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ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

1. The Chair of the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the biannual meeting of the Working Group held from 26th to 28th October 2021 (Doc. 89 SG/11/GT2) and major points discussed at the most recent meeting held from 26th to 28th April of which report is not yet published.

2. The Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance was established by the Director General following Resolution No. 14 adopted at the 87th OIE General Session. Since its establishment, the Working Group has met twice a year in April and October. In addition, subgroups are created when the Working Group considers appropriate to address specific issues which meet several times a year to prepare for the discussion at the Working Group meeting.

   The Working Group provides guidance and establishes priorities to assist in particular with the implementation of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, and the recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR and Prudent use of Antimicrobials, as outlined in its the Terms of Reference (ToRs), building on the work accomplished by the previous OIE ad hoc Group on AMR.

   The members of the Working Group are:

   Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (Chair)

   Mrs Barbara Freischem (Netherlands)

   Dr Gerard Moulin (France)

   Dr Stephen Page (Australia)

   Dr Donald Prater (United States of America)

   Dr Fajur Sabah Al Saloom (Bahrain)

   Prof Moritz van Vuuren (South Africa)

3. The Working Group was updated on the global governance structures for antimicrobials resistance, namely the One Health Global Leaders Group on antimicrobial resistance (GLG), AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (the Platform) and Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance. The establishment of the governance structures was recommended by the Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR.

   The role of GLG (https://www.who.int/groups/one-health-global-leaders-group-on-antimicrobial-resistance) is to provide advocacy and advisory functions to ensure that action is taken to address the challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The GLG has issued some Statements and Information Notes. These have a focus on animal health and production use of antimicrobials, and on financing the response to AMR, highlighting the lack of funding in the animal health sector as well the need to better understand the role that the environment plays in the development of AMR. The GLG is working on key performance indicators for their actions. The OIE Director General is an Ex-Officio Member of the GLG.

   The future Platform, facilitated by the Quadripartite[1], aims to bring together different voices across the human, animal, plant and environment interface (One Health approach). Membership of the Platform will be open to government representatives, UN agencies, international, intergovernmental and regional organisations, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and research organisations, and the private sector, will enhance the accessibility of all stakeholders to each other. The Quadripartite has completed an online survey in 2021 to collect feedback from a broad range of stakeholders about the Platform. The Platform's launch is currently planned for 2022 and is dependent on securing complementary finances.

   The Independent Panel's Terms of Reference (ToRs) were sent to the UN Secretary-General for further decision. It will not be launched until financing has been secured.

4. The Working Group was updated on the work conducted by the Advisory Group of the Critically Important Antimicrobials for Human Medicine (AG-CIA) from the World Health Organization (WHO). The AG-CIA aims to review the scope of this list, and ensure harmonisation with other national, regional, and global lists (such as the *OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance)*. The AG-CIA includes six members from the animal sector. OIE is an observer in the AG-CIA.

   The Working Group was informed that FAO is working on a list for antimicrobials considered critical for use in plants and agriculture, built on the same principles as the OIE and WHO lists.

   The Working Group agreed that communication around the *WHO list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine*, the *OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance*, and other similar tools, needs to be considered carefully to avoid misunderstanding by different stakeholders including the general public.

5. The Working Group was updated on the work of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR (TFAMR). The revised Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CoP) has adopted the use of the term "veterinary medical use" in line with OIE terminology to describe the use of antimicrobials for treatment, control/metaphylaxis, and prevention/prophylaxis of a specific disease. The CoP includes references to the *OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance*, the *WHO list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine*, and other relevant tools.

[1] Quadripartite: the Tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), formally became the Quadripartite when it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP in March 2022.

The Working Group was informed that of the Guidelines on Integrated Surveillance and Monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance developed by the TFAMR. These guidelines took into account the work of the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of AMR (AGISAR) and relevant OIE guidance in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes.

6. The Working Group was updated on the OIE work to update its narrative on AMR, with the aim to notably incorporate all new initiatives which have been developed in recent years. The current portal on AMR is available at the following link: https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/global-initiatives/antimicrobial-resistance/. Updated one is expected to be public by the end of May 2022. Access address will be adapted to OIE rebranding, and therefore communicated afterwards.

7. The Working Group was updated on work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group (AHG) on Technical References for Aquatic Animals formed for the development of the *Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Aquatic Species* (hereafter referred to as the *Aquatic Species Technical Reference Document*). The AHG includes members of the Working Group: Dr Donald Prater (Chair), Dr Gérard Moulin, and Prof. Moritz van Vuuren. Following the approach used for the poultry list, the list will include only antimicrobials which have been identified as authorised for use in aquatic animals in at least one country. An accompanying explanatory text, acknowledging the importance of common off-label use of antimicrobial agents and use of disinfectants in aquaculture will be added to the document. The Working Group endorsed the work of the AHG on Technical References for Aquatic Animals, and the next steps proposed for this AHG's work.

   The Working Group noted that in many countries there is a lack of authorised antimicrobials for aquatic species, and that there are special considerations for aquatic species (such as authorisation in some circumstances being based on temperature grouping rather than species grouping, and the off-label use of antimicrobials in aquatic species) which will need to be considered.

   The Working Group agreed that there may also be a lack of authorised products for other animal species which will need to be considered during development of future annexes to the OIE List.

