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Final Report

2019

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Final Report

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List of abbreviations

ADFCA	:	Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority
ALA	:	Latin American Poultry Association
AOAD	:	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
ASF	:	African Swine Fever
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CARICOM	:	Caribbean Community
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC
CIRAD	:	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
EC	:	European Commission
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
EISMV	:	Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar
EU DG SANTE	:	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission
EuFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD	:	Foot and Mouth Disease
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GALVmed	:	Global Alliance for Livestock Medicines
GBADs	:	Global Burden of Animal Diseases Programme
GF-TADs	:	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
IATA	:	International Air Transport Authority
IBRD	:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare
IDA	:	International Development Association
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IFC	:	International Finance Corporation
IHR	:	International Health Regulations (of WHO)
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
NACA	:	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
OECD	:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIRSA	:	<i>Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria</i>
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization
PANAFTOSA	:	Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PANVAC	:	Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union
PRARS	:	Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SPS Agreement	:	WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHIS	:	the OIE World Animal Health Information System
WAP	:	World Animal Protection
WFO	:	World Farmers' Organisation
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WSAA	:	World Small Animal Veterinary Association
WTO	:	World Trade Organization

FINAL REPORT OF THE SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. The 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 26 to 31 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), President of the Assembly. Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates) and Dr Christianne Brusckhe (the Netherlands) chaired the part of the First and Second Plenary Session dealing with the Technical Items.
2. One hundred and twenty-nine Members sent delegations to the General Session.
3. Observers from three non-member countries or territories and representatives of 51 international and regional organisations having an agreement with the OIE also attended the General Session.
4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Éloit, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Jimmy Smith (General Director of ILRI²) and Drs Budimir Plavšić (OIE) and Andriy Rozstalnyy (FAO³) participated in the General Session as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and the Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife and representatives of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.
7. Dr Samba Sidibé, Dr Romano Marabelli et Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Honorary President of the OIE, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), Immediate Past President of the OIE, and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of the OIE, participated in the General Session.
8. Twenty-one Guests of Honour (Ministers, Members of Government and senior representatives of multilateral institutions) also participated in the Opening Session.

○ SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019 ○

Opening Session

9. President Schipp welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Mr Milutin Simović (Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Economic Policy and the Financial System and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro), Mr Michael Pintard (Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Bahamas), Mr Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru (Minister of Fisheries and Livestock of Bangladesh), Mr Fidelis Molao (Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security of Botswana), Mr Andrés Valencia Pinzon (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia), Mr Saleh Hussein Al-Hassani (Minister of Agriculture of Iraq), Mr Hassan El Lakkiss (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein (Minister of Livestock, Forestry And Range of Somalia), Mr Gayang Souare (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad), Mr Perrance Shiri (Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement of Zimbabwe), Mr Hamad Abdulaziz Al-Batshan (Deputy Minister for Animal Resources of the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia), Mrs Charlotte Salford (Associate Vice-President of the External Relations and Governance Department of the International Fund for Agricultural Development), Mrs Khatia Tsilosani (Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Georgia), Mrs Gulmira Issayeva (Vice-

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

² ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

³ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mrs Saulye Janimkhan (Vice-Minister for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia), Mrs Luisa Celma Meque (Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Food Safety of Mozambique), Mr Esteban Girón (Vice-Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama), Mr Victor Nazarenko (Minister in charge of Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission) and Mr Bakhromjon Norkobilov (Chairman of the State Veterinary Committee and Livestock Development of Uzbekistan).

10. In his address, the President highlighted the significant and positive steps taken towards delivering a stronger, sustainable and effective organisation, while providing a strong and influential voice on cross-sectoral issues of critical importance to all. He specifically underlined the work around the Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards, the renovation of the global animal health database and the strong representation of the OIE on antimicrobial resistance, as examples of the progress made by the OIE. He further stressed the important preparatory work initiated in relation to the 7th Strategic Plan which should support the ability of the Organisation to respond to broader future concerns in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, while taking into account the resources of the Organisation. Finally, he acknowledged the efforts made by Members in participating in the activities of what is fundamentally “their OIE”, including in the standard-setting process. He further encouraged engagement in regional and global conferences, to ensure a strong, influential and effective Organisation.
11. Following his address, the President handed the floor to Mr Simović, Mr Molao, Mr Pinzon, Ms Salford, Mr El Lakkiss, Mr Shiri, Ms Janimkhan, Mr Nazarenko, Mr Norkobilov, Ms Suzanne Camelia-Römer (Minister of health, environment and nature of Curaçao) and Ms Giulia Grillo (Minister of health of Italy), as well as Mr Ezechiel Junior Joseph (Minister for agriculture, fisheries, physical planning, natural resources and cooperatives of Saint Lucia), who sent a video message to the Assembly.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

12. Dr Schipp asked the Assembly to hold a minute of silence in memory of Delegates and others who had passed away during the past year. Dr Schipp reminded participants that in accordance with the *Basic Texts* of the OIE, honorary awards could be made to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2019 to receive the awards: Dr Trevor Drew (Australia) for the Gold Medal, and Drs Max François Millien (Haiti), Ahmed Mustafa Hassan Ali (Sudan) and Lonnie King (United States of America) for the Meritorious Service Award.
13. Dr Schipp commended Dr Drew and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and the veterinary world. He then delivered a speech in praise of Drs Millien, Hassan and King and presented them each with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
14. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony, notably to provide a graphic review of the achievements of 2018. The winners of the 2019 OIE photo competition, on the theme of activities of animal health and welfare professionals in various contexts, selected from each of the five regions of the OIE and the network of veterinary students that took part in the competition, were presented with their awards by the Director General. The President also awarded a certificate to South Africa, the country that won the Rinderpest Challenge 2018.
15. Following the ceremony, Dr Schipp declared open the 87th General Session of the Assembly.

○ MONDAY 27 MAY 2019 ○

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

16. The President welcomed the Delegates and handed over to Mr Didier Guillaume, Minister for Agriculture and Food of France. After welcoming the participants to Paris, the Minister reminded the Assembly of the importance of standard-setting work of the OIE, ranging from antimicrobial resistance to controlling certain animal diseases such as African swine fever. He concluded his address by stating that France would pursue its commitment and continue its support for the OIE.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Docs 87 SG/7 and 87 SG/8)

17. The President asked whether the participants had any comments on the agenda.
18. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

**Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda
for the 88th and 89th General Sessions**

19. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 88th and 89th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, chaired by Drs Him Hoo Yap (Singapore) and Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

20. The Assembly appointed Drs Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay) and Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), Members of the Council, to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
21. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President the list of Delegates who, owing to their country's arrears of statutory contributions due to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2018

(Doc. 87 SG/1)

22. Dr Éloit presented the salient points of the report on activities in 2018 contained in the summary of document 87 SG/1, with full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2018 having been described in the said report and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme had been carried out within the framework of the Sixth Strategic Plan and in application of the 3-year work programme adopted by the Assembly in 2015. This comprehensive overview enabled the Delegates to precisely monitor the consistency between the commitments made by the Director General and the results as they were being achieved during the 2016–2020 period covered by the Sixth Strategic Plan.
23. The 86th OIE General Session, held in May 2018, was very well attended.

24. Two conferences of Regional Commissions were successfully held in 2018: the 28th Conference for the Europe region (17-21 September 2018) and the 24th Conference for the Americas Region (19–23 November 2018), generously hosted by Georgia and the Dominican Republic, respectively.
25. At the end of 2018, the OIE had 182 Members. The office of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia) was officially opened in October 2018 in the presence of Russian Federation authorities, which provide institutional and financial support. Dr Éloit also informed the Assembly about a project to open a new sub-regional representation in Abu Dhabi, in response to a proposal from United Arab Emirates authorities, which will provide all the facilities needed for the success of the project via the Delegate and the ADFCA⁴.

Apart from the statutory activities of setting and revising animal health standards and disseminating information on Members' animal health status, the Director General pointed to the following activities:

- resumption of the activities of the four Specialist Commissions following the elections held during the May 2018 General Session, including the induction of the new members at a special meeting with the OIE Secretariats;
- implementation of the major animal disease control strategies: in addition to actions targeting foot and mouth disease and rabies, the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Global Eradication Programme continued with the establishment of a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN), followed by the organisation in September 2018, in partnership with the European Commission, of an OIE/FAO conference to raise funding. Furthermore, the third external evaluation of the GF-TADs⁵ joint platform for transboundary animal diseases culminated in the adoption of an action plan in November 2018;
- establishment of a clear, publicly shared policy on vaccine bank management;
- signing in May 2018 of a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the OIE, FAO and WHO⁶, which focuses particularly on fighting antimicrobial resistance. In this connection, the OIE has been heavily involved in the work of the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and held the Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 29 to 31 October 2018;
- development of the 7th edition of the OIE PVS⁷ Tool; organisation of three sub-regional training workshops on its use; completion of 23 PVS Pathway missions; organisation of nine IHR⁸-PVS regional workshops; and participation in 13 joint external evaluations of IHR implementation (JEE missions), in particular the work carried out on public-private partnerships, a theme very clearly identified during PVS missions;
- continuation of the project to redesign WAHIS⁹, which entered its development phase following the selection of a partner IT company. The new OIE-WAHIS application will incorporate many improvements in ergonomics, geographical information and data analysis; its initial deployment, now planned for 2020, will be accompanied by user training, as requested by the OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee at its second meeting in December 2018;

⁴ ADFCA: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

⁵ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

⁶ WHO: World Health Organization

⁷ PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

⁸ IHR: International Health Regulations (of WHO)

⁹ WAHIS: the OIE World Animal Health Information System

- continuation of work on the methodology of the future OIE Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards, with the formalisation of a partnership with the OECD¹⁰ and the definition of a governance system to monitor the project, the usefulness of which was underlined in the declaration of the G20 Agriculture Ministers at their meeting in Argentina on 27 July 2018;
 - launch of the new online version of the OIE *Bulletin* and the creation of a dedicated web page for self-declarations in order to facilitate online access to archives;
 - with regard to administrative matters, Dr Éloit mentioned the fresh impetus given to human resources policy with the creation of a dedicated unit and the support of the OECD-hosted International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (ISRP), the deployment of the new Information Systems Master Plan and the reduction of the risks identified by the internal control system.
26. During her presentation, Dr Éloit repeatedly emphasised the interdependence of the OIE's actions organised around the three priority objectives of the Strategic Plan. She was also keen to highlight efforts for better identification of strategies through advanced thinking on policies and programmes, for a major overhaul of tools (including OIE-WAHIS and the OIE Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards) and for continuing reforms to improve OIE internal governance. She recalled the attention given to certain bodies, such as the OIE Specialist Commissions, with the creation of a common Secretariat, the introduction of induction meetings for new members and a performance monitoring mechanism. She highlighted the implementation of the new, more participative and cross-cutting working methods. The Director General noted the three main elements underpinning the Sixth Strategic Plan to reinforce its political impact: credibility and visibility of the Organisation and the trust of its partners. She insisted on the fact that, under the Seventh Strategic Plan, the OIE's ambition should be to be influential, attractive and inspiring.
27. Dr Éloit ended her presentation by thanking not only OIE staff but also all those who had contributed so much to achieving these results: the members of the Specialist Commissions and *ad hoc* Groups who provided their scientific expertise; the experts from the network of Reference Centres; the host countries of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations; the Members that placed their staff at the disposal of the OIE and those that allocated funding to facilitate the development of an ambitious programme of activities; and the partners whose collaboration maximised the potential of the OIE's actions. She also extended her warmest thanks to all the Members for their encouragement and support.
28. The President commended the productivity and quality of the work of OIE staff to ensure successful implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan.
29. Norway congratulated the Director General on her report and appreciated the special emphasis given to aquaculture. Norway further congratulated the OIE and Chile on the successful Global Conference on Aquatic Animals held in April 2019. Norway pointed out that despite the increased focus on aquaculture in the activities of the OIE, there was still room for improvement. Norway highlighted that one of the major problems is centred around the lack of regulatory frameworks. Norway noted that while the PVS Pathway is a success story with 137 Members participating in the Pathway, only 13 have an aquaculture focus. Norway further noted that concerning the annual survey on antimicrobial use, only nine countries were capable of distinguishing data for aquatic food-producing animals. In this regard, the Delegate noted that more resources should be allocated. Norway drew attention to the fact that it was willing to continue to provide resources to the OIE and would like to see continued and increased engagement in aquatic animals, including in the Seventh Strategic Plan.

¹⁰ OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

30. The Director General confirmed that the OIE would do everything in its power to reinforce its actions in the field of aquaculture and thanked the members of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission for their commitment to the preparation of the Global Conference.
31. Senegal congratulated the OIE and its teams on the results achieved in implementing the Sixth Strategic Plan and underlined the importance of vaccine banks and the development of the Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards. Finally, Senegal thanked the OIE for conducting a PVS mission in 2018, the PVS laboratory mission and the twinning of laboratories scheduled for 2019, as well as the activities planned for the country for 2019 and for lobbying the World Bank for PPR control as part of the PRAPS¹¹ project.
32. Thailand thanked the Director General for her excellent presentation and noted that several global frameworks for specific diseases had been set up and applied with OIE support. Thailand stated that such actions represented a real opportunity for countries and the OIE to boost veterinary services in order to help Members to develop their work programmes. The Delegate confirmed that Thailand would continue to support the OIE, in particular to control FMD¹² and African swine fever.
33. India thanked Dr Éloit for her report and pointed out that AMR was a major problem that threatened populations. India suggested the inclusion of this issue in the Seventh Strategic Plan in order to resolve it. It also stressed the importance of traditional and alternative medicines.
34. The President acknowledged India's intervention and noted that there had already been an initial debate on traditional and alternative medicines by the Council, and that the WHO was going to discuss it this week during its world assembly.
35. Argentina congratulated the Director General on her excellent report, which was a source of inspiration for Veterinary Services. Argentina also noted the work carried out in the G20 during its presidency, which had allowed the inclusion of the issues of AMR and the OIE Observatory for the implementation of Standards, stressing the importance of the project.
36. Armenia thanked the Director General for her excellent report and for the PVS missions conducted in Armenia this year. Armenia highlighted the problem of "fake news" that needed to be dealt with because certain organisations that objected to livestock production might accuse the OIE of producing false scientific information. She pointed out that the OIE should have an effective platform for combating fake news.
37. Iran thanked the President, the Director General and the OIE for their support during the past year. Iran explained that it had suffered from various sanctions. It suggested that the OIE Council should take steps to help it to obtain veterinary medicines and diagnostic kits and to facilitate trade in the import and export of certain products of animal origin. Iran expressed its desire to contribute to the "One Health" concept promoted by the OIE.
38. The President noted Iran's comments.
39. China (People's Rep. of) supports the annual report of the Director General on the activities of the OIE in 2018. In particular, China (People's Rep. of) acknowledges the OIE's efforts in TAD such as ASF and FMD, cooperating and coordinating with FAO and WHO and organizing important meetings across the world.
40. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

¹¹ PRARS: Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project

¹² FMD: Foot and Mouth Disease

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2018**

41. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

TECHNICAL ITEM 1

**How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns)
will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required**

(Doc. 87 SG/9)

42. Dr Majid Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Jimmy Smith, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.
43. Dr Smith presented his report, which included an analysis of the responses received to a questionnaire that had been sent to OIE Delegates in February 2019.
44. The Technical Item addressed the question of how external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services over the next 10 years and the adaptations required. Information gathering was centred on a questionnaire sent to OIE Members but included expert elicitation, a scenario-building workshop, and a complementary questionnaire sent to external stakeholders. The response rate to the OIE Member questionnaire was high (74%) and balanced across OIE regions and income categories.
45. A long list of 59 external factors highly relevant to Veterinary Services was developed through a structured expert survey. The most relevant 17 external factors were evaluated by OIE Members and stakeholders. There was overall high level of concern over external factors, good levels of knowledge, fewer current activities (i.e. adaptation) and even less activities oriented towards future change (i.e. preparedness). The high agreement between OIE Members' responses and stakeholders' responses supports the external validity of these assessments.
46. Both OIE Members and stakeholders judged Veterinary Services to have appropriate priorities, high levels of capacity, and strong influence; both groups of respondents also saw opportunities to further strengthen these. Through scenario planning, a preferred future "Green Growth with Equity" was identified along with suggestions for what Veterinary Services could do to help bring this about.
47. OIE Members reported on the current future-oriented activities of Veterinary Services, showing overall high engagement in general planning and disease and health risk assessments, but less use of institutional risk assessment or formal foresight studies. However, they assessed these as highly important for Veterinary Services, thus implying a gap that needed to be overcome to enable Veterinary Services to be better prepared for an uncertain future. OIE Members identified and ranked actions that could support the capacity of Veterinary Services for foresight and adaptation, including areas which the OIE would lead.

Discussion on the Technical Item 1

48. Dr Al Qassimi thanked Dr Smith and congratulated him on the excellent presentation prepared with ILRI collaborators.
49. He opened the floor for discussion and comments regarding Dr Smith's analysis.
50. Australia thanked the OIE for this future-focused Technical Item which has raised many important issues for Veterinary Services to consider and highlighted that, while the investigated external factors are identified as future threats, many of them are already present and seriously impacting animal health and countries' economies as experienced recently by Australia. Australia emphasised that Veterinary Services will need to substantially expand their focus beyond animal diseases in order to be prepared to face the potential health impact of the climate crisis, such as in the recent flood events experienced by the Australian state of Queensland. In this regard, Australia asked if the OIE should extend its One Health horizons by working with a wider variety of other professions, such as engineering, social sciences, and environmental sciences, thereby overcoming a 'siloed' approach.
51. Speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), the Netherlands thanked Dr Smith for his interesting presentation and welcomed this initiative which consulted not only Members, but also other stakeholders. However, the EU expressed concern about the complexity, length and possibly subjective nature of some sections of the questionnaire, which may have resulted in responses not representative of official government positions but rather individuals' points of view. It was suggested that, in the future, such broad and complex topics might be better explored through a more streamlined approach; for example, a series of shorter questionnaires, followed by telephone interviews with a representative number of respondents. The EU recommended that the OIE consider the length and the frequency of the use of questionnaires for future consultation processes.

The EU noted that respondents perceived that the future work of Veterinary Services will likely be impacted by external factors, including climate change, for which they are generally underprepared. The EU proposed that the OIE could importantly address this topic through its inclusion in the future Seventh Strategic Plan. By focusing upon some of the valuable information that has been gained from this consultation, the OIE could facilitate the strengthening of Veterinary Services' capacities as they deal with current and future challenges.

52. China (People's Republic of) acknowledged the importance of the OIE drawing attention to external factors such as climate change, in order that Members might be better prepared to deal with evolving challenges. Recent disease emergence, such as that of African swine fever in Asia have demonstrated the need for more research, preparation and capacity building in order to mitigate potentially serious impacts of major diseases and pandemics. China (People's Rep. of) offered its support to the OIE to address this issue and help other countries to be better prepared.
53. Benin, speaking on behalf of the 54 African Members of the OIE, congratulated Dr Smith and his collaborators for the excellent analysis of this Technical Item. Africa noted that the identified external factors seriously disrupt production systems, trade and reduce producer resilience; the Rapporteurs' recommendations to help address their impact were greatly welcomed. Africa encouraged Members to allocate more resources to capacity building of stakeholders, to integrate aspects of climate change into the OIE PVS Pathway and into regional and national research policies, and to entrench 'climate smart' agricultural practices in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.

54. Switzerland welcomed OIE efforts in investigating external factors that might affect the work of the Veterinary Services. While commenting positively on the use of scenarios in this survey, Switzerland supported the EU comment concerning the length and complexity of the questionnaire and invited the OIE to take this into consideration in the future.
55. Oman advised that external factors such as climate change can be inherently linked to other natural phenomena, such as flooding, tsunamis, etc. Oman therefore considered it necessary to have a greater understanding of possible interrelationships in order to plan and respond optimally to potential disasters and related high numbers of losses due to animal deaths.
56. Dr Smith welcomed the support from the Members and responded to their interventions. Addressing Australia's suggestion for the OIE to work more horizontally with other sectors, Dr Smith noted that global efforts to look at animal health from a broader, One Health perspective approach were already being implemented, but agreed that this should be expanded further, including to other disciplines, such as engineering and environmental sciences. He suggested that cooperation with other sectors should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Dr Smith acknowledged the complexity and length of the questionnaire, but reminded the Assembly that as the External factors that could affect Veterinary Services were numerous, investigating all of them with a very short survey would not be possible. He also added that, due to the fact that these factors were deeply interconnected, analysing them in separate surveys with a sequential approach might impact the richness and completeness of replies. Responding to the EU concern about the possible subjectivity and non-representativeness of survey replies, Dr Smith highlighted that these possibilities had been taken into due consideration and the possibility of error was mitigated by the large sample size of respondents; he noted that the replies confirmed expectations.
57. Dr Delia Grace, co-Rapporteur for this Technical Item, also acknowledged Members' concerns about the length and complexity of the consultation and expressed gratitude for the nonetheless high level of response. She pointed out that the 59 original external factors had in fact been reduced to 17, with all 17 having been endorsed as being "highly important". Dr Grace pointed out the particular value of consulting both OIE Members and external stakeholders, in order to appreciate possible divergence in perceived priorities for the Veterinary Services.
58. The OIE Director General, Dr Monique Éloit, thanked Dr Smith and Dr Grace, along with the other colleagues who had worked on this consultation. Noting that in 2019 the OIE would be preparing its Seventh Strategic Plan, she pointed out that this forward-looking consultation has allowed the OIE to receive valuable feedback on the expectations of its Members and partners. This information, along with that provided by, for example, external socio-economic analyses and internal WAHIS analyses, would help the OIE to determine what would need to be developed by the OIE or in collaboration with its partners. She stated that partnerships such as that with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) were important to the OIE, which was seeking to continue to develop new relationships with a variety of relevant stakeholders, including those beyond the veterinary sector. Dr Éloit acknowledged that, while the OIE alone could not address all Member needs, identifying relevant partnerships and synergies would provide more appropriate and better Member support. Dr Éloit thanked the Members and stakeholders for their response to this consultation, which, though complex, would support the OIE in the preparation of a Seventh Strategic Plan.
59. The Chair of the session once again congratulated Dr Smith on his presentation and he invited Australia, Benin, China (People's Rep. of), The Netherlands, Oman and Switzerland to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption.

○ TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019 ○

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE

*Using economic data to drive prioritization, strategic planning
and performance monitoring of animal health interventions
(Panel Discussion)*

60. Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General of the OIE, chaired the panel dedicated to “Using economic data to drive prioritization, strategic planning and performance monitoring of animal health interventions”.
61. Dr Stone introduced the participants from the WTO¹³, OECD, FAO, WHO, and the World Bank Group, and he invited Professor Jonathan Rushton to introduce the debate by presenting a follow-up to resolution n°35 adopted at the 84th General Session in May 2016.
62. Professor Rushton commenced his presentation by outlining the challenges and drawing the attention of the Assembly to the pressing need to address greater food demand and to manage the pressure of food production on the use of land, water and air. He affirmed that collective efforts must be made for a more equitable distribution of food production and consumption, and that this would be enabled, in part, by increased connectivity, movement and trade across the livestock sectors. Notwithstanding this scenario, he referenced the following three main challenges. Firstly, he stated that the global community and national Veterinary Services are faced with the constant risk of endemic and emerging disease spread. Secondly, he pointed out that the impacts of livestock on the environment and public health have continued to be highly publicised, and that there is a limited understanding of the importance and value of animals in society and signalled the role of animals for populations and individuals living in poverty. Lastly, he underlined that national Veterinary Service budgets have continued to be subject to cuts and downsizing. Professor Rushton urged the Assembly to collectively confront such challenges and that, to do so, it will be necessary to review existing approaches to resource allocation for animal health and the manner in which the role of animals in society is communicated and taught, with efforts focused on the critical role livestock play in the lives of the poor and in the global food system.
63. After having taken stock of the challenges, Professor Rushton launched an appeal to the Assembly stressing the need for common and clear messaging on the role of animals and the importance of managing animal health and welfare, to inform the broader community how core Veterinary Service activities contribute to the economic, social, food security and environmental goals. Linked to this, he highlighted that animal health professionals play a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To demonstrate the intrinsic link, the OIE, its Members and partners need to become more systematic in the generation and use of data and the capacity to transform it into reliable information and intelligence. In order to do so, he noted that it was imperative to have access to accurate information on the social, economic and environmental burdens of animal diseases.
64. Today, Professor Rushton stated, this was not possible given that the current use of economics in animal health has largely been restricted to estimating the impact of diseases that have already been considered as important, as well as to providing cost-benefit analyses to justify strategies that have already been developed. He suggested that the emphasis of the current use of economics was for advocacy purposes and thus, the focus on individual diseases provided only a partial analysis. He stated that such approaches put Veterinary Services in a vulnerable position when presenting and justifying their

¹³ WTO: World Trade Organization

investment plans since it has not started from the perspective of the optimal use of resources to achieve policy objectives.

65. He then provided a detailed overview of the *GBADs*¹⁴, revealing to the Assembly the added value of this new approach. GBADS, he stated, would systematically describe the burden of animal health issues and improve use of economics in animal health. Professor Rushton disclosed that this would be done via:
- Firstly, by defining the animal health loss envelope. He stated that by using an updated animal population and production system model and real farm level data on output and fixed and variable costs, a difference would be calculated between the current enterprise budget and a “Utopia” where production would be maximised. Professor Rushton clarified that the difference would constitute the health loss envelope, which could be used to comprehensively quantify the animal disease burden.
 - Secondly, by attributing or assigning the health loss envelope to different diseases, co-morbidities and health issues. This dimension of GBADs is important in order to understand how different diseases contribute to the overall animal disease burden. It will involve the careful construction of an animal health ontology followed by systematic examination of attribution. He indicated that this would start with disease, country and industry sector case studies and the active engagement of established experts.
66. To achieve this, Professor Rushton signalled that collective efforts will be required to improve by making systematic the collection, collation and analysis of data in order to generate comparable estimates of the animal disease burden. He informed the Assembly that a secure knowledge engine would be constructed using the latest computer science technology, and that it would draw on data and information from multiple sources, including among others, population and price databases, academic journals and potentially specifically commissioned studies. Engagement with the commercial livestock sector was identified as necessary due to their important data assets. Professor Rushton made reference to the strong links that would need to be established with OIE-WAHIS, to access valuable and official information on disease presence and levels. He stated that the output of the knowledge engine would be publicly available information, which describes: the distribution and value of livestock; the total burden of animal diseases; and lastly, the attribution of this burden to specific health issues. He affirmed that GBADS would provide a basis for evidence-based investment plans for Veterinary Services in support of the PVS Pathway; demonstrate the rationale allocation of resources to key social, economic and environmental problems highlighted using the PVS Pathway; and, support high-quality evaluation of existing animal health investments.
67. Professor Rushton drew attention to the fact that the livestock sector, supported by animal health activities, was under great pressure to demonstrate how it could make a difference from an economic, social and environmental perspective. He pointed out to the Assembly that the status quo, being a reliance on analyses of variable quality for a limited number of diseases and strategies based on inadequate data, was no longer acceptable and would not deliver the compelling case for investment that is needed to ensure Veterinary Services contribute their full potential to the Sustainable Development Goals. He urged the Assembly to recognise and commit to the provision of more accurate information based on the holistic role of animals in society. In closing his presentation, Professor Rushton emphasised that GBADS was a major component of such a need and that it would be essential to guiding efforts to strengthen Veterinary Services globally.

¹⁴ GBADs: Global Burden of Animal Diseases Programme

68. Dr Stone congratulated Professor Rushton for his presentation and invited all the participants to respond to questions on the topic.
69. The representative of FAO, Dr Berhe Tekola was asked to provide the Assembly with information on (1) FAO's strategy on the use of economic data to drive prioritisation, strategic planning and performance monitoring of animal health interventions and (2) how FAO prioritises economic aspects of disease control and safe trade to contribute to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
70. Dr Tekola responded to the first question by emphasising the close link between animal health and economics, and stated that any decision taken to prevent, control and/or eradicate an animal disease must not only be based on technical knowledge, but must also consider the effectiveness and socio-economic aspects of the interventions and mitigation measures implemented along the livestock value chain. Dr Tekola pointed out that economic rationale drives decision-making and the assessments of investments and heralded the need for an improved understanding and recognition of the value of economic analyses to assess the impact of animal diseases; this was particularly relevant, he claimed, in the design and/or implementation of animal health strategies at national, regional or global levels. He further stressed that limited access to quality data is a major constraint to the development of economic policies and their implementation which are inclusive of smallholder farming.
71. Dr Tekola cited peste-de-petits-ruminants (PPR) as an example and gave figures on the estimated economic losses as a result of animal deaths, reduced production and the cost associated with disease control; for which, he confirmed, Africa is the most impacted followed by South Asia. The control and eradication of PPR would eliminate such burden and improve the profitability and productivity of small ruminant husbandry systems. The total cost of the 15-year PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) has been estimated at USD 1 billion. Dr Tekola reminded the Assembly that economic analyses were undertaken to inform the development of the PPR GEP.
72. In response to the second question, Dr Tekola noted that the development of practical strategies and guidance to address endemic and emerging threats from animal sources are developed by FAO to assure safe trade, efficient production and food safety. Linked to this, he delineated the positive aspects of the livestock sector and its contribution to achieving the SDGs. To assess the economic impacts of transboundary animal diseases, he signalled to the Assembly the importance of "attribution"; a concept that he defined as: "ensuring that the economic impact estimated is due to the disease being assessed".
73. In concluding, he stated that the *Global Burden of Animal Diseases Programme* would make a substantial contribution to harmonising the analysis and assessment of impacts associated to animal diseases globally and would be a valuable advocacy tool to support negotiations within government and resource partners for appropriate investments in Veterinary Services. He underscored that FAO was a strategic partner of GBADs and reiterated FAO's commitment to this important initiative and confirmed that it would be the key user of its outputs.
74. Dr Stone asked the WHO representative, Dr John Grove, what are the critical issues that users should consider when generating estimates to inform health interventions.
75. Dr Grove stressed the importance of understanding the use of and users of the data; this would enable GBADs to present the outputs in accordance with the needs of the different audiences (policy-makers, technicians, managers, health care providers, researchers, modellers, etc). He drew the attention of the Assembly to the fact that WHO uses the SDGs -as an example - as a guide to define which measures are targeted for estimation to facilitate reporting and to identify information gaps necessary to generate the estimates.

He stated that the estimation of each item could be either solid or weak, and this is purely dependant on the strength of the underlying data. Linked to this, he pointed out that the improvement of empirical data systems and reporting at country level is of equal importance to the theoretical process of modelling.

76. He stated that uncertainty ranges for the estimates are a concern and that users must recognise that several techniques can be used to elaborate a data point for those items which are missing data. Consequently, modellers may often take liberty in their interpretations of the data and, in these cases, he underscored the importance of documenting and sharing any such decisions with the users. In view of this, Dr Grove underlined that it would be particularly important for policy-makers to possess a basic economic literacy of what is included in burden of disease models. This would, he claimed, enable them to appropriately interrogate the data and to avoid making definitive statements on data points with high variability or uncertainty.
77. Dr Grove stated that to make the data actionable, he recommended that focus be directed towards data use and in investing in the enabling environment at global, regional and country levels. He provided examples which included, among others, creating direct relationships with country data officers and the establishment of efficient monitoring and evaluation working groups at the country level.
78. When asked if he could provide recommendations to address challenges related to data sources and quality in the development of GBADs, Dr Grove provided the following guidance:
- Firstly, he recommended that GBADs invest in the development of a guideline or checklist to ensure that all collaborators and users are aligned and speak the same language. Such guidelines would also be used as a platform to share information about the modelled data which is being analysed and disseminated. As an example, he stated that the WHO developed the GATHER checklist¹⁵, which defines and promotes good practices in reporting health estimates. This checklist is published online and is available in the public domain.
 - Secondly, he recommended the need to invest in data systems at country level. In human health, he signalled that the main challenges are obtaining good quality data assigning the cause of death and the care and services provided throughout an individual life. To address such data deficits, WHO developed a technical package – titled SCORE - to strengthen country health data systems and capacity to strengthen data and systems for monitoring health priorities. He stated that the SCORE package encouraged national policy-makers to invest in a selected number of interventions and tools that would have the greatest impact on the quality, availability, analysis, use and accessibility of national data. The five key strategies of the SCORE framework are: Survey, Count, Optimise, Review, Enable (SCORE).
79. Dr Stone turned to the representative for the OECD, Ms Céline Kaufmann, to scope insights into lessons learned and recommendations in the promotion of a more systematic use of data in policy decision-making and data governance.

