34 countries in total), after NACA reports were merged with those of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr Leño added that the QAAD Reporting System included OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases, as well as other important diseases in the region.

Mr Leño concluded by saying that, since it had been established more than 18 years earlier, the QAAD Reporting System had served as an early warning system for emerging diseases in the region, had provided a valuable source of information to support risk analysis, and had paved the way for excellent regional networking in support of disease surveillance and reporting.

***Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN – Regional office for Asia and the Pacific.***

Dr Katinka De Balogh, from the FAO-RAP, presented on their animal health and production activities. Dr De Balogh explained that FAO serves as the secretariat for Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and Pacific (APHCA). There is also the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Diseases (ECTAD) in Bangkok, which was set up after the initial outbreaks of Avian Influenza.

The types of projects carried out are technical, such as strengthening disease foresight, laboratory, epidemiology and response capacities; political, such as stakeholder consultation, policy support and guidance – for example the AMR national action plans; and socio-economic, such as value-chain analysis and support to community based animal health.

She stressed that antimicrobial resistance and use is a strong area of focus and part of the tripartite agreement with OIE and WHO. Also the United Against Rabies initiative with OIE, GARC and WHO.

FAO is also looking at expanding One Health into the so called One Health +, which includes crop and plant sector and has so far not been integrated into One Health.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
3. Report from OIE Council meetings;
4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
5. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Malaysia, in November 2017;
6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the OIE Council;
9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as Vice-President and Secretary General;
10. Process for election to Specialist Commissions;
11. Discussion and Approval of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session;
12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
13. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
14. Outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 10 March 2017, in Siem Reap, Cambodia;
15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region;
16. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations:
  - *Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)*;
  - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN – Regional office for Asia and the Pacific.*



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Paris, 22 May 2017**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 134 participants, including Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: European Commission, EEC<sup>48</sup>, FESASS<sup>49</sup>, FVE<sup>50</sup>, IZSAM<sup>51</sup>, RSPCA<sup>52</sup>, and World Horse Welfare.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, and Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Germany.

**1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda described in the Appendix, amended to include the presentation of EEC and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management, was unanimously adopted.

**2. Presentation and adoption of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe for improving regional participation in OIE activities**

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria, gave a brief presentation of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the Task Force. He began by reminding participants that Member Countries had agreed to revitalise the Task Force at the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon (Portugal) in September 2016.

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<sup>48</sup> EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission

<sup>49</sup> FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

<sup>50</sup> FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

<sup>51</sup> IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise

<sup>52</sup> RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Dr Herzog reported that, following the first Task Force meeting, held in Belgrade (Serbia) in December 2016, a preliminary draft of the Terms of Reference and the Regional Work Plan had been circulated among all Member Countries for comment and further suggestions. The responses were discussed at the second Task Force meeting in Riga (Latvia), where it was agreed that the Task Force should be renamed the “Regional Core Group” (RCG), following the example of other OIE Regional Commissions.

Dr Herzog said that the RCG worked to support the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe in specific areas, as defined in the Terms of Reference. He briefly detailed the tasks of the RCG.

With regard to the composition and functioning of the RCG, Dr Herzog explained that the recommendation had been for it to comprise five members from non-European Union Member countries and four from European Union Member countries. The Members of the Bureau are de facto members. The other Members sending a representative to the RCG meeting are selected at the same time as the Members of the Bureau are elected. The OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels acts as the RCG secretariat. The President of the Regional Commission is the chairperson, and the RCG will hold two physical meetings per year.

Dr Herzog said that the Regional Work Plan Framework contained three chapters. Chapter 1, entitled “Regional Directions”, described the vision and strategic objectives, which are in line with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. Furthermore, it contains the tasks, Terms of Reference and working methods of the Regional Commission.

Chapter 2, entitled “Regional Objectives and Work Plan Components”, explains the specific items and proposes the following six objectives: (1) contributing to the development of scientifically-based standards and guidelines; (2) establishing trust through transparency and communication; (3) ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services; (4) prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases; (5) antimicrobial resistance and “One Health” policy; (6) promotion of animal welfare.

Chapter 3, entitled “Activities for Achievement of the Regional Objectives”, gives an overview of ten activities for the coming years, including: development of a strategy and ensuring sufficient financial and human resources; establishment of a Regional Core Group; supporting the work of the African swine fever and lumpy skin disease working groups of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe; and supporting its Members in establishing links with the human health sector when working on the control of zoonoses.

