

## **Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change**

### CONSIDERING THAT

1. The control of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases faces growing and intersecting challenges due to increased risks from antimicrobial resistance, climate change, food security pressures, societal concerns regarding animal welfare and sustainable animal production, as well as endemic, emerging and transboundary infectious diseases including zoonoses;
2. Effective disease control requires a combination of measures, including biosecurity, movement control, zoning and compartmentalisation, surveillance, and effective communication strategies. Within these, vaccination can serve as valuable complementary tool;
3. Vaccines, where available, are one of the most cost-effective and impactful tools for the prevention, control, elimination and eradication of animal diseases, with demonstrated contributions to animal health, animal welfare, public health, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable food systems, within a One Health framework;
4. For certain diseases, vaccines, along with other measures, are an important risk mitigation tool for the safe trade of animals and animal products;
5. Limited availability and access of quality vaccines, and use of substandard and falsified vaccines pose a significant risk to Members in achieving the intended outcomes of vaccination programmes;
6. Veterinary vaccines, along with other preventive measures, can significantly reduce the need for antimicrobials in animals, thereby playing a critical role in the containment of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as committed by Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, when adopting the [79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\) political declaration on AMR](#);
7. Despite their benefits, veterinary vaccines remain underutilised due to challenges in their development, production, registration, procurement, logistics for storage, transport and handling, accessibility, implementation and monitoring, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs);
8. Vaccine adoption is significantly influenced by prevailing socio-economic and political factors, including community trust and buy-in, effective communication, equitable access and recognition as a public good, trade considerations, and the level of public-private partnerships;
9. Adoption of vaccination sometimes leads to unjustified trade restrictions, which can be addressed through transparent communication as well as implementation and recognition of international standards;

10. WOAHA provides international standards and guidelines on vaccine quality, vaccination and surveillance strategies, vaccine banks and strategic reserves, safe international trade of vaccinated animals and their products, and plays a key role in fostering collaboration among Members, stakeholders, and scientific partners;
11. The 2025 Animal Health Forum, based on the Technical Item, and under the theme “Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change” has provided new insights and priorities for action to better integrate vaccination into animal health systems.

## THE ASSEMBLY

### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. WOAHA promotes international collaboration on vaccine research and development, including through public private partnerships, as well as mutual recognition agreements including the registration of novel vaccine platforms and biotechnology (such as mRNA and viral vector systems);
2. WOAHA develops and updates international standards for the vaccine safety, efficacy, integration of new technologies and, when applicable, safe trade of vaccinated animals and their products, ensuring global recognition and trust. WOAHA Members implement these standards to promote acquisition and maintenance of free disease status, and avoid unjustified trade restrictions, promoting transparency, consistency, and mutual recognition of veterinary certifications to facilitate safe international trade;
3. WOAHA works to develop [Target Product Profiles \(TPPs\)](#) for vaccines against priority animal diseases, including those where vaccination could reduce the need for antimicrobials. Their development should be by consensus and involve all relevant public and private stakeholders to ensure TPPs are reasonable, effective, and support WOAHA standards and equitable vaccine access;
4. WOAHA, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, assesses the inclusion of provisions for aquatic animal vaccines in the Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual, ensuring that aquatic animal vaccination is recognised, standardised, and harmonised;
5. WOAHA and its Members promote the appropriate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including through the development of technical guidance, pathogen emergency access protocols, and national legislation that supports disease surveillance, control and vaccine innovation;
6. WOAHA completes the deployment of the global alert system on substandard and falsified veterinary products to strengthen vaccine quality oversight and support the removal of these vaccines from circulation, and WOAHA Members to actively report to WOAHA incidents of substandard and falsified vaccines encountered in their territories;
7. WOAHA and its Members improve vaccine forecasting needs and national procurement processes, in coordination with vaccine manufacturers, including reviewing national and regional frameworks to enable provisions for limited use and access during emergency situations, facilitate the access to the existing WOAHA vaccine banks and evaluate the need to expand or create regional vaccine banks or strategic reserves to meet future needs;

8. WOAH and its Members continue to consider and advocate, when appropriate and based on a risk analysis, for the strategic use of vaccination as a complementary tool to contribute towards sustainable disease control. As a complement to its standards, and to support their proper implementation by its Members, WOAH develops technical guidance on vaccination strategies and programmes, that considers risk assessment and incorporates socio-economic and One Health considerations. This guidance is tailored for the relevant region including the need for capacity building and tailored communication strategies. WOAH also provides guidance on vaccination monitoring and vaccinovigilance, to evaluate safety, efficiency, field-level effectiveness, and programme impact;
  9. WOAH Reference Centres support Members by providing expertise to assess the quality of vaccines, define effective vaccination strategies aligned with WOAH standards, and implement effective monitoring systems to promote sustainable disease control strategies, including at regional level.
  10. WOAH updates the list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use, and support Members to achieve their commitment to ensure that animal vaccination strategies are defined with an implementation plan by 2030, in alignment with the political declaration on AMR, adopted during the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly;
  11. WOAH and its Members convene regular dialogue between public and private sectors to support progress towards these recommendations and consider actions necessary for advancement.
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