¹⁵ <http://gather-statement.org/>

80. Ms Kaufmann described for the Assembly that the OECD is a data-driven organisation, which collects and analyses data to support policy making. She cited a number of tools and governance frameworks available to guide and support governments' use of evidence for policy development, including recommendations and guidelines for the protection of personal data, health data governance and principles on artificial intelligence.
81. In terms of OECD insights and lessons learned to foster the use of data and evidence in policy making, she described the work of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee. The mandate of the OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee is to assist members and partners to promote strategic, evidence-based and innovative public policy outcomes, thus principally supporting efforts across governments to design and deliver effective regulatory frameworks. Ms Kauffmann highlighted the "Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance" as a measure to deliver regulations that meet public policy objectives with a positive impact on the economy and society, while promoting systematic assessment, stakeholder engagement, and evaluating the impacts of policy.

She underscored its complexity and pointed out that it is more common to find examples of policy-based evidence rather than evidence-based policy. Ms Kaufmann used country examples to outline recommended steps for undertaking impact assessments and engaging stakeholders early in the process. She emphasised the coordination across government in data management. She recognised that stakeholders at national level are fatigued by constant demands for data, and therefore data should be collected once, and shared across agencies. She recommended to the OIE and GBADs to provide sufficient information upfront to its data sources coupled with ample time to respond and to only collect necessary data. With regards to the challenge of data quality for a programme such as GBADs, she highlighted the importance of the quality of the evidence, to counter erosion of trust in government, and in recognition of the increased complexity of issues and multiplication of information sources; in this context, evidence used should abide by established quality standards.

82. To understand the use and value of reliable data of the burden of animal diseases for the WTO membership, Dr Stone opened the floor to the representative of WTO, Mr Rolando Alcalá, to explain what impact such data could have on trade agreements or trade measures. Mr Alcalá stated that the availability of trustworthy economic data would significantly benefit WTO Members. He reminded the Assembly that the WTO, like the OIE, is a members-driven organisation and that its principal goal is to support producers of goods and services, as well as exporters and importers, to conduct business.
83. In this regard, he affirmed that economic data would help WTO Members make investment decisions concerning market access, including on how best to allocate their limited resources amongst various sectors. Specific to animal health, he mentioned that high quality economic data would be valuable to inform decisions such as whether to invest in the eradication of specific diseases or not, and which animal production to prioritise. This would support the public and private sectors to make informed investments. He referred to article 5.3 of the SPS Agreement¹⁶, which requires that risk assessments consider relevant economic factors, such as potential damage in terms of loss of production or sales in the event of the entry of a disease, the costs of control or eradication, and the relative cost-effectiveness of alternative approaches to limiting risks. He reiterated that the availability of reliable economic data would help WTO Members incorporate economic factors in risk assessments and inform which risk mitigation measures should be put in place. From a regulatory perspective, he stated that the availability of data on the economic impact of measures and regulations would help WTO Members to more effectively defend their

¹⁶ SPS Agreement: WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

market access interests and assert decisions based on cost-benefit analyses. He also noted that such information could provide guidance on which market access problems should receive priority.

84. Mr Alcala also spoke of the implications of economic data on the work of the WTO Secretariat to support the settlement of trade disputes among its Members. For example, when necessary he stated that a complainant country could obtain compensation for export losses following the imposition of an import ban, should it be judged to be a violation of WTO rules. The availability of economic data (prices, exports quantities, elasticities, etc.) would furthermore help to calculate export losses more accurately. In addition to providing a mechanism for dispute settlement, he informed the Assembly that the WTO also acts as a forum for the periodic review of its Members trade policies. This peer review mechanism encourages Members to follow more closely the WTO's rules and to fulfil their commitments. More and better-quality economic data would help in accurate assessment of the impacts of countries' trade policies and practices. He also mentioned the WTO's regular trade monitoring reports as another important transparency mechanism; these reports identify trade-related measures implemented by Members, estimating inter alia the trade coverage of the import-facilitating and import-restrictive measures. He reiterated that in this area, high-quality economic data would help quantify such trade impacts in a reliable manner.
85. Dr Stone asked Dr Franck Berthe from the World Bank Group to elaborate on how they use economic data to inform programmes and to prioritise decisions.
86. Dr Franck Berthe informed the Assembly that the World Bank Group is a multi-sectoral global organisation¹⁷ centred on the twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. In response to the question, he stated the World Bank Group's main counterpart in countries is the Ministry of Finance, even if projects are developed through the different line ministries and cover priority sectors in alignment with national strategic priorities. For this reason, he stated that economic information and economic data are an essential component of the dialogue with clients and are used to justify the investment case. Specific to the animal health sector, the World Bank Group affirmed that prevention is better than cure and thus better data on the impact of animal disease would be largely useful to demonstrate the return on investment of animal health interventions including Veterinary Services capacity development. As an example, he made reference to pandemic influenza, which delivers a 25% return rate assuming one in five pandemics have been prevented, providing an estimated impact of 3.7 trillion USD, based on a 1% annual probability of a new pandemic, as well as estimated prevention costs of 3.4 billion USD per year. He underscored the importance of providing economic elements into animal health discourse to empower advocacy efforts and aligning them to the expectations of investors. He made reference to the global ASF¹⁸ outbreaks and highlighted the need to assess the impact of the disease and to acquire timely economic data; this would provide the necessary arguments to justify investments to prevent future outbreaks and to facilitate the mobilisation of resources to respond to the current crisis.
87. Dr Stone then asked Dr Berthe how reliable data on the costs of animal disease would transform the way the World Bank Group works.

¹⁷ Five institutions comprise the World Bank Group, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

¹⁸ ASF: African Swine Fever

88. In response and concerning the agriculture sector, he signalled that requests to the World Bank Group for support for livestock operations - either as a stand-alone project or within broader agriculture/health projects - had increased from an average of 150 million USD in annual lending commitments in 2000 to circa 250 million USD over the lending period 2016-2018, contributing to a total of 1.4 billion USD as active investments in livestock for the World Bank Group. He stated that the availability of reliable data on the costs of animal diseases would enable the World Bank Group to better help countries design and implement investments. Coupled with the use of PVS Pathway outputs, estimates on the burden of diseases at the national level would be powerful to steer investments targeting the strengthening of Veterinary Services.
89. In conclusion, Dr Stone thanked the panellists for their excellent and targeted replies. He noted that a great deal of guidance had been shared, and that the OIE and its GBADs partners would use this information to build a robust and relevant system from the outset. He launched an appeal to the Assembly to develop economic competencies at national level and to build relationships with relevant agencies having economic expertise to support the development of investment cases and demonstrate the performance of those investments in order to improve animal health globally.

Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends

(Doc. 87 SG/2)

90. Dr Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña, Acting Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, indicated that this presentation had been prepared based on the various reports that countries had submitted to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) up to and including 20 May 2019. She declared that the presentation would begin with an evaluation of the global compliance of Members with their reporting obligations and the general quality of the reports submitted, adding that the presentation would continue with a description of the global situation regarding six OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest, divided into two groups based on their main routes of spread: namely, three vector-borne diseases (infection with Rift Valley fever virus, West Nile fever and infection with bluetongue virus) and three diseases spread through movements of animals and animal products (infection with avian influenza viruses, infection with koi herpesvirus and infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*). She informed the Assembly that the presentation would conclude with an update on the OIE-WAHIS project.
91. **Global compliance with reporting obligations**

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña showed that the number of immediate notifications that Members had submitted to the OIE had increased from 91 in 2005 to 332 in 2018 and, similarly, the number of follow-up reports had increased from 164 in 2005 to 1746 in 2017 and then slightly decreased to 1655 in 2018, corresponding to a tenfold increase in the number of follow-up reports submitted by Members over a period of 13 years.

She indicated that more than half of the reports were concentrated in only four diseases, all of which have a high impact on trade. Specifically, infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAI) (considering diseases of the OIE-List for both domestic and wild birds) was the most frequently reported disease, with 23% of all reports, followed by African swine fever (17%), foot and mouth disease (10%) and bluetongue (7%).

She added that since 2005, the OIE Region that had submitted the highest number of early warning reports was Europe (average of 55% of all reports), followed by Asia, the Far East and Oceania (26%), the Americas (15%), Africa (14%) and the Middle East (4%). She showed that the contribution of the different Regions to the total number of reports had

varied slightly over the years, chiefly due to the animal health situation in the Regions, even though their different size and the increasing number of Members had to be taken into consideration.

She recalled that, according to the *Codes*, Members had to respect a delay of no more than 24 hours after the confirmation of an event to send the immediate notification corresponding to one of the diseases on the OIE List that, according to the provisions of Article 1.1.3, was present in their territory, and then send weekly follow-up reports, according to Article 1.1.4. She pointed out that this obligation had been used in the analysis as an indicator of the quality of the reports.

She showed the time (in days) from the reported start of the event to its confirmation and from confirmation of the event to the submission of the corresponding immediate notification to the OIE, as well as the total time from start to submission for all immediate notifications, for the period 2015 to 2018. The median time from the start of the first outbreak to the confirmation of the event was 5 days, although marked variations had been observed, with a maximum delay of 352 days. The time from confirmation to the submission of the report was shorter, with a median of 3 days and a maximum delay of 280 days. The median overall delay in reporting from the start of the event to the submission of the immediate notification was 11 days. The observed wide ranges in notification delay had strongly influenced the averages. She indicated that this could be explained by the fact that most of the notifications had been sent within a relatively short delay, whereas some had been sent with a very long delay (up to more than one year). She pointed out that only 29% of immediate notification reports had been submitted within the prescribed time limit of 24 hours after confirmation of the event.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña concluded that these general results were encouraging, but more efforts should be put into improving response times for the notification of events, in order to comply with OIE requirements. In line with this, the OIE was planning to integrate in its new OIE-WAHIS system, under development, some functionalities designed to facilitate the flow of official animal disease information from the local to the international level, under the responsibility of the Delegate.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña continued by indicating that OIE Members' compliance with six-monthly reporting requirements had been very high for terrestrial animal diseases for many years and this should be highlighted as a major achievement of all OIE Members. On the other hand, the compliance level for aquatic animal disease reports had been lower, with marked regional discrepancies. She concluded that a challenge for the coming years would be to improve the aquatic animal health networks in countries, so that aquatic animal health information could be more easily shared between all Members.

She declared that the OIE *Codes* did not set any requirement for the submission times of six-monthly reports and stated that the median submission time had decreased from 9 months for the 1st semester of 2006 to four months for the 1st semester of 2008 and then remained relatively stable at between three and four months.

She added that the content of these reports had been analysed in relation to the level of detail provided for the diseases by type of report (aquatic vs terrestrial) and showed that both types of reports presented very different characteristics. She indicated that the percentages of OIE-listed diseases with information provided, with the more accurate level of information (quantitative information provided by month and by administrative divisions) had been high for terrestrial reports (>50%), which was satisfactory. They had been lower for the aquatic reports, as the number of diseases for which no information had been provided and the level of quantitative detail of the information provided had been in each case lower than in the terrestrial reports; in more than 50% of the aquatic reports, no disease had been reported as present.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña then reminded the Assembly that annual reports included contextual information on the capacities of the national animal health services in terms of staff, diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production, the situation regarding zoonoses in humans and livestock and aquatic production. She stated that the percentage of Members that had submitted their mandatory annual report had remained high at between 81% and 97%. She added that the OIE *Codes* did not set any requirement for the submission time of annual reports and that the median submission time had decreased from 8 months in 2006 to 3 months in 2017.

Finally, she declared that the percentage of Members that had submitted the optional annual report for non OIE-listed diseases in wildlife had initially increased from 2008 (32%) to 2011 (56%), then decreased up to 2015 (23%) and remained relatively stable for 2016 (26%) and 2017 (24%). She added that only a quarter of OIE Members had contributed to the global effort of providing information on diseases in wildlife populations for 2017. She concluded by saying that these results also suggested that a number of Delegates experienced difficulty in collecting and sharing reliable information on wildlife health and, for this reason, it would be appropriate for Delegates to provide comments on the importance of providing information on this issue and on the challenges they faced in doing so.

As a conclusion to this first part of the presentation, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña identified as main successes: the significant increase in the amount of early warning reports received from Members during the study periods, which suggested improvements in Members' transparency and compliance with the requirements of the OIE Codes; the high rates of report submission measured for six-monthly reports on terrestrial animal diseases and annual reports, together with the reasonable submission times observed in recent years for these reports; and the information and detailed quantitative data provided in six-monthly reports. She emphasised, however, some gaps related to the reactivity for the confirmation of events and the submission of immediate notifications after event confirmation, and in terms of the regularity with which Members shared follow-up information on exceptional disease events after the initial notification as well as in reporting on topics such as aquatic animal diseases and wildlife diseases.

92. Global situation regarding six OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest, based on their main routes of spread

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña started this second part by stating that climate change, which had had an undeniable effect on the distribution of vector-borne diseases, and international trade were both likely to be among the most significant drivers for infectious disease spread and epidemics. She carried on with the analysis of six diseases which exemplified those two routes of spread: vectors and movements of animals and animal products.

93. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña showed on a map the reported distribution of Rift Valley fever (RVF) in 2018 and early 2019, which had been reported as present in 9% (17/186) of the reporting countries and territories, all of them located in the African continent and nearby islands.

A total of seven immediate notifications had been submitted from six different countries. In March 2018, South Sudan reported the first occurrence of the disease in the country, whereas the other five immediate notifications reported the recurrence of RVF in nearby countries. Dr Arroyo Kuribreña highlighted that the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa had provided South Sudan with support in complying with its reporting obligations and submitting the immediate notification.

She then specified that South Africa in May 2018 and Kenya in June 2018 had each reported the recurrence of the disease and that in July 2018 the OIE had contacted the Delegates of Members in East Africa and Southern Africa to raise awareness of the situation and encourage them to share information and report any significant outcome of their animal health investigations. Rwanda in August 2018, Uganda in September 2018, Kenya again in February 2019 and Chad in May 2019 had also reported the recurrence of the disease.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña specified that an average of 5% of reporting countries and territories had notified the presence of RVF each semester, varying from 2% in 2005 to a maximum of 9% reached in 2018. On average, 70% of the countries had not reported any quantitative information despite reporting the disease as present.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña emphasised that the complexity of the epidemiological cycles of RVF (inter-epizootic and epizootic periods) coupled with the different approaches of the countries in RVF reporting created difficulties for the harmonisation and interpretation of RVF reports. She added that to resolve this issue and clarify the notification requirements, Chapter 8.15. “Infection with Rift Valley fever virus” of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* had been submitted for revision to the relevant OIE Commissions. Any proposed changes to the chapter would be circulated to Members for consultation prior to potential adoption.

Moreover, she specified that the distribution and occurrence of RVF epidemics were likely to be directly affected by climate change, as global warming could affect the three main components of the RVF cycle (i.e. vectors, virus and hosts). Consequently, the OIE was continuing to work closely with FAO and WHO through the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) to try to detect high-risk and emergency situations as early as possible and coordinate the response at the human–animal interface.

94. **West Nile fever**

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña continued by indicating that West Nile fever (WNF) had been reported present in 12% (22/191) of the reporting countries, which were widely distributed in four different continents. She presented on a map the reported distribution of WNF in 2018 and early 2019; half of the affected countries during the last year were located in Europe (14/26), although the disease had also been reported as present in other continents, including America, Africa and Asia (Middle East).

She stated that 18 immediate notifications had been sent through WAHIS from 11 different countries; five of them for a first occurrence of the disease: Brazil in June 2018, Germany in August 2018, Slovenia and Romania in September 2018 and Bulgaria in October 2018. She added that six countries had reported a recurrence of WNF: Greece in July 2018, France and Croatia in September 2018, Portugal and Turkey in October 2018 and Tunisia in December 2018. She also stated that an average of 10% of the reporting countries and territories by semester had notified the presence of WNF.

However, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña showed on a graph that there was a seasonality in the reported occurrence of the disease, with an increase in the number of affected countries during the second semester of each year, which corresponded to the transmission period of WNF in the Mediterranean Basin due to the period of peak mosquito activity (June to November). Moreover, she pointed out that the WNF transmission season in Europe in 2018 had started earlier than in previous years. The weather conditions observed in Europe in summer 2018 had been ideal for the propagation of mosquitoes. These factors could have favoured an earlier upsurge of the mosquito population in South-Eastern Europe leading to an earlier and higher incidence of the disease (7.2-fold increase compared to the 2017 season).

She concluded by indicating that in the United States of America, an upsurge in human cases of WNF had also been observed in 2018 and represented a 20% increase in the number of human cases compared to the previous year.

95. Infection with bluetongue virus

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña then presented the analysis of bluetongue, a disease of global interest, since competent vectors were present in numerous areas in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

She presented a map showing its distribution in 2018 and early 2019, observing that it had been reported present by 25% of the reporting countries and territories.

She specified that bluetongue had been reported by means of immediate notifications by nine countries; two had notified the first occurrence of new strains (serotype 3 in Italy and serotype 8 in Turkey) and seven had notified the recurrence: Belgium, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Portugal and Tunisia.

She specified that, during the period from 2018 to early 2019, 15 different serotypes had been reported and 35% of the affected countries and territories had been able to provide information on the circulating serotype.

She showed that the percentage of reporting countries and territories notifying bluetongue as present had increased from 15% in the 1st semester of 2005 to 20% in the 1st semester of 2018, which reflected a significant increase during the whole period.

To better understand the disease dynamics in space and time, a map representing information on disease occurrence since 1996 had been plotted. In the period 1996-2004, 79 countries and territories had reported the presence of the disease: 42 countries and territories in 1996-1997 before the spread of the disease to Southern Europe and Northern Africa, and 71 countries and territories in the period 1998-2004. Between 2005 and 2019, 43 countries had reported the presence or suspicion of bluetongue through 178 immediate notifications. During the period 2005-2019, the further spread of the disease to Northern and Eastern Europe was quite evident.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña concluded the section on vector-borne diseases by stating that an increase in the incidence of RVF, WNF and bluetongue outbreaks had been observed.

She finished by giving a series of OIE recommendations: surveillance activities for these vector-borne diseases should be stepped up in high-risk areas during high-risk periods; any occurrence of the aforementioned diseases should be reported through WAHIS in a timely manner; good quality OIE-WAHIS data should be integrated with other sources of information, such as climatic series, environmental data and vector distribution maps, which would allow the development of better epidemiological analyses and would help countries to implement early disease detection and control.

96. Infection with avian influenza viruses

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña continued her presentation with infection with avian influenza (AI) and indicated that it had been reported as present in poultry by 23% (43/191) of countries and territories. Ten countries and territories had reported both highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and AI of low pathogenicity (LPAI), 22 had reported only HPAI and 11 had reported only LPAI. The subtype most commonly reported in poultry had been H5N1, followed by H5N8, H5N2 and H5N6. Other subtypes had been reported: H5, H5N3, H5N5, H5N7, H7, H7N1, H7N2, H7N3, H7N4, H7N7 and H7N9.

HPAI in birds other than poultry (including wild birds) had been reported as present by 14% (27/191) of countries and territories. The subtype most commonly reported had been H5N6, followed by H5N8, H5N1, H5N2, H7N9 and H5.

She stated that AI had been reported by 38 countries and territories by means of 105 immediate notifications. Among these notifications, 85 had been for recurrences.

Eleven countries had reported the occurrence of new strains, mainly detected in wild birds. Seven of these countries had reported the first occurrence of HPAI – H5N6 subtype: Cambodia, Finland, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H7N9 had been reported in China (People's Rep. of), subtype H5N2 in Egypt and subtype H5N8 in Pakistan. LPAI subtype H7N4 had been reported in Cambodia, subtype H5N5 in France and subtype H7N7 in Chinese Taipei.

Five countries had reported first occurrences: Afghanistan, subtype H5, in January 2018; Bulgaria, subtype H5N8, in March 2018; Sweden, subtype H5 in poultry, in May 2018; Namibia subtype H5N8, in February 2019 and China (People's Rep. of), subtype H7N9, in March 2019.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña stated that the percentage of reporting countries notifying HPAI present had increased significantly during the period of analysis. The years 2006 and 2017 had been the two global peaks of HPAI in poultry, with more than a quarter of reporting countries and territories in the world having reported the disease present in poultry.

The percentage of reporting countries notifying LPAI present had remained relatively stable and the trend did not show a significant increase.

In conclusion, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña highlighted the high percentage of reporting countries and territories affected by AI (27%) and the high number of circulating AI subtypes (15 subtypes). She also showed that, as in previous periods, the disease in poultry had affected countries and territories in all OIE Regions, which reinforced the need for international coordination and cooperation.

She added that the data showed a general improvement in the surveillance capacities of countries and territories, but it was still necessary to enhance surveillance in wild birds. She recalled that the high level of vigilance for the disease should be maintained, given its potential zoonotic impact, and the OIE's standards and the transparency of reporting through WAHIS provided the framework for Veterinary Services to implement effective surveillance, reporting, and control measures for AI. To finish, she stated that the OIE would continue to closely monitor the global AI situation and report back to its Members.

97. Infection with koi herpesvirus and infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña started the presentation of the last two diseases recalling that infection with koi herpesvirus (KHVD) was capable of inducing a contagious and acute viraemia in common carp, koi carp and ghost carp and that this disease had been added to the OIE List of notifiable diseases in 2007. She stated that infection with *B. salamandrivorans* had first been identified in 2013 following dramatic declines among populations of European fire salamanders. In 2018, the disease was moved to the OIE List of notifiable diseases and in February 2018 a technical disease card was created.

She continued by presenting a map showing the geographical distribution of both diseases, which had been reported as present by 17% (KHVD) and 2% (*B. salamandrivorans*) of reporting countries.

She specified that KHVD had been reported by means of immediate notifications by four countries. In June 2018, Romania had notified the recurrence of the disease; in September 2018, Canada had reported the first occurrence of the disease in a zone; in December 2018, Italy had reported the recurrence of the disease; and in January 2019, Iraq had reported the first occurrence of the disease in the country.

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña concluded by saying that most of the spread of these diseases during the past few years had been related to human-driven activities; that it was necessary to take emergency measures to protect the global biodiversity of amphibians through quick political actions aimed at preventing the translocation of dangerous infectious agents like *B. salamandrivorans*; that capabilities in terms of surveillance and monitoring for these diseases were very low; and finally reiterating that reporting on aquatic animal diseases was an obligation for all OIE Members and this included diseases in both aquaculture and wild harvest animals.

98. **Update on the OIE-WAHIS project**

Dr Arroyo Kuribreña concluded her presentation by informing the Assembly of progress with the OIE-WAHIS project. In relation to the transition to the new system, she commented that the previous sections of her presentation had put into context the priority that the OIE was giving to providing Members with improved disease notification tools. In this respect, it was expected that in 2020 a friendly, intuitive and more efficient platform would be in place, which would allow dynamic and high-resolution mapping, easy access to information and its analysis, and interoperability and integration with other information systems. She stressed that the information on OIE-WAHIS was available at the kiosk and invited participants to visit it.

She added that there were three milestones that Members should consider: all reports relating to periods up to and including the 1st semester of 2019 should be submitted no later than September 2019, as from that date all the reports received would be dealt with on the new platform; in February 2020, all the training for Focal Points in the use of the new OIE-WAHIS would be carried out at the global level so that, by the first half of 2020, there would be an operational platform at the global level. Finally, she reiterated the need for support from Members for the timely submission of their reports and commented that there would be various communication activities so that the transition to this new platform would be made in the most efficient and useful way for all Members.

99. Australia highlighted that, with regards to the low numbers of reports submitted for non OIE-listed diseases of wildlife, the lack of case definitions was a challenge to reporting. Australia encouraged the Working Group on Wildlife to continue its work on establishing clear case definitions. Australia also added that clear criteria for the selection of these diseases should be developed and continuous engagement with Wildlife Focal Points would assist in understanding some of the challenges to reporting.
100. Malta, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the speaker for the excellent presentation and for the plans to modernise WAHIS. With reference to the global reporting compliance section, the EU expressed its concerns regarding the concrete impact and benefit for Members in sharing and centralising the information on non OIE-listed diseases in wildlife through the annual report for wildlife. The EU stated that the observed low reporting might not be related to the difficulties of the Delegates collecting and sharing reliable information on wildlife health, but rather that, in the absence of a legal obligation, there should not be any expectations on specific targets. The EU said that despite the fact that the OIE may collect data on non-notifiable diseases through WAHIS and other communication channels with the Delegates, it invited the OIE to discontinue combining, assessing and presenting in a consolidated manner in fora like this any data that is not compulsory under the OIE international standards. The EU further suggested that rather than any true benefits, this practice risked providing misleading information on the alleged lack of transparency of any given OIE Member, especially to readers unfamiliar with the context and the data collection process, and in particular if those data had not been transmitted directly to the OIE by Delegates. The EU also recalled that information on an OIE-listed disease would be patchy if that disease were not reportable in a Member

Country, which could lead to incorrect conclusions, false alarms and calls for an immediate notification where this would not be warranted. The EU therefore suggested that national disease reporting obligations always needed to be taken into consideration. The EU stated that was closely following and supporting the development of the new OIE-WAHIS. The EU highlighted that the involvement of national Focal Points in the development of the new OIE-WAHIS interface was fundamental in order to ensure that the requirements of end-users were taken in consideration. Finally, the EU stated that the development of the EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) was continuing and would take on board all the changes foreseen by the future new OIE-WAHIS platform.

101. Oman congratulated Dr Arroyo Kuribreña for the excellent report and expressed concerns at the fact that foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants had not been included in the report. In addition, Oman asked why Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) disease was not included in WAHIS reporting and if there were any existing plan for its inclusion in the near future.
102. Senegal congratulated Dr Arroyo Kuribreña on her presentation concerning the worldwide animal health situation. Her presentation related to Rift Valley fever, West Nile fever and bluetongue, which correlated with changes in climate that have a considerable socio-economic impact. Senegal suggested that in addition to traditional surveillance, prevention and control measures, the international community should support the development of resilient mechanisms to face the challenges of climate change. Senegal then reported to the Assembly on the epidemiological situation for equine influenza diagnosed by the national laboratory for livestock and veterinary research. Finally, Senegal indicated that, in order to control the epizootic, surveillance, antibiotic treatment and preventive measures had been applied and had given clear results.
103. Dr Arroyo Kuribreña thanked Australia for the comment and confirmed that it would be taken into consideration.
104. In response to the EU's comment, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña said that the aim of presenting the voluntary annual report for wildlife at this forum was to encourage reflection and debate on the matter. Their comments would, in turn, be considered by experts in the OIE Working Group on Wildlife. She added that all the information published in WAHIS was official information previously validated by the Delegates.
105. In response to Oman's comment that foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants were not included in the report, Dr Arroyo explained that the intention was to carry out a different analysis, focused on the diseases transmitted by the two selected routes of introduction. However, she clarified that this did not mean that the remaining diseases were not being monitored and added that information on this was available in World Animal Health. Regarding MERS-CoV, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña said that the disease was included in WAHIS as an emerging disease. In addition, several Members had been invited to notify the presence of the disease.
106. In answer to Senegal's comment, Dr Arroyo Kuribreña confirmed the need for a mechanism that would improve the response to such emerging diseases. She stated that OIE-WAHIS aimed to facilitate the transmission of information more effectively and to provide analyses to help Members. She also noted that the OIE was monitoring and following up the equine influenza situation closely, contacting Members when it was deemed necessary.
107. Dr Matthew Stone added to the comment of Oman on MERS-CoV by indicating that OIE was encouraging Members to report the disease as an emerging disease. He stated that collaboration with WHO and FAO on the subject was ongoing. In addition, Dr Stone informed the Assembly that an *ad hoc* Group had recently re-evaluated the data on MERS-CoV against the criteria for inclusion as a listed disease. He stated that the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group had been reported to the Specialist Commissions and would be shared with the Assembly.

TECHNICAL ITEM 2

Global situation relating to African swine fever

(Doc. 87 SG/10)

108. Dr Christianne Brusckhe, Chairman of the Session, introduced Drs Budimir Plavšić and Andriy Rozstalnyy, Rapporteurs for this Technical Item.
109. Drs Budimir Plavšić and Andriy Rozstalnyy presented their report to the Assembly.
110. The recent escalation of the African swine fever (ASF)¹⁹ epidemic around the world has placed the majority of the world's swine population under direct threat. To respond to this challenge, well-coordinated national, regional and global efforts will be required, not only by governments of the OIE Members, national Veterinary Services and other public institutions, but also by a range of different stakeholders, including but not limited to the pig production industry, universities, research centres, forestry management bodies, hunter's association, tourism and animal transportation organizations, civil society sector and international organizations. A holistic, inter-sectoral and trans-disciplinary collaborative approach, with effective and participative allocation and management of sufficient resources, will be of paramount importance to prevent further spread and to control ASF worldwide.
111. On the ground level, Members should ensure the correct implementation of relevant OIE international standards and best practices in order to effectively control ASF. These include, among others, the following measures: risk-based prevention and surveillance programmes, adequate biosecurity in pig production sectors and hunting grounds, pig traceability and movement control, effective official controls, wild pig management, safe culling and disposal of animals and their contaminated products, improved collaboration among the multiple sectors involved, and continued education and awareness raising programs for all relevant parties.
112. The response to the global threat must involve coordinated actions by international organizations, research and scientific institutions, development partners, pig and meat producers, governmental agencies and other stakeholders to prevent further spread of this virus. It must ensure the wellbeing of farmers and poverty reduction, protect animal welfare, prevent disastrous economic losses, and allow further contribution of the pig sector to global health, wealth, equity and sustainability. Development of effective and safe vaccines for domestic pigs and wild boar is more important than ever, given the current global ASF threat associated with the worsening epidemiological situation and the lack of a vaccine to contain ASF outbreaks.
113. There is an urgent need for an international consensus to design an appropriate global strategic framework and to carry out adequate actions related to the reduction of the burden of ASF, promotion of economic prosperity, ensuring food security and facilitating safe trade of pig commodities. Regional and national ASF control strategies should be based on the best practices, appropriate enforcement of the legislation and close coordination with stakeholders. Members should increase their technical capacities and expertise, identify and use the relevant scientific knowledge, and engage in risk communication with relevant stakeholders.
114. Integration of participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement, participation and ownership in the ASF response are as essential for the development of a global agenda for ASF control as they are for making technical recommendations for use by national Veterinary Services. Well-structured and properly implemented communication campaigns, targeted for establishing behavioural change and intersectoral collaboration should be an essential component of any ASF control programme.

¹⁹ <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

Discussion on Technical Item 2

115. Dr Bruschenke thanked the Rapporteurs for their excellent presentation on the strategic challenges to global control of African swine fever, including success stories, challenges and the need for a coordinated global response to tackle the disease. Appreciating seeing the OIE and FAO working together on ASF at the global level, she emphasised how GF-TADs could facilitate the development of a global and regional framework, taking into account the specific needs of the regions.
116. Dr Bruschenke also called the OIE Delegates, as the leaders of their national Veterinary Services, to gather government support, engage with their stakeholders and make the challenging decisions to prevent and control the disease.
117. Australia noted the need to have a multidisciplinary approach to control the disease. Acknowledging the wide acceptance that the spread of African swine fever is human mediated, in the context of global control, Australia encouraged the OIE to consider how to reduce the number of travellers bringing pork products with them when they travel internationally. Australia suggested that the OIE could work with organisations such as IATA²⁰ to engage with airlines, who could raise awareness among passengers on the risk of carrying meat products with them.
118. Canada, speaking on behalf of the Americas, commended the presentation as it clearly outlined the need for a concerted call to action to address the global threat of ASF.

Canada reminded the Assembly that the ASF forum for the Americas was hosted in Ottawa at the end of April 2019. This forum brought together experts from government, industry, academia and international organisations to discuss the threat of ASF with a focus on the Americas. A framework was drafted for the prevention and control of ASF as well as the partnerships and governance needed to take collective action. The meeting concluded that the Americas should establish a Standing Group of Experts under the GF-TADs mechanism to coordinate efforts in a collaborative manner; and that the OIE should develop more specific guidance on the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation for ASF since these are essential tools enshrined in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and in the WTO SPS Agreement, to ensure business continuity in the face of an incursion.