The Delegate of Spain thanked the Chair on behalf of the 28 EU countries. He welcomed the achievements of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and in particular the outcomes of the activities implemented under its first action plan. The EU thanked the Secretariat of the OIE Platform, the members and observers of its Steering Group and all the countries involved for the excellent work carried out during the first three years of the platform. The EU fully supports the adoption of the second Action Plan 2017-2019 and will continue supporting and contributing to the activities of the OIE Platform, in full synergy and coordinating with other EU international activities on animal welfare.

The Terms of Reference of the Regional Core Group and the Regional Work Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the Regional Commission for Europe, as well as the Second Action Plan of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (2017-2019) were unanimously adopted.

The Delegate of Germany however insisted that a logical framework for the Regional Work Plan Framework be developed by the Secretariat of the Regional Core Group to facilitate its implementation and monitoring.

**3. Discussion on selected OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe during the 85th General Session)**

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, began his presentation by explaining that the Core Group (former Task Force) of the Regional Commission for Europe had held two meetings so far: the first meeting in Belgrade, Serbia (December 2016) and the second meeting in Riga, Latvia (April 2017). He stated that one of the priority topics for the Core Group was the selection of OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters of regional importance. He explained that intensive discussions on the matter had been held at both meetings.

Dr Balodis reported that the Core Group discussions had resulted in an agreement to select from the list a total of 14 chapters (10 from the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, 2 from the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* and 2 from the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*) and to prepare coordinated speaking notes on behalf of the 53 Members of the region for the 85th OIE General Session.

Dr Balodis then provided details regarding the selected chapters. The 14 chapters selected by the Regional Core Group received full support from Member Countries. Speakers were also identified to deliver the related chapters' Speaking Notes on Wednesday, on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe.

**4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- Application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels

The Regional Commission also proposed: “Vector borne diseases: monitoring, risk assessment and control options” as a possible second Technical Item (without questionnaire).

**5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Electronic health certification for animal and animal products -trade opportunities and challenges

**6. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for research and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe**

Dr Valentín Almansa, OIE Delegate of Spain, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider *Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA) - Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA)* as a Collaborating Centre for diagnosis and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer added that the application of Spain was already approved by the OIE Biological Standard Commission and by the OIE Council.

The Commission approved Spain's proposal.

#### **7. Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management**

Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana took the opportunity of the Regional Commission meeting to invite the involved Delegates present in the audience (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) to sign the agreed MoU. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will join this MoU later.

#### **8. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region**

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He began his presentation by briefly commenting on the OIE Headquarters Roadmap, which had been developed to address key issues for which significant changes were expected by Member Countries and whose activities would be followed up directly by the OIE Director General.

He then provided details on the development of the Regional Roadmap by the annual meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October 2016, following a review of the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters.

Dr Lukauskas explained that the Regional Roadmap, to be implemented by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, was the working programme for the forthcoming period, with the aims of: supporting the OIE Headquarters Roadmap; better harmonising activities among the regions; and strengthening collaboration within and between regions and between the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the Regional Commissions and OIE Headquarters. He noted that the roadmap was flexible in order to be able to incorporate the specific needs of each region.

Dr Lukauskas then briefly reviewed the main challenges faced by the Europe region in implementing some of the Regional Roadmap activities identified for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas.

He concluded by noting that the Regional Representation in Moscow, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels and the Office in Astana had participated actively and would continue to expand cooperation and communication with the countries of Europe, as well as to give high visibility to the OIE in the region by acting as a bridge between the OIE and countries. He added that the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations had contributed to implementing the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in Europe by: supporting the implementation of the OIE's scientifically based standards and guidelines in the region; establishing successful collaboration with Member Country governments and authorities; regularly informing the Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the region on the epidemiological situation in the region and worldwide; building the capacity of Veterinary Services in Europe (including five OIE regional seminars for Focal Points, a number of activities relating to the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, Roadmap meetings for foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants under the FAO-OIE Global

Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), and Twinning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Education Establishments).

The Delegate of Germany commented that the presentation, mostly focussing on challenges, did not properly reflect the amount of work implemented in the region.

**9. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016**

Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, informed participants of the outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

Dr Taitubayev explained that the Conference had provided an opportunity to propose a new format for this institutional event, including a poster session, a panel discussion and working group sessions. The new dynamic was very well received by Delegates from the region and other participants.

