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Animal

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**OIE AD HOC ON THE REVISION OF
CHAPTER 7.5. “SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS” AND
CHAPTER 7.6. “KILLING OF ANIMALS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES”¹**

Paris, 25–27 June 2019

1. Welcome and introduction

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapter 7.5. “Slaughter of animals” and Chapter 7.6. “Killing of animals for disease control purposes” (the *ad hoc* Group) met for their third meeting at the OIE Headquarters on 25–27 June 2019.

The agenda and *ad hoc* Group participants are presented in Annexes I and II, respectively.

Dr Francisco D’Alessio, Deputy Head, Standards Department, welcomed participants and thanked them for their continued commitment to this important work, noting that this was the third meeting of the *ad hoc* Group convened to continue its work on the revision of Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.

Dr Leopoldo Stuardo, Chargé de mission, Standards Department, recalled that this *ad hoc* Group had been convened at the request of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to undertake a thorough review of Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) given that these chapters had not been reviewed extensively since 2005. The main issues to address in this review included the inconsistencies between the chapters, gaps with the current scientific knowledge and syntax and formatting issues in both chapters.

Dr Stuardo noted that the Code Commission will review the *ad hoc* Group’s report at its next meeting in September 2019 and, if considered appropriate, will circulate the draft chapter for the first round of Member Country comments.

Dr Antonio Velarde, Chair of the *ad hoc* Group, welcomed participants and thanked them for their commitment to this work, in particular undertaking significant work between meetings. He also welcomed Dr. Awis Qurni Sazili as a new member of this *ad hoc* Group.

2. Update on the February 2019 Code Commission meeting

The Secretariat provided a summary of the discussions held during the February 2019 meeting of the Code Commission regarding the *ad hoc* Group’s previous meeting report of November 2018 noting that the Code Commission agreed with the proposed revised structure and format for the two chapters and the *ad hoc* Group’s proposal to develop a draft definition for ‘outcome/animal-based measurables’.

The *ad hoc* Group also noted the Code Commission’s support to continue its work to review and amend definitions for slaughter, euthanasia, stunning and death.

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 September 2019 report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/code-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

3. Development of a new draft Chapter 7.5. “Animal welfare during slaughter”

The *ad hoc* Group considered draft texts developed by its members in advance of its meeting and continued Chapter 7.5. “Slaughter of animals”. The *ad hoc* Group noted that the scope of the draft chapter would address animal welfare aspects of free moving animals and those arriving in containers or crates, from arrival through to slaughter at the slaughterhouse/abattoir.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to propose a new title for Chapter 7.5. “Slaughter of animals” by “Animal welfare during slaughter” as they considered the revised title better reflected the contents of the chapter which addresses animal welfare aspects of throughout slaughter operations.

The *ad hoc* Group also noted that due to the very extensive nature of the proposed changes to this chapter, the text would only be presented as clean text and not in the usual strikeout/double underline format.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to amend the scope of the chapter to cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits and poultry, as the *ad hoc* Group considered that there was not sufficient scientific information to develop robust recommendations for the slaughter of species such as camelids, deer and ratites. However, the *ad hoc* Group noted that they had developed some text that indicated that species other than those listed in the scope should be killed using the same overarching principles included in the revised chapter and also the basic principles described in Chapter 7.1. “Introduction to animal welfare” (except for reptiles, for which a specific chapter is being developed).

The *ad hoc* Group agreed that while the chapter addresses the slaughter of animals in slaughterhouses/abattoirs, the general principles could be applied to slaughter of animals in other places such as on farm.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to develop the recommendations articles of the new draft chapter using a structure that addressed four aspects: animal welfare hazards, animal-based and other measures, recommendations and species-specific recommendations.

Regarding the use of the term “animal-based and other measures”, the *ad hoc* Group agreed that this term should also include resource and management-based measures, which can be helpful when assessing animal welfare, especially when animal-based measures are not applicable.

The *ad hoc* Group proposed not to develop a specific article defining all the relevant criteria or measurables, as it was considered that it would be easier for the reader to have the specific measures listed immediately after the determination of "animal welfare concerns" and before the "recommendations".

Due to time constraints, the *ad hoc* Group decided to postpone discussions on the development of a definition for “outcome/animal-base measurable” until its next meeting.

The *ad hoc* Group proposed that the Code Commission consider seeking feedback from Members on the new approach being proposed for Chapter 7.5. even though the draft is incomplete, and articles still need to be drafted that address animals that arrive at the slaughterhouse/abattoir in containers or crates. The *ad hoc* Group considered that general feedback on the work done to date would be useful for future work on this chapter and to develop the revised Chapter 7.6.

The proposed revised Chapter 7.5. “Animal welfare during slaughter” that addresses free-moving animals, is presented as [Annex III](#).

4. Revised definitions for slaughter, euthanasia, stunning, death, and new definitions for distress, pain and suffering

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to modify the existing definitions for slaughter, euthanasia, stunning and death in order to ensure that they are aligned with their use in the proposed new Chapter 7.5. as well as ensuring consistency with other uses of these terms throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. The *ad hoc* Group also developed new definitions for pain, suffering and distress to be included in the Glossary noting that these terms are extensively used throughout the *Terrestrial Code* and not only in other chapters of Section 7. They will also be used in the revised Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.

The revised Glossary definitions for slaughter, euthanasia, stunning, death, and new definitions for distress, pain and suffering are presented in Annex IV.

5. Next steps

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to set its fourth meeting date for October 2019 to continue work on Chapter 7.5. and commence work on the revision of Chapter 7.6., pending feedback from the Code Commission.

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CHAPTER 7.6. "KILLING OF ANIMALS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES"**

Paris, 25–27 June 2019

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Adopted agenda

- 1) Welcome and introduction
 - 2) Outcomes of the February 2019 Code Commission meeting discussions
 - 3) Development of the draft Chapter 7.5. “Animal welfare during slaughter” and related definitions
 - 4) Revised definitions for slaughter, euthanasia, stunning, death, and new definitions to include in the Glossary for distress, pain and suffering
 - 5) Next steps
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[Note: this Annex has been replaced by Annex 23 to the report of the meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission which was held on 10–19 September 2019.]

[Note: this Annex has been replaced by Annex 18 to the report of the meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission which was held on 10–19 September 2019.]