The Americas also encouraged ongoing support and investment in the work of the Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA) which is seen as a key partnership for advancing efforts to find a safe and effective vaccine for ASF.

Finally, Canada commented that the OIE communication tools were clear and helpful but would only have an impact if disseminated to all relevant players. Every OIE Member has a role to play in increasing awareness and reducing the human influence on the spread of ASF and other transboundary animal diseases.

119. France offered to share the experience of the G7 CVOs, an informal working group established by the G7 Ministers of Agriculture. African and classical swine fevers (CSF) and the related impact on trade were the topics of the recent meeting held on 24 May 2019 in Paris. The meeting aimed at sharing experience on the prevention and control of ASF and CSF across three continents (Europe, Asia and the Americas); defining a common frame on the relevant tools and means to prevent, control and if possible eradicate the two diseases; and discussing the consequences of ASF and CSF on international trade. France took the opportunity to thank the CVOs of the G7 countries, as well the representative of the European Commission, the Director General of the OIE, the representatives of FAO and of the World Bank for their participation in this meeting.

²⁰ IATA: International Air Transport Authority

France stated that the conclusions adopted on 24 May 2019 by the heads of G7 Veterinary Services were available in French and English. These conclusions, concerning international trade issues, highlight the importance of implementing the relevant chapters of the OIE *Code*, with particular emphasis on the zoning applied to animal diseases, which is found in both the OIE *Code* and in the jurisprudence of the WHO SPS agreement. An exporting country affected by ASF or CSF can continue to export from zones considered to be free from disease, as well as from disease-free compartments, as long as all the animal health guarantees required by the importing country are satisfied. The OIE *Code* also allows a country to be recognised as free from ASF or CSF in its domestic pig population on farms, even though there are known cases in wildlife in the country. In these conclusions, the heads of G7 Veterinary Services also reaffirmed their support for the work of the Observatory in monitoring and assessing the implementation of OIE standards.

120. Colombia, speaking on behalf of the government and the private pig farming sector and noting the challenging political situation in their region of the Americas, brought to attention of the Assembly the recent reports from media sources that exports from ASF-affected countries may be destined for some countries in South America. Colombia urged the importing countries to ensure the commodities comply with all sanitary conditions and biosecurity requirements as described by the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. Colombia highlighted that human migration flows pose risks for the transmission of animal diseases, and questioned how to monitor the situation, highlighting that making efforts for public-private partnerships regarding biosecurity, early disease detection, capacity building and communication might prove insufficient if the risk posed by unsafe trade and unregulated human migrations are not dealt with.
121. Romania, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EUMS), explained that after having taken a number of initiatives to prevent the entry of the disease, the EU had been facing an evolving and challenging epidemiological situation. However, the disease was confined to rather limited areas in the EU and had mostly occurred in wild boar.

The Czech Republic recently eradicated ASF from its territory and had submitted to the OIE a self-declaration of freedom. Belgium had also submitted to the OIE a self-declaration as a country free from ASF in domestic and captive wild pigs.

The EU believes intensive regional coordination initiatives are the key to overcoming this serious transboundary disease and emphasised that support from each region should come through the GF-TADs initiatives. In this context, the EU had and would continue to actively support the European GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts meetings on ASF as an essential tool to coordinate the efforts within the region. The EU particularly supported one of the conclusions of the Technical Item on the “internationally agreed framework intended to harmonise regional and national strategies” and insisted that it can only be built on the pillars of the proper application of OIE Standards, especially those on zoning.

In conclusion, the EU supported a global approach to ASF in which the following key principles should be included: full transparency through OIE-WAHIS by all OIE Members; biosecurity measures; registration of holdings and movement control of pigs; structured and effective passive surveillance both in wildlife and domestic pigs; and full recognition and implementation of OIE international standards.

122. China (People’s Rep. of) expressed that ASF prevention and control should be multifaceted and facilitated by inclusive and extensive collaborations between countries and regions. China (People’s Rep. of) highlighted the role of the whole pig industry and suggested that international organisations should set standards that take a holistic approach and consider the value chain at global level. Finally, China (People’s Rep. of) called for more research collaboration and increased efforts in vaccine development and rapid diagnostic techniques.

123. Guatemala noted the presence of a wild pig species native to South America, the peccary, which was different to European and African wild pig species. Guatemala drew attention to the fact that, while peccaries are not involved in the epidemiology of classical swine fever, there are limited studies on their susceptibility to ASF. The peccary is a food source for several endangered species in South America, so the impact on biodiversity if peccary are proven to be susceptible to ASF should be considered if the disease is introduced to the region.
124. Eritrea, on behalf of the 54 African Union Member States that are Members of the OIE, appreciated the OIE's initiative to finally address the global situation of African swine fever, which has always been a major global issue, but has previously been neglected.

In Africa, where pig farming plays a major role with respect to food and nutrition security and improving the income of vulnerable groups, ASF affects the poorest communities' livelihoods. Therefore, Africa is pleased that there is now global commitment for the control of this disease and called for support by other relevant partners of this initiative.

Eritrea informed the World Assembly that under the sponsorships of AU-IBAR²¹, FAO and ILRI, a regional strategy had been developed aiming at the control of this transboundary animal disease in Africa.

Africa appreciated the progress made in the research sector for the development of the vaccine candidates. However, Africa highlighted the importance of supporting African stakeholders strengthening biosecurity and supporting the development of the porcine value chain, as risk mitigation measures in the context of disease control efforts.

125. Panama shared a personal experience of the devastating effects of ASF seen during capacity building activities on field diagnoses and necropsies conducted on ASF infected pigs in the Dominican Republic in the 1980s. Therefore, he urged the Veterinary Services to build capacity and the global scientific community to prevent the spread of the disease and work on its eradication. Panama also encouraged researchers to look for a vaccine which could be a medium- or long-term solution to combat ASF.
126. Japan welcomed the OIE initiative to tackle ASF and remarked that the issue of ASF was covered during G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Niigata, Japan, held in May, reaffirming the need by the international community to work together and the importance of enhancing information sharing and supporting the activities of international organisations, including the OIE. Japan noted that the second meeting of the Standing Group of Experts for Asia under the GF-TADs framework would be held during July in Tokyo. Japan offered its continued support to the OIE's activities on ASF control.
127. Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy thanked the Delegates for their comments and for supporting the overarching idea to control ASF. He insisted that Veterinary Services should not wait for the availability of the vaccine and reminded them that biosecurity, quarantine, early warning and early detection systems are the tools currently available that have been proven effective for prevention and control of ASF, if strictly applied.
128. In response to the question on *Peccary* sub-species in South America, he highlighted that the literature indicates little support for the significant involvement of peccaries' in the epidemiology of ASF. In addition, according to recent research studies conducted on a small number of peccaries infected with ASF virus in experimental conditions, peccaries may not express clinical signs of ASF. However, he acknowledged that more studies would be needed to understand the potential impact ASF may have on peccaries in their natural environment.

²¹ AU-IBAR: Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

129. The Chairwoman of the session once again congratulated the Rapporteurs on their presentation and invited Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Eritrea, France, Japan and Romania to join the Rapporteurs to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation to and adoption by the Assembly.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

130. Dr Cristobal Zepeda, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), summarised the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in September 2018 and February 2019 (Docs 87 SG/12/CS3 A and B, respectively). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the Scientific Commission namely the *ad hoc* Groups for the evaluation of Member status for foot and mouth disease (FMD), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), African horse sickness (AHS), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF); the *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in cattle, sheep and goats; the *ad hoc* Group on BSE surveillance; the *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk assessment; the *ad hoc* Group on animal trypanosomoses of African origin; and the *ad hoc* Group on alternatives for surveillance for demonstration of freedom from FMD and recovery periods. One additional *ad hoc* Group was convened under the auspices of the Scientific Commission after its February 2019 meeting of which the report has not yet been evaluated by the Scientific Commission namely the *ad hoc* Group on revision of BSE standards on risk assessment and surveillance. The major activities of the Scientific Commission were: the evaluation of the reports of the *ad hoc* Groups and consideration of their recommendations, the evaluation of Member comments on draft or new chapters for the *Terrestrial Code* and the assessment of the annual reconfirmations for the maintenance of Members' officially recognised disease status. The Scientific Commission also devoted significant amount of time to address disease-specific issues such as, the rapid screening of bovine carcasses to determine the absence of FMD virus, resistance to antiparasitics, zoonotic potential of hepatitis B in gibbons, risk of transmission of lumpy skin disease vaccine-like strain and to assess specific pathogens against the OIE Listing criteria.

A total of 14 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife were convened during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. Most of these meetings were also attended by a representative from the Scientific Commission. During the February 2019 meeting of the Scientific Commission, a joint meeting was convened between the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to promote harmonisation of approaches, facilitate the integration of work and the sharing of information between the two Commissions.

131. At the September meeting an induction session was organised by OIE Headquarters for the new and previously elected members. The purpose of the session was to better understand how the work of each of the Commissions fits into the mission of the OIE, and to clarify the roles of Commission members, OIE secretariat and other involved staff.
132. The President of the Scientific Commission on behalf of the other Commission members and members of the *ad hoc* Groups and Working Group, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by Dr Monique Éloit, Dr Matthew Stone, and the staff at the Status and Science Departments at the OIE Headquarters. The excellent support and professional expertise provided by both Departments was noted with sincere appreciation as well as the intention and actions taken by the Director General to provide further assistance to harmonise and strengthen the activities of the Specialist Commissions. The establishment of a new Department dedicated to Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products was

especially welcomed. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Scientific Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife for their valuable contributions, sharing of expertise and supporting role.

133. Review of the Annual Work Programme

During its meetings in September 2018 and February 2019, the Scientific Commission reviewed its working programme; the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2018–2019 period in support of the annual work programme of the Director General, the provisions of the Sixth Strategic Plan and the priorities of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 86th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities.

134. Evaluation of Member Country Comments on draft/amended Chapters

During the September 2018 and February 2019 meetings the Scientific Commission reviewed and considered Member comments on the draft or amended *Terrestrial Code* chapters circulated for comment by the Code Commission. These included comments on the following chapters: the Glossary; Chapter 1.4. Animal health surveillance; Chapter 1.6. Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE; Chapter 4.4. Application of compartmentalisation; Draft Chapter 4.X. Vaccination; Draft Chapter 4.Y. Official control of listed and emerging diseases; Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus; Chapter 8.16. Infection with rinderpest virus; Draft Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (non-equine surra) and Chapter 12.3. Infection with Trypanozoon in equids; Chapter 12.2. Contagious equine metritis; Chapter 12.6. Infection with equine influenza virus; Chapter 12.7. Equine piroplasmiasis; Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus; Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus

The reviews conducted by the Scientific Commission were captured in the reports of the Scientific Commission as well as in annexes providing the detailed rationale explaining the view and recommendations of the Scientific Commission.

135. Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

a) Global FMD Control Strategy under the umbrella of the GF-TADs

The President of the Scientific Commission appreciated that the Scientific Commission was regularly updated on the latest activities conducted by the FMD Working Group in the framework of the Global FMD Control Strategy and under the umbrella of the GF-TADs.

The Scientific Commission was informed that the following regional roadmap meetings on FMD Progressive Control Pathway were held: meeting for Eastern Africa (Uganda, July 2018), Central Africa (Cameroon, September 2018), and West Eurasia (Iran, March 2019), which was an opportunity to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the first roadmap in the region.

In addition, the GF-TADs FMD Working Group met from 29 to 30 January 2019, adopted the 2-year Action Plan (2019–2020), and decided to explore the possible synergies between the two Global Strategies (FMD and PPR) to improve coordination of activities.

The GF-TADs FMD Working Group continued to review and to provide feedback to Members regarding their national control plans and risk-based strategic plans to move along the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD. The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the strong involvement of EuFMD²² in the implementation of the FMD Global Control Strategy.

²² EuFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Finally, the Scientific Commission acknowledged the advancements on the countries self-assessment questionnaires that are used for countries prior to the roadmap meetings, the translation of the guidelines on post-vaccination monitoring and the intention to make both available online to assist Members and facilitate the work of the GF-TADs FMD Working Group.

b) Update on the foot-and-mouth disease Reference Laboratory network and disease global situation

The President of the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network from the Pirbright Institute. At the February meeting, the representative of the network informed the Scientific Commission of the evolution and the most significant events related to FMD that occurred globally in the past 12 months that were also included in the 2018 annual report on the activities of the network.

In the past 12 months, the 15 members of the Network signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share, in real-time, unpublished data; detailed procedures will soon be developed. The Scientific Commission commended the network for being very active and highlighted the importance of sharing the laboratory results. The Scientific Commission encouraged Members to regularly submit good quality samples to the FMD Reference Laboratories and to share the results.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged the importance of regularly testing the quality of the FMD vaccines and welcomed the ongoing OIE twinning project between Pirbright and AU-PANVAC²³ aiming to establish an independent FMD vaccine quality control system at PANVAC, including a stakeholder agreement that will involve vaccine manufactures in the East Africa region.

c) Alternatives for surveillance for demonstration of freedom from FMD and recovery periods

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on alternatives for surveillance for demonstration of freedom from FMD and recovery periods. The Scientific Commission appreciated that options were being proposed in support of an early recovery of FMD free status, with or without vaccination, where emergency vaccination without the subsequent slaughter of all vaccinated animals would be applied.

136. Peste des Petits Ruminants: Global Control and Eradication Strategy

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission had been regularly updated on the current status of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged that in September 2018, during the PPR Global Conference that took place in Brussels, more than 45 countries renewed their political commitment through a Ministerial Declaration to globally eradicate PPR by 2030 and encouraged resource partners to join the fight against the disease.

The Scientific Commission appreciated that Guidelines for the management of PPR in wildlife were under development by the OIE Working Group on Wildlife in collaboration with the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network.

The Scientific Commission commended the numerous activities performed and planned ahead, such as the continuation of the second round of regional roadmap meetings, the launch of a series of PVS missions with a PPR-specific component and the Workshops on PPR official recognition, and urged the OIE to continue raising Member awareness of the

²³ PANVAC: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union

need to report and promote success stories on PPR control and eradication by following the OIE procedures for official recognition and eventually achieving PPR free status.

137. **Rinderpest**

a) Chapter 8.16. Infection with rinderpest virus

The Scientific Commission revised the draft chapter that was modified by the OIE Headquarters with the technical support of the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), following a recommendation from the Code Commission in September 2018. The aim of the revision of the chapter was to provide recommendations on the use of vaccination-to-live in case of rinderpest re-emergence, and to reinstate the requirements for trade in case of a re-emergence of the disease that were included in the 2010 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Scientific Commission extensively discussed the implementation of zoning in the context of a re-emergence of rinderpest. It was of the opinion that the main purpose of the chapter should be to promptly regain global freedom and not to facilitate trade from infected countries in case of re-emergence of rinderpest. The Scientific Commission recommended consulting the Code Commission on this aspect before progressing with the modification of the chapter. The Scientific Commission also suggested including an article with provisions for a country free from rinderpest virus infection and made a remark to indicate that the importation of vaccinated animals should not be recommended under any circumstances.

b) Update on rinderpest activities

The Scientific Commission acknowledged the publication in November 2018 of the Global Rinderpest Action Plan (GRAP) drafted following Resolution No. 18 adopted by the OIE General Assembly in 2011 and updated with Resolution No. 21 adopted by the OIE General Assembly in 2017. The Commission acknowledged that the objective of the GRAP is to complement national and regional contingency plans and to lay down the roles and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders to prepare, prevent, detect, respond and recover from a potential rinderpest outbreak. However, the Scientific Commission noted that this document had not been officially endorsed by the OIE Assembly and, therefore, it recommended not to include references to it in the text of the draft chapter.

The JAC met at the OIE Headquarters from 11 to 12 December 2018. The pending applications for Rinderpest Holding Facilities (RHF) were discussed. The Sequence and Destroy project taking place at two OIE Reference Laboratories for rinderpest (CIRAD, France, and The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom) was completed in March 2019, when all the sequenced materials would have been destroyed. The OIE “Never Turn Back” communication and awareness raising campaign, including the Rinderpest Game, were considered a success. More than two thousand players from over 80 countries played the game.

The modernisation of the Electronic Rinderpest Reporting System (ERRS), which allows Members to submit their annual reporting on rinderpest virus containing materials (RVCM), and the development of the Rinderpest Virus Tracking System, which enables RHF to update their inventories in real time, had been successfully concluded.

The Scientific Commission noted that all countries responded to the annual survey on RVCM. Only 10 Members reported knowing to have or suspected of having RVCM outside of RHF. The Scientific Commission concurred with JAC’s recommendation to stop asking all OIE Members for annual reports on RVCM and instead to focus advocacy efforts on those 10 countries. The Scientific Commission emphasised the importance of destroying RVCM and strongly recommended the Members that still report having RVCM outside of the RHF to destroy it or to send it to RHF.

138. Rabies

a) Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus

The Scientific Commission considered the reviewed *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus, and acknowledged the support of the experts from the OIE Reference Laboratories for Rabies who were also members of the *ad hoc* Group responsible for amending the chapter in addressing Member comments.

The Scientific Commission pointed out the importance of this chapter in supporting Members in their efforts to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies in line with the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

The Scientific Commission discussed the proposed reduction of the minimum interval between vaccination and shipment of dogs for the importation of dogs from infected countries. The Scientific Commission pointed out that the previously adopted chapter also required a minimum of 4 months before shipment (i.e. 3 months after the titration test, which implies testing at least 1 month after vaccination).

The Scientific Commission took note of some experts' opinion on the feasibility of reducing the period between vaccination and shipment without increasing the risk of importing infected animals during the incubation period. The Scientific Commission invited rabies experts to submit a position paper to scientifically justify the reduction of the time between vaccination and shipping.

The Scientific Commission supported the proposal to develop a specific questionnaire to guide Members in the preparation of the dossier to be submitted to the OIE for endorsement of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, consistently with what is in place for other diseases for which the OIE endorses national control programmes (i.e. FMD, PPR, CBPP). The questionnaire would be developed and presented for adoption by the Assembly a year after the adoption of the revised *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.14., along with the administrative procedure for the official endorsement.

The Scientific Commission considered the suggestion of some Members to add recommendations on the control of rabies in wildlife, including oral vaccination. As the main purpose of the revision of the chapter was to support the Global Strategic Plan to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies, the Scientific Commission suggested considering including specific provisions on the control of rabies in wildlife, including oral vaccination in the future modification of the chapter, and suggested seeking guidance on the topic from the Working Group on Wildlife. The Scientific Commission also noted that most of the provisions of the articles, including disease freedom, are applicable to both domestic animals and wildlife.

b) Zero by 30: Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies.

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission had been regularly updated on the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

The partner organisations (WHO, the OIE, FAO, and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control [GARC]) are aiming to leverage existing tools and expertise in a coordinated way to empower, engage and enable countries to eliminate dog-mediated rabies.

The first phase for the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan (2018–2019) is focusing on building a strong foundation for rabies elimination by preparing and improving normative tools and structures to catalyse action in 29 target countries. Core activities include resource mobilisation, supporting countries in preparing robust, budgeted, effective and sustainable national rabies elimination plans following a One Health approach, and facilitating the coalescence of these plans into a coordinated regional effort.

The OIE Director General on behalf of FAO, WHO and GARC formally invited the Ministers of Agriculture/Livestock and Health from the Phase 1 targeted countries to sign a statement to reaffirm their commitment to prioritising rabies prevention in their national plans and work with human and animal health stakeholders to eliminate rabies human deaths nationally by 2030. The President of the Scientific Commission commended those countries that had submitted the statement duly signed and invited the OIE Delegates to advocate to their Ministers to sign the statement.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged the OIE initiative to develop a specific methodology to conduct PVS evaluation with rabies-specific content following similar approach as that done for PPR. The PVS evaluation mission would include specific content and a dedicated focus on national Veterinary Services capacity to control and eliminate rabies. The rabies-specific aspects would not be the main focus of the mission but a supplement or addition to the generic mission and report, which will be completed in full.

139. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the reports of the *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk assessment (two meetings) and the *ad hoc* Group on BSE surveillance (one meeting) on the revision of the provisions in support of the categorisation of BSE risk status (Chapters 11.4. and 1.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*). The Commission commended these *ad hoc* Groups for striving to develop risk-based provisions.

The Scientific Commission appreciated that the revised provisions aimed at strengthening the risk assessment methodology that supports the categorisation of BSE risk status. In particular, the Scientific Commission supported the *ad hoc* Group's proposal to develop a pathway to achieve a controlled or negligible BSE risk status based on husbandry practices and the associated likelihood of exposure to and recycling of the BSE agents.

The Scientific Commission concurred with the *ad hoc* Group that the systematic suspension of a negligible BSE risk status following the occurrence of a single indigenous case of classical BSE born less than 11 years ago was not proportionate to the risk. The Scientific Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group's proposal that a recognised negligible BSE risk status could be maintained in the event of the occurrence of indigenous cases of classical BSE in animals born less than 8 years ago as long as an investigation confirmed that the likelihood of the BSE agent being recycled within the cattle population continues to be negligible. Pending the outcome of such an investigation, the negligible BSE risk status would be suspended and the conditions for a controlled BSE risk status would apply.

With regard to BSE surveillance, the Scientific Commission concurred with the *ad hoc* Group's opinion that the current points-based surveillance system for BSE could no longer be considered proportionate to the risk or cost-effective, and that BSE surveillance could rely on passive clinical surveillance as long as it was supported by compulsory notification and robust awareness programmes. The primary focus for the official recognition and maintenance of BSE risk status should be based on a comprehensive documented risk assessment. Efforts and resources should be primarily directed towards maintaining and monitoring the rigorous and continual implementation of the various mitigation measures in the field.

The revision of the BSE standards will be finalised by an *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk assessment and surveillance (one meeting) and the revised provisions will be reviewed by the Scientific Commission at its September 2019 meeting.

140. **Revision of *Terrestrial Code* chapters on OIE listed diseases of relevance to equids**

a) Infection with equine influenza virus

The Scientific Commission considered the outcome of the work coordinated by an OIE Reference Laboratory for equine influenza on the “Evaluation of current equine influenza vaccination protocols prior to shipment”. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the outcome of this study supported the update of the time period recommended in Article 12.6.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* for vaccinating domestic equids against equine influenza before shipment. The Scientific Commission amended Article 12.6.6. accordingly.

b) Contagious equine metritis

The Scientific Commission considered the recommendations developed in consultation with the OIE Reference Laboratories for contagious equine metritis (CEM) for the temporary importation of sport horses for competition purposes (i.e. not imported for breeding). The Scientific Commission considered that under the provisions proposed in draft Article 12.2.4., the risk of CEM transmission associated with the temporary importation of sport horses for competition purposes would be negligible. These draft provisions were forwarded to the Code Commission for its consideration.

141. **Animal trypanosomoses**

a) Surra and Dourine

The Scientific Commission took note of the disagreement of some Members with the scope and approach of draft Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (non-equine surra) and amended Chapter 12.3. Infection with *Trypanozoon* in equids (i.e. *Trypanosoma evansi*, *T. equiperdum*, *T. brucei*).

The Scientific Commission, in agreement with the Code Commission, sought the expert opinion of the *ad hoc* Group on animal African trypanosomoses on how best to address infection with animal African trypanosomes, infection with *T. evansi* and infection with *T. equiperdum* in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission took note of the recommendation of this *ad hoc* Group that infection with *T. evansi* (in all susceptible species) and infection of *T. equiperdum* (in equids) be addressed in distinct chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*. In light of the different routes of transmission of these agents, and of their different areas of distribution, the Commission agreed with this recommendation.

b) Draft Chapter 8.Y. Infection with animal trypanosomes of African origin excluding infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* and *T. equiperdum*

The Scientific Commission reviewed the draft chapter proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on animal African trypanosomes. The Group was convened following the request from Members during the 83rd General Session to develop a *Terrestrial Code* chapter on animal trypanosomes of African origin, to support Members in their efforts to control the disease.

The Scientific Commission discussed the *ad hoc* Group’s recommendations for the importation of live animals from infected countries and took note of the potential risk of disease introduction via the importation of live animals from infected countries due to the possible reactivation of the parasitaemia at destination induced by stress during

transportation. The Commission also considered the *ad hoc* Group recommendations for a free country or zone to implement risk mitigation measures at destination, before releasing the animals imported from an infected country or zone. The Scientific Commission agreed that, despite implementing the measures suggested by the *ad hoc* Group, the risk of introducing the disease via the importation of live animals cannot be minimised to an acceptable level. The Scientific Commission emphasised that the *Terrestrial Code* provides recommendations for safe international trade based on risk mitigation measures applied in the country of origin. Therefore, the Scientific Commission did not support the inclusion of recommendations for the importation of live animals from infected countries in the draft chapter.

The Commission concurred with the recommendation to review *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.4.16. Animal trypanosomoses (including tsetse-transmitted, but excluding surra and dourine) to ensure alignment and to better support Members in the implementation of the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

142. Chapter 1.6. Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE

The Scientific Commission addressed the Member comments received on the amended chapter that was circulated for the second time after the Specialist Commissions' meetings in September 2018.

The Scientific Commission also considered the amendments proposed by the OIE Status Department in support of the harmonisation of the *Terrestrial Code's* provisions for the official recognition of disease-free status, for the endorsement of official control programmes, and for their maintenance. The Scientific Commission agreed that the provisions related to the objective of an OIE endorsed official control programme, the delineation of zone(s), the suspension of an official status, and the withdrawal of the endorsement of an official control programme were horizontal provisions that could be addressed in Chapter 1.6., and therefore concurred with the amendments.

143. Chapter 4.3. zoning and compartmentalisation

In September 2018 and February 2019, the Presidents and 1st Vice-Presidents of the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission and both Secretariats met in the margins of the two Commissions meetings to discuss the concept of temporary protection/preventive zone, that was first circulated for Member comment after the Specialist Commissions meetings in September 2017. The meetings were chaired by Dr Matthew Stone.

The main objective of the meetings was to consider Member comments received after circulating the draft concept, to explore the links with currently existing concepts of the *Terrestrial Code* (i.e. protection zone, containment zone) and the OIE procedure for official recognition of disease status. The goal is to allow and encourage Members to implement enhanced preventive measures to protect their sanitary status in response to an increased risk of disease incursion, while minimising the impact on their status and consequently on trade.

The strategic drivers of the temporary protection/preventive zone, the relevance of its inclusion in the horizontal chapter (i.e. Chapter 4.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*) and whether it should be applicable to all diseases or only to those diseases for which the OIE recognises an official status were extensively discussed.

144. Definition of a seasonally vector-free period

The Scientific Commission discussed the concerns expressed by some Members on the need to assess if the concept of a vector-borne disease seasonal free period is still scientifically justified and, if it is, to specify the scientific criteria to define it, in particular referring to the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.3. on infection with bluetongue virus and Chapter 1.5. on surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases. The Scientific Commission welcomed

a proposal from the OIE Headquarters to conduct a literature review and to use it as a basis for consultation with the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres on the matter. It is expected that the literature review would provide information on the scientific basis to assess the validity of vector-borne disease seasonal freedom, support the development of criteria influencing and defining vector-borne disease seasonal freedom. It would also help in the assessment of the potential impact of climate change on criteria influencing seasonal freedom. The Scientific Commission noted that the outcome of this exercise would support the control of other vector-borne diseases.

145. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

The Scientific Commission endorsed the case definition proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and noted the need to better understand the transmission dynamics in animal populations and mechanisms of zoonotic transmission to humans before recommending risk mitigation measures in the *Terrestrial Code*, so as to avoid unjustified trade barriers.

The Commission reviewed and updated the Questions & Answers (Q&A) document on MERS-CoV and took note of the information provided by the *ad hoc* Group for joint animal–human investigations and the recommendations to avoid animal–human transmissions. The Commission recommended including a section in the Q&A document on information on the precautionary measures to avoid human exposure and spread of the disease.

The Commission was also updated on a document that provided best practices and recommendations for managing MERS-CoV at the human–animal interface, which had been commented on by the *ad hoc* Group.

146. Prion disease in dromedary camels

The Scientific Commission took note of the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk status evaluation and of the *ad hoc* Group on diseases of camelids – consulted electronically – on whether or not prion diseases in dromedary camels should be considered as emerging diseases according the definition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Scientific Commission highlighted that camel prion disease should be considered a new disease and should not be overlooked. However, it noted that the scientific literature available described the event in only one country and that the evidence was not sufficient to measure the impact of the disease on animal or public health.

The Scientific Commission encouraged the Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET) to lead the investigation of this disease with the support of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East and Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa.

The Scientific Commission would reassess whether this disease should be considered an emerging disease based on the criteria listed in the *Terrestrial Code* when new scientific evidence becomes available.

147. Risk of transmission of lumpy skin disease vaccine-like strain

The Scientific Commission discussed the possible risk of transmission of lumpy skin disease (LSD) vaccine-like strain and emphasised the importance of the use of preventive vaccination with high quality live attenuated strains of capripoxvirus manufactured according to the recommendations of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Scientific Commission highlighted the experience shared by some Members affected by the disease – mainly from the Middle East and Europe – demonstrating that using homologous live attenuated Neethling strain LSD virus vaccines in conjunction with other strategies, such as

biosecurity and movement control, proved to be successful in preventing, controlling and eliminating the disease. The Scientific Commission also noted that the scientific literature indicated that the risk of transmission of the Neethling vaccine strain to non-vaccinated cattle was considered very low provided the vaccine used is of high quality.

The Scientific Commission was not aware of any change in the transmission route of virus in countries using live attenuated Neethling strain vaccines and invited Members to share with the OIE and relevant scientific fora the technical information that may be relevant for a better understanding of the transmission mechanism.

148. Evaluation of pathogenic agent against listing criteria of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2.

The Scientific Commission was informed on the progress made by the OIE Headquarters to improve rigor, transparency and consistency of the process to list and delist pathogenic agents. The Scientific Commission endorsed the amended discussion document on the establishment of a formal written Standard Operating Procedure to guide the listing/delisting decision. The Scientific Commission advised that the decision to initiate the procedure for assessing the need for listing or delisting a pathogenic agent should take into consideration its possible implications on international trade.

a) *Mycobacterium caprae* and *M. tuberculosis*

The Scientific Commission reviewed the expert assessment of *Mycobacterium caprae* and *M. tuberculosis* and the justification provided, and agreed that *M. caprae* matched criteria 1, 2, 3 4a, 4b, and 4c of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2.

The Scientific Commission noted that little information is available on the impact of *M. tuberculosis* and agreed with the experts on the fact that, for *M. tuberculosis*, no transmission between animals or from animals to humans had been reported. Thus, the presence of the pathogen in several countries could not be considered as international spread, as its diffusion does not depend on live animals or their products, vectors or fomites.

The Commission concluded that despite the fact that the *Mycobacterium* complex is composed of *M. bovis*, *M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis*, for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, only *M. bovis* and *M. caprae* should be considered in the case definition. The Scientific Commission recommended the Code Commission to amend the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3. accordingly.

b) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

The Scientific Commission reviewed the assessment performed by the *ad hoc* Group on MERS-CoV and the justification provided, and agreed that MERS-CoV in dromedary camels matched criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4a of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. The Scientific Commission advised MERS-CoV be added to the OIE list and recommended the Code Commission to amend the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3. accordingly.

c) Animal trypanosomes of African origin

The Scientific Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group assessment of *T. vivax*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. brucei* and the justification provided. It agreed that they matched criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4b (in the case of *T. brucei*, also 4a) of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. The Scientific Commission advised that *T. vivax*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. brucei* be added to the OIE list and recommended the Code Commission to amend the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3. accordingly.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group assessment of *T. godfreyi* and the justification provided and agreed that it did not match point 4 of Article 1.2.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and should not be added to the OIE list.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group assessment of *T. evansi* and *T. equiperdum* and the justification provided and agreed that *T. evansi* and *T. equiperdum* matched criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4b (in the case of *T. evansi*, also 4a) of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. The Scientific Commission advised *T. evansi* and *T. equiperdum* be added to the OIE list and recommended the Code Commission to amend the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3. accordingly.

d) Porcine epidemic diarrhoea

The Scientific Commission reviewed the expert assessment of porcine epidemic diarrhoea and the justification provided and agreed that it does not match point 2 of Article 1.2.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and should not be added to the OIE list.

e) Chronic wasting disease

The Scientific Commission reviewed the expert assessment of chronic wasting disease and the justification provided, noting that the experts did not have a consensus agreement, namely for point 2 and 4c of Article 1.2.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. However, based on the information provided and considering the opinions of the BSE *ad hoc* Group and Working Group on Wildlife, the Scientific Commission considered that it does not match point 4 of Article 1.2.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and should not be added to the OIE list.

f) *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni*, *T. uilenbergi* and *T. orientalis*

The Scientific Commission reviewed the expert assessment of *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni*, *T. uilenbergi* and *T. orientalis* (Ikeda and Chitose) and the justification provided and agreed that they match criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4b of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. The Scientific Commission advised that they should be added to the OIE list and recommended the Code Commission to amend the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3. accordingly.