Dr Taitubayev briefly commented on the main outcomes of the Conference, as follows:

- The need to strengthen and clarify the role of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the Council was noted, including encouraging closer cooperation between them and the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. It resulted in the revitalisation of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.
- Participants encouraged the OIE to take any opportunity to develop closer collaboration with international and regional organisations.
- Countries were urged to strengthen their surveillance and control efforts to improve information-sharing on animal diseases.
- As the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) was a key element, countries were requested to actively contribute in improving the new version to ensure that their needs were taken into account.
- Countries were asked to reinforce their regional cooperation to fight African swine fever and lumpy skin disease and to continue to participate actively in revising related *Code* chapters.
- The two technical items developed during the conference – (i) “Control and elimination of rabies in Europe: challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe” (with questionnaire) and (ii) “Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD): current situation in Europe and neighbouring regions and necessary control measures to halt the spread in South-East Europe” (without questionnaire) – were particularly timely themes. Recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 85th General Session.
- Awareness of the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was raised to the highest political level when the OIE Director General attended the High-level Meeting on AMR at the United Nations in New York on 21 September 2016. In connection with the work of the (FAO/OIE/World Health Organization) tripartite alliance on AMR, countries were called upon to participate more effectively in OIE data collection on the use of antimicrobials in animals, the development of preventive actions and the drafting and implementation of National Action Plans on AMR.
- Participants were requested to reflect on the possible evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway. On the basis of working groups and an open discussion, they considered how to enhance the value of PVS Pathway to countries. The results of the discussions served as a cornerstone for the current debate on improving the OIE PVS Pathway,

further discussed during the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum in Paris in April 2017.

**10. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018**

Dr Lasha Avaliani, OIE Delegate of Georgia, confirmed his country's offer to host the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. The Conference will be held in Tbilisi (Georgia) in September 2018.

**11. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum**

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. She confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

She explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Leboucq gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Leboucq said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. She added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, she said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

**12. Proposal of designation of the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia**

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, presented the OIE Regional Commission with an application to designate the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as the new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia. This change was proposed taking into account the scope of the activities carried out by the office.

Dr Dop provided the Commission with brief details on the activities to be covered by the office and the advantages of promoting such a Coordination Unit Office to an OIE Sub-Regional Representation.

According to the Article 33 of General Rules, the Commission was consulted and approved the proposal presented by Dr Dop.

### **13. Status of notifications in Europe with an overview of PPR in saiga antelope in Mongolia**

Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

She then gave a short presentation of an outbreak of infection with peste des petits ruminants that had begun in Mongolia in December 2016 and had caused massive die-off of saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica mongolica*). She said that this event was important as it affected the critically endangered saiga antelope species and it was a GF-TADs priority disease. Dr Popovic pointed out that this episode might raise the question of the role of wildlife in peste des petits ruminants in the context of the Global Strategy for the control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants. She added that the disease could be important to the region because it had spread beyond the areas where it was previously known to exist to newly infected countries, occurring for the first time in Asia (Mongolia) and Europe (Georgia) in 2016.

To conclude, Dr Popovic informed the region that more information on the disease would be presented at the plenary and she invited participants to view a poster about peste des petits ruminants.

The Delegate of Austria raised concerns with the extra work due to possible additional data to be provided to WAHIS+ by the countries and their relevance.

Dr Marija Popovic replied that the content of WAHIS+ will be based on the results of surveys sent to OIE Delegates, OIE Focal Points and other potential users and that the technical specifications will be developed accordingly. In addition, WAHIS+ will be connected to several information systems from other regional and international organisations.

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, added that the Council proposed to establish two Committees to provide technical and strategic guidance for the WAHIS+ development.

### **14. Update on the GF-TADs for Europe activities**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, President of GF-TADs for Europe Steering Committee, informed participants that since May 2016, GF-TADs for Europe had continued to prove its value and effectiveness for African swine fever (ASF) control and lumpy skin disease (LSD).

He also reported on a series of regional meetings – (ASF5/Lisbon, September 2016; ASF6/Vilnius, November 2016; LSD2/ Lisbon, September 2016; LSD3/Istanbul, December 2016) and a teleconference (February 2017) – which had led to a better understanding of disease dynamics (for African swine fever, in both domestic pigs and wild boar), had increased trust and dialogue among affected and at-risk countries and had provided them with science-based technical guidance.

On the subject of lumpy skin disease, Dr Van Goethem explained that harmonised vaccination in south-east Europe had been agreed and put in place with significant support from the European Commission.

Finally, he reported that the seventh meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe Steering Committee was scheduled to be held in Brussels in October 2017 and that the agenda included discussions and decisions on the regional situation and on coordinated initiatives for the seven regional priority transboundary animal diseases (African swine fever, brucellosis, classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, peste des petits ruminants and rabies), as well as for emerging ones (lumpy skin

disease), adding that special attention should also be paid to vector-borne diseases in the near future.

