Report of the Meeting of WOAH Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance



Original: English (EN)

3 August 2022 Paris via videoconference

1. Welcome

The Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (hereafter referred to as 'the Group') met on the 3 August 2022 via an online application, and was coordinated by WOAH Headquarters in Paris, France.

Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products (AMR&VP) Department welcomed the Group members and thanked them for their participation in the Group.

The Group was chaired by Dr Tomoko Ishibashi; due to the extraordinary nature of the meeting, no rapporteur was appointed. The adopted Agenda and List of Participants are presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of this report, respectively.

2. Terrestrial Animal Health Code: revised draft of chapter 6.10 and supporting report

The text in the chapter has been revised by a Subgroup composed of members of the Working Group (see Annex 3). The review process was informed by the latest version of the Codex Alimentarius's Code of Practice (hereafter referred to as 'Codex CoP'), current WOAH and WHO recommendations for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials, and discussions held by the Group at previous meetings.

2.1. Feedback from the Group

The Group agreed that the scope of Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (hereafter referred to as 'the chapter') should be kept broad to include all antimicrobials with some sections and points of the text being specific for and only applicable to antimicrobials with antibacterial activity.

The Group supported the broadening of the scope of the chapter to also include additional text concerning antimicrobial use in non-food producing animals (companion and leisure animals) and the inclusion of a new article related to non-food producing animals, Article 6.10.9. Responsibilities of animal owners.

Furthermore, the Group supported the inclusion of the One Health concept in the chapter and the further text expansion of the chapter on the environment with a particular focus on relevant animal environment. The Group welcomed the new text added related to National Action Plans and the role of the Competent Authority in its design, implementation and evaluation following a multisectoral, One Health approach. Within the responsibilities of Competent Authorities it was also emphasized their role in the collation of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance data to monitor trends and to inform policy-making and assess the effectiveness of interventions. The Group also supported the inclusion of the responsibility of Competent Authority to report antimicrobial use data to WOAH global database (ANIMUSE).

The Group supported the revised text of the responsibilities of relevant stakeholders (Competent Authority, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, drug and animal feed manufacturers, drug retailers and wholesalers and animal food producers); this text is now aligned with the Codex CoP where appropriate. Inclusion of guidance for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials based on the recommendations of the OIE List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance, and the categorisation of the WHO List of Critically Important Antimicrobials for human medicine, was also endorsed by the Group.

The update of the text across the chapter according to WOAH terminology and glossary was approved by the Group.

2.2. Endorsement of documents to be submitted to Code Commission

All members endorsed the revised chapter and the report with the rationale for the changes proposed either during the meeting or by written endorsement via email.

2.3. Next steps

The Group was informed by the Chair that the endorsed chapter will be submitted to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter, 'the Code Commission') for discussion at their upcoming meeting in September 2022. The Code Commission will then decide if the chapter requires further revision work by the Group, or if it is ready to be circulated to WOAH Members. Submission to Members is likely to take place during the Autumn with feedback expected to be returned to the Code Commission by January 2023. The Code Commission probably will not discuss the feedback on technical points during its meeting in February; the feedback will instead be passed on to the Group to inform further revision of the chapter that will take place over Spring and Summer 2023. The revised chapter will then be submitted again to the Code Commission for their consideration at their meeting in September 2023. If revision is deemed completed by the Code Commission during the meeting, the revised chapter will be submitted for approval by Members during the General Session in May 2024; otherwise, another cycle of feedback by Members and revision by the Group will be requested by the Code Commission.

3. Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Swine and supporting report

The Swine Reference Technical Document was developed by a Subgroup composed by members of the Working Group (see Annex 4). Feedback on the document was sought from external WOAH experts on swine health (see Annex 5) and from animal health stakeholders (<u>HealthforAnimals</u> and <u>World Veterinary</u> Association).

3.1. Update from Secretariat

A brief update was provided to the Group on the feedback provided by experts from HealthforAnimals and the World Veterinary Association (WVA). The feedback was overall positive, with minor edits proposed by HealthforAnimals. One of the experts from WVA proposed the inclusion of a disease (chlamydiosis caused by *Chlamydia suis*) in Annex II and Annex III of the Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Swine (hereafter referred as 'Swine Technical Reference Document').

3.2. Feedback from the Group

The Group recommended that feedback should be sought from the external WOAH experts in swine health concerning the inclusion of *Chlamydia suis* in the Swine Reference Technical Document, to explore the importance of this pathogen in swine production in their geographical regions, and if there are veterinary medicinal products licensed for treatment of chlamydiosis. The Secretariat will contact the external experts on behalf of the Group.

3.3. Approval for publication as annex of WG AMR meeting report

The Swine Technical Reference Document was not approved for publication by the Group as further revision work was deemed necessary in relation to treatment of chlamydiosis. It was decided that the Swine Reference Technical Document would be resubmitted for approval by the Group at its next meeting, planned during 4-6 October in Paris.

4. Any other business

The Chair raised the need to start planning the work that will need to be discussed at its next meeting in October 2022. The meeting will be in Paris Headquarters and will include a brainstorming session. Some of the themes proposed by the Chair for discussion included the need to revise the workplan of the Group, including the upcoming species-specific technical reference documents (i.e. Large ruminants and companion animals) and of other chapters of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code related to AMR and AMU. Members of the Group were encouraged to start preparing for the meeting in October.

Annex 1. Adopted Agenda

MEETING OF WOAH WORKING GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Paris via videoconference, 3 August 2022

- 1. Opening
- 2. Terrestrial Animal Health Code: revised draft of chapter 6.10 and supporting report
 - 2.1. Update from Secretariat
 - 2.2. Feedback from WG AMR
 - 2.3. Endorsement of documents to be submitted to Code Commission
 - 2.4. Next steps
- 3. Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Swine and supporting report
 - 3.1. Update from Secretariat
 - 3.2. Feedback from WG AMR
 - 3.3. Approval for publication as annex of WG AMR meeting report
- 4. Any other business

Annex 2. List of Participants

MEETING OF WOAH WORKING GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Paris via videoconference, 3 August 2022

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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(Chair)

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Dr Stephen Page

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Prof. Moritz van Vuuren Emeritus

Professor in Microbiology Vice-Chair: Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial

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WOAH HEADQUARTERS

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Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department (AMR-VP)

Dr Delfy Gochez

Chargé de mission AMR-VP Department

Dr Dante Mateo

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Annex 3. Chapter 6.10 Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine Subgroup

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Emeritus Professor in Microbiology Vice-Chair: Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance SOUTH AFRICA

Annex 4. Swine Technical Reference Document Subgroup

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Annex 5. List of WOAH External Experts on Swine Animal Health

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