149. Antimicrobial resistance

The Scientific Commission commended the *ad hoc* Group and the OIE for their ongoing work on antimicrobial resistance and for the publication of the Third Annual Report on the Data Collection on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals.

The Scientific Commission was informed that the *ad hoc* Group dealt, in its July 2018 meeting, with the revision of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, also improving coherence between the WHO and OIE Lists with respect to terminology used for antimicrobial classification.

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that an *ad hoc* Group on prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in cattle, sheep and goats was convened in 2018. This completes the work started in 2015 by another *ad hoc* Group that dealt with the prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in animals, which focused on pigs, poultry and fish. The aim of the *ad hoc* Group was to provide guidance on the prioritisation of diseases for which the use of improved and new vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in cattle, sheep and goats, and to make recommendations for targeted research programmes.

The 2nd Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals: Putting Standards into Practice, was held in Morocco in October 2018. The conference brought together Ministers, OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, as well as experts, professionals, policy makers, international organisations and donors, providing a forum to examine how to best support Members in

continued fulfilment of the objectives of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the Global Action Plan on AMR. The recommendations of the Conference further encourage OIE Members to contribute to the OIE annual collection of data on antimicrobial agents, and to publish, whenever possible, their own national reports. Recommendations propose the 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, and encourage restrictions on the use of certain antimicrobials (fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and colistin) and on the use of antimicrobial growth promoters. These recommendations will guide future activities of the OIE on AMR.

The Scientific Commission was informed that activities on AMR are held in the framework of the Tripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE), based on the specific memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2018 between the Tripartite agencies. As a follow-up, a 2-year collaborative work programme on AMR was developed, and endorsed in February 2019, at the Tripartite executive meeting.

150. **Official recognition of disease status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members, and their maintenance**

The evaluation of applications by Members constituted a major portion of the activities of the Scientific Commission during the past year. A total of 23 applications from 16 Members were assessed while 346 annual reconfirmations were reviewed, and expert missions to three Members were conducted to assess the measures in place for the maintenance of status and to monitor the progress on endorsed official control programmes.

a) Review of annual reconfirmation of disease status

During its February 2019 meeting, the Scientific Commission comprehensively reviewed 43 annual reconfirmations that had been pre-selected at its meeting in September 2018 (AHS – seven; BSE – seven; CBPP – two; CBPP [Programme] – one; CSF – four; FMD – eleven; FMD [Programme] – six; PPR – five). The Scientific Commission also reviewed the annual reconfirmations identified by the OIE Status Department. Furthermore, the Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report prepared by the OIE Status Department on the remaining annual reconfirmations that were not selected for comprehensive review.

The Scientific Commission concluded that the annual reconfirmations were compliant with the relevant requirements of relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of the officially recognised status and endorsed official control programmes. However, the Scientific Commission made recommendations to some Members that should take additional steps to enhance the disease control measures for the maintenance of official status or endorsement of their official control programmes.

The Scientific Commission underlined the importance of timely submissions (by the end of November each year) of the annual reconfirmations for maintenance of official status and of endorsement of official control programmes. It also re-iterated that lack of submission of these compulsory reports by the end of January, will lead to the suspension of the official status or to the withdrawal of the endorsement of the official control programme of Members.

b) BSE test methods and maintenance of official BSE risk status

The BSE diagnostic methods used by Members having an official BSE risk status was documented via the submitted 2018 annual reconfirmations. The Scientific Commission emphasised that, in accordance with Chapter 3.4.5. of the *Terrestrial Manual*, histopathology is not appropriate for defining a sample as negative for BSE and that rapid tests (other than a rapid Western Blot) are not appropriate as confirmatory tests for BSE. The Scientific Commission provided detailed

recommendations to some Members for revising their testing protocols for BSE. The Scientific Commission recommended some Members to update their BSE diagnostic methods in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

c) Expert missions to Members

Expert missions to selected Members have been undertaken for several years and have proved beyond doubt their value to Members in helping them to better understand the application of OIE standards for disease control and maintenance of official disease status or endorsement of official control programmes. Expert missions support the robustness, objectivity and transparency of the procedure for official status recognition and maintenance.

Missions were undertaken to three Members by teams of selected experts accompanied by a member of the OIE Status Department. These missions were to monitor the progress of endorsed official control programmes and to assess their continual compliance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of the official status and of the endorsement of the control programme by the OIE.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and prioritised the planned missions to Members for official recognition or for maintenance of disease status and endorsed control programmes.

d) Proposed plan for the harmonisation of requirements for disease free status recognition and maintenance in disease-specific chapters

During the February 2017 meeting, the Scientific Commission confirmed the need to harmonise the provisions for the recognition and maintenance of official status. During the February 2018 meeting, the Scientific Commission agreed on harmonised provisions for the official recognition and maintenance of AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD with and without vaccination, and PPR free status as well as for the endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes for FMD, CBPP and PPR.

The Code Commission considered the corresponding harmonised provisions at its September 2018 meeting and recommended that provisions that would apply to all five diseases for official recognition of disease-free status or endorsement of official control programmes be referenced or addressed in horizontal chapters. It was agreed that the harmonisation work be first presented to Members using Chapter 14.7. as a model. The Scientific Commission endorsed the harmonised provisions for the official recognition of a PPR free status, for the endorsement of an official control programme for PPR, and for their maintenance.

The Scientific Commission and the Code Commission jointly endorsed the proposed work programme for the harmonisation of the provisions for the official recognition of disease-free status and their maintenance for AHS, CSF, CBPP, and FMD, and for the harmonisation of the provisions for the endorsement of official control programmes for CBPP and FMD.

e) Evaluation of Member status for foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of applications from Members for the recognition of their FMD status. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated 11 applications from five Members. Of these, seven applications were for zonal freedom without vaccination; two for zonal freedom with vaccination; two for an endorsed control programme. Furthermore, the *ad hoc* Group reviewed the adjusted timeline and performance indicators of an endorsed official control programme for FMD of a Member.

The Scientific Commission also reviewed two applications for recovery of FMD free zone status.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Members for the status recognition of FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise a zone of Bolivia consisting of the Department of Pando as a FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised. This zone was previously recognised free from FMD with vaccination.

The Scientific Commission also agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise a zone of Botswana (Zone 7) as a zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised.

The Scientific Commission also considered the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group regarding the application from Kazakhstan to split the officially recognised FMD-free zone without vaccination into five zones: Zone 1 consisting of West Kazakhstan, Atyrau, Mangystau and south-western part of Aktobe region; Zone 2 including north-eastern part of Aktobe region, southern part of Kostanay region and western part of Karaganda region; Zone 3 including northern and central parts of Kostanay region, western parts of North Kazakhstan and Akmola regions; Zone 4 including central and eastern parts of North Kazakhstan region and northern parts of Akmola and Pavlodar regions; Zone 5 including central and eastern parts of Karaganda region and southern parts of Akmola and Pavlodar regions. The Scientific Commission recommended the official recognition of the five zones of Kazakhstan free from FMD without vaccination.

The Scientific Commission highlighted the challenges of maintaining and managing multiple zones in accordance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. In particular, the Scientific Commission emphasised the prerequisites of adequate identification of susceptible animals of each zone as well as the importance of maintaining control of movement of FMD susceptible animals and their products between zones of different status as well as of same status as long as they remain officially recognised as separate zones. The Scientific Commission reminded Members that annual reconfirmations for the maintenance of official status should be compiled and submitted separately for each zone having an official status.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Members for the endorsement of their national official control programmes for FMD***

The Scientific Commission emphasised that the official control programmes proposed for OIE endorsement should be applicable to the entire country while focusing on the areas or zones for which the Member aims to achieve FMD-free status. The proposed programme should provide a detailed and stepwise timeline of the plan, performance indicators, and the effectiveness of the programme should also be documented. The Scientific Commission also pointed out the link between the OIE/FAO FMD Progressive control pathway (PCP) tool and the OIE procedures for official recognition and that FMD-PCP Stage 3 should be reached for an official control programme for FMD to be endorsed by the OIE.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of Member FMD free status already recognised through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 15.

The Assembly was requested to confirm the existing list of Members having an endorsed official control programmes for FMD as in Draft Resolution No. 16 through compliance with the annual reconfirmations.

f) Evaluation of Member risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Members for the official recognition of their BSE risk status. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated three applications from three Members. Of these, two applications were for a controlled BSE risk status and one was for a negligible BSE risk status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Ecuador as having a controlled BSE risk and Serbia as having a negligible BSE risk. The Scientific Commission encouraged Ecuador and Serbia to take into consideration the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and to submit documented evidence on their implementation in the annual reconfirmation.

Following a request from the Delegate of the United Kingdom for re-instatement of a “controlled BSE risk status” of the zone of Scotland, the Scientific Commission considered its compliance with the requirements of Article 11.4.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*. In accordance with the mandate provided to the Scientific Commission in Resolution No. 15 of the 83rd General Session, the Scientific Commission approved the re-instatement of the zone of Scotland with effect from 26 December 2018.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised BSE risk status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 19.

g) Evaluation of Member status for African horse sickness (AHS)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of an application from a Member for the maintenance of its AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission considered the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group and concluded that this Member did not demonstrate compliance with the requirements for the maintenance of an official AHS free status. The corresponding status was therefore suspended with effect from 16 November 2018.

The Scientific Commission also reviewed one application for recovery of AHS free status.

The Assembly is requested to confirm the existing list of AHS free Members, as in Draft Resolution No. 20, in accordance with the previous recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised AHS free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation.

h) Evaluation of Member status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Members for the recognition of CBPP status. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated three applications for a country free status.

The Scientific Commission considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and agreed to recommend that the Assembly recognise Peru and Uruguay as CBPP free countries.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 17, in accordance with the previous recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised CBPP free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation.

The Assembly was requested to confirm the existing list with a Member having an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, as in Draft Resolution No. 18, through compliance with the annual reconfirmation.

i) Evaluation of Member status for peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the application from one Member for a country free status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Croatia as a PPR free country.

This recommendation was submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 21, in accordance with the previous recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised PPR free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation.

j) Evaluation of Member status for classical swine fever (CSF)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Members for the recognition of CSF status. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated five applications from five Members. Of these, four applications were for country freedom and one for zonal freedom.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group to recommend that the Assembly recognise Latvia and Uruguay as CSF free countries.

The Scientific Commission also recommended the recognition of a zone of Ecuador consisting of the insular territory of the Galapagos, as a CSF free zone.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised CSF free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 22.

151. Future work programme of the Scientific Commission

The President of the Scientific Commission presented to the Delegates the following issues identified by the Scientific Commission that would need to be attended to or finalised during the coming year:

- Review and finalisation of draft and amended chapters for the *Terrestrial Code* on BSE, infection with animal trypanosomes of African origin excluding infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* and *T. equiperdum*, rinderpest, and follow up the development of the questionnaire and procedure for endorsement of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, the development of the SOP for listing/delisting diseases, the concept of the temporary protection zone, and the harmonisation of the requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* Chapters for official disease freedom.

152. After presentation of the report by the President of the Scientific Commission, the President of the Assembly opened the floor for discussion.

153. Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), congratulated the Scientific Commission for its essential work, in particular, on the horizontal chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and on the SOP for self-declaration and for official recognition of disease status by the OIE.

The EU congratulated the OIE for the significant progress made on the comprehensive revision of the avian influenza and the BSE chapters, and acknowledged the ongoing close coordination between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission and joint prioritisation of their respective work programmes. The EU looked forward to receiving these draft chapters in the near future and confirmed its full support to continue participating and providing technical assistance to this ongoing work.

The EU commended the OIE for initiating the development of an SOP and guidance document for evaluating whether or not a pathogenic agent should be listed in the OIE *Codes*. The EU recognised that such documents would be fundamental for guiding future decisions on the listing and delisting of pathogenic agents and expressed interest to comment before these are finalised and published on the OIE website.

Finally, the EU expressed concerns over the detection of a novel prion disease in dromedary camels, and suggested these findings be communicated to the OIE in a timely and transparent manner, as to heighten surveillance in countries with dromedary camel populations. Furthermore, the EU emphasised the importance of research to rule out possible public health risks.

154. Uganda thanked Dr Zepeda for the presentation and enquired about the status of the work of the Scientific Commission on *Trypanosoma evansi* and *Trypanosoma equiperdum*.
155. The President of the Assembly noted that three OIE expert missions for maintenance of disease-free status and endorsement of official control programmes were deployed in Asian countries in the past year. He also noted that workshops related to the OIE procedures for official recognition of disease status were conducted in the Americas and European Regions in the past year but not in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.
156. Argentina commended the President of the Scientific Commission for the excellent presentation and asked for further details on the procedure for the endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies.
157. New Zealand thanked Dr Zepeda for the comprehensive report, and suggested continuing the work on evaluating lactose, and butter and milk as safe commodities in the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease, respectively. New Zealand expressed its availability to assist and provide expertise on this matter.
158. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the Members for their comments. In response to the concerns expressed by the EU with regards to prion diseases in dromedary camels, Dr Zepeda confirmed that the Scientific Commission invited the Camel Middle East Network (CaMeNet) and the OIE Regional Representations in North Africa and the Middle East to encourage Members to monitor the evolution of the disease situation. With respect to the development of the SOP for listing and delisting of pathogenic agents, Dr Zepeda invited Dr Stone to address the EU's concern.
159. Dr Stone highlighted the OIE's continuous work in developing internal documents to strengthen the working procedures for OIE activities and to better support the work of the Specialist Commissions, which had been noted by the Director General in her annual report. He confirmed the close working relationship of OIE Headquarters with the Specialist Commissions on matters under their mandate and with the Council on administrative procedures, as representatives of the Member Countries. In order to guarantee the agility of the OIE, consultation with the Assembly on internal OIE procedures relating to implementation of international standards is not foreseen. Dr Stone confirmed that full transparency will be ensured, and the SOP on the listing and delisting of pathogenic agents will be made publicly available, as is already the case for the SOPs for official recognition of disease status and self-declaration of disease freedom.
160. Dr Zepeda, in response to the comment made by Uganda, confirmed that the Scientific Commission is currently working on animal trypanosomes of African origin including *T. evansi* and *T. equiperdum*, and encouraged the Members to refer to the reports of the Scientific Commission meetings of September 2018 and February 2019 for additional information.

161. In response to the comment made by the President of the Assembly, Dr Zepeda highlighted the challenges in the prioritisation of status missions along with constraints of resources. He noted that workshops had been conducted in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region in the past, and the Scientific Commission and the OIE would assess the need for future workshops to be conducted in this region during its September 2019 meeting.
162. In response to the comment made by Argentina, Dr Zepeda clarified that a specific questionnaire to be used by Members to apply for the OIE endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies will be presented to the World Assembly in May 2020 along with the procedure. Members will have the opportunity to have their dog-mediated control programmes endorsed in May 2021. The overarching goal of the official endorsement is to support Members' efforts to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030, in line with the Global Strategic Plan.
163. In response to New Zealand's suggestion, Dr Zepeda affirmed that the Scientific Commission will discuss possibilities to address the safety for the importation of milk products from countries infected with lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease, and thanked New Zealand for its availability in providing assistance on the topic.
164. The Assembly noted the Report of the Scientific Commission. The President then submitted the various draft resolutions for adoption by the Assembly after confirming that a quorum had been reached.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members**

165. The President submitted Draft Resolution No.15 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Endorsement of official control programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members**

166. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members**

167. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Endorsement of official control programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members**

168. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members**

169. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members**

170. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members**

171. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members**

172. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 22 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material**

173. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Extension to the Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material**

174. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Working Group on Wildlife

175. The Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Working Group held from 4 to 7 December 2018 (Doc. 87 SG/13/GT).
176. The Working Group will contribute to the development of the OIE's Seventh Strategic Plan.
177. The Working Group was informed by the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) of the quantitative and qualitative reporting situation of the voluntary report for wildlife from 2008 to date. The Working Group agreed that *WAHIS-Wild* has the potential to be an important international resource for decision making about wildlife. It is a unique global database for relevant wildlife diseases that not only threaten biodiversity and wildlife conservation, but could also impact human and livestock health, and trade. For example, lack of information on *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* has led to a ban on importation of salamanders from all countries, whereas through increased reporting to *WAHIS-Wild* the impact on trade could be reduced to only those species or countries affected by the fungus. The Working Group encouraged OIE Members to continue to submit their voluntary reports for the benefit of all.

Even though during 2018 there was a slight increase in the number of reports received for 2016 (from 29 to 47 countries) and 2017 (40 countries by December 2018), it is still a significant concern that only 22% of OIE Members have submitted this report. Furthermore, among the countries submitting this report, 50% reported all non-listed diseases as 'absent' or 'no information', raising questions about the quality of the information provided.

Feedback from Members' representatives attending OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife training workshops in 2018 requested the development of case definitions for the non OIE-listed diseases in wildlife to allow for standardised detection of these diseases within a

country, and ultimately among all OIE Members. The Working Group agreed to begin working on case definitions in 2019, following the format used for OIE-listed diseases.

178. The Working Group reviewed emerging and noteworthy wildlife issues and disease occurrences. These included: African swine fever, anthrax, arboviruses in South Africa, avian cholera, avian influenza, avian schistosomiasis, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, *Bisgaard* Taxon 40, bovine and human tuberculosis, bubonic plague, chronic wasting disease, classical swine fever, Congo Crimean haemorrhagic fever, *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* var. *Ovis*, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, MERS-coronavirus, foot and mouth disease, Lassa fever, monkeypox, morbilliviruses Newcastle disease, novel nidovirus in turtles, orbiviral hemorrhagic disease, Parapoxvirus rabies, ranaviruses, rat hepatitis E, Rift Valley fever, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, *Streptococcus lutetiensis*, *Taenia hydatigena*, tick-borne infectious diseases, West Nile virus, white-nose syndrome (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*), yellow fever, and non-infectious issues including feral dogs, accidental releases from aquaculture, and harmful algal blooms. Details are provided in the full report of the Working Group.
179. The Working Group took note of the following peste des petits ruminants (PPR) issues relating to wildlife that had been raised by partners/stakeholders during meetings under the umbrella of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES). These include clarification of the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of PPR, as well as validation of diagnostic tests in wild animals which are normally used for serological surveillance.

The Working Group agreed to actively participate in activities under GCES. It was recommended that a representative from the Working Group should attend future PPR meetings, such as the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (GREN) meeting scheduled for October 2019 and the ‘PPR at domestic/wildlife interface’ meeting planned for March 2019.

The Working Group agreed to undertake the task of developing guidelines for outbreak management in wildlife, specifically for PPR in collaboration with the PPR GREN and Dr Sleeman attended the March 2019 meeting on behalf of the OIE and the Working Group to initiate this process.

180. The Working Group agreed that a fundamental cause of biodiversity loss worldwide is that communities in a position to preserve biodiversity-rich areas lack sufficient incentives to do so. Disease regulations often compounded the limited access to opportunity from biodiversity when livestock or agricultural market access was influenced by geographic disease separation. Often under these circumstances illegal trade in wildlife became the most important (albeit illegal) economic driver resulting in unsustainable economic growth and biodiversity loss. Such illegal wildlife crime activities pose serious risk to disease control as animal products are moved without control and can spread internationally.

As a measure to counter these real socio-economic disparities and promoting livelihood opportunities where livestock and wildlife can co-exist, a number of wildlife-friendly beef initiatives have been initiated in Africa with multi-stakeholder involvement. Proof of concept projects are being rolled out in several countries. Additionally, the Working Group recognised that commodity-based trade was allowed for in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and that Veterinary Services should encourage this.

The Working Group proposed (consistent with the Animal Health Strategy for Africa and the One Health approach) that OIE should encourage Members to:

- 1) use OIE standards rather than adopting non-harmonised standards that are stricter and more complex, so that trade barriers are minimised but remain internationally acceptable;
- 2) recommend exposure of the OIE and its Members to land use options to demonstrate how this could support both wildlife and sustainable livestock production;
- 3) nominate an OIE national Focal Point for Wildlife to attend ‘herding for health’ and/or ‘One Health’ networking meetings/symposia;

and, for the OIE’s consideration:

- 4) the Working Group recommended that the sixth cycle of training workshops for national Focal Points for Wildlife should include aspects of One Health and integrated land use approaches involving wildlife/livestock co-existence and should showcase proof of concept projects that are working to demonstrate effectiveness.
- 5) the Working Group recommended that it supports the OIE in working with relevant national Focal Points for Wildlife in countries to assist them in exploring ideas for non-geographic disease control methods particularly where livelihoods could be helped and where wildlife co-existence could be an important part of livelihood improvement.

181. The Working Group was provided an update on the publication of the *World Bank Operational Framework for Strengthening Human, Animal, and Environmental Public Health Systems at their Interface*. This guidance document provides step-by-step approaches and entry points to developing One Health approaches at national and sub-national levels. As a follow-up to this Framework, an Environmental Health Capacity Assessment Tool is currently under development and will be piloted at country level to provide assessment of needs for wildlife and broader environmental health capabilities to supplement information provided by IHR/JEE (International Health Regulations / Joint External Evaluation) and PVS Pathway efforts. The Working Group recommended further discussion with OIE staff to explore possible synergies between OIE PVS activities and the further testing of the Environmental Health Capacity Assessment Tool.

182. The Working Group received an update on the steps being taken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) to ensure regulations do not unintentionally hinder disease investigations needed to promote healthy wildlife populations and protect domestic animals and humans. The Working Group noted that CITES was considering a resolution at its next Convention of the Parties meeting, to be held in May 2019, on “Simplified Procedures for Permits and Certificates”, which would include expedited permitting processes and the use of OIE Reference Centres. The Working Group had suggested that all OIE Members contact their respective national counterparts due to serve as delegates to the 2019 Convention of the Parties meeting to support the resolution at the time of voting.

The Working Group discussed its support of the principles and goals of the Nagoya Protocol and noted possible adverse ramifications for the rapid international movement of diagnostic samples needed for managing healthy wildlife populations and protecting domestic animals and humans from diseases that may be occurring in wildlife. The Working Group suggested that the OIE should work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity and its Nagoya Protocol section to develop mechanisms to facilitate the timely international movement of emergency diagnostic specimens.

183. The Working Group was updated on the fifth cycle of training workshops for the National Focal Points for Wildlife. The theme for this cycle was wildlife health information management with specific modules on opportunities and challenges of sharing wildlife health data, key factors in establishing and maintaining partner and stakeholder networks, development of effective data collection and curation of wildlife health information, use of tools for managing and disseminating wildlife health information (developed and presented by the Collaborating Centre on Research, Diagnosis, Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens [United States of America and Canada]), and communication planning. The workshop also included basic information on the OIE, presentations and discussion on regional wildlife health issues, and hands-on instruction in the use of *WAHIS-Wild*. The first two workshops were held in Lithuania in June 2018 and Botswana in November 2018. A third workshop was held in Côte d'Ivoire in March 2019. The Working Group stated its appreciation to the OIE for continuing to hold these important training workshops, and to the Collaborating Centre on Research, Diagnosis, Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens for the extensive work it is investing in these workshops.
184. The Working Group identified the following list of activities as priorities for its work in 2019, in line with the newly proposed Terms of Reference. In addition to this list, the Working Group will respond to requests from the OIE as these are received.
- Provide science-based and technical support for the OIE on wildlife issues, terrestrial and aquatic species and wild bees.
 - Communicate with the OIE Specialist Commissions regularly to ensure the Working Group responds to new and on-going priorities and needs of the OIE.
 - Assist the OIE in maintaining and developing partnerships and activities with relevant international organisations, providing contacts and insights as to OIE participation and representation.
 - Support the WAHIAD department to encourage Focal Points for Wildlife to report annually on non-listed wildlife diseases, including:
 - Providing case studies where information submitted to *WAHIS-Wild* had contributed to wildlife conservation and health outcomes;
 - Development of case definitions for non OIE-listed wildlife diseases;
 - Develop a circular presenting highlights from the annual face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife to be shared with OIE Focal Points for Wildlife;
 - Encourage Collaborating Centres to provide wildlife health data to their Focal Points for Wildlife;
 - Compile references to diagnostic methods appropriate for each pathogen on the non OIE-listed wildlife pathogen and disease list;
 - Review the Terms of Reference for national Focal Points for Wildlife, to develop a set of proposed core competencies to inform curricular content/needs for future Focal Point training workshops.
 - Work through the OIE with the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) to develop guidelines for prevention and control of PPR in wildlife.

- Develop a concept note for development of an expert workshop and guidelines focused on the management (particularly risk) of diseases in wildlife.
- Contribute to OIE’s Seventh Strategic Plan, including exploration of:
 - climate change and biodiversity as they relate to animal health, and continue to inform the OIE about issues associated with wildlife, including emerging diseases
 - strategies to enhance or improve wildlife disease reporting through WAHIS
 - alternative options for coexistence and livelihood opportunities both through wildlife and livestock
 - wildlife health components of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.
- Plan and possibly conduct a Working Group strategic planning workshop to focus and improve the effectiveness of the Group’s efforts and to contribute to the OIE Seventh Strategic plan as outlined above.
- Support:
 - the OIE in its work with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management;
 - the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) in its efforts to gather information on surveillance for avian influenza viruses in wildlife.

Composition of the Working Group on Wildlife

185. Dr Karesh presented the Director General’s nominations for the membership of the Working Group for the period May 2019 – May 2020, previously discussed with the Council:
- Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chair)
 - Dr Markus Hofmeyr (South Africa)
 - Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)
 - Dr Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis (Switzerland)
 - Dr Jonathan Sleeman (United States of America)
 - Dr Marcella Uhart (Argentina)
 - Dr Rupert Woods (Australia)
186. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Karesh for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
187. Norway thanked the Chair for his excellent presentation. The Delegate then queried the inclusion of ‘accidental aquaculture release’ in the table on noteworthy and emerging diseases of wildlife, because this was not a disease.
188. Dr Karesh replied that this was in the context of the assessment of disease risk, since netting normally only allows the flow of water, while if the integrity of the net is compromised there would be a risk of fish escaping. This scenario could lead to mixing of farmed and wild fish stock, with the associated risk to genetics and aquatic animal health. He noted that there are historical examples of large and massive accidental releases of fish under such circumstances.
189. The President of the Assembly noted that there had been a relatively low level of reporting of diseases in wildlife to the OIE, and asked if the Working Group on Wildlife had an explanation for this.

190. Dr Karesh responded that a detailed explanation for the low level of reporting could be found in the last meeting report of the Working Group on Wildlife. He then explained that to investigate the issue, OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife had been consulted and surveyed. He summarised that examples of challenges to reporting which the National Focal Points had identified included: not fully understanding the process for reporting; not enough training on completing the reporting forms; having a large work burden; that it was beyond their expertise; and others stated that they had only temporarily been assigned as the National Focal Point. The results of consultation with National Focal Points had been fed into the process for planning the new WAHIS, with the objective of facilitating an improved reporting rate.
191. The President of the Assembly noted that it would be interesting to see if the Focal Point for Wildlife training that had been delivered would improve reporting.
192. The President of the Assembly thanked everyone for their comments and thanked and congratulated Dr Karesh on his report.

Follow-up to the Recommendations of Conferences

FAO-OIE Global Conference on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) *'Partnering and investing for a peste des petits ruminants-free world'* Brussels, Belgium, 7 September 2018

193. Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator / FAO-OIE Global Secretariat for the eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR), based at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, informed the Assembly of the favourable outcomes of the Global Conference on PPR: 'Partnering and investing for a peste des petits ruminants-free world', organised by the OIE and FAO and held in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 September 2018. He noted that this conference had benefited from the support of the European Commission – Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).
194. Dr Soula reminded the Assembly that this conference formed part of implementation of the global strategy for the control and eradication of PPR (PPR GCES) adopted by FAO and the OIE during the first international conference on PPR, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015, attended by the Directors General of FAO and the OIE, together with many ministers from infected or at-risk countries. He pointed out that, in accordance with this strategy, aimed at eradicating the disease by 2030, FAO and the OIE had set up the joint PPR Global Secretariat at FAO Headquarters in early s. He stated that in October 2016, FAO and the OIE had launched the first phase of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) covering the period 2017-2021.
195. Dr Soula informed the Assembly that the Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Éloit, the Director General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, had taken part in the conference, alongside representatives from 45 countries, almost half of them at ministerial level, as well as many development partners and civil society representatives, totalling more than 270 participants. The attending countries reiterated their commitment to global eradication of PPR by 2030, reaffirming and reinforcing the international consensus reached in Abidjan in 2015. They called on development partners to bridge the funding gap of 340 million US dollars for the PPR global eradication programme. In a ministerial declaration, the participants stressed that PPR directly threatened the livelihoods of the poorest people and caused major economic losses for the countries affected. They pointed out that the disease was responsible for economic losses of more than 2.1 billion dollars each year.
196. Dr Soula highlighted the main recommendations of the conference, calling for the political involvement of national authorities and the identification of national budgetary resources, as well as the mobilisation of development partners to build the capacity of national and regional institutions, and to implement a coordinated and sustainable approach to

eradicating the disease. He added that the conference had underlined the fact that eradicating PPR would be a crucial element in combating rural poverty, safeguarding food and nutritional security, building resilience and supporting national economies, all of which would be critical to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. He said that a stakeholder forum had been held on the day before the conference, bringing together the main beneficiaries and key players in combating PPR, in particular the representatives of farmers, livestock producers, civil society and non-governmental organisations, allowing them to exchange views on the subject and to hear first-hand accounts of the impact of PPR.

197. Dr Soula confirmed that, as part of its partnership with FAO, and in accordance with the decisions of its Members and the recommendations of the global conference on PPR held in Brussels in 2018, the OIE would remain fully mobilised with a view to eradicating PPR by 2030, a final goal clearly identified by the international community. In this respect, he stated that the OIE would remain involved in facilitating the international scientific debate, in refining standards and procedures, and in mobilising additional resources, in conjunction with FAO.
198. Dr Soula added that full information concerning this conference was available on the OIE web site dedicated to PPR at the following address: <http://www.oie.int/fr/sante-animale-dans-le-monde/portail-ppr/>.
199. In conclusion, Dr Soula thanked FAO, the OIE's partner in organising this conference, the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development for its support and for hosting this international meeting, and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources for its support.
200. Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 54 African Members of the OIE, thanked Dr Soula for the accurate overview of the Global Conference and congratulated the OIE and FAO for joining forces with DG DEVCO and AU-IBAR for the organisation of this event. Kenya informed the Assembly that Africa had actively participated in the Conference and reaffirmed its political commitment to the international consensus to eradicate PPR by 2030. Kenya highlighted that a Pan-African Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR had been approved by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union during its 30th Summit, held in January 2018. Kenya welcomed the proposal for the implementation of the global strategy with the close collaboration of the EU, the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities of Asia and the Middle East, the infected countries, the scientific, technical and financial partners, as well as civil society, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. Kenya indicated that Africa had already mobilised its human and financial resources at the national level and urged donors and all development partners to join in efforts to bridge the critical funding gap of USD 340 million in order to effectively eliminate PPR.
201. Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) took note of the map presented by Dr Soula demonstrating the global PPR situation as self-assessed by countries during their last Roadmap meeting, and reported an error regarding the level of progress displayed for his country, this error probably being due to the fact that the DRC was a member of several regional economic communities, which were not evaluated at the same time; according to this map, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) was shown as being at Stage 2 of the PPR GCES stepwise approach. Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) indicated that the country was currently self-assessed at Stage 1.

202. Dr Soula clarified that the map presented the stages of the PPR GCES stepwise approach based on country self-assessments provided during the last Roadmap meeting for countries of the Southern Africa Development Community in March 2019, and indicated that the OIE-FAO PPR Secretariat would follow up directly with Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) to ensure a clear and common understanding.