**15. Update on the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) activities**

Dr. Vladimir Subbotin, Deputy Head of EEC, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present the outcomes of the EEC integration and cooperation with the OIE. He named the EEC member states and provided background on the cooperation between the members in the veterinary domain. He underlined the creation of legislation harmonised with international standards. It will facilitate trade processes, with impacts notably expected in the fields of laboratory, border controls, inspection of farms and food business operators.

He mentioned the assessment done by the EEC in Kyrgyzstan following the OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission and underlined some achievements in Kyrgyzstan thanks to PVS Pathway implementation, in particular the creation of a Veterinary Statutory Body, animal registration and identification and the development of a Strategic Plan for Veterinary Services. He mentioned that coordination of cooperation between EEC Member States will lead to the establishment of a reference laboratory system for final diagnostic confirmation.

In addition to the office of EEC in Moscow, Dr Subbotin mentioned the future establishment of a sub-regional office in Astana.

The meeting officially ended at 6.18 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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**Agenda**

1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Presentation and adoption of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe for improving regional participation in OIE activities;
3. Discussion on selected OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe during the 85th General Session);
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
6. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for research and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe;
7. Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management;
8. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
9. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016;
10. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018;
11. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
12. Proposal of designation of the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia;
13. Status of notifications in Europe with an overview of PPR in saiga antelope in Mongolia;
14. Update on the GF-TADs for Europe activities;
15. Update on the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) activities.



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Paris, 22 May 2017**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 47 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 2 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO and the Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, Delegate of United Arab Emirates and Dr Elias Ibrahim, Delegate of Lebanon, both Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

**2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation under the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan during the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory and veterinary education Twinning programmes. Dr Yehia also described the challenges observed in conducting these activities in a particularly unstable geopolitical context.

He then presented the conclusions of the workshop on OIE standards for safe trade, held in Dubai in March 2017, and informed participants on the joint project with Brussels OIE office on formulating modules on animal welfare for transport of animals by land and sea.

Dr Yehia also commented on the appointment of new Delegates in Member Countries of the region.

He then gave brief details on the regional strategies, in particular for implementation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Progressive Control Pathway (FMD-PCP) and the Peste des Petits Ruminants Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) in the region, as well as the two regional advisory group meetings planned to take place in 2017.

He also referred to the Middle East Regional Animal Welfare Strategy's Action Plan and commented on the advocating document drawn up to raise funds for its implementation. He gave details on the work that had been done in the region and the planned activities on long-distance transport by land and sea.

He then provided a brief summary of activities planned over the coming months, including a seminar for OIE Focal Points for veterinary products; the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East; and an FMD/PPR Roadmaps meeting.

He concluded by reminding Delegates that the OIE Regional Representation office for the Middle East was open to welcome any experts, staff or representatives from regional OIE Members for assistance or training.

**3. Organisation of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held from 2 to 6 October 2017**

Dr Visal Kayacik, representative of Turkey, confirmed that her country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference.

She gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Turkey had made to start organising the conference. Dr Kayacik showed a video on visiting Istanbul and provided general information about visa issuance, hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

Dr Yehia offered to provide any support to Delegates for their attendance and planning for the conference.

**4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- Addressing Challenges in the Middle East at the Human Animal Interface under the One Health concept

Dr Yehia thanked all the Delegates for their other suggestions which included “overview of the aquatic fauna in the Mediterranean and its impact on fish diseases”, “integrated tick control” and “*Brucella melitensis* control in camels and cattle”. He noted that there could also be an opportunity for discussion on such issues at the upcoming Regional Commission Conference in Turkey.

**5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019:

- Socio-economic impact of new emerging and re-emerging parasitic infestations of livestock

**6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as President**

Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Oman, reminded participants that the Delegate of Qatar had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, Delegate of United Arab Emirates, was unanimously proposed as President of the OIE Regional Commission for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018.

To replace Dr Majid Al-Qassimi's current role as Vice-President, Dr Fajer Al-Saloom Delegate of Bahrain, was unanimously proposed as a new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

**7. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum**

Dr John Stratton, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Stratton gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Stratton said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

## 8. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world's poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

Dr Yehia mentioned that there will be back-to-back FMD and PPR Roadmap meetings in Amman, Jordan from 15-18 October 2017, to update the regional roadmap, review national evaluation and planning using PMAT and update the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) if required.

Dr Ahmad Al-Majali, observer from the University of Science and Technology (Jordan), commented that all of the Middle East countries were infected with PPR and that the countries needed to work harder on PPR control. He noted that a problem is there is no DIVA testing (Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals) yet so finishing development and use of this technology should be a focus. The Jordan Bio-Industries Centre (JOVAC) is producing a vaccine that can facilitate DIVA testing and it should be used to help countries move along the PMAT stages. The French Agricultural Research and International Corporation Organization (CIRAD), France and JOVAC, Jordan are engaging in an OIE Twinning programme on PPR and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) diagnostics.