8. The Working Group was updated on the development of the *Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Swine* (hereafter referred to as the *Swine Technical Reference Document)* by the Swine Subgroup (Dr Barbara Freischem, Dr Donald Prater, Dr Gerard Moulin, Prof. Moritz van Vuuren, Dr Stephen Page). The Working Group endorsed the work of the Subgroup and requested to continue to be provided with inputs to the draft of the *Swine Technical Reference Document*. Draft document to be circulated to relevant animal health stakeholders (i.e., Health for Animals and World Veterinary Association) for input.

9. The preliminary results of the sixth round of OIE Antimicrobial Use data collection were presented to the Working Group. The OIE received 157 submissions, of which 80% (126 out of 157) reported quantitative data. It was highlighted that countries have shown an engagement to the data collection since its creation, and now provide more detailed data through the different OIE Reporting Options. The sixth round demonstrated that more countries chose to report the quantities through Option 3; most of them thanks to the OIE Calculation Tool. The sixth AMU Report analysis is completed, with internal review and publication process launched. Report is expected to be available by early June 2022. The seventh data collection round was launched on 13th September 2021 and data collection is still open.

10. The Working Group was updated on the IT project for the AMU database. This project will allow integration of OIE antimicrobial use data with AMU and AMR data from two other Quadripartite organisations; FAO and WHO through the Tripartite Integrated System for Surveillance on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use (TISSA). AMU data will be provided to TISSA at a regional level; no data at a country level will be shared.

11. The Working Group was updated on the feedback from meetings of the OIE AMR & VMP Department with the Technical Reference Group, on AMU database development. These meetings functioned as a platform for sharing of experiences to ensure an efficient transition from the collection of AMU data via an Excel template into an interactive customized online system. Three members of the Technical Reference Group have kindly agreed to pilot the system during the development stage.

12. The Working Group was updated on the mapping of ongoing field level data collection projects in certain countries by the OIE following the recommendation of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials to the possibility of "addition of data from field studies" in the future in the AMU database system. The experience gained through these projects will inform the OIE on the methodological or analytical support needed for OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in piloting AMU field level monitoring data collection methodologies.

13. The Code Commission proposed that the Working Group was asked to proceed with the revision of Chapter 6.10 after discussing the Group's proposal at its September 2021 meeting. The Working Group's proposal highlighted that given the current chapter is not limited to food-producing animals, some additional references to companion animals could be considered for inclusion, and that the addition of elements relating to the environment, although important in the context of AMR, may be outside of the scope of this chapter. The Code Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to consider explicitly expanding the scope of Chapter 6.10. to companion and leisure animals and considered that the addition of elements relating to the environment was within the scope of this chapter given that the circulation of antimicrobial agents from veterinary medicinal products and AMR bacteria from animals in the environment may impact animal and public health.

    The Working Group noted that several references are already made to the environment in Chapter 6.10, notably under the responsibility of the Competent Authority, including the importance of studies to assess the impact of antimicrobial agents and disposal of antimicrobials. The Working Group recognised that the environment would be an important part of the One Health approach to minimising and containing AMR, and that the work of other standard setting bodies and organisations, including Codex Alimentarius, WHO, FAO, UNEP, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC), should be considered.

    The Working Group created a Subgroup composed by its members, Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Ms. Barbara Freischem, Dr Gérard Moulin, Dr Stephen Page, Prof. Moritz van Vuuren, and Dr Donald Prater to advance on the update of Chapter 6.10.

    The Working Group agreed that it will consider the proposal made by the Terrestrial Code Commission to update other chapters from *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Chapters 6.7., 6.8., 6.9., and 6.11.) in due course once substantial progress on the update of Chapter 6.10 has been made. The Group decided to include consideration of other chapters as an agenda point at the April 2022 meeting.

14. The Working Group discussed the follow-up of the brainstorming that took place at the April 2021 meeting, and particularly focused on education and e-learning related to AMR. The Working Group was informed that there is ongoing work on this topic at OIE in coordination with the OIE Collaborating Centres, and expressed interest in continuing to be updated on this work. The Working Group considered the possibility of allocating additional time for brainstorming at future meetings.

15. The Working Group agreed that any further updates to its work programme should be based on the recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents.

16. The Working Group was updated on the World Veterinary Association and Brooke's Global List of Essential Medicines for Food-Producing Animals, which will consist of a list of core medicines and a list of complementary medicines.

The Global List of Essential Medicines for Food-Producing Animals will be drafted by eight species-specific working groups (large ruminants, small ruminants, equids, poultry, porcine, aquaculture, bees, rabbits) by mid-2022.

The Working Group noted that the development of this list could be relevant to the Working Group's work in preparing species specific annexes to the OIE List.

17. At its April 2022 meeting, the Working Group was updated on the latest version of the Swine antibiotic list. Feedback will be sought from HealthforAnimals and the World Veterinary Association in May and June. After consolidation, the Swine list will be endorsed by Working Group and published as an annex to its next Working Group meeting report in the same manner as the poultry list.

18. The Working Group also examined the on-going revision of the Chapter 6.10. presented by the subgroup and agreed to continue the work so that the revised draft will be passed to the Code Commission for its discussion at the September 2022 meeting.