**2nd OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance
and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals:
“Putting Standards into Practice”
(Marrakech, Morocco) 29 – 31 October 2018**

203. Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Head of the OIE Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department, presented a short summary and the recommendations of the 2nd Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals: ‘Putting Standards into Practice’, held in Morocco in October 2018. Over 500 participants attended from 95 countries, bringing together Ministers, OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, as well as experts, professionals, policy makers, international organisations and donors, providing a forum to examine how to best support Members in the continued fulfilment of the objectives of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the Global Action Plan on AMR.
204. She provided an update on actions taken since the Conference, focusing particularly on:
- the OIE annual collection of data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals that resulted in an increase in both participation and detail during the third round of the OIE data collection. A total of 153 (85%) OIE Members and two non-OIE Members submitted completed questionnaires, with 10 new countries providing data for the first time. A total of 118 countries (76%) reported quantities of antimicrobial agents. The report was launched through a press conference and published on the OIE website on 14 February 2019. The questionnaire for the fourth round of the OIE data collection was sent on 20 September 2018 to all OIE Delegates and Focal Points for Veterinary Products, and Members were invited to participate, if they had not already done so;
 - the refinement of the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance to subdivide the List by different animal species and to include companion animals, for which collaboration with the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) had been initiated. Regarding subdividing the List by different animal species, it was suggested to focus on poultry and to start by developing a methodology exploring the best way forward;
 - the proposal to build a global information system of falsified and substandard veterinary medical products that was initiated by an evaluation of the WHO’s global surveillance system for substandard and falsified medical products. Based on this experience, different options for implementing a similar system in a veterinary context will be explored and a draft should be available in July 2019.
205. Ongoing AMR activities in the framework of the Tripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE), following the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2018 were presented by Dr Matthew Stone, including:
- a 2-year collaborative work programme on AMR that was endorsed at the Tripartite Executive meeting in February 2019;

- an AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund that is currently being finalised and that would ensure that adequate resources would be available to implement the Global Action Plan on AMR and related Tripartite activities;
 - A framework and recommended indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the Global Action Plan on AMR.
206. Dr Stone also updated the Assembly on the progress made by the Ad hoc Inter-agency Coordination Group (IACG) on Antimicrobial Resistance established by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2016 and on its findings, recommendations and expected follow-up, in particular on:
- an upcoming report of the UN Secretary-General, following the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/3 of the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance, on the implementation of the declaration. This report, drafted by the Tripartite and provided to the UN Secretary-General in April 2019, complements the IACG report and its recommendations, and includes an update on recent developments and recommendations for future actions including the need to support Members' capacities to effectively address antimicrobial resistance by collectively elaborating and implementing multisectoral One Health National Action Plans (NAPs);
 - the IACG findings and recommendations regarding global leadership and coordination on AMR, including a call for improvement of global coordination, noting the required institutional and governance arrangements to be set up in close collaboration and consultation with UN agencies and international organisations, as well as Members and other stakeholders;
 - the specific IACG proposals to establish a One Health Global Leadership Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, a global partnership platform and an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR supported by a Tripartite secretariat.
207. To set a clear signal regarding the OIEs commitment to take action against AMR and to further strengthen the engagement in Tripartite activities, the OIE created a new Department on AMR and Veterinary Products in October 2018. The decision was also made by the Director General to establish a new Working Group on AMR that will support the implementation of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in the light of recent international developments. Dr Stone presented to the Assembly the proposed composition of this working group, on which the Council had already given a favourable opinion.
- Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (President)
Dr Gérard Moulin (France – Collaborating Centre)
Dr Donald Prater (United States of America)
Prof. Moritz van Vuuren (South Africa)
Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)
Dr Stephen Page (Australia)
Mme Barbara Freischem (Netherlands)
208. The President of the Assembly invited comments from the floor.
209. Slovakia, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, congratulated the OIE on the outcomes of the 2nd Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals, held in 2018. Slovakia stated that many of the recommendations from this Conference resonated with the priorities outlined in the 2017 European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance. In particular, Slovakia signalled the EU's support for the recommendation that OIE Members phase out the use of antibiotics as growth promoters – already in place in the European Union since 2006 – and the need to consider restricting the use of certain

antibiotics to human medicine. Slovakia reiterated that antimicrobials should only be prescribed and used when strictly necessary for animal health reasons.

Slovakia informed the Assembly that the EU had upscaled its efforts as reflected in the new regulations on veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed; these regulations laid down a wide range of concrete measures to fight AMR and to promote a prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials.

Slovakia remarked that One Health National Action Plans (NAPs) are pivotal instruments to forge intersectoral cooperation and translate political momentum into concrete policy measures and national legislation. Moreover, NAPs enable a structured approach to identify and adequately address priorities through allocating the necessary resources. Slovakia stated that the EU Member States had already put such plans in place, and Slovakia then underscored the need for all OIE Members to have ambitious NAPs and invited Members to work with the EU to exchange information on successful experiences in the development and implementation of NAPs. Reference was made to the need for strengthening the economic case for sustainable investments. Slovakia furthermore informed the Assembly that progress had been made in the EU to reduce the quantities of antimicrobials being used, whilst maintaining the same high level of overall animal production.

Slovakia stated that the EU would continue to actively combat AMR by taking the recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR into account. Slovakia appealed to the Assembly to join forces for enhanced efficiency in the fight against AMR and the need to reinforce OIE standards. Slovakia had encouraged the OIE to revise the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine; to this effect, comments had been sent to the OIE last year and the proposal had recently been added to the Code Commission's work programme. Reference was also made to the fact that a Codex Alimentarius task force on AMR had been established in order to review the Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain AMR as well as to develop Guidelines on Integrated Surveillance of AMR.

Slovakia stated that the recently released report of the UN IACG, entitled 'No Time to Wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections', corresponded to another call for urgent action, while recognising that the challenges were complex and multifaceted yet not insurmountable.

210. Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, congratulated the OIE and underscored the important role antimicrobials play in the treatment, prevention and control of a wide range of animal diseases, including zoonoses. Building upon the Global Action Plan on AMR and the work of the Tripartite and the UN Environment Programme, the Delegate informed the Assembly that the African Union was developing a continental framework to combat AMR. OIE Members of the African Union, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and Regional Economic Communities, would be working together to establish a multi-stakeholder African AMR Surveillance Network. With a view to implementing OIE standards and the *OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials*, Africa reiterated its commitment to:

- Establish legislative and regulatory bases for the production, importation, registration, distribution and use of antimicrobials intended for use in animals;

- Mitigate the consequences of AMR by building national and regional capacities for regulating antimicrobial use;
 - Provide continuing training for veterinarians on the appropriate use of antimicrobials;
 - Develop and sustain effective partnerships at the national level as part of the One Health concept;
 - Encourage civil society organisations to raise awareness of the consequences of antimicrobial abuse;
 - Establish national residue control plans to monitor compliance with laws and regulations and put in place the necessary documentation.
211. Dr Stone informed the Assembly that the revisions mentioned by Slovakia on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU related to Chapter 6.10. of the *Terrestrial Code* but should also apply to Chapter 6.2. of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. He stated that these important *Code* chapters had guided the OIE's communication activities and supported the OIE training programme for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products. The review of such chapters would be assessed and prioritised on the basis of the work programme that would be reviewed by the new Working Group on AMR. Dr Stone presented Draft Resolution No. 14 to the Assembly.
212. The Director General of the OIE thanked the Assembly for its support and confirmed that the OIE was well equipped to continue to play a leading role in the fight against AMR including the rapid implementation of the UN Secretary-General's recommendations.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
OIE's Engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance

213. As there were no further comments from the Assembly, the President submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption and the Assembly approved the composition of the Working Group created by Resolution No. 14
214. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

○ WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019 ○

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Conferences (contd)

OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health
'Collaboration, Sustainability: Our Future', Santiago, Chile, 2–4 April 2019

215. Dr Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), informed the Assembly that the fourth Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health with the theme of 'Collaboration, sustainability: our future' had been held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 4 April 2019. The Conference gathered 255 participants from 90 countries, including OIE Delegates and Focal Points on Aquatic Animals, representatives of national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services and OIE Reference Laboratories, aquatic animal health scientists, representatives of international organisations, private sector aquaculture representatives, representatives of research institutes and representatives of donors and sponsors.

216. Dr Ernst took the opportunity to thank the chairpersons, speakers, panellists and participants for their active contributions.
217. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that aquaculture is the fastest-growing food-animal production sector in the world and that recent projections indicate that to satisfy the growing global demand for aquatic food, by the year 2030, global aquatic food production will have to double, with the majority coming from aquaculture. He reported that the implementation of measures by Members to effectively manage disease emergence and spread needs to improve substantially.
218. Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the key objectives of the conference were to encourage and support Members and the OIE to improve aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide in response to the rapid development of the aquaculture industry and the high occurrence of emerging diseases. The Conference focused specifically on managing transboundary and emerging diseases, biosecurity in aquaculture, advances in disease management and improving implementation of OIE international standards.
219. Dr Ernst reported on some key discussion points raised during the Conference and the consequent recommendations issued to both Members and the OIE. The participants of the Conference emphasised the importance of national, regional and global collaboration in response to important new and emerging diseases of aquatic animals, ensuring that the standards are relevant for small scale aquaculture, and that biosecurity measures are implemented based on risk and to ensure safe trade in genetic material.
220. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the successful management of disease emergence and spread requires prompt detection and reporting, improved husbandry and biosecurity practices, investment in aquatic animal health management that keeps pace with the growth of the industry, stronger aquatic animal health services and coordinated responses to emerging threats.
221. Dr Ernst further reported that during the Conference recommendations to Members and to the OIE had been discussed. He noted that the recommendations will be considered carefully by the Aquatic Animals Commission in its work to revise and develop OIE international standards in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* for the improvement of aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide.
222. Dr Ernst also took the opportunity to recognise and thank the Government of Chile, donors and sponsors, the members of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission, the different Conference Committees and the OIE Events Coordination Unit for their extensive efforts, without which the Conference would not have been a success.
223. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that recommendations, abstracts, speakers' biographies and PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference are all available on the OIE website at: <http://www.oie.int/aquatic-conference2019/?lang=en>
224. Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members States of the OIE African Union, congratulated the OIE for organising the fourth OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health. Africa supported the recommendations of the conference and is committed to ensuring that they are widely disseminated on the African continent and that their implementation is supported. The sustainable growth and development of Africa's emerging and rapidly evolving aquaculture sector is key to helping to increase aquatic animal production in Africa, thereby improving livelihoods, in particular of small-scale producers, and fostering sustainable socio-economic development. Nigeria noted that Africa is concerned about the state of aquatic animal health and aquatic ecosystems, the lack of expertise, infrastructure and legislation in the field of aquatic animal health, and informed the Assembly that the region would aim to strengthen and develop aquaculture technology,

research and aquatic animal health with the intention to address important aquaculture issues such as biosecurity, small-scale aquaculture health training, diagnostic capacities and cross-border surveillance systems. The African countries would also take advantage of the PVS Tool: Aquatic to strengthen the capacity of their Veterinary Services.

225. Chile thanked the OIE for giving it the opportunity to host the fourth OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and for providing Members with a stage to discuss important aquaculture issues such as biosecurity, small-scale aquaculture, disease prevention and control, and public–private partnerships. As one of the main producers of aquatic animals globally, Chile maintains its commitment to ensuring aquatic animal health and the sustainability of aquaculture and urged the OIE and its Members to strengthen activities with a specific focus on biosecurity management of farms, emerging diseases, small-scale production and the prudent use of antimicrobial agents. Chile also proposed that the OIE convene a permanent Working Group on aquatic animal health and offered its support and expertise.
226. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Éloit, thanked Chile for hosting the conference and expressed her gratitude to all those involved in its organisation. Dr Eloit reminded the Assembly that the recommendations will be considered by the Aquatic Animals Commission. She also indicated that the OIE should not only focus on developing standards but should also take a broader view of the aquaculture sector and invited the competent department of the OIE, in collaboration with the Aquatic Animals Commission to develop and propose an action plan in order to have a more precise vision of the activities to be conducted in this important area.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

227. Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the Commission had met at the OIE Headquarters from 11 to 18 September 2018 and from 7 to 14 February 2019.
228. Dr Ernst expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Edmund Peeler (Vice-President), Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Kevin William Christison (Member), Dr Hong Liu (Member) and Dr Atle Lillehaug (Member) for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of the experts of *ad hoc* Groups, Reference Centre experts, as well as individual experts who provided scientific advice. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Ernst gratefully acknowledged the support and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Commission by members of the Secretariat at OIE Headquarters.
229. Dr Ernst stated that the production of aquatic animals, and aquaculture in particular, is the fastest-growing food-animal production in the world and that aquatic animal disease outbreaks continue to cause significant losses in aquaculture production throughout the world and are having a major detrimental impact on national economies in some countries and regions. These disease outbreaks threaten to limit the sustainability of this rapidly expanding sector unless the governance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services is strengthened so that effective aquatic animal health policies and programmes complying with OIE standards are implemented to prevent or control these disease outbreaks.

230. Dr Ernst highlighted that the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* are globally agreed standards that if implemented can prevent the spread of transboundary aquatic animal diseases and ensure safe international trade. He emphasised that these standards must continue to evolve to ensure that they remain relevant to the changing characteristics of aquaculture and trade in aquatic animals and their products.
231. Dr Ernst thanked those Members that had submitted comments, for their participation in the standard-setting process. He noted the importance of the contributions of experts from OIE Members in improving the quality of the standards and encouraged all Members to contribute to this work.
232. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, he assured the Assembly that all comments supported by a rationale were considered by the Commission. Dr Ernst encouraged Members to refer to explanations provided in previous reports when preparing comments on longstanding issues. He also reminded Delegates that the reports of *ad hoc* Groups, provided as annexes to the Commission reports, are also available as stand-alone documents on the OIE website and included important information. He encouraged Members to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.
233. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that he routinely meets with the President of the Code Commission and the President of the Biological Standards Commission, respectively, during Aquatic Animals Commission meetings, either in person or via teleconference. The meeting with the President of the Code Commission facilitates harmonisation of relevant *Code* chapters under review and the meeting with the President of the Biological Standards Commission ensures alignment between the two Commissions on relevant topics such as Reference Centres.
234. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters to ensure alignment.
235. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 3 to 16 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B.

Aquatic Code

236. Glossary

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had proposed amendments to revise the Glossary definition for ‘basic biosecurity conditions’.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had decided to propose amendments to the definition at its February 2018 meeting having recognised that the definition needed to be more explicit in its application to compartments. The amended definition also includes requirements to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents from areas where they have been detected, i.e. infected and protection zones. Dr Ernst also noted that although the word ‘import’ had been deleted from the definition, it should be noted that the requirements to prevent introduction of the pathogenic agent, to maintain a disease-free status, apply to movements of aquatic animals or products into a country, a zone or a compartment, as relevant. The amended text had been circulated three times for Member comments.

Norway, on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, expressed their support for the adoption of this amended definition as well as for the other proposed amendments to texts in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

237. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen (Chapter 1.5.)

Dr Ernst reported that the work on proposed amendments to revise Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to a specific pathogen had been initiated by the Aquatic Animals Commission in September 2016 and that the text had been circulated six times for Member comments.

The Commission had reviewed Chapter 1.5. with the view of including a mechanism to list taxonomic groups of species as susceptible, when many species within a taxon have been determined to be susceptible and none has been found to be refractory to infection. Dr Ernst explained that application of the current criteria to listed diseases with a broad host range may result in susceptible species not being included within the scope of standards for those diseases, which may have implications for international trade (e.g. infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* and infection with white spot syndrome virus). He noted that this circumstance would be contrary to the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and could lead to the spread of some listed diseases.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed a new Article 1.5.9. to address this issue by including a mechanism to list taxonomic groups of species as susceptible. Susceptible species have been listed at the level of taxonomic groups previously; however, the new draft Article 1.5.9. would provide a more consistent and scientifically sound approach to do this. This mechanism is intended to apply only to diseases with a broad host range. The development of the new Article 1.5.9. had been challenging but was made possible by the constructive comments provided by Members.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission also amended relevant text in Articles 1.5.1. and 1.5.2. to improve clarity and ensure consistency with the new Article 1.5.9. Amendments were also made in Articles 1.5.4., 1.5.6. and 1.5.8. in response to Member comments.

Dr Ernst explained that once adopted, the criteria in the new Article 1.5.9. will be applied to relevant OIE-listed diseases (i.e. those with a broad host range) of the *Aquatic Code*.

Thailand expressed its appreciation to the Commission for its extensive work in the development of standards but noted their concerns regarding the new Article 1.5.9. Thailand was of the opinion that there is currently not sufficient scientific evidence available to support the listing of taxonomic groups of species as susceptible and that there is a high degree of uncertainty that might have negative impact on international trade in aquatic animals, especially for developing countries.

Dr Ernst noted that there is uncertainty regarding the susceptible species of a small number of listed aquatic animal diseases that have a broad host range. He noted that this uncertainty must be managed optimally to meet the purpose of the *Aquatic Code* and ensure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals and their products. He explained that for these few diseases, if only individual species that have been demonstrated to be susceptible are listed, many traded species for which there is a high level of confidence that they would be susceptible if challenge assays or surveillance were carried out, would be excluded. This would make the standards ineffective. On the other hand, it is not desirable to list numerous species that are not susceptible and for which disease-specific trade measures are unwarranted. A balance between these two extremes to effectively prevent the spread of aquatic animal diseases, while also having the least impact possible on international trade, must be achieved. This is what Article 1.5.9. is intended to do.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted with one abstention (Thailand).

238. Infection with *Ranavirus* species (Chapter 8.3.)

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had agreed to replace 'Infection with ranavirus' with 'Infection with *Ranavirus* species' throughout the chapter, where relevant, to ensure the terminology is in line with the revised listed name in Chapter 1.3. that was adopted in 2017. The Commission also proposed to add 'in amphibians' and to delete the *Ranavirus* species exceptions (i.e. 'epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus and European catfish virus') in Article 8.3.1. noting that although this disease appears in the section on amphibians this wording clarified the scope for this disease. Dr Ernst also noted that Article 8.3.8. on importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country or zone not declared free was amended to ensure alignment with proposed amendments in the model Article X.X.8.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that this chapter had been circulated twice for Member comments.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

239. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (Chapter 9.1.)

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had amended the use of the terms AHPND and V_{AHPND} , where relevant, having noted that there were some errors in the use of these terms throughout this chapter. The Commission had also amended Article 9.1.8. on importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country or zone not declared free to ensure alignment with proposed amendments in the model Article X.X.8.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that this text had been circulated twice for Member comments.

Australia supported the adoption of the amended chapter but wished to clarify whether the Commission intended to further investigate the possibility of other *Vibrio* species containing active PirA and PirB toxin genes causing AHPND. They informed the Assembly that these *Vibrio* species containing active PirA and PirB toxin genes have demonstrated similar AHPND disease signs in shrimp through experimental and natural exposure, and

have been affecting the shrimp industry globally. Australia suggested that the Commission review new scientific information on these hepatopancreatitis variants in shrimp and re-evaluate these variants against the listing criteria.

Dr Ernst replied that the Commission had been closely following developments since the disease was listed and that it acknowledged the severe impacts of this disease. He explained that the Commission had regularly reviewed available studies on the disease to determine whether the definition of the disease should be amended. He noted that some recent studies did appear to provide strong evidence that species of *Vibrio* other than *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* may be causative agents of AHPND. He informed the Assembly that the Commission will review these studies at its September 2019 meeting.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

240. Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 10.5.), Infection with koi herpesvirus (Chapter 10.7.) and Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus (Chapter 10.9.)

Dr Ernst reported that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.5.2. of Chapter 10.5. Infection with salmonid alphavirus, Article 10.7.2. of Chapter 10.7. Infection with koi herpesvirus and Article 10.9.2. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus of the fish disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code* had been amended. These amendments were based on the assessments that had been undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE-listed diseases in accordance with the criteria in Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen, as well as Member comments.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that a new Chapter 1.5. was adopted in 2014 to provide guidance to determine whether a species is susceptible, or not, based on a transparent and science-based decision-making process. This work follows on from similar work already undertaken in all disease-specific crustacean chapters and the disease-specific fish chapters Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (Chapter 10.1.), Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris* (Chapter 10.3.), Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Chapter 10.4.) and Infection with koi herpesvirus (Chapter 10.7.) in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst acknowledged the contribution from Members in commenting on the *ad hoc* Group's assessments and providing additional scientific information to support the review of these assessments.

The revised chapters had been circulated three times for Member comments.

Canada commended the Commission for its work on updating the lists of susceptible species, but had concerns about zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) not being proposed as susceptible to infection with spring viraemia of carp virus in Article 10.9.2. of Chapter 10.9. They referred to the report of the *ad hoc* Group that found the species to be susceptible and pointed out that there was no criterion on the number of published studies that are needed to support the listing of a species. Canada asked for more complete documentation of science-based rationale when such decisions are taken.

Dr Ernst acknowledged that the basis of the Commission's recommendations on this matter had not been reflected appropriately in its February 2019 meeting report. He informed the Assembly that the Commission had, however, considered this matter in detail and found that the conditions of experimental challenge did not meet the requirements of Article 1.5.7. concerning evidence of a route of transmission that is consistent with natural pathways for the infection. Dr Ernst explained that the study considered for this assessment had used temperatures outside of the natural range of zebrafish and the authors had acknowledged that this had likely resulted in immunosuppression. He concluded that based on this assessment, the species has been proposed for inclusion in Section 2.2.2. of the *Aquatic Manual* and further evidence could be considered on this issue if it becomes available.

The President presented revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

241. Articles 10.2.1. and 10.2.2. of Chapter 10.2. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*

Dr Ernst reported that revisions of Article 10.2.1. was to ensure consistency with other disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code* by applying the naming convention 'infection with [pathogenic agent]'. The Aquatic Animals Commission also amended some Family names in Article 10.2.2. to remove the use of italics as Family names for fish should not appear in italics and corrected misspelling of the names of torpedo-shaped catfishes (*Clarias* spp.) and terapon (*Terapon* sp.).

The revised Chapter 10.2. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* had been circulated twice for Member comments.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

242. Articles 10.6.1., 10.6.2. and 10.6.8. of Chapter 10.6. Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.6.2. had been revised after consideration of the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases in accordance with the criteria in Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen, and Member comments. Dr Ernst noted that seven of the eight species that were currently listed in Article 10.6.2. meet the criteria for listing as susceptible species and would remain, namely: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), masu salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). One species, pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus rhodurus*), that was currently listed in Article 10.6.2., did not meet the criteria for listing as a susceptible species and was proposed for deletion. Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), cutthroat trout (*Onchorynchus clarkii*), marble trout (*Salmo marmoratus*) and pike (*Esox lucius*) were new species that met the criteria in accordance with Chapter 1.5. and were therefore proposed to be added to the list of susceptible species in Article 10.6.2.

Dr Ernst acknowledged the contribution from Members in commenting on the *ad hoc* Group's assessments and providing additional scientific information to support the assessments.

The Commission also amended the name of the pathogenic agent in Article 10.6.1. to ‘salmonid novirhabdovirus (also known as infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus ([IHNV])’ in accordance with the classification in the database of the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses, and it also amended text in Article 10.6.8. on importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country or zone not declared free to ensure alignment with proposed amendments to the model Article X.X.8.

The revised Chapter 10.6. Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus had been circulated three times for Member comments.

Sweden, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, supported the adoption of the revised chapter but noted that the common name for *Esox lucius* was different in the amended chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Ernst replied that the Commission had noted this inconsistency and that the common name will be proposed for amendment in Section 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.3.4. of the *Aquatic Manual*.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

243. **Article X.X.8.**

Dr Ernst reported that amendments to Article X.X.8. had been adopted by the Assembly in 2018 for all disease-specific chapters, with the purpose of harmonising the approach for the importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with the pathogenic agent.

Dr Ernst noted that, following consideration of comments from Members received at its September 2018 meeting, the Commission had proposed a new point 1(b) to clarify that imported aquatic animals could be killed and processed either in the original quarantine facility (where the animals were grown) or following biosecure transport to another quarantine facility (for processing). Dr Ernst advised that if adopted, this amendment would be applied to Article X.X.8. of all disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code*, with the exception of Chapter 10.4. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus because of different numbering. For Chapter 10.4., this amendment would be applied to Article 10.4.12.

The revised Article X.X.8. had been circulated twice for Member comments.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

AQUATIC MANUAL

244. **Scope and Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.9. Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1**

Dr Ernst noted that amendments had been made to the Scope and Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.9. Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 to align these sections with other disease-specific crustacean chapters in the *Aquatic Manual*. In addition, the list of susceptible species in Section 2.2.1. had been amended to be in alphabetical order by common name.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that since its February 2019 meeting, the Commission had noted that the species *Palaemonetes pugio* appeared twice with different common names in Section 2.2.1. Dr Ernst proposed deleting “grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes pugio*)” and that this correction will be made in the Annex to be proposed for adoption.

Dr Ernst also noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had added a new paragraph to Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility to align it with the other crustacean disease-specific chapters. The new paragraph concerned species for which pathogen-specific positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results have been reported, but an active infection has not been demonstrated. The revised text had been circulated three times for Member comments.

The President presented the revised text, with the additional amendment to delete “grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes pugio*)” in Section 2.2.2. to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

245. **Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 2.3.4.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had applied the naming convention ‘infection with [pathogenic agent]’ to the title of this chapter and ensured the correct use of the disease name throughout the chapter. The Commission also reviewed and amended the Scope, and Sections 2.2.1., 2.2.2. and 2.2.6.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the Commission had also aligned the Scope of the chapter with the corresponding Chapter 10.6. in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that the purpose of amendments in Section 2.2.1. was to align the chapter with the amendments to the list of susceptible species proposed in Article 10.6.2. of Chapter 10.6. Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus in the *Aquatic Code*.

The Commission also amended the list of species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility in Section 2.2.2. in consideration of the assessments that had been undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE-listed diseases against the criteria in Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that since its February 2019 meeting the Commission had noted that the common name of *Esox lucius* in Section 2.2.2. of the *Aquatic Manual* was inconsistent with other common names used for this species. Dr Ernst proposed that ‘Northern pike’ be replaced by ‘pike’. Pike is the term used in the FAOTERM database, which the Commission agreed to use as the basis for common names throughout the *Aquatic Manual* and *Aquatic Code*. He also noted that this amendment would also be made in relevant disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* when they undergo revision.

The Commission also included two invertebrate species, mayfly (*Callibaetis sp.*) and salmon lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) to the list of vectors in Section 2.2.7., noting that these species should be considered as potential vectors for transmission of infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus, and not susceptible species, as viral replication within insects is unlikely and may be difficult to determine.

The revised text had been circulated twice for Member comments.

Finland, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for taking into account comments sent earlier. The EU supported the adoption of the chapter noting that it had also submitted comments in writing on Section 2.3.3. *Geographical distribution* and on Table 5.1. *Methods for targeted surveillance and diagnosis* for the Commission's consideration at its September 2019 meeting.

Dr Ernst explained that these comments would be addressed when the chapter was revised using the new chapter template. He referred the Members of the EU to the list of chapters identified for update, which included infection with IHNV. He reminded the Assembly that the new template will refer to WAHIS for information on geographical distribution of the relevant disease. He also noted that the contents of the chapters will be thoroughly revised when the template is applied, and validated new diagnostic methods such as real-time PCR will be included as appropriate.

The OIE President presented the revised text, with the additional amendment to delete “Northern” from the common name of *Esox lucius* in Section 2.2.2, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

246. **Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 2.3.6.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the proposed amendments to Chapter 2.3.6. Infection with salmonid alphavirus were made to ensure consistency with approaches taken and amendments made in other disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* and to address comments from Members concerning diagnostic tests. Changes included the presentation of geographical distribution, the list of susceptible species and species with incomplete evidence of susceptibility, and genotyping of the virus.

The Commission amended Section 2.2.1. Susceptible host species to ensure alignment with changes made in Article 10.5.2. of the *Aquatic Code*; and Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility after consideration of the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases. Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*) was added to Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility and noted that it could not be considered as a susceptible species until a corroborative study was published. Dr Ernst also informed the Assembly that since its February 2019 meeting the Commission had noted an error in Section 2.2.2. regarding Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*). He noted that, based on the advice of the *ad hoc* Group, Ballan wrasse should have been included in the first paragraph of Section 2.2.2. because salmonid alphavirus (SAV) had also been isolated in cell culture from Ballan wrasse. Dr Ernst proposed that this correction will be made in the Annex to be proposed for adoption.

The Commission had agreed that the chapter needed revisions, in particular changes to the definitions of suspect case and confirmed case. Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that rather than proposing amendments in a piecemeal manner, a substantial revision would be undertaken systematically when the chapter was reformatted using the new chapter template.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission agreed with a comment that for genotyping of different SAV isolates, sequencing of the E2 gene is sufficient. The Commission had also amended the ranking of histopathology for both presumptive and confirmatory diagnoses in Table 5.1. *Methods for targeted surveillance and diagnosis*.

Dr Ernst noted that this chapter had been circulated three times for Member comments and that many Members had provided valuable comments along with a rationale. Dr Ernst emphasised that these contributions are essential for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

The United Kingdom, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, informed the Assembly that the EU supported the adoption of the chapter.

The President presented the revised text, with the additional amendment to move Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*) from the second to first paragraph in Section 2.2.2., to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

247. Title, Scope and Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.3.7. Koi herpesvirus disease

The Aquatic Animals Commission had applied the naming convention ‘infection with [pathogenic agent]’ to the title of Chapter 2.3.7. Koi herpesvirus disease and ensured the correct use of the name of the pathogenic agent throughout the chapter. The Commission had also reviewed and amended the Scope, and Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the proposed amendments to Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 were made to align the articles with the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE-listed diseases, which had applied the criteria in accordance with Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen of the *Aquatic Code*.

The text had been circulated three times for Member comments.

The OIE President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

248. Texts circulated for Member comments

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the revised texts presented in Annexes 17 to 22 of the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission meeting in February 2019 had been circulated to Members for comment. All comments received before the deadline of 7 August 2019 will be considered by the Commission at its September 2019 meeting.

For the *Aquatic Code* these comprised: new draft chapter on Biosecurity for Aquaculture Establishments (Chapter 4.X.); revised Article 1.3.3. of Chapter 1.3. and the assessment for infection with shrimp haemocyte iridescent virus against the criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease in accordance with Chapter 1.2.; and model Article 10.X.13. and Article 10.6.13. of Chapter 10.6. Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus.

For the *Aquatic Manual* these comprised: Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus (Chapter 2.3.9.); and the new draft Chapter 2.1.X. Infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.

Dr Ernst noted that details regarding the rationale for these revised texts can be found in the February 2019 report of the Aquatic Animals Commission, which is available on the OIE website. He encouraged Delegates to participate in the OIE standard-setting process through the provision of written comments to the OIE.

Australia commended the Commission for taking up the very important work on approaches to determining periods required to demonstrate disease freedom. Australia emphasised that having scientifically robust OIE guidance for self-declaration of disease freedom improves bilateral agreements for trade by establishing internationally consistent surveillance standards that are supported by on-going biosecurity conditions. Determination of periods required to demonstrate disease freedom will be of international importance and Australia would like to be involved in further developing these standards.

Dr Ernst thanked Australia for its support for this work. He informed the Assembly that the Commission was pleased with the strong engagement and extensive comments received from Members on the discussion paper circulated in its September 2018 report. Dr Ernst explained that the approach is to review all comments and present a revised document with the Commission's September 2019 meeting report for further comments. The Commission anticipated that this work will take several years to complete and Dr Ernst encouraged all Members to engage their experts to follow and contribute to this work.

Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV)

Korea (Rep. of) informed the Assembly that the conventional reverse transcription (RT) PCR method included in Chapter 2.3.10. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) of the *Aquatic Manual* has low sensitivity in detecting VHS virus genotype IVa in Asia. To solve the problem, Korea (Rep. of) had worked with Denmark, through an OIE twinning project, which led to the development of a novel conventional RT-PCR method that had been validated according to the OIE validation pathway. Korea (Rep. of) requested that the new method be incorporated in the *Aquatic Manual* chapter as soon as possible.

Dr Ernst thanked Korea (Rep. of) for the information provided and noted that publication of the new method was an excellent outcome of the twinning project. The method will be included in the chapter, which is currently being revised in accordance with the new template. The Aquatic Animals Commission appreciated the contribution of the two Reference Laboratories and looked forward to their assistance in revising the chapter. Dr Ernst added that should the revision be ready for review at the September 2019 meeting, the chapter could be provided to Members for comment with that meeting's report.

