



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE¹
Paris, 16–18 January 2019

1. Opening

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereafter referred to as ‘the Group’) met from 16 to 18 January 2019 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France.

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, welcomed participants and thanked them for their continued support and contribution to the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Putting Standards into Practice, held in Marrakesh, Morocco 29–31 October 2018. Dr Stone noted the high political profile of AMR and the large number of initiatives underway. He paid warm recognition to Tripartite partners at FAO and WHO and referred to the specific memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the Tripartite agencies. As a follow-up, a 2-year collaborative work programme on AMR was developed, due to be endorsed in February 2019, at the Tripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE) executive meeting.

Dr Stone stressed the importance of AMR, which is reflected in some developments at the OIE. In particular, an OIE internal re-structuring has taken place to demonstrate the engagement of the OIE and its work-programme and to allow allocation of increased resources to focus on this area. The new OIE AMR and Veterinary Products Department, headed by Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, illustrates this development.

Dr Stone noted the long-standing existence of the *ad hoc* Group on AMR. The ongoing importance of AMR has led the OIE to decide to recommend creation of a formal Working Group on AMR as the most appropriate structure going forward, replacing the current *ad hoc* Group on AMR. This formal Working Group would be discussed with the Council in February 2019, and if agreed, the OIE Director General would recommend its formation and membership to the World Assembly at the 87th General Session, to be held 26-31 May 2019. If the recommendation is accepted by the World Assembly, in accordance with the OIE’s Internal Rules for Working Groups, the Working Group would report to the Director General, who would ensure liaison with appropriate Specialist Commissions as required. The Director General would report the composition of the Working Group to the World Assembly each year, and the Chairperson would typically be invited to present their activities and work programme directly to the World Assembly. The OIE believes that AMR is such an important topic that this degree of transparency and accountability is appropriate and expected by our Members.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of the chairperson and rapporteur

The adopted Agenda and List of Participants are presented in Appendices I and II of this report, respectively. The Group elected Dr Herbert Schneider as the chair, and Dr Chris Teale as rapporteur.

¹ Note: This ad hoc Group report reflects the views of its members and may not necessarily reflect the views of the OIE. This report should be read in conjunction with the February 2019 report of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/scientific-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

3. Roundtable from the participants on any new issues of interest for the Group

Information was shared within the Group on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance, including an update from members, in particular the publication of a new regulation EU 2019/6 within the European Union.

4. Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, Putting Standards into Practice: Recommendations

The Group noted the recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR, held in Morocco in October 2018, which are available on the OIE website². Several recommendations are of particular importance to the Group, including expansion of the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance to include companion animals, and the sub-division of the List by different animal species.

The Group noted the recommendation for OIE Member Countries relating to restrictions on the use of certain antimicrobials (fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and colistin) and on the use of antimicrobial growth promoters.

The Group noted that the OIE will update the Assembly at the General Session in May 2019 on progress made and will present outline plans for addressing the recommendations.

5. OIE AMU database: conversion from the spreadsheet format to a database system

The OIE informed the Group that a new staff position was open to support the development and management of the Antimicrobial Use (AMU) Database project. The Group considered that the move from spreadsheet format to a database would improve data collection, validation, analysis and reporting.

The systems for collecting antimicrobial quantities from France, United States of America and European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) were presented to the Group. It was noted that ESVAC uses Excel Spreadsheets that function with macros and can validate and upload the data to the database. The Group noted that in the development of the new OIE database system, similar validation and quality checks of the data could be included.

The Group discussed the possibility that in the future, the OIE AMU database could be designed to include national farm-level use data. It was emphasised that for these types of data, the OIE would need to collect additional data such as species, categories of animal, treatments for groups of animals or individual animals, doses, dosing frequency, days of treatment and animal population coverage. The important contribution of relevant stakeholders including the pharmaceutical industry in providing estimates on the breakdown of usage by the different animal species was noted.

The Group supported the creation of an expert group to assist the OIE regarding database development. Such a group would assist in defining objectives for the new database and also the outputs required to provide a detailed global perspective. The Group recommended that if possible a system should be developed that allows an entry-level minimum data contribution, but that also permits a step-wise development / progression to an advanced contribution.

6. OIE AMU Database: Presentation of the third OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals: Better Understanding of the Global Situation

The results of the third OIE Annual data collection were presented to the Group.

The Group noted the improvements in the number of participating countries since the first round of data collection (130 to 155 respondents), and the increased number of countries reporting quantitative data.

The report included an analysis of 91 countries in their antimicrobial quantities for 2015 adjusted by animal biomass.

The Report will be published on the OIE website mid-February 2019 in conjunction with an OIE press release.