Dr Yehia commented that JOVAC has been chosen as a PPR vaccine bank site for Africa and Middle East. He encouraged all Members to come to Amman in October thoroughly prepared with their national PPR planning.

## **9. Status of notifications by Members in the Middle East**

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

He began by providing some indicators on compliance with reporting in 2016. He mentioned that the region could make improvements in the submission of aquatic and annual reports and he encouraged Members with outstanding reports to submit them in a timely manner through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) to improve the regional outlook.

Dr Mapitse also gave an overview of some of the elements of tracking events not notified to the OIE and encouraged Members to provide feedback to clarify the situation when requests were made.

To conclude, Dr Mapitse asked for support from the region to recommend one animal disease notification focal point from the region to join the Technical Advisory Committee, which is one of the governance bodies of the WAHIS+ renovation project.

Dr Yehia emphasised that the region needed to improve its reporting of diseases from its aquatic animal and wildlife populations, and that Members need to reach out across to the relevant Ministries to ensure this can happen.

## **10. Update on the camel Middle East network (CaMeNeT)**

Dr Salama Al Muhairi, Director of the Veterinary Laboratories Department at Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), gave a brief update on the status of the regional laboratory networking initiative, CaMeNeT, which is a scientific network on camel health and practices, consisting of nine camel-breeding countries in the Middle East: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Dr Al Muhairi explained that the main objective of CaMeNeT was to assist Member Countries developing their camel sector, in particular by controlling camel diseases. She noted that the establishment of CaMeNeT was a strategic step for countries in the region to address the challenges related to the global economic impact of camels.

Dr Al Muhairi also explained that, through CaMeNeT, Member Countries would be able to:

1. Improve scientific and technological capabilities for camel disease epidemiology and diagnosis.
2. Ensure coordination between international organisations (OIE/FAO/World Health Organization) and national authorities (including Veterinary Services) in Member Countries to combat and control camel diseases, including emerging diseases.
3. Facilitate cooperation between national, regional and international institutions, Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to build capacity and share experiences.
4. Contribute to the development, standardisation and accreditation of diagnostic methods for major camel diseases in accordance with the global standards and procedures of the OIE.
5. Encourage studies on epidemiological diseases of camels and the common risks of animals, humans and the environment.

## 11. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations

### *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

Dr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division at FAO, apologised for the designated FAO speaker, Dr Markos Tibbo Dambi, being unavailable. He said he would give a quick overview of FAO priorities in the region. He informed participants that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity for disease surveillance, as well as through the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses, building the resilience of communities by protecting their livestock assets with a view to improving productivity. He mentioned that partnerships, including with OIE, were mandatory in how FAO was working.

He added that the disruption of Veterinary Services and the increase in unregulated animal movements in conflict-affected countries were two of the factors that had heightened disease threats in the region. In that regard, FAO has provided training in good emergency management practice(s) and in animal disease emergency preparedness and response, as well as serving as a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

FAO has also provided direct support for animal disease surveillance, diagnosis, control of priority animal diseases (foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, lumpy skin disease, brucellosis, bluetongue, Middle East respiratory syndrome and highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI]) and response to antimicrobial resistance. FAO has contributed to or organised important regional events on such issues as the contribution of livestock to food security, expert consultation on contingency planning for HPAI control, capacity-building for antimicrobial resistance surveillance, One Health, and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of countries to accelerate compliance with WHO International Health Regulations.

Dr Tekola concluded by saying that FAO provided technical, institutional and policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management, the mobilisation of expertise on sustainable livestock production and the management of feed and animal genetic resources. FAO also supports smallholders engaged in dairy, poultry and small ruminant farming to increase production efficiencies, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

Dr Tekola briefly highlighted other FAO priority work in the region including with technology transfer, AMR, community animal health systems, PPR, FMD, avian influenza, MERSCoV and livestock and climate change. He addressed the previous comment relating to the lack of DIVA testing for PPR in the region as being a political decision in opposition to genetic modification used to create the recombinant vaccine. The DIVA tool was ready and this opposition should be overcome to allow use of this important technology in fighting PPR.

Dr Yehia mentioned that OIE works very closely with FAO in the region and that they looked forward to continuing the excellent working relationship.

The meeting officially ended at 5:15 p.m.

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

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**Agenda**

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  - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).*