249. Reference Centres

Dr Ernst expressed his ongoing appreciation for the support and expert advice provided to the OIE by the Reference Centres.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had approved the proposed change of the designated expert at the OIE Reference Laboratory for infection with salmonid alphavirus at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Norway. Following the Commission's approval, the nomination had been endorsed by the OIE Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that there are currently no OIE Reference Laboratories for two OIE listed amphibian diseases: infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*; three OIE listed crustacean diseases: Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis), Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus and Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (White tail disease); and three OIE listed mollusc diseases: Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, Infection with *Perkinsus olseni* and Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*. He invited applications from Members where appropriate expertise exists for these diseases.

250. **Twinning**

Dr Ernst noted that as of February 2019, six aquatic animal health Twinning projects had been completed: Canada and Chile for infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus; Denmark and Korea (Rep. of) for infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus; Japan and Indonesia for infection with koi herpesvirus; Norway and Brazil for infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus; United States of America and China (People's Rep. of) for infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus; and United States of America and Indonesia for crustacean diseases. Two other twinning projects are underway: Italy and Tunisia for viral encephalopathy and retinopathy; and United States of America and Saudi Arabia for shrimp diseases.

251. **Work plan**

Dr Ernst also informed the Assembly that the Commission, at each meeting, reviews and updates its work plan, taking into account Member comments, Headquarters' comments, and completed work. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work plan provides them with an overview of current and upcoming activities.

252. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

253. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), reported on the work of the Code Commission since the previous General Session. Dr Bonbon stated that the Commission had met at OIE Headquarters from 11 to 20 September 2018 and from 19 to 28 February 2019. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Code Commission, Dr Gaston Funes (First Vice-President), Dr Masatsugu Okita (Second Vice-President), Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi, Prof. Salah Hammami and Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Commission members) for their expert contributions, dedication and commitment to the work throughout the year, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings or representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
254. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bonbon thanked the members of the other Specialist Commissions for their advice and support and acknowledged the strengthened collaboration and coordination among the four Specialist Commissions in the standard setting process. He assured the Assembly that the Code Commission would continue to work to strengthen coordination and linkages among the Specialist Commissions. He also extended his appreciation for the contribution of *ad hoc* Group experts and individual experts who provided scientific advice.
255. Dr Bonbon also commended the staff at OIE Headquarters for their support to the work of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups, and recognised the efforts made by the OIE to continue to strengthen the role of Secretariats in support of the work of the Code Commission and other Specialist Commissions.
256. Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission held a Joint meeting in February to prepare for the General Session and that he also met with the Presidents of the Scientific Commission, Biological Standards Commission, and the Aquatic Animals Commission during their respective meetings or via teleconference call to discuss topics in common.

257. Dr Bonbon reiterated that the Code Commission strongly encouraged all OIE Members to actively participate in the standard-setting process of the OIE by providing comments on proposed revised or new texts along with a scientific rationale. He stressed that the standard-setting process would not be effective without the comments of Members. He expressed appreciation for the large number of comments submitted by Members as well as those submitted by organisations that have a cooperation agreement with the OIE. Dr-Bonbon noted that in general, new or amended texts undergo at least two rounds of commenting, before being proposed for adoption. He explained that, under certain situations, the cycle may be shortened and proceed swiftly for adoption, or be longer in case of conflicting positions.
258. Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that any specific comments on the work programme of the Commission or *Terrestrial Code* texts circulated for comment in its February 2019 meeting report should be submitted in writing to OIE Headquarters before 4 July 2019, so they can be considered by the Code Commission at its September 2019 meeting. Dr Bonbon reminded Members to observe this deadline to allow the Secretariat sufficient time for the preparation of working documents for the Code Commission.
259. Dr Bonbon emphasised that the work undertaken by the Code Commission often has linkages with the Scientific Commission and various *ad hoc* Groups, and encouraged Members to refer to these other reports when going through the reports of the Code Commission.
260. **Revised texts circulated for Member comments**

Dr Bonbon explained that before discussing the new and revised texts to be proposed for adoption, he would take the opportunity of this session to explain the background and objectives of some key items on the work programme.

Dr Bonbon thanked Members that had taken time to submit comments on the work programme and emphasised that the Commission was trying to be more systematic in prioritising items on its work programme so that Members could better anticipate the work of the Commission.

Following the election of new Specialist Commissions in 2018, Dr Bonbon stated that the newly elected Code Commission reviewed its work programme at its first meeting in September 2018, and reprioritised items for 2018–2021. He detailed the state of play for selected priority topics. He noted that in general few comments are submitted on the work programme that is routinely circulated for comment in the Code Commission's reports and urged Members to provide feedback on the proposed topics. He encouraged Members to submit comments early in the process so that modifications could be made accordingly.

He detailed the state of play for selected priority topics.

Harmonisation of the requirements for official recognition and maintenance of disease-free status, Chapter 1.6. Procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE and Chapter 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Articles 14.7.3. and 14.7.34.)

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the Code Commission, at its September 2018 meeting, had agreed, in coordination with the Scientific Commission to harmonise the provisions in disease-specific chapters for official recognition of disease-free status and its maintenance for AHS, CSF, CBPP, FMD and PPR, and for the endorsement of official control programmes for CBPP, FMD and PPR.

Dr Bonbon noted that common provisions concerning procedures applicable to the five diseases with official disease-free status recognition would be addressed in Chapter 1.6 instead of being repeated in each disease-specific chapter. Consequently, the Code Commission together with the Scientific Commission were working on amendments to text in Chapter 1.6.

With regards to the plan to introduce harmonised text in the five disease-specific chapters, Dr Bonbon noted that changes had been proposed to Chapter 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus to illustrate the harmonised text. He reported that the draft 'model' chapter had been circulated for comment in the Commission's February 2019 report. The Code Commission will consider comments received on this 'model' chapter before continuing the harmonisation work for the other disease-specific chapters.

Dr Bonbon encouraged Members to review the proposed text carefully and to provide comments and feedback on this proposal, as having good inputs at this initial stage would ease the next steps in the harmonisation process.

Draft new chapter on official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases (Chapter 4.Y.)

Regarding the new draft chapter on official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases proposed to be included in Section 4 of the *Terrestrial Code*, Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that this important topic had been on the Commission's work programme since February 2016, following requests from Members on the need for such a standard. A first draft had been prepared based on a guidance document developed by the Scientific Commission and published on the OIE website, as well as on the FAO Guide to Good Emergency Management Practices. The first draft had been circulated for Member comments in its February 2017 meeting report.

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the purpose of this new chapter was to provide recommendations to prepare, develop and implement official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases, including zoonoses. It was not aimed at giving ready-made, fit-for-all solutions, but rather was aimed at providing the principles to follow when combating transmissible animal diseases. Dr Bonbon explained that this chapter addresses measures for both rapid response and management of outbreaks, through to the long-term control of infections or infestations.

Dr Bonbon explained that the proposed text had developed significantly since its first draft, enriched by the important feedback received from Members during the five rounds of comments. The Code Commission had also consulted the Scientific Commission to address specific comments and text.

Dr Bonbon encouraged Members to review and comment on the latest version circulated in the Commission's February 2019 meeting report.

Draft new chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems (Chapter 7.Z.)

Dr Bonbon updated the Assembly on the development of a new chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems proposed to be included in Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code*. He noted that drafting of this chapter started in 2016 with the work of the *ad hoc* Group on animal welfare and laying hen production systems, highlighting that this topic was considered the next priority for the development of animal welfare standards in production systems, after those that have been adopted for other species and production systems.

Dr Bonbon thanked Members for their active involvement in commenting on this chapter and the valuable feedback received. He reported that a significant number of comments had been received regarding the latest draft circulated in the September 2018 Code Commission report and that many expressed opposing views with respect to the recommendations proposed in the draft chapter.

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that given the significant number of comments and the divergence of views, the Code Commission had recommended that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to review comments received. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group focus on animal-based measurables based on scientific evidence and ensure that the text is applicable and consistent with other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* referring to animal welfare in production systems.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Commission would review the *ad hoc* Group's report at its September 2019 meeting.

Japan thanked the Code Commission for its extensive work on reviewing the many comments received on this draft chapter. Japan requested that, given the diverse opinions on this issue, sufficient consideration be given before reaching a conclusion on this chapter. Japan commented that animal production systems are diverse across the world as they take into consideration differences in climate, culture, social and environmental aspects, and therefore a standard should consider these aspects when being developed.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the Americas Region, noted that this Region not only desires but seeks the best welfare for its commercial livestock and poultry populations. The Americas Region is open to all types of production systems which consider both the health and the welfare of animals and would accept changes to standards for current or future housing systems whenever the science supports those changes. The countries of the Americas Region requested that such changes should also be gradual, if merited, and consider any social and economic consequences. The Americas Region was very supportive of that first draft of Chapter 7.Z. circulated for comment, because it was inclusive of all currently used commercial housing production systems, be they open range systems, aviary or enriched colony systems, or the conventional systems. However, they found that the last revised version circulated included changes that are problematic, and which they believe excluded the commonly used conventional housing systems. The Region requested that the OIE continue to consider existing housing systems in place today used to commercially produce table eggs. The Region noted that the current draft effectively excludes almost 90% of the commercial housing production systems currently in place and is inconsistent with the wording of other welfare chapters that have been adopted. The Americas Region urged the Code Commission to ensure that revisions to the chapter focus on measurables based on scientific evidence as was done with the first proposed draft, which was inclusive of all currently used housing production systems.

Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the Americas Region supported the work of the Code Commission and relevant *ad hoc* Groups in developing science-based recommendations for animal welfare. The countries of the Region supported the leadership the OIE has shown in promoting the welfare of animals from birth on the farm, through transport and slaughter, and when necessary, during disease control. The countries of the Region also noted that the OIE has the mandate for the development of standards for animal health and animal welfare. Paraguay also mentioned that animal welfare issues should not be raised, as some countries have tried to do, in other international standard-setting bodies.

Colombia expressed its concerns on the chapter on laying hens, noting that the most recent draft does not consider the production systems that Colombia has had in place for many years and that such a chapter would exclude most of the production systems in the country. Colombia requested that the chapter take into account the opinions of all Members to ensure that once the chapter is adopted all Members could comply with the recommendations provided.

South Africa congratulated the Code Commission on the work it had done and requested more time to submit comments on the latest version circulated for comment.

India expressed its concerns about the new draft chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems. Aware that animal welfare outcomes are based on many factors, it noted that countries like India face several challenges, such as hot climatic conditions. India emphasised that standards must be able to be implemented by all Members and requested that the Code Commission consider the range of conditions across the globe as animal welfare depends on genetics, nutritional requirements and climatic conditions. As one of the top three egg-producing countries in the world, India offered its expertise to support the work of the *ad hoc* Group and could provide scientific knowledge to support the work of the Group.

Zimbabwe thanked the Code Commission and supported the position of Members who had previously expressed concerns regarding the restrictive wording of the draft new chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems. Zimbabwe commented that 80% of its national egg production is produced under conditions that the draft chapter does not address and requested the OIE to be flexible in the further developments of this chapter.

Dr Bonbon responded to comments made noting that many had similar concerns. Dr Bonbon recalled that all comments received in response to the draft chapter on animal welfare and laying hen production systems circulated in its September 2018 report had been reviewed by the *ad hoc* Group in April 2019 and that the Code Commission will consider the report at its September 2019 meeting. Dr Bonbon assured Members that the *ad hoc* Group considered the environmental, and socio-economic aspects of these production systems along with current scientific information. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that not all OIE chapters can be expected to be implemented by all Members immediately after adoption but rather may take time for Members to implement.

In relation to the comments of Paraguay, Dr Bonbon reiterated that the OIE is indeed the internationally recognised standard-setting organisation for animal welfare.

Finally, Dr Bonbon thanked India for the offer to provide scientific information regarding laying hen production systems under high-temperature conditions and encouraged India and any other Members to submit to the OIE any relevant scientific information that could support the work of the Code Commission on this topic.

Chapter 10.4. Infection with avian influenza viruses

Dr Bonbon explained that the *ad hoc* Group on avian influenza had met twice (in December 2017 and June 2018) to undertake a comprehensive review of Chapter 10.4. Infection with avian influenza viruses. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the Code Commission had agreed on the need for a major revision of this chapter at its February 2017 meeting, which

had been supported by many Members given their concerns regarding a lack of compliance with the existing OIE standards, including notification and trade, while the disease continued to spread.

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the *ad hoc* Group would be reconvened in June 2019 to consider Member comments received on the draft chapter circulated in the Commission's September 2018 meeting report. Dr Bonbon highlighted that one of the major outstanding issues was to analyse the notification and surveillance requirements for low pathogenicity avian influenza. Other issues under review also included the definition of poultry, the duration of the waiting period for recovery of status depending on the control measures and surveillance applied, the revision of recommendations on safe commodity trade and surveillance, and the clarification of the role of vaccination and its implications.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission would review the report of the *ad hoc* Group at their September 2019 meetings. He added that it was envisaged that a revised chapter would be circulated in the Code Commission's September 2019 report, pending the outcomes of these reviews.

Japan, speaking on behalf of the 32 Members of the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region, thanked the Code Commission and the *ad hoc* Group for undertaking this work, and noted the importance of establishing international standards for disease control and international trade which take into account the differences in risk between HPAI and LPAI, and the different production systems. The countries of the Region encouraged the Code Commission to ensure that any further amendments to this chapter are based on sound scientific evidence and to continue to consider all feedback from Members as it progresses this work.

Korea (Rep. of) appreciated the Code Commission's hard work and in particular its work on the ongoing revision of Chapter 10.4. Infection with Avian Influenza viruses. Korea (Rep. of) agreed that birds that are kept in a single household and only used in the same household may pose a lower risk in the transboundary transmission of the virus compared to commercial poultry. However, this should be based on effective sanitary measures and well-evidenced epidemiological data, demonstrating to trading partners that any risk of transmission to birds destined for international trade have been well-mitigated. Korea (Rep. of) would appreciate it if the Code Commission considered this matter in its ongoing revision of the chapter.

Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had agreed on an in-depth review of Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), in particular regarding the provisions for categorisation of official BSE risk status and the corresponding surveillance. The OIE had established two *ad hoc* Groups on BSE risk assessment and surveillance, respectively, and a total of four meetings had been held during the past 12 months with the last meeting being held in March 2019 as a joint meeting involving experts from both Groups to finalise the drafting of the revised chapter.

Dr Bonbon noted that the outcomes of the *ad hoc* Groups, including the revised draft chapter, would be considered by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission at their September 2019 meetings.

Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission continued to work on updating Chapter 15.2 Infection with classical swine fever virus. He explained that the ongoing revision, since the last adoption of the chapter in 2013, aimed to take into account comments made by Members, experts, the *ad hoc* Group on classical swine fever, as well as ensuring harmonisation with the recently adopted Chapter 15.1 Infection with African swine fever virus (ASF).

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had circulated the first revised text to Members for comment in February 2017. The Code Commission had worked with the Scientific Commission to consider comments and to harmonise the chapter with the recently adopted chapter on ASF. Dr Bonbon stressed that this was a challenging task that was later complicated by the work to harmonise the requirements for recognition and maintenance of disease-free status among diseases with officially recognised status. For these reasons a revised draft chapter was not circulated for Member comments until the Commission's September 2018 meeting.

Dr Bonbon explained that at its February 2019 meeting, the Code Commission reviewed comments received but agreed not to circulate the chapter for further comments until the harmonisation work on the 'model' PPR chapter had been finalised in order to avoid Members having to comment on several different versions of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission would finalise the draft chapter at their September 2019 meetings taking into account the harmonisation work.

Other texts circulated for Member comment

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that in addition to those texts already mentioned, the following revised texts had also been circulated for Member comments in the Commission's February 2019 report:

- User's Guide

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the User's Guide is a special part of the *Terrestrial Code* that is amended to reflect changes to the *Code* chapters and comments from Members, and consequently small changes are routinely proposed. He pointed out that it is an important text to guide Veterinary Authorities and other interested stakeholders in the implementation of standards and should be referred to when using the *Terrestrial Code*.

- Glossary definition for 'epidemiological unit.'

- Notification of diseases, infections and infestations, and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)

Dr Bonbon stressed the importance of Members' obligations in relation to notification in the context of this chapter.

- Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE (Article 1.3.1.)

Dr Bonbon highlighted that amendments to Chapter 1.3. may be made for the listing or delisting of pathogenic agents, as well as name changes to the pathogenic agent. He noted that it was on these occasions that Members could comment on the proposals for listing or delisting.

- Veterinary legislation (Chapter 3.4.)

Dr Bonbon reiterated the importance of this chapter in the context of the PVS Pathway.

- Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (Chapter 8.11.)
- Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.15.)

Dr Bonbon explained that Chapter 8.15. had been amended to clarify the obligations of Members to notify when there is an epizootic of Rift Valley fever in an endemic country or zone.

- Infection with equine influenza (Article 12.6.6.)

As was presented during the President of the Scientific Commission's report on the activities of the Commission, Dr Bonbon reiterated that scientific developments had triggered the revision of this chapter concerning modalities for vaccination.

Work programme

Dr Bonbon encouraged Members to review the Code Commission's work programme and consider how it would affect the implementation of standards at the national level and to plan ahead regarding future standard-setting work in order to be able to participate in the standard-setting process.

Dr Bonbon stated that new topics for the work programme of the Code Commission could be considered if there were changes in the epidemiological situation of diseases, in response to trade issues or if new scientific evidence was available. In this regard, he highlighted the need for strengthened coordination across all the Specialist Commissions to ensure alignment of work programmes.

Argentina, speaking on behalf of the 31 countries of the Americas Region, recalled that the inclusion of an article on safe commodities had been made as part of the revision of some of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters, such as those on porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Aujeszky's disease, bluetongue, brucellosis, peste des petits ruminants and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The Americas Region has been closely following the development of Chapter 2.2. Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities, which was adopted in 2017. In this regard, the Americas Region requested the Code Commission to consider the inclusion of an article on safe commodities in Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease and requested that work to revise this chapter be given high priority considering the importance of this disease. The Americas Region would provide a proposal on the list of safe commodities with supporting scientific information to be considered in the review of Chapter 8.8.

Romania, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for having considered the EU's previous comments on the Commission's work programme and priorities, and supported the future work programme that was presented. The EU encouraged active discussion on the work programme by Members, as it sets out the priorities for the OIE standard-setting activities for the years to come. The EU also emphasised its continued commitment to participate in the work of the OIE and to offer technical support needed by the Code Commission and its *ad hoc* Groups for future work on the *Terrestrial Code*.

With regard to the revision of the *Code* chapters on avian influenza and BSE, the EU commended the OIE on the important progress achieved in the past 12 months, and looked forward to receiving the draft revised chapters for comment after the September 2019 meeting of the Code Commission. Additionally, the EU urged the OIE to ensure that these revised chapters would be ready for adoption by May 2020.

The EU also thanked the Code Commission for including in its work programme an item on the review of Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicines. Given the high importance of this topic and the current momentum at international level, the EU encouraged the OIE to expedite work on this chapter and looked forward to receiving a draft revised chapter for comment. The EU also indicated that it was willing to provide expertise and technical support if required.

Curacao, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the Americas Region, congratulated the Code Commission on its work and recognised the ambitious agenda in its development of new chapters and updating of existing ones. The Americas Region is of the view that the proposed chapter on biosecurity will assist Members in their preventive measures by minimising the potential introduction of and spread of pathogenic agents. In addition, given the increased concern and heightened awareness of certain diseases such as classical swine fever (CSF) and African swine fever (ASF), the Region requested the Code Commission to include a specific article in the chapter on CSF that will address the procedures for feeding food waste, in particular swill feeding. At the same time, the Region requested the Code Commission to continue to give priority to the review of the chapter on CSF, for adoption at the next General Session.

South Africa congratulated the Code Commission on its work over the past year. It requested the Code Commission to review inconsistencies between the application of a containment zone in Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus, where culling is specifically mentioned, and other disease-specific chapters where allowance is given for other effective measures to be applied.

New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America), referred to the Quads' intervention at the 2018 General Session regarding Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems and wished to again highlight the issues that were raised in that intervention around the Glossary definitions of Competent Authority, Veterinary Services and Veterinary Authority. They emphasised that these definitions impact the accuracy and interpretation of this chapter as well as other chapters and requested that priority be given to further reviewing these Glossary definitions.

Zimbabwe wished to comment on Chapter 8.15. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus and noted that Rift Valley fever virus may be detected in humans in the absence of animal cases as the virus is transmitted by mosquitoes.

Regarding the comment by Argentina on safe commodities, Dr Bonbon noted that the inclusion of safe commodities would be considered when the Code Commission reviews new or revised disease-specific chapters. He elaborated that as part of the review of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus, the possibility of adding an article on safe commodities will be considered.

With regard to the work on antimicrobial resistance, Dr Bonbon noted that now that a Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance has been established, the Commission would seek its expert advice regarding the request to review this chapter.

In response to Curacao, Dr Bonbon noted that the development of a new chapter on biosecurity is currently a high priority on the Code Commission's work programme. He noted that the draft chapter on biosecurity will address several pathways, including the risk of introduction of pathogenic agents through feed and food waste. The Code Commission will also take this into consideration in its review of Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever.

Concerning the comment by South Africa on the discrepancies on zoning, Dr Bonbon explained that Chapter 4.3. Zoning and compartmentalisation is a horizontal chapter which sets out general provisions and principles that Members should refer to when establishing zones and compartments. While Chapter 4.3. includes recommendations on four types of zones, Members are not limited to just these zones and may establish other types of zones depending on their situation. Additionally, there could be special considerations for specific diseases, such as the requirement for stamping-out in order for a zone to be considered a containment zone for foot and mouth disease. He emphasised that these are not necessarily discrepancies between the horizontal chapters and the disease-specific chapters, but rather, disease-specific considerations that have to be taken into account based on science and expert advice.

In response to New Zealand, Dr Bonbon noted that the text of Chapter 6.2. is based on the current Glossary definitions for ‘Competent Authority’, ‘Veterinary Authority’ and ‘Veterinary Services’. Considering the impact of these definitions not only in the *Terrestrial Code* but also in the *Aquatic Code* and in other OIE activities such as the PVS Pathway, discussions are ongoing to review these definitions. Dr Bonbon also informed the Assembly that an *ad hoc* Group has been convened to review Chapter 3.1. Veterinary Services and Chapter 3.2. Evaluation of Veterinary Services and that the *ad hoc* Group will also consider comments received on these amended definitions.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged the comment on RVFV and encouraged Zimbabwe to submit comments on Chapter 8.15., which was circulated for comment in its February 2019 report.

261. **Chapters proposed for adoption**

Dr Bonbon continued his presentation and indicated that he would focus the rest of his session on presenting the revised *Terrestrial Code* texts that are to be proposed for adoption.

Dr Bonbon again thanked Members for their active participation in the standard-setting process of the OIE and encouraged the participation of all Members, especially those who have never participated or that had only recently started to provide comments.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the revised chapters to be proposed for adoption could be found in Annexes 3 to 13 of Document 87 SG/12/CS1 B.

262. **Glossary**

Dr Bonbon noted that a new definition for ‘early warning system’ was proposed together with the deletion of the existing definition for ‘early detection system’. He explained that the Code Commission had made this change based on the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on surveillance that had been requested to review Chapter 1.4 Animal health surveillance. Dr Bonbon indicated that the proposed new definition was succinct and in line with the revised Article 1.4.5. He reminded the Assembly that this proposal had first been circulated in its September 2017 meeting report and subsequently undergone three rounds of circulation to Members.

Dr Bonbon also noted that a minor amendment had been proposed to the Glossary definition for ‘sanitary measure’ to improve its clarity. He noted that this modification was first proposed by the Code Commission in February 2018 and circulated on three occasions to Members.

Dr Bonbon presented the new Glossary definitions for ‘early warning system’ and ‘sanitary measure’ together with the deletion of the definition for ‘early detection system’ to the Assembly.

France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the revised Glossary definitions. However, the EU noted that there is an inconsistency between the proposed Glossary definition for “early warning system” and the text in the proposed Article 1.4.5. Early warning systems in Chapter 1.4. Animal Health Surveillance. In Article 1.4.5., ‘occurrence’ of disease is also covered but this is omitted in the Glossary definition.

Botswana, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE Africa Region, sought clarification on the use of the term “sanitary measure” throughout the *Terrestrial Code* in relation to country, zone and compartment. The Region noted that sanitary measures are also used in relation to compartment in certain chapters, such as Chapter 1.4. Animal Health Surveillance.

In response to the comment on consistency between Article 1.4.5. and the Glossary definition for “early warning system”, Dr Bonbon agreed that it was important to capture “occurrence” in the definition, as was the intention of the *ad hoc* Group on Surveillance when drafting Article 1.4.5. Therefore, to ensure consistency, Dr Bonbon proposed to modify the Glossary definition of “early warning system”, by deleting “an” before “incursion” and adding “occurrence,” before “incursion”.

With regard to the use of the term “sanitary measure”, Dr Bonbon commented that it was a term in line with the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to describe measures to protect a territory or zone. It was also for this reason that the Code Commission did not accept the inclusion of “compartment” in the definition of “sanitary measure”. Notwithstanding, Dr Bonbon acknowledged that there may be discrepancies in the use of this term in the *Terrestrial Code*, and requested OIE Headquarters to review this and report back to the Commission at its September 2019 meeting.

The President presented the revised Glossary definitions, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised Glossary definitions were adopted unanimously.

263. Chapter 1.4. Animal health surveillance

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Code Commission, at its February 2016 meeting, reviewed Chapter 1.4. Animal health surveillance to ensure consistency within this chapter as well as with other text of the *Terrestrial Code*, namely Article 1.4.6. Surveillance for freedom from disease, infection or infestation. He noted that following requests from Members to further review this chapter, an *ad hoc* Group was convened to undertake a thorough review.

Dr Bonbon highlighted that the proposed amendments to this chapter sought to provide a more user-friendly structure that provided more details and guidance for animal health surveillance and was also consistent with disease-specific chapters. In doing so, the structure and format of the whole chapter had been revised. He explained that a new article was developed providing more details on the design, implementation and assessment of surveillance systems, and the article on surveillance methods and data sources was amended to consolidate text on structured population-based surveys and non-random surveillance that previously appeared in separate articles. Other notable changes included updated provisions for surveillance for country and zone freedom, maintenance of freedom and a new article on early warning systems. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the draft chapter was first shared with Members in February 2016 and had been circulated five times to Members.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Chapter 1.4. Animal health surveillance to the Assembly.

New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America) wished to note that as had been raised previously they still had concerns around the removal of the “no vaccination” clause from the requirements to declare a country or zone free from an infection or infestation. Their concerns were firstly, the use of vaccination, whether routine or emergency vaccination by a Competent Authority indicated that they believe there to be a heightened risk of disease entry into their territory, and secondly, that vaccination impacts on the passive surveillance system through interfering with diagnostic testing as well as possible masking of clinical signs. New Zealand requested that the Code Commission prioritise work which would specify surveillance requirements for disease freedom in each disease-specific chapter where these do not yet exist.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission and the OIE for its work on this chapter, and for taking into account some of the EU’s previous comments. The EU in general supported adoption of the revised chapter but requested replacing “prove absence of infection or infestation in wild animal populations” with “demonstrate absence of infection or infestation in wild animal populations” in point 1 of Article 1.4.6. as it is nearly impossible to collect sufficient epidemiological data to prove such absence of infection. Furthermore, in other articles of the *Terrestrial Code*, the term ‘demonstrate’ is used and should also be used in this article.

In addition, the EU noted that they had submitted some specific comments on this chapter to the OIE in writing prior to the General Session, and asked that the Code Commission consider these comments at its next meeting in September 2019.

Gabon, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE Africa Region, suggested introducing the phrase ‘access to’ in point 2 of Article 1.4.5., so that it reads “Access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant infections or infestations”. The Region is of the view that as long as the Veterinary Authority is able to access the services of a laboratory (in the country or outside the country), it would be considered adequate for purposes of establishing an early warning system in line with provisions of Chapter 1.1.1. in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

In response to the comment from Quads, Dr Bonbon noted that in Chapter 4.17. Vaccination, Article 4.17.11. states that the *a priori* vaccination of animals does not affect the status of the country or zone. The Code Commission and Scientific Commission had agreed that vaccination of animals is considered a valuable tool to prevent infection or infestation, and a prohibition of vaccination should not be considered a prerequisite for freedom status, unless otherwise stated in the disease-specific chapter. Nonetheless, Dr Bonbon acknowledged the impact of vaccination on surveillance and commented that this would be considered whenever disease-specific chapters are being reviewed.

Dr Bonbon agreed with the proposal by the EU to replace “prove” with “demonstrate” in Article 1.4.6. agreeing that it is a more appropriate term, and furthermore, the subheading of point 1 is “Demonstration of freedom”.

Dr Bonbon also agreed with the proposal of the OIE Africa Region to include “access to” in point 2 of Article 1.4.5., to allow the possibility for Members to consult other laboratories, such as regional or private laboratories.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

264. Draft new chapter on Introduction to recommendations for the prevention and control of transmissible animal diseases (Chapter 4.Z.)

Dr Bonbon presented a draft new chapter on Introduction to recommendations for the prevention and control of transmissible animal diseases and informed the Assembly that drafting of this chapter was first initiated in September 2017 to provide an introductory chapter to Section 4 on measures and tools to manage and control animal diseases. The text had been circulated four times to Members.

Dr Bonbon took the opportunity to remind that the Assembly that chapters in Section 4 focus on recommendations for disease prevention and control and are adapted to the national context, and are not necessarily intended for international trade *per se*.

The President presented the new chapter for adoption to the Assembly.

The text was adopted unanimously.

265. Articles 6.2.3. and 6.2.4. of Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that a significantly revised Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems was adopted in 2018.

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the scope of Chapter 6.2. is on the role of Veterinary Services in food safety and is not intended to prescribe the structure of regulatory controls of food safety systems. He explained that the Code Commission acknowledged that the role of Veterinary Services could be very limited or very extensive but, in either case, the work of the Veterinary Services should be under the supervision of the Veterinary Authority or other Competent Authority. Dr Bonbon stressed that the revised chapter sought to provide a more flexible approach to the chapter as it is up to each Member to organise its Veterinary Services and overall regulatory control for food safety to ensure production of safe food of animal origin.

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that at its September 2018 meeting the Commission had considered concerns raised by a Member at the time of adoption in the 2018 General Session regarding the responsibilities of the Veterinary Services, the Veterinary Authority, and other Competent Authorities, and had circulated the revised text in its September 2018 report. At the Commission's February 2019 meeting, the Commission considered comments received and proposed amendments to better align the text with current definitions in the Glossary for 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services', and to better reflect the roles that these entities play in veterinary public health. Dr Bonbon noted that other work was currently underway to revise the definitions for 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services' and that once completed the Commission would review this and other relevant chapters to ensure alignment.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Articles 6.2.3. and 6.2.4. of Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems to the Assembly.

Cote d'Ivoire, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE Africa Region, noted the relevance of this chapter in controlling novel food and feed systems arising from insects, citing some exploratory work by FAO, and acknowledged the growing importance of animal sources of food and feed harvested from nature. Cote d'Ivoire further noted that the integration of these sources required the development and standardisation of processes and procedures by Veterinary Services to ensure their safety and quality in the context of trade.

Dr Stone informed the Assembly that the OIE recognised that there is growing production and trade associated with insects for food and feed. He noted that the OIE is exploring, with relevant partners, the risks that these practices may carry in terms of both public health and animal health, and what role the OIE can play in risk management, including whether international standards or guidelines should be established by the OIE in this area.

Dr Bonbon added that whatever the source of food and feed, Veterinary Services could work on the food safety systems based on risk analysis, which underpins this chapter. In this regard, Chapter 6.2. may be applied to various types of food sources, including hunted animals and insects.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

266. **Article 7.1.4. of Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare**

Dr Bonbon explained that Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare that was first adopted in 2004 now included a new Article 7.1.4 Guiding principles for the use of measures to assess animal welfare that was adopted in 2018. Dr Bonbon noted that this new article was developed to clarify the importance of the use of outcome-based measurables when assessing the welfare of the animals.