2 http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/A_2nd_OIE_Global_Conf_Recommendations.pdf

7. Overview of the preliminary results of the fourth round of collection of data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

The very preliminary results of the fourth round of data collection were presented and, so far, the data sources and animal species covered by the data are similar to previous years. Member Countries also have the opportunity to update data reported in previous years.

The Group reviewed the structure of the report and agreed to maintain its existing format. The size of the report could be reduced by using hyperlinks to the OIE website covering background information.

8. Future development of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance

The Group noted that the OIE aimed to update the OIE List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance in accordance with the outcomes and recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR, Morocco, 2018. The List was initially developed in consideration of those antimicrobials that were predominantly used in OIE Member Countries. The Group considered the List could provide a resource detailing the availability of authorised medicines in the different species and highlighting areas where there was a lack of availability of authorised antimicrobials for the treatment of animal diseases and specific species.

The Group agreed that there were considerable national differences in terms of the relative importance of different antimicrobials at the individual animal species level and that this made the development of a standardised global approach complex. The Group considered that one possible option could be to use the existing master (summary) list as a basis to develop species-specific lists. The Group agreed that the lists should be fit-for-purpose to guide decisions on responsible and prudent use.

The Group considered various options and suggested that future development of the List should consider:

a) Purpose/Aims/Objectives/Desired Outputs

- Target audience
- Use as a tool for risk analysis
- Use to support responsible and prudent use guidelines
- Provision of a global resource detailing indications/ usage by species at the global level

b) Methods / Approaches to further refine the List by species

- Development of additional criteria which are species related
- Inclusion of species specific comments to refine the List
- Provision of a rationale for the categorisation of importance of the antimicrobial classes at individual species level, including any potential impact on the overall categorisation of the antimicrobial class
- Development of questionnaires or other data capture procedures that accurately collect the desired information
- Presentation in the most appropriate format

Data sources should be those most relevant or appropriate considering the required outputs. The Group considered the potential sources of information that might be useful in refining the categorisation included:

- Experts in the field
- National regulatory authorities
- Information on legally authorised compounds
- Volumes of sales data
- Prudent use guidelines at individual species level
- Papers/ reports on availability of products
- Countries collected and published information on treatments and standard treatment regimes

- Industry – products authorised by species
- Residue limits to provide an indication of authorised compounds
- OIE Focal Points on Veterinary Products
- Major diseases and favoured treatment options
- The information used to update the OIE chapter on AMR surveillance
- The OIE *ad hoc* Groups reports on prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in animals

c) Challenges

- The distribution of animal populations and diseases varies which influences the need for different antimicrobial classes
- The availability of data will vary by species and countries
- Variations exist between countries and the development of a system suitable for all countries
- Access to different antimicrobial classes, vaccines and other tools might be difficult

The Group agreed that the primary audience of the List would be national veterinary services, including their public and private components. Existing initiatives in many countries could be utilised to develop the List acknowledging the need for collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry. Other relevant stakeholders would include veterinary statutory bodies and private veterinary associations, industry and governments.

The Group agreed that the development of the List should be started by working on one species. The List already covers avian species, which includes chickens and turkeys. The Group proposed that the initial phase should include refinement of the avian category to investigate chickens, an important food-producing animal occurring in almost all countries and for which data availability is considered to be high. The Group recommended that preliminary work would focus on this species in order to demonstrate that the proposed methods are robust.

In relation to categorisation, the Group noted that some categories on the existing List were applicable across all species, whilst others applied to a restricted range of species. Specific comments address this in the current List, which could be developed further by refining this aspect at the individual species level. The Group agreed that the format of the existing List should however be retained as far as possible.

9. Any other business

The extremely limited/absence of current development of new antimicrobials intended for use in animals was noted.

The Group also noted the importance of the establishment of robust criteria and procedures for determining resistance in veterinary pathogens and that whilst published methods covering many relevant combinations of antimicrobials and veterinary pathogens were available, a number of gaps remained.

As this was the final meeting of this *ad hoc* Group, Dr Monique Eloit expressed her gratitude to the members of the Group under the leadership of Dr Herbert Schneider, as Chair of the Group, and thanked them for their passionate dedication to supporting the OIE AMR work.

10. Adoption of report

The Group adopted the report.

.../Appendices

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Agenda

1. Opening
 2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of the chairperson and rapporteur
 3. Roundtable from the participants on any new issues of interest for the Group
 4. Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, Putting Standards into Practice: Recommendations
 5. OIE AMU database: conversion from the spread sheet format to a database system
 6. OIE AMU Database: Presentation of the third OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals: Better Understanding of the Global Situation
 7. Overview of the preliminary results of the fourth round of collection of data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals
 8. Future Development of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance in animals.
 9. Any other business
 10. Adoption of report
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