Dr Bonbon recalled that during last year's discussion prior to adoption of this article, it was agreed not to include a sentence regarding the collection of data to guide users in determining target values until this was further considered by the Code Commission. The Commission, at its September 2018 meeting, agreed to include a new point 5) in this article based on the previous draft text but also including the term 'threshold' to complement the use of 'target values', and to reflect minimum acceptable levels and potential optimal values, respectively, before corrective interventions are taken.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Article 7.1.4. of Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare to the Assembly.

Japan appreciated the work done by the Code Commission in revising Article 7.1.4. and sought clarification on the term "all relevant data" in determining thresholds and target values, given that this would depend on country-specific considerations such as the climatic, social and cultural contexts. Japan was of the view that the standards of the OIE on animal welfare should be flexible enough to be applied by all Members. Japan thus proposed to replace 'all relevant data' with 'relevant data taking into account climatic and geographical conditions and social environment'.

Dr Bonbon explained that in the revised text that was circulated, the new wording on 'all data relevant for the users' implied that the data to be collected would depend on the specific context of the country, including the considerations cited by Japan. Dr Bonbon considered that the wording in the current draft is less restrictive than the suggested change, and thus proposed to retain the current draft text.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

267. Articles 7.13.4. and 7.13.15. of Chapter 7.13. Animal welfare and pig production systems

Dr Bonbon recalled that Chapter 7.13. Animal welfare and pig production systems was adopted in 2018. He informed the Assembly that the Code Commission, based on comments made by Members during the last General Session, reviewed and amended the text of Article 7.13.4. to broaden the scope of this article regarding the importance of differentiating behaviours that indicate animal welfare and health problems from behaviours indicating good welfare. Article 7.13.15. was also amended to include an example of the physical appearance criteria.

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the revised articles were circulated for comment in its September 2018 meeting report and that they agreed not to make any additional amendments when they considered comments received at its February 2019 meeting given that this was a recently adopted chapter.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Articles 7.13.4. and 7.13.15. of Chapter 7.13. Animal welfare and pig production systems to the Assembly.

Thailand thanked the Code Commission for reviewing Article 7.13.15. Thailand recognised that good air quality and ventilation in pig houses are important animal welfare considerations and evidence-based criteria are needed to determine the welfare conditions. However, Thailand considered that discharges of nose and eyes are non-specific, and thus inappropriate for use as an indicator of animal welfare related to air quality, and should be removed from the list.

Dr Bonbon responded that the presence of discharges of nose and eyes are not intended to be considered as the sole and specific indicator of problems in air quality. He highlighted that other animal-based measures such as mortality or morbidity rates are also in the list of criteria, but are not specific indicators of air quality problems. Therefore, one or more listed animal-based measures could indicate problems with welfare concerns. Dr Bonbon proposed to leave the text as proposed.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted as presented. Thailand abstained.

268. Draft new chapter on killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products (Chapter 7.Y.)

Dr Bonbon presented a draft new chapter on Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products to be included in Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code* that included recommendations to address the need to ensure the welfare of reptiles during the process of killing for their skins, meat and other products. He explained that the development of this chapter had begun in 2016 and that the Working Group on Wildlife and the former Working Group on Animal Welfare had also been involved in the development of the initial draft.

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had noted that the Spanish version of the chapter circulated as annex to the February report did not reflect a title change that was made in September 2017. Consequently, he proposed to modify the Spanish version only of Annex 9 by deleting the word “procesados” in the title of the Chapter.

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the Code Commission reviewed comments on the draft chapter with the support of the *ad hoc* Group on killing methods for farmed reptiles for their skins, meat and other products, and that the draft chapter had been circulated four times to Members.

Dr Bonbon presented the draft new Chapter on Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products (Chapter 7.Y.) to the Assembly.

Colombia thanked the Code Commission for the work done on this new chapter, but noted that this topic is not under the mandate of the Veterinary Services in Colombia. She commented that as a new Delegate she was uncertain if the Competent Authorities responsible for reptiles had the opportunity to comment on the proposed text.

Switzerland, speaking on behalf of the 53 European OIE Member Countries, thanked the OIE and the Code Commission for the development of this new chapter and supported its adoption.

The Central African Republic, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE Africa Region, suggested rephrasing the first paragraph of Article 7.Z.7. for clarity. They also proposed that the first paragraph of Article 7.Z.9. be modified to indicate that the process of stunning is intended to result in a state of unconsciousness (rather than death) which precedes the killing process. The Region also suggested rephrasing the seventh bullet point of Article 7.Y.9. that physical restraint is often required to control movement and improve the precision of stunning and killing.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged the comment from Colombia and highlighted that the chapter had been circulated four times for comments and emphasised that other relevant Competent Authorities should be consulted when relevant.

In response to the comments of the African Region, Dr Bonbon explained that physical restraint is not always required but rather the text provides an explanation for the need for physical restraint of the animal. However, he agreed that the wording could be improved and proposed to change the English and Spanish versions, to add the word “most” before “often” in the English version and replace “A menudo,” with “Muy frecuentemente” in the Spanish version. No change was needed in the French version as it is correct as written, i.e. “le plus souvent.”

Regarding the modification proposed by the African Region to Article 7.Y.9, Dr Bonbon did not agree commenting that stunning should be maintained until the death of the animal. A specific definition for “stunning” is included for this chapter, given that there are physiological specificities of reptiles.

Finally, regarding the comment on the seventh bullet point of Article 7.Y.9, Dr Bonbon responded that as in his first explanation the wording corresponded to a recommendation regarding the need of the reptile to be restrained during the stunning process and not that reptiles must be systematically restrained.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted as presented. Colombia abstained.

269. **Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus**

Dr Bonbon explained that a thorough review of Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus had been undertaken following a recommendation of the Rabies Global Conference (Geneva, 2015) and its endorsement by the Assembly at the 84th General Session in 2016. The initial revision was conducted by the *ad hoc* Group on rabies in November 2017 and sought to align the chapter with relevant international guidelines, including those from the WHO, with the aim of facilitating the efforts of Members to achieve the shared goal of the global initiative ‘Zero by 30: the global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030’.

The Code Commission first circulated the revised chapter to Members for comment in its February 2018 meeting report. The main revisions included new articles on country or zone free from dog-mediated rabies, OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, and surveillance. The Code Commission sought the advice of the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission to address specific comments during the review process.

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission agreed to propose the revised chapter for adoption at this General Session, after only two rounds of comments, because of the urgency and importance of this amended chapter in the context of the global Zero by 30 initiative. He noted that some additional work would be considered in the foreseeable future.

Dr Bonbon noted that in light of the divergent views expressed by Members, the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission, and the *ad hoc* Group, regarding the provisions on the timeframe for vaccination, testing and shipment of animals, the Code Commission agreed not to propose any changes to these provisions and would seek further expert advice. Dr Bonbon commented that the Code Commission had also agreed not to amend the current provisions on the risk mitigation measures for the importation of mammals outside of the Orders *Carnivora* and *Chiroptera* and requested the OIE Headquarters to seek further expert advice to be considered for the next revision of this chapter.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Chapter 8.14 Infection with rabies virus to the Assembly.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific region, supported the adoption of the amended chapter as proposed and acknowledged the extensive work of the Code Commission in amending this chapter. The Region agreed that the global priority is dog-mediated rabies and is strongly supportive of the global target of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The Region also commended the Code Commission for acknowledging the importance of rabies control in wildlife, and supported further ongoing development of this chapter to include recommendations for rabies control in wildlife at its next revision.

Israel, speaking on behalf of the 53 European OIE Member Countries, stated that it could not support the adoption of this chapter, unless an important issue was resolved. In the proposed Article 8.14.6. on recommendations for importation of other mammals from countries or zones infected with rabies virus, as in the case of vaccination of certain mammals like carnivores, further guarantees would be necessary, such as permanent identification of domestic animals and a waiting period after vaccination prior to shipment. Contrary to the intention of reverting to the text of Article 8.14.7. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*, the proposed text diverted from the current provisions. The Region cited that issues could arise with the merging of the two articles for domestic animals (excluding dogs, cats and ferrets) and wild animals. To avoid delaying the adoption of the revised chapter, the Region requested that text from existing Articles 8.14.7. and 8.14.9. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* be reinstated. A critical review on risk mitigation measures for these animals could be undertaken in a future revision of this chapter.

Dr Bonbon appreciated the support expressed by Australia and agreed that rabies control in wildlife should be considered at the next revision of the chapter. He stressed that the collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the OIE Wildlife Working Group would be essential in this work.

In response to the comment from Israel, Dr Bonbon clarified that the revision of the provisions related to the importation of mammals other than dogs, cats and ferrets was based on experts' advice that there were no significant risks associated with trade of animals outside of the orders of Chiroptera and Carnivora, and the fact that there were no major trade issues raised by Members.

Dr Bonbon recalled the critical need to adopt the amended chapter in the context of the global Zero by 30 initiative and given this urgency he agreed with the proposal from Israel.

Dr Bonbon explained that this would require the replacement of the text of Article 8.14.6. with the text of Article 8.14.7. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* and reinstating the text of Article 8.14.9. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* as a new Article 8.14.8. Consequently, the numbering of the other Articles and cross-referencing within the chapter would have to be amended accordingly.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

270. Article 14.4.1. and title of Chapter 14.4. Infection with *Chlamydophila abortus* (Enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis) and Article 1.3.3. of Chapter 1.3. Disease, infections and infestations listed by the OIE

Dr Bonbon shared that following the advice of the Biological Standards Commission and to ensure consistency with the updated taxonomy in the *Terrestrial Manual*, the Code Commission proposed to change the name of the pathogenic agent from *Chlamydophila abortus* to *Chlamydia abortus* in the chapter's title and in Article 14.4.1. Dr Bonbon noted that amendments were also made in Article 1.3.3. to ensure alignment.

Dr Bonbon explained that as this change concerned a taxonomy update that was adopted by the Assembly in May 2018 in the *Terrestrial Manual*, and as this change is being applied to ensure alignment between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Manual*, the Commission agreed to present this modification for adoption after two circulations for comment.

The President presented the revised Article 14.4.1. and title of Chapter 14.4. texts to the Assembly for adoption. The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

The President presented the revised Article 1.3.3. to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

271. Articles 15.1.1.-bis, 15.1.2., 15.1.3., 15.1.16., 15.1.22. and 15.1.31. of Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus

Dr Bonbon explained that in May 2017, the revised Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus was adopted with two Members opposing. The Commission considered comments raised at that General Session at its September 2017 meeting and amended several articles that were recirculated for comment. Dr Bonbon noted that the revised chapter had been circulated to Members four times. The Commission considered comments received at its February and September 2018, and February 2019 meetings.

Dr Bonbon highlighted that the main amendments proposed were the inclusion of a new article listing safe commodities and text amendments aimed at improving clarity and consistency, so that the chapter can be better applied in consideration of field scientific data. In this regard, he noted that the latest modification also introduced texts related to surveillance in wildlife.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised Articles 15.1.1.-bis, 15.1.2., 15.1.3., 15.1.16., 15.1.22. and 15.1.31. of Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus to the Assembly.

Latvia, speaking on behalf of 53 European Members of the OIE, thanked the OIE for its work and supported adoption of the revised chapter on African swine fever.

Thailand thanked the Code Commission for its work on the chapter, in particular the inclusion of a new article on safe commodities and amendments to the procedures for the inactivation of ASFV in meat, which would provide flexibility and facilitate safe trade. Thailand thus supported the adoption of the revised articles.

Dr Bonbon thanked Members for their comments and support, and highlighted that there was also an editorial mistake in Annex 13 that should be corrected. F₀ should read as F₀ (subscripted).

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned change, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

272. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

○ THURSDAY 30 MAY 2019 ○

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group

Biological Standards Commission

273. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met from 3 to 6 September 2018 and from 12 to 15 February 2019, were presented by Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann, President of the Commission (Docs 87 SG/12/CS2 A and B). He thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Franck Berthe, First Vice-President, Dr John Pasick, Second Vice-President, Prof. Ann Cullinane, Dr Ana Maria Nicola and Dr Joseph O'Keefe. Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of the other regular participant, Dr Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the former Science and New Technologies Department (now the Science Department), have been unstinting in their support.

274. **OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)**

In March 2019, 11 chapters that had been reviewed and approved by the Commission for circulation to Members were made available via a web link in the February report, which can be found both on the Delegates' website and on the Commission's website, for consultation as the final versions that are proposed for adoption. A separate link to the chapters alone is also available on the Delegates' website.

Comments were received from the European Union (EU) on Chapter 3.1.6 *Echinococcosis (infection with Echinococcus granulosus and with E. multilocularis)*, and from the EU and South Africa on Chapter 3.8.1 *African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)*.

For Chapter 3.1.6, the EU requested that Table 2. *Global distribution of Echinococcus granulosus (s.l) with associated genotypes found in different animal hosts* be deleted as it contained inaccuracies, but that the reference from which it had been derived remain. Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed the Assembly that this comment was accepted.

For Chapter 3.8.1, both the EU and South Africa requested amendments to the text in lines 94 to 100 of the circulated draft on carriers of the virus and their role in the epidemiology of the disease. As this text refers to management of the disease, it was proposed to remove the text from the chapter and refer it to the Scientific Commission for advice. The Biological Standards Commission will then further consider the relevance of re-inserting additional epidemiological information in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The revised chapters, with these amendments, were presented to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE website.

At its meeting in September 2018, the Commission reviewed the dossier on the “use of the Frenkel method in the manufacture of FMD vaccines” based on a submitted file on its production method proving the purity of the final product. The Commission was satisfied that the method as presented meets the criteria for quality, and could therefore be retained in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Prof. Couacy-Hymann pointed out nevertheless that Chapter 2.3.4 *Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines* states that “The use of primary cells has an inherently higher risk of introducing extraneous agents compared with the use of cell lines and should be avoided where alternative methods of producing effective vaccines exist”. The Commission therefore strongly encouraged the Member Country to phase out this practice by May 2020 and introduce an alternative method for the production of FMD vaccine.

The Commission reviewed the final report of a validation study of the accuracy of assays for serodiagnosis of glanders that had been coordinated by one of the OIE Reference Laboratories for glanders, and agreed that it would be of benefit to include a sentence and a reference to the study in the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter, to raise awareness of it among users of the *Manual*.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly of the Commission’s commitment to avoiding naming commercial products in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

A Member Country had requested Chapter 3.4.6 *Bovine tuberculosis* be amended by inserting a recommendation for the use of heat-concentrated synthetic medium (HCSM) tuberculin for skin testing in cattle, as an acceptable alternative to purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin. Following consultation with the OIE Reference Laboratories for bovine tuberculosis, the Commission noted that PPD tuberculin is widely used and accepted in many countries, and concluded that, in the interest of standardisation of tuberculin testing reagents for international trade, the *Terrestrial Manual* should continue to recommend use of PPD bovine tuberculin as the preferred reagent for intradermal skin testing. The Commission acknowledged that, for domestic tuberculosis surveillance programmes, individual Members may elect to use tuberculosis testing reagents other than those that are recommended in the *Terrestrial Manual*, provided these reagents are appropriately validated and calibrated in comparison with established reference standards.

The Commission was informed that the causative agent of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, *Mycoplasma mycoides* subspecies *mycoides* SC (MmmSC) has been reclassified and reference to small colony (SC) has been removed. The chapter will be updated accordingly.

Finally, Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed the Assembly that the Commission had resolved to increase their engagement in the process for updating *Terrestrial Manual* chapters. Chapters from the batch approved for circulation for Member comment were assigned to each Commission member, who was responsible for highlighting the issues, leading the discussions, amending the chapters, and reporting the changes in the traceability sheet appended to the report. In this way, the Members will have a report of the discussions and decisions.

275. OIE Reference Centres

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly that in May 2018, the *Procedures for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres* (the SOPs) had been adopted. The Commission began the process of defining the steps for the implementation of the SOPs. As a first step, all the existing OIE Collaborating Centres were officially informed by letter of the adopted SOPs and of the Commission's intention to identify their core activities within the list of main focus areas and specialties.

Next, a review of the annual reports of the Collaborating Centres' activities in 2017 was undertaken to identify their activities in relation to the list of main focus areas and specialties (the "mapping exercise"), and to propose into which main focus area and specialty each Centre falls. At the February 2019 meeting, the Commission continued the mapping exercise, and agreed which Collaborating Centres had potential overlapping specialties and thus may need to form consortia. Of a total of 53 Collaborating Centres for terrestrial animal health issues, potential overlapping activities were identified in two Centres in the Africa region, eight in the Americas region, two in the Asia-Pacific region and four in the European region. The Commission would finalise their proposals at the September 2019 meeting before they are sent to each Collaborating Centre for consideration and feedback.

The OIE Council and Regional Commissions will be involved in all stages of this process, and the Assembly will be updated annually at the General Session of all progress made throughout this process of implementation of the SOPs.

Regarding the performance of the OIE Reference Laboratories, Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that the Commission had determined that it was important to identify and encourage laboratories that are performing well, engaging with other laboratories for the same disease and providing their expertise and services to Members. To this end, the Commission reviewed in-depth six questions in the annual reports for activities in 2017 that they believed are good indicators of the international activities and commitment of laboratories to work on behalf of the OIE. The exercise also revealed suitable candidates (leaders) who could be asked to consider establishing an OIE Reference Laboratory network.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly that the Commission is in the process of developing procedures for the establishment and maintenance of OIE Reference Laboratories networks. The aim for the OIE and the Commission in establishing networks is to attract experts from beyond the OIE Reference Laboratory network, e.g. from national laboratories, research institutions and universities. The Commission identified three priority diseases that are of current global importance for which OIE Reference Laboratory networks could be established, namely African swine fever, PPR and rabies. The Commission then identified a possible leader to be contacted among the OIE Reference Laboratories for these diseases, referring to the analysis made of six questions from the annual Reference Laboratory reports for 2017, to see if they would consider establishing a network. Once finalised, the Commission will consider networks of Collaborating Centres. In parallel, the Commission would examine the current *Guidance for the Management of OIE Reference Centre Networks* to see if they already provide a complete framework for OIE network or if they could be further developed into SOPs for eventual proposal for adoption by the Assembly.

Following review of the dossiers, the Commission recommended acceptance of seven new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status and three for OIE Collaborating Centre status, of which two would be invited to join consortia.

A number of Delegates had notified changes in the designated expert at OIE Reference Laboratories in their countries. In each case the Commission reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names of the twelve new experts are available in the reports of the meetings. These experts had been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Regarding OIE Laboratory Twinning, as of February 2019, 50 projects have been completed, 28 projects are underway and 8 are awaiting funding before beginning. Demand and interest in OIE Laboratory Twinning remained high. The Commission undertook technical reviews of a number of proposals and supported eight twinning project proposals.

Annual reports were received from all 214 Reference Laboratories and from all 53 Collaborating Centres working in the field of diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. A quantitative analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission (page 6). In accordance with the adopted SOPs, the Commission agreed to review all the reports, noting in particular the performance of each Reference Centre with regard to fulfilling the Terms of Reference (ToR) to the benefit of OIE Members. Those Reference Centres that were not complying with the performance criteria will be asked to provide an explanation of their situation; the Delegate will be in copy of all correspondence. The annual reports have been made available online.

276. Past *ad hoc* Group meetings

The *ad hoc* Group on MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome – coronavirus) was convened primarily to draft a chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* that would set laboratory standards and provide validated internationally agreed upon procedures to be used for MERS-CoV confirmatory diagnosis in animals. The full draft chapter would be reviewed at the next Commission meeting in September 2019.

Regarding the *ad hoc* Group on Replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin (ISBT), the Commission was updated on the progress that had been made with the project. If the project is successful, a draft Resolution recommending adoption of a new ISBT will be presented to the OIE Assembly for adoption in May 2020. The new ISBT standard would then be maintained in secure storage and made available for distribution to national regulatory agencies and tuberculin manufacturers for use in standardising national references and quality control of commercially manufactured tuberculins.

Progress had been made with the project to develop an OIE Virtual Biobank. The business plan for the development of the system, which has been proposed by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia (Brescia, Italy), OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank, had been finalised following evaluation by the OIE. The first meeting of participant laboratories and the project's governance boards would be organised in the near future.

With respect to the *ad hoc* Group on High Throughput Sequencing and Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG) and the project to develop an OIE Pathogen Genomic Platform, the OIE and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics, University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (Glasgow, UK) had submitted a second funding application to the Wellcome Trust. A decision on the full application by Wellcome Trust is expected by July 2019.

The Commission was updated on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Biological Threat Reduction in Relation to Identification, Assessment and Management of Dual Use in the Context of Responsible Conduct in Research. The Commission had provided comments and suggestions on the draft *Guidelines for responsible conduct in veterinary research identifying, assessing and managing dual use*, which had been finalised and made available on the OIE website.

277. International standardisation/harmonisation

a) Project to extend the list of OIE-approved reference reagents

Progress had been made regarding the request for inclusion in the list of reagents for trichinellosis by the OIE Reference Laboratory for trichinellosis in Italy. The Commission assessed the results of the proficiency test that was conducted in collaboration with the other OIE Reference Laboratory for trichinellosis and provided feedback to advance the process for inclusion of the reagents in the list.

To facilitate the process of applying for inclusion of a reagent in the list by applicant laboratories, the Commission proposed to create a standard form to be attached as an annex to the guidelines for inclusion of antibodies, antigens and PCR (polymerase chain reaction) reagents in the list. The first draft of this form would be reviewed at the next meeting in September 2019.

The inclusion of reagents in the list of OIE-approved international reference reagents is currently conditional to a successful proficiency test among OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease. However, as there is a single OIE Reference Laboratory for certain OIE-listed diseases, the Commission proposed to update the guidelines and introduce the possibility of involving any OIE Reference Laboratories or other accredited laboratories in the proficiency test, provided that the laboratory is accredited for the specific test method.

b) OIE Register of diagnostic tests

The Assembly was updated on the status of the kits in the registry and the new applications that are currently under review. At present, there are 11 registered kits; five new applications, including one with an extended claim, were received in 2018 and are in various stages of review. Two new applications have been received so far in 2019.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed the Assembly that following the February 2019 meeting, the Commission reviewed electronically the final report from the expert evaluation panel of the dossier on “Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test” and provided a favourable opinion for the inclusion in the OIE register of this diagnostic kit as fit to detect antibody to *Mycobacterium bovis* in cattle serum samples, to be used as an ancillary test in conjunction with other methods for serological prevalence surveys, or diagnosis and management of *M. bovis* infection within herds, for the following purposes: 1. To confirm, but not negate, diagnoses of suspect or clinical cases, including confirmation of positive screening tests in individual animals and in herds with infection prevalence ranging from very low to high, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum; 2. To detect *M. bovis* infected animals not positive by single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) or interferon gamma release assay (IFN γ) tests, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum; 3. To confirm, but not negate, infection in animals giving inconclusive reactions in the SICCT, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum; 4. As a screening test, to identify animals most likely to have visible lesions by scoring the number of *M. bovis* antigens recognised by seropositive animals with bovine tuberculosis. Regarding intended use 4 above, during the first 5 years of registration, additional data will be required to better qualify and categorise the relationship between the number of *M. bovis* antigens and the likelihood of visible lesions. This test is also provisionally approved for testing milk samples from cattle as a herd screening test or as a supplemental confirmatory test for use in individual animals, when used in conjunction with other methods for diagnosing and managing *M. bovis* infection.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly that according to the OIE procedure, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that two diagnostic kits required renewal: “BioChek Newcastle Disease Antibody Test Kit ELISA” and “Bio-Rad Laboratories TeSeE™ Western Blot”. In accordance with the procedure, the appropriate OIE experts had been consulted and recommended that their registration be renewed. The Commission agreed with this recommendation.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann proposed for adoption by the Assembly that the “Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test” be added to the OIE Register and that the diagnostic kits “BioChek Newcastle Disease Antibody Test Kit ELISA” and “Bio-Rad Laboratories TeSeE™ Western Blot” be renewed.

278. Liaison with other Commissions

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Code Commission. The Commission held a joint meeting with the Aquatic Animals Commission to share information and explore areas of common interest and ways of working together.

279. Update on OFFLU – the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza

The newly elected Commission was briefed on the mission and objectives of the network and how it functions. Since it was established in 2005, OFFLU experts have shared and offered technical advice, training and veterinary expertise to Members to assist in the prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and control of avian, swine and equine influenza. The experts have exchanged scientific data and biological materials (including virus strains) within the network, analysed molecular data, and shared such information with the wider scientific community. One of the main objectives of OFFLU is to collaborate with WHO on issues relating to the animal–human interface, including pandemic preparedness for early preparation of human vaccine. A significant amount of genetic and antigenic data on zoonotic avian influenza was shared with WHO at the February and September 2018 vaccine composition meetings. Animal health laboratories in 25 countries representing Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe contributed sequence data for 195 H5, H7 and H9 and antigenic data for selected avian influenza viruses. In April 2018, OFFLU organised a technical meeting in Brighton, United Kingdom, in conjunction with the 10th International Symposium on Avian Influenza and 4th International symposium on neglected influenza viruses. More than 100 animal influenza experts participated in this meeting and exchanged research ideas.

280. Sustainable laboratories project

The Commission was updated on the Sustainable Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity initiative at the OIE. With the generous support of Global Affairs Canada, the OIE has embarked upon a 3-year project to address laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, innovation, and resource sustainability.

281. The President opened the floor for comment.

282. Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Biological Standards Commission for its essential work. The EU commended the Commission for its continued efforts to modernise and update the *Terrestrial Manual*. In this context, the EU reiterated its offer of technical support to the OIE for this important work.

The EU thanked the Commission for having taken into account most of its comments and supported the adoption of the revised chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* as proposed. The further changes proposed to draft Chapter 3.1.6. on Echinococcosis and draft Chapter 3.8.1. on African swine fever are in line with the comments the EU had submitted to the OIE in writing prior to this General Session. The EU looks forward to the outcomes of the discussions on those topics at the upcoming meetings of the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

Finally, as regards draft Resolution No. 31 on the OIE Register of diagnostic kits, the EU noted that no information on the nature of the three kits proposed for inclusion in the register was made available to Members prior to the presentation, except for very generic information on two of these kits contained in the February 2019 meeting report. That information, however, did not indicate which diseases these kits were for. This does not allow the Assembly to make an informed decision. It may even call into question the entire procedure around the OIE register of diagnostic tests, if scrutinised by external observers. The EU therefore requests that the procedures be amended in such a way that in the future, before the General Session, OIE Delegates are given 60 days advance notice on the diagnostic kits that the OIE intends to propose for adoption, along with the information that will be contained in the OIE register and made available to the public, namely information on the fitness for purpose and a summary of the validation studies. There should be time for such a procedure between the February meeting of the Commission and the General Session at the end of May. This would allow adoption of a pertinent Resolution and greatly increase the overall credibility of the OIE register of diagnostic kits.

283. Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) thanked Prof. Couacy-Hymann and the Commission for the work they had accomplished, which is important for laboratories and for the other Specialist Commissions of the OIE. The Delegate mentioned that there is a shortage of diagnostic reagents and kits in Africa and there are also very few OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in the region, as illustrated in the maps that were shown by Prof. Couacy-Hymann on the global distribution of OIE Reference Centres. Therefore, Members of the Africa Region are compelled to send diagnostic samples to distant laboratories.

Also, regarding the process for renewal of diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose, the SOP currently in force establishes that the registration is valid for 5 years. Given the efforts and time needed to renew such registration, the OIE may consider extending the time frame for renewal beyond 5 years.

284. Thailand expressed gratitude to the OIE and Commission for strengthening the networks of Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. The establishment of OIE Reference Laboratory networks will provide additional support to the OIE Members. The Delegate acknowledged the work of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups in developing and updating the *Terrestrial Manual* on a regular basis, which helps OIE Members to improve their diagnostic procedures, surveillance and vaccine production.

The OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Collaborating Centre hosted by Thailand will continue to collaborate with the OIE, OIE Members, other international organisations and the OIE Reference Centre Network to improve the capacity of Veterinary Services to protect and improve animal health and welfare, and consequently human health.

285. South Africa thanked the President and congratulated the Commission for its excellent work. Regarding the draft chapter on ASF, the Delegate stated that the Commission should exercise caution on the issue of carrier pigs and was pleased to note the decision to request an opinion from the Scientific Commission on this question before considering further revision. South Africa accepted the proposed texts.

286. China (People's Rep. of) congratulated the President for his presentation. The Delegate supported the updated draft chapter on ASF as it is important for the control of the disease and proposed that the chapter be regularly updated as new validated test methods become available. China (People's Rep. of) expressed its willingness to participate in the revision process and to provide comments.
287. Iran thanked the President of the Commission for his comprehensive presentation and asked if the Commission and the OIE have discussed any arrangements or collaboration with international partners dealing with the distribution and use of biological materials at the global level, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
288. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked the EU for their comments. He assured the Assembly that the Commission will review the procedure and take into account the comment on the SOP for the register of diagnostic kits.
289. In response to the comment from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed that there are few OIE Reference Centres in Africa and that this situation makes it difficult to send samples to laboratories within Africa. OIE Laboratory Twinning projects could help to improve this situation and build up expertise in Africa for the diagnosis and confirmation of animal diseases. Regarding the timeframe for renewal of diagnostic kits certified by the OIE, he replied that the request for extension beyond 5 years would be considered when the Commission reviews the SOP.
290. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked China (People's Rep. of) and reminded the Assembly that the regular update of chapters is a fundamental principle of the *Terrestrial Manual* and invited the Members to contribute to this review process by submitting comments on drafts.
291. In reply to the comments on the procedures for the register of diagnostic kits, Dr Stone reminded the Assembly that the SOP was guided by chapters on validation from the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Manuals* and supervised by the Biological Standards and Aquatic Animals Commissions. The procedures are also well served by the OIE Collaborating Centres, all approved by the Members. However, he recognised that the SOP had been adopted a number of years ago. It would therefore be an appropriate time to review these procedures, including the timelines for kit renewal, and enhancing transparency.
292. In reply to Iran, Dr Stone recognised that the distribution of biological samples, including genetic resources, is important for diagnostic surveillance and control of animal diseases and that the network of OIE Reference Centres relies on the safe transfer of such materials. He stated that the OIE worked with the Commission and an *ad hoc* Group on an MTA (Material Transfer Agreement) for the exchange of biological materials (see Appendix 1.1.3.3. of Chapter 1.1.3. Transport of biological materials of the *Terrestrial Manual*). He acknowledged that there were many concerns among Members regarding the exchange of biological samples and genetic resources, including intellectual property rights, and that the OIE is following closely any developments in the matter to ensure that the exchange is facilitated taking into account the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol.
293. In response to the intervention by Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) regarding the low number of Reference Centres in Africa, the Director General stated that two points should be considered. On the one hand, the support given to African countries to improve the quality of their laboratory services, and on the other hand, the laboratories capable of achieving recognition as OIE Reference Laboratories. One can improve diagnostic quality in countries so that diagnostic services are available locally, but these laboratories do not always have the potential to be reference laboratories for the OIE. OIE Reference Laboratories must be able to guarantee a certain level of quality and capacity. These two notions, which are different and not entirely superimposable, will be discussed at a future meeting with the Council.
294. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

295. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption.

For Chapter 3.8.1. African swine fever, Korea (Rep. of) did not accept the deletion of the text in lines 94 to 100 on the carrier status of animals. Australia and the United States of America requested the inclusion at line 260 of a new reference (Zsak *et al.*, 2005) on a much used polymerase chain reaction method.

For Chapter 3.5.5. Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western and Venezuelan), Australia expressed its concern that the important distinctions between Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis have been lost by merging the existing two chapters into one single chapter. Australia suggested that separate chapters be retained for these diseases.

For Chapter 3.5.7. Equine influenza, Australia stated it had successfully eradicated equine influenza over 10 years ago and continues to meet its OIE reporting obligations concerning the absence of this disease within its territory. Australia requested that it be added to the countries listed in lines 16 to 17 that are reported to be free of equine influenza virus.

In response to the comments on Chapter 3.8.1., Prof. Couacy-Hymann stressed that the text in question (lines 94 to 100) provides epidemiological information, the absence of which would not compromise the guidance provided on diagnostic tests. The accuracy of this text has been questioned by Members and consequently, the decision was made to submit it to the Scientific Commission for opinion. Prof. Couacy-Hymann also pointed out that considering the current epidemiological situation of the disease and that the chapter was last adopted in 2012, this chapter is in need of an update. The Biological Standards Commission will review the chapter and this review would include consideration of the reference proposed by Australia and the United States of America. Given the intention to further review the chapter Prof. Couacy-Hymann submitted it for adoption with the amendments as detailed in the initial draft Resolution No. 28.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked Australia for its comments on chapter 3.5.5., which drew attention to the need to clarify some of the text in the merged chapter. Prof. Couacy-Hymann proposed that the current chapter be adopted, and that the Commission work with the OIE Reference Laboratory experts to amend it further in consideration of these comments and bring the expected level of precision to the text.

In response to the comments on Chapter 3.5.7., Prof. Couacy-Hymann invited Australia to follow the OIE procedure for self-declaration of freedom from equine influenza. Once completed, this information will be reflected in future amendments of the chapter.

The Resolution was adopted with one objection (Korea [Rep. of]). The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

296. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30
Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

297. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE**

298. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption.

Norway suggested that the word “number” be replaced with the word “level” in the second last paragraph of the Resolution. Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that the test is a quantitative one, so that the word “number” is in fact correct.

Dr Stone proposed adding the word “point” before “4” to the first sentence of the second last paragraph in English and Spanish, as already mentioned in the French version, so that the sentence reads: “Regarding intended use in point 4 above...”.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously with this amendment to the English and Spanish versions. The text appears under Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Amendments to the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

299. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 25 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

300. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

301. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 27 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns)
will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required**

302. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
Global situation relating to African swine fever**

303. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 33 for adoption and opened the floor for Members’ comments.

304. Colombia noted the importance of working in coordination with national and international human migration authorities to mitigate the risk of ASF transmission via live pigs and their meat products that may be carried by people during their migrations.

305. France and Korea (Rep. of) proposed aligning the wording of the resolution with the one used under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) (See Recommendation 5).
306. Cote D'Ivoire suggested specifying the OIE standards that need to be considered in relation to ASF prevention and preparedness (See Consideration 6).
307. New Zealand sought clarification on the financial implication of the creation of the ASF laboratory network (See Recommendation 15). New Zealand suggested better defining the practical steps each Member needs to take to prevent the spread of the disease and questioned how the Veterinary Services would be able to address illegal risk practices (see Recommendation 7). Finally, New Zealand suggested greater emphasis on the importance of implementing appropriate standards to safeguard animal welfare during depopulation activities.
308. Canada acknowledged the need for effective coordination and sharing of expertise in the global fight against ASF, and also suggested making reference to the need to consider social wellbeing for affected farmers and animal welfare impacts during depopulation, as essential aspects of preparedness planning.
309. The United States of America requested clarification on whether the OIE will rely on internal or external expertise to support the elaboration of ASF zoning and compartmentalisation guidelines.
310. Australia indicated that there are significant knowledge gaps regarding viral persistence in recovered pigs and their role in the epidemiology of the disease, and suggested including this topic as a research priority.
311. Argentina noted that trade of pigs and their products should be considered as risk practices no matter the volume traded. Argentina also suggested including specific references to the contraband of live animals (see Recommendation 7). Noting the risk of transmission of ASF by people carrying pig products, Argentina suggested considering the need to engage international transport agencies.
312. Uruguay supported Argentina's comment with regards the risk of live animal movement.
313. China (People's Rep. of) requested clarification regarding the schedule for the development of specific guidelines for the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation. China (People's Rep. of), based on its recent experience, requested the following recommendations: i) an *ad hoc* Group to investigate the main transmission routes for ASF at the global level to develop targeted strategies; ii) joint prevention and control be practiced by Members to combat illegal trade and strengthen surveillance of wild boars; iii) standards be developed considering the global value chain of the pig sector; iv) global ASF progressive control and prevention roadmap be developed, including technical guidance.
314. New Zealand suggested to make references to human movements instead of migration when defining the steps to prevent spread of ASF.
315. Dr Stone thanked the Members for the support and provided responses to address their comments.

316. In response to Colombia, he concurred on the importance of involving other national and international agencies, such as migration agencies, and highlighted the importance of considering the political and socioeconomic context when defining the ASF national control strategies.
317. In reply to Cote D'Ivoire, Dr Stone suggested making a broad reference to risk management that includes prevention and preparedness.
318. In response to France and Korea (Rep. of), he agreed that, for clarity, the wording of the resolution should be aligned with SPS Agreement when referring to the implementation of the OIE standards.
319. In response to New Zealand, Dr Stone clarified that the practical steps to prevent the spread of ASF should be defined by each individual Member considering its socioeconomic, political, and epidemiological circumstances. Concerning the financial implications of setting up an ASF laboratory network, he reminded the Delegates that the guidelines for the establishment of networks are available on the website. He noted that for other topics (e.g. FMD) the leadership and secretariat functions are assumed by one of the laboratories, while network activities entailing direct costs, such as meetings, have been covered by the OIE World Fund, when funds were available. Dr Stone noted that these costs have little impact on the OIE general budget, and suggested the issue be discussed during the administrative session.
320. In response to the United States of America and China (People's Rep. of), Dr Stone informed the Assembly that an *ad hoc* Group will be convened by the end of the year with the purpose of drafting guidelines for the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation.
321. Dr Stone noted the comments from Canada and New Zealand and highlighted that the application of appropriate standards for humane killing of animals for disease control purposes was already considered in the recommendations, and agreed that social wellbeing should also be added.
322. In response to Australia, Dr Stone recognised the importance of better understanding the epidemiological role of animals that recovered from the disease but noted the research priorities would be identified by subject-matter experts.
323. Dr Stone concurred with Argentina on the importance of considering the risk of trade of pigs and pig products, regardless of the volume, and also stressed the need to pay special attention to the risk of illegal movements during risk assessment.
324. The President of the OIE addressed the comments from China (People's Rep. of) and highlighted that the proposals regarding investigation of transmission routes, joint prevention and control, and development of health standards were already covered by draft recommendations. He also stressed that it was the intent of this resolution to make use of GF-TADs to facilitate global control of ASF.
325. Dr Stone responded to the comment from New Zealand regarding movements of humans noting that the OIE focus should be on the risks associated with the goods they might carry and the need for appropriate risk management.
326. Liberia proposed that the Resolution be adopted, and Canada seconded the proposal.
327. Draft Resolution No. 33 was adopted unanimously. The text appears under the Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs. 87 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

328. Dr Honoré N'Lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of the Congo), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 87 SG/11B AF).
329. He also presented the recommendations of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa which was held in Hammamet (Tunisia), from 25 February to 1 March 2019.
330. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the conference held in Tunisia.

Regional Commission for the Americas

331. Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 87 SG/11B AM).
332. He also presented the recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic), from 19 to 23 November 2018.
333. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the conference held in the Dominican Republic.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

334. Dr Tashi Samdup (Bhutan), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 87 SG/11B AS).
335. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

336. Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 87 SG/11B EU).
337. He also presented the recommendations of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Tbilissi (Georgia) from 17 to 21 September 2018.
338. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the conference held in Georgia.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

339. Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 87 SG/11B ME).
340. The Assembly noted the report.

Dates of the 88th General Session (May 2020)

341. The Assembly decided that the 88th General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday, 24 to Friday, 29 May 2020. The Director General stated that the 88th General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie for the entire duration of the Session.

Technical Items for the 88th General Session (May 2020)

342. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen the previous year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Council:
- Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges.

Members will be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

343. As elections will be organised in 2020 for the election of the Director General, the President informed the Assembly that there will be no second technical item (without a questionnaire) in 2020.

Technical Items for the 89th General Session (May 2021)

344. The Assembly confirmed the Technical Item, which had been chosen from among the topics proposed by the Regional Commissions and examined by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda, and presented by Dr Him Hoo Yap.
- The contribution of farm and supply chain biosecurity and laboratory readiness to the management of animal health risks.

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

345. As elections will be organised in 2021 to renew all of the OIE's statutory bodies (Council, Regional Commission Offices and Specialist Commissions), the President informed the Assembly that there will be no second technical item (without a questionnaire) in 2021.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health statuses

346. Dr Stone praised the efforts deployed by those countries referred to below in disease control and eradication, and in compiling all necessary information so as to obtain an officially recognised disease status.
347. The OIE Members listed hereafter were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised by the OIE as having a disease free status or a BSE risk status: Bolivia, Botswana, Croatia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Peru, Serbia, and Uruguay.

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE (contd)

348. The President informed the Assembly that certain international organisations having a cooperation agreement with the OIE had been invited to make a presentation during the second plenary session.

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

349. Prof. Torsten Mörner, Chairman of the Specialist Group Wildlife Health and Game Meat at the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), presented an overview of the CIC, a politically independent advisory non-governmental organisation whose mission is to promote and support the conservation of wildlife and related landscapes, local communities, and traditions through sustainable use, including hunting.

350. He mentioned that the CIC is currently active in more than 80 countries, and has a membership of governments, associations and universities, as well as experts and private individuals, from all over the world. Its vision is a world where wildlife is valued and conserved as part of nature for the benefit of humanity.
351. Prof. Mörner also outlined that the CIC is active in a variety of fields such as assisting in wildlife policy and law development, cooperating with UN organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO in order to help implement wildlife management plans. The CIC is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and works in close collaboration with all prominent international environmental conventions relevant to wildlife conservation and management.
352. Finally, he highlighted that in 2017 the OIE and the CIC conducted a training course for hunters on the surveillance of diseases in wildlife, the report and recommendations of which can still be accessed on the Swedish National Veterinary Institute website. The focus of this training course for hunters was the outbreak of ASF in Europe. The CIC continues to be an active partner in the hunting community in the effort to manage the ASF outbreak in wild boar.
353. In response to a question from the President regarding the inclusion of zoonotic diseases in the recommendations issued during the training course organised in 2017, Prof. Mörner stated that the training had chiefly targeted a non-zoonotic disease, namely African swine fever. He emphasised the importance of raising hunters' awareness of the biosecurity measures to control the disease and adapt the measures to the context, as situations can be very different, for example countries with a cold climate, where the virus can survive in dead animals for a long time, and countries with a more temperate climate. However, Prof. Mörner supported the President's remark concerning the importance of raising awareness of zoonotic diseases and reminded the Assembly of the CIC's collaboration with the OIE, and notably with the Working Group on Wildlife on this topic.
354. The President thanked Prof. Mörner for his presentation and emphasised the contribution made by passive surveillance of wild boar diseases, including ASF, performed by hunters in the context of their activities.

International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

355. Ms Alexandra de Athayde, Executive Director of the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), presented an overview of IFIF's activities. She stated that the IFIF represents the global feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain that provides sustainable, safe and nutritious food. IFIF provides a unified leadership and coordinating role to promote the global feed industry in order to contribute to the sustainable supply of safe, healthy feed and therefore food of animal origin.
356. Ms de Athayde explained that IFIF is comprised of national and regional feed associations, feed-related organisations, and corporate members from around the globe. Overall, IFIF members represent over 80% of the feed production worldwide.
357. She outlined that the Cooperation Agreement between IFIF and the OIE aims to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organisations, in particular with regard to the prevention and management of infectious diseases, including zoonotic disease, as well as the support for the development, updating and implementation of OIE standards and guidelines. The cooperation further aims to address the importance of animal health and to strengthen linkages between feed safety and food safety.

358. She mentioned the existence of agreements with other international organisations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and placed particular emphasis on the development of online training courses on feed safety. She added that optimal animal nutrition, not only contributing to the provision of (macro- and micro-) nutrients, but also providing innovative feeding strategies and nutritional approaches to support the animal resilience to stressors, is an important contributor to improve animal health and welfare.
359. She concluded that IFIF believes that only by working together with all stakeholders can we continue to ensure feed and food safety, while meeting the demands of 60% more food for 9 billion people by 2050 and to do so sustainably.
360. The President mentioned concerns about the spread of ASF and the potential contribution of medicated feed to the increase in antimicrobial resistance.
361. In response to his question regarding the respective role of CVOs, regulators and industry in the regulation of animal feed, Ms de Athayde emphasised that the different actors needed to collaborate and make their own contribution. She stated that, like other actors such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the IFIF was contributing to the food chain.
362. The President emphasised the usefulness of this public–private partnership and the important contribution of the IFIF to the food chain.
363. Benin asked what online training courses were open to countries and what were the conditions for access.
364. Ms de Athayde indicated that these training courses were available to all countries, and were free of charge to all regulators and government representatives. Dr Schipp commended this initiative.
365. Gabon queried the low coverage of animal feed in aquaculture given the strong growth potential of this sector.
366. Ms de Athayde confirmed the strong growth potential of aquaculture and stated that other organisations were working on the subject of animal feed in aquaculture.

International Meat Secretariat (IMS)

367. Mr Hsin Huang, Secretary General of the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), briefly introduced the IMS and its mission. He explained that the IMS works together with international organisations and partners along the agri-food chain, sharing expert advice with policy-makers and stakeholders on a range of complex scientific, policy and regulatory issues.
368. He underlined that the IMS membership covers livestock producer associations in many of the main livestock-producing regions around the world. He added that the IMS network provides practical advice on such matters as outcome-based criteria or measurables, which reflect real-world complexities in evaluating animal health and welfare. Furthermore, the IMS supports the concept of One Health and facilitates technical expertise, data exploitation and best practices through the use of appropriate tools.
369. Mr Hsin Huang highlighted that livestock plays a vital role in agriculture and economies around the world. He noted that given the diversity of livestock production systems, it is important both to have a strategy at the global level and provide solutions that work at the local level to meet the increased demands for animal proteins while ensuring food safety and quality. The IMS provides a platform for members to share and exchange knowledge and develop their network, using a fact- and science-based approach on several topics going well beyond animal welfare, such as food safety, sustainability, and human health and nutrition.

370. He concluded his intervention by noting that the IMS places the highest priority on facilitating science-based exchange between the private sector and international organisations, and that the OIE is a key partner for IMS activities in pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
371. The President thanked Mr Hsin Huang for his presentation. Reflecting on the presentation, he noted that there is an increasing demand for all types of animal protein beyond red meat and asked how the IMS intends to extend its country membership and be inclusive of other livestock sectors.
372. In response, Mr Hsin Huang agreed that much of the IMS membership is represented by developed countries with less representation in developing countries. The membership from developed countries have national coordination of meat industry and supply chain coordination; however, the IMS wants to expand its membership in every region of the world.
373. The President thanked Mr Hsin Huang for his response and then opened the floor to the Assembly for questions and comments.
374. Senegal took the floor to inquire why white meat, specifically poultry, is not represented in the IMS mandate.
375. In response, Mr Hsin Huang noted that white meat was not foreseen at the time of the establishment of the IMS. Furthermore, he noted that currently the International Poultry Association is responsible for this industry.

International Egg Commission (IEC)

376. Mr Kevin Lovell, Scientific Adviser at the International Egg Commission (IEC), briefly introduced the IEC relationship with the OIE. He explained that the IEC has been working closely with the OIE for over 20 years and has been a formal partner since 2006, and as such aims to support the OIE in its activities to enhance animal health and welfare. He added that the IEC remains committed to actively participating in the standard-setting process, by providing scientific expertise and by keeping the IEC membership fully informed. He presented a few examples of projects developed by the IEC in support of OIE standards, which are being applied by IEC membership worldwide. Mr Lovell also indicated that the work of the IEC was principally based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
377. Mr Lovell underlined that the IEC established a Global Expert Group in 2015 from which a practical on-farm biosecurity check list was formulated in July 2017. This check list, formulated into a booklet and available on the IEC website, is a practical tool to help egg producers at the farm level, to implement and improve biosecurity procedures in line with the OIE's *Terrestrial Code* standards.
378. He highlighted that starting from September 2018, the IEC had committed to roll out an On Farm Biosecurity Programme in various languages; downloadable resources include the biosecurity check list, farm posters and media clips for the whole industry to access through the IEC website. In addition, a mobile school on eggs has set up national training campaigns.
379. Mr Lovell noted that the global egg industry through the IEC is firmly committed to encourage implementable farm standards on biosecurity around the world, with the aim of decreasing incidents of a wide range of diseases, including avian influenza and is a tool in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. Finally, he concluded that the IEC looks forward to providing practical tools to help implement OIE's standards on an ongoing basis.

380. The President stated that the chapter on avian influenza would be presented to the Assembly for adoption next year and a Technical Item focusing on improving food safety was planned for the following year. After referring to the biosecurity check list prepared by the IEC, he pointed out that avian influenza control needed to take the animals' lifespan into account. He indicated that current vaccination policies were insufficient and invited reflection on other strategies to control the disease, such as stamping out. It would be up to OIE Members to take decisions in this respect.
381. Côte d'Ivoire expressed keen interest in the biosecurity check list and the IEC campaigns in developing countries.
382. Replying to Côte d'Ivoire, Mr Lovell explained the inscription procedure to benefit from IEC campaigns and was willing to be contacted personally on this or any other matter, by Côte d'Ivoire or any other country.
383. The President welcomed this generous offer.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

384. Dr Johnson Chiang, President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), presented an overview of WVA's activities, strategy and collaboration plans on various global veterinary issues.
385. He pointed out that the WVA represents around 500,000 veterinarians through 97 veterinary member associations. The WVA continues its efforts at unifying the veterinary profession among the different world regions and different veterinary disciplines and to speak with one voice representing the veterinary profession around the world.
386. He added that the WVA connects veterinarians with other health professionals through a number of initiatives and projects and supports the veterinary profession in delivering its responsibilities for the benefit of society and all animals.
387. He explained that WVA is committed to the One-Health concept that recognises that the health of people, animals and the environment are strongly linked, and focuses its efforts on its five strategic priorities; (1) animal welfare, (2) pharmaceutical stewardship, (3) veterinary education, (4) zoonotic diseases and (5) organisational growth and partnerships.
388. Dr Chiang continued by highlighting that the WVA/OIE extension of its cooperation agreement for the period 2019-2023 will focus on (1) One Health (2) good governance of Veterinary Services (3) veterinary education and (4) veterinary paraprofessional skills training. He concluded by stating that this agreement emphasises the importance of a strong public-private partnership, wherein the OIE and WVA are complementary and create synergies for achieving their mutual goals and objectives.
389. The President thanked Dr Chiang for his presentation and noted that the theme of the World Veterinary Day was the "value of vaccination"; as part of the discussion of this day, one of the issues that emerged was refusal of vaccinations in the human health sector. He asked Dr Chiang if he saw this trend emerging in the animal health sector.
390. Dr Chiang responded that vaccination is one of the most effective means of combating animal disease and that the WVA has placed particular emphasis on rabies vaccination, not only as an animal health measure but also as a public health measure. He concluded that the WVA is promoting this campaign as it considers it important for all veterinarians to be involved, in order to meet the target of "zero by 30".
391. The President then opened the floor to Delegates for questions and comments.

392. India took the floor noting that antimicrobial resistance is having an impact and will continue to have negative impacts in the future. India then stressed that to support the fight against antimicrobial resistance, more work should be undertaken in veterinary education to include traditional medicines. The Delegate further noted that India has one of the largest livestock sectors, and as such should be more involved in the global initiatives.
393. In response, the President highlighted that during the 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in March 2019 (Bangalore, India), traditional medicines were discussed as a possible measure in treating animal diseases and injuries.
394. Dr Chiang concurred that he personally sees that traditional medicines will play a role in the future for animal health. He also welcomed India's comments on being more involved in global initiatives and encouraged the country to do so.
395. The President thanked all the representatives of the International Organisations for their presentations and views.

○ **FRIDAY 31 MAY 2019** ○

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

396. All elections were held in a restricted session, and only the Delegates up to date with their statutory contributions were able to participate in the votes. Before the beginning of the session, the President confirmed that the quorum was reached.

Election of two Members of the Council

397. Following the termination of office of Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for the Americas, the Assembly elected Dr Nimia Lisset Gómez Rodríguez (Dominican Republic) as Member of the Council.

The results of the vote were as follows (102 votes cast out of 105 Delegates present)

Yes:	92 votes
Abstentions:	10 votes

398. Following the termination of office of Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia), and on a proposal of the Regional Commission for Europe, the Assembly elected Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia), as Member of the Council.

The results of the vote were as follows (99 votes cast out of 105 Delegates present):

Yes:	87 votes
Abstentions:	12 votes

**Election of a Vice-President and a Secretary General
of the Regional Commission for the Americas**

399. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Americas to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Vice-President of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada) as Vice-President.

The results of the vote were as follows (108 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	103 votes
Abstentions:	5 votes

400. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Americas to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Secretary General of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua) as Secretary General.

The results of the vote were as follows (113 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	103 votes
Abstentions:	10 votes

Election of a President, Vice-President and a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

401. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of President of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Norio Kumagai (Japan) as President.

The results of the vote were as follows (111 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	108 votes
Abstentions:	3 votes

402. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Vice-President of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam (Malaysia) as Vice-President.

The results of the vote were as follows (107 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	103 votes
Abstentions:	4 votes

403. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Secretary General of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Alireza Rafiepoor (Iran) as Secretary General.

The results of the vote were as follows (108 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	92 votes
Abstentions:	16 votes

Election of a Vice-President and a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Europe

404. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Europe to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Vice-President of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Vesna Dakovic (Montenegro) as Vice-President.

The results of the vote were as follows (108 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	97 votes
Abstentions:	11 votes

405. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Europe to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Secretary General of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Ivan Smilhin (Belarus) as Secretary General.

The results of the vote were as follows (110 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	98 votes
Abstentions:	12 votes

Election of the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

406. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to make known the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacancy of Vice-President of the Commission within the bureau.

The Assembly elected Dr Sanad Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) as Vice-President.

The results of the vote were as follows (110 votes cast out of 118 Delegates present):

Yes:	97 votes
Abstentions:	13 votes

Activities of the Council

(Doc. 87 SG/18)

407. The President presented document 87 SG/18 summarising the activities of the Council between May 2018 and May 2019, which were chiefly devoted to monitoring implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan and the strategic orientations of the OIE. The Council was systematically informed of the work carried out by the Specialist Commissions, the development of partnerships, including with FAO and WHO, and the preparation and outcome of global and regional conferences. The Council began work on preparing the Seventh Strategic Plan, with the support of the consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The Council closely monitored all the projects to modernise the Organisation and was regularly kept informed of ongoing administrative and technical initiatives, including the definition and implementation of the IT systems master plan, the WAHIS modernisation project and the project to create the Observatory. Lastly, the Council prepared the 87th General Session, paying particular attention to administrative, budgetary and statutory matters.
408. The Council was also kept informed of relations with international partners and approved the signing of agreements with the East African Community (EAC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).
409. The President informed the Delegates of his journeys to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled him to observe and support the many achievements of the OIE.
410. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented (doc. 87 SG/18).

**Report of the Director General
on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2018
(Doc. 87 SG/3)**

411. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, in charge of Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2018 and the distribution of Members by category of contribution.
- He also drew attention to the need for partial elections to fill vacancies in the Council and certain Regional Commissions (the Americas, Asia, the Far East and Oceania; Europe; the Middle East).
412. He went on to present the main points regarding administrative activities and the distribution of the Organisation's human resources between the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.
413. Lastly, he presented a breakdown of staff according to their source of funding, namely the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the secondment of staff by Members. He recalled the importance of the support provided by Members through in-kind contributions, and especially the direct secondment of staff, who represented between 8 and 9% of all OIE staff members.
414. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2018. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.
415. In response to a question from Canada concerning the results of the comparative analysis of human resources in relation to other international organisations, mentioned by Dr Dop in his report, he highlighted the limited resources of the OIE compared with other similar organisations. He cited as an example the relative size of legal teams, with three to five jurists on average in organisations similar in size to the OIE, compared with a single person and temporary trainees in the case of the OIE. He underlined the challenges of matching the need for human resources assigned to certain administrative activities to the professionalisation of the Organisation desired by the Director General and the Council. Dr Dop recalled that it would be necessary to boost the support teams, in particular for strategic functions, while ensuring a coherent distribution of personnel between the technical and support teams. He also pointed out that recruitment was not the sole solution, citing the example of using consultants or externalising services, mainly in the field of information technologies, to meet the needs of the Organisation and provide a better level of performance.
416. Uruguay congratulated the Director General and Dr Dop on their management of the Organisation, pointing out that Spanish was one of the official languages of the OIE and submitting a proposal, on behalf of the Spanish-speaking countries, for a better linguistic balance in OIE documents. Uruguay proposed reactivating the Spanish language committee to provide faster translation into Spanish of reports by the Specialist Commissions, as well as other important OIE texts, such as the manual on managing African swine fever. The Delegate noted the delays between providing documents in English and those in Spanish and pointed out that the objective of translation within a reasonable timeframe already received financial support from Spain.
417. Dr Dop confirmed that linguistic and cultural diversity was an important issue at the OIE. He explained that he had met the Delegate of Spain on the fringe of the General Session on this subject and thanked Spain for its financial support for the translation of OIE activities into Spanish. He assured the Assembly that the Organisation would be vigilant on this subject and recalled that this balance had already been implemented for Council meetings, while emphasising the logistical challenge posed by simultaneous translation of all documents into three languages for a relatively small organisation. He thanked the countries concerned for having reactivated the Spanish language committee and confirmed the commitment of the organisation to respond to this priority issue.

418. Uganda suggested conducting a study of the Organisation in order to obtain an overall vision of its structure and proposals for optimum staffing levels for each of the teams.
419. In reply, the Director General stated that in recent years, staff recruitment efforts had focused largely on boosting technical teams, mainly to provide better secretarial support for meetings of the OIE Specialist Commissions and various *ad hoc* Groups. She then mentioned the need to reinforce support functions, such as human resources and legal affairs, given the growth in legal issues surrounding data and their distribution. In preparation for the Seventh Strategic Plan, Dr Eloit indicated that she wished to present a budget estimate that would include the budget for the required personnel. She stressed that the approach required consisted of an assessment of the needs of the Organisation on the one hand, and the resources allocated to the Organisation on the other. She pointed out that, using impact analyses, it was important to identify the OIE activities that could be reduced in the event of a lack of additional funding. She noted that the requests from countries concerning additional activities, such as recognition of national anti-rabies programmes, would result in a significant increase in the workload for OIE teams to process these dossiers. She also took as an example the self-declarations made by Members for certain diseases to illustrate the substantial additional work for OIE teams. Finally, she expressed a desire to engage in a discussion with the Assembly, in particular regarding a cost assessment of personnel, concerning the activities carried out by the OIE within the framework of its strategic plan.

**OIE Financial Report for the 92th Financial Year
(1 January – 31 December 2018)
(Doc. 87 SG/4)**

420. Dr Dehove presented the salient points that had impacted budgetary implementation in 2018. This summary, the annual financial statements and all the accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by the OIE were provided in document 87 SG/4.

Regular Budget and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

421. Regarding the OIE Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year (2018), Dr Dehove emphasised that, as every year, care had been taken to not to spend more than the amount of income recorded for the year.
422. Despite the difficult world economic situation, Members had fulfilled their commitments regarding payment of their statutory contributions and the amount of contributions actually received totalled EUR 7 906 393 out of a total amount called for of EUR 9 569 450. Two Members each paid a contribution in extraordinary category A in respect of year 2018. The rate of recovery of contributions in 2018 was thus satisfactory at 82%. The rate of recovery of contributions including recovery of arrears totalled 92% in 2018, compared to 94% in 2017, and remained at a good level despite the 20% increase in statutory contributions (voted in 2017) applied in 2018. Operating income other than statutory contributions or extraordinary contributions totalled EUR 3.1 million (including management expenses received from the World Fund). This income was of an exceptional and one-off nature, thus accounting for the variation (EUR +1.5 million) with regard to the estimated amount. The major part of the variation related to the management of investments for the renovation of the animal health information system, OIE-WAHIS (integration of specific income received from donors and corresponding to expenditure on this investment in 2018 – see below). Total income recorded under the Regular Budget was EUR 14.29 million (compared to a voted budget of EUR 12.64 million).
423. Thus, while the OIE considered there was no significant risk of non-payment of statutory contributions, the Director of Finance emphasised the importance of remaining vigilant and aligning activities to the available resources and he stated that Delegates should take this into account when asking the OIE to develop its work programme. The level of the Organisation's statutory activities (development of standards, collection and dissemination

of animal health information, evaluation of countries' sanitary status, meetings of the OIE's governing bodies/statutory organs) and its operating costs (staff expenses, IT equipment, building maintenance, etc.) needed to be precisely aligned.

424. In view of the scale of the OIE-WAHIS investment, particular efforts had been made to provide information to explain how funding for this project was being managed. As the accounting amortisation of this investment was conducted within the framework of the Regular Budget, the income collected through the World Fund (voluntary contributions from donors) was transferred to the Regular Budget, ring-fenced and reserved for OIE-WAHIS (EUR 1 279 000 in 2018, compared to EUR 312 000 in 2017). At 31 December 2018, EUR 6.6 million in cumulated voluntary contributions had been registered in support of the multiyear financing of the OIE-WAHIS project. This specific income was being used as and when required to cover the OIE-WAHIS project expenses recorded each year.
425. Staff costs, which accounted for 54.5% of Regular Budget expenses, remained stable (54.4% in 2017). At 31 December 2018, out of the 199 persons working for the OIE, 121 were remunerated by the Regular Budget (61%), 61 through the World Fund (31%), and 17 (8%) were seconded to the OIE by their organisation or country of origin.
426. Dr Dehove reminded the Assembly that the OIE had prepared a prudent budget for 2018. The General Directorate had taken steps to ensure rigorous management by controlling expenditure in order to preserve a balanced budget implementation. To save money, the major part of the renovation work on the headquarters' buildings was carried out without recourse to outside firms. The investment expenses initially planned for the period 2018-2019 to develop the new IT Systems Master Plan were postponed until the period 2019-2020 (delayed publication of the corresponding call for tenders at the end of 2018). The total amount of expenses under the Regular Budget in 2018 was EUR 14.08 million (compared to a voted budget of EUR 12.64 million), which was lower than total recorded income (14.29 million).
427. At the end of the 2018 Financial Year, the balance of income to expenses showed a positive balance of EUR 208 724, enabling a proposal to replenish the Reserve Fund with an amount of EUR 200 000 in 2019, in respect of year 2018. It was once again clear that the OIE would not be able to count on any significant budgetary availability to increase its activities or any self-financing capacity to fund projects such as the renovation of the OIE-WAHIS animal health information system, unless the Organisation were to benefit from specific voluntary contributions or an increase in statutory contributions.
428. Regarding the OIE's property assets, no subsidies were received from Members in 2018 within the framework of the subscription (see Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2008) to contribute to the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony. The Director of Finance noted that the annual voluntary contribution from France had been increased in 2018 and had enabled France to make an extraordinary contribution in category A in 2018, which had helped to finance repayment of the bank loans contracted for the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony. At the end of 2018, the loans contracted by the OIE to purchase the building at 14 rue de Prony were renegotiated for the third time, which would lead to a further reduction of the bank interest from 2019 on these property loans. The amount still to be repaid totalled EUR 5,786,744 at 31 December 2018.
429. Expenses through the 12 OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations totalled EUR 6.1 million (EUR 5.9 million in 2017). In the accounts for the year 2018, in addition to the share of statutory contributions earmarked for the co-funding of the Regional Representations, the Regular Budget was able to provide EUR 718,000 in support for Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. It was indicated that Chapter 2, Section 3 of doc. 87 SG/4 provided the accounts of the 12 OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and that full details could be found in the aforementioned document.
430. The Reserve Fund totalled EUR 2,531,965 at 31 December 2017. The net assets of the Reserve Fund totalled EUR 2,527,757 at 31 December 2018 (no allocation to the Reserve Fund in 2018). This apparent fall was related to the theoretical valuation of certain investments which may fluctuate over time (theoretical resale value at 31 December);

however, the corresponding investments and bonds (with guaranteed principal and interest) earned EUR 120,000 in bank interest in 2018 and, as the bonds would be kept until the end of the contracted period no loss in the principal would be recorded when these investments matured. The Reserve Fund was equivalent to 2.61 months of budget implementation (with an increasing budget). In view of the positive balance of the Regular Budget at the end of 2018, EUR 200,000 would be allocated to the Reserve Fund in 2019.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

431. The Director of Finance stated that, in 2018, the 12th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the World Fund had been held on 13 December. The Committee was chaired by the Associate Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Dr Martine Dubuc, formerly Delegate of Canada.
432. The 12th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund was held on 16 May 2018 (examination of the accounts for 2017) and the 13th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund was held on 22 May 2019 (examination of the accounts for 2018).
433. Dr Dehove thanked the donors for their trust and support: the annual income received by the OIE World Fund in 2018 (EUR 24.1 million) showed an increase. A further progression of the average annual amount of income was recorded in 2018 (EUR 18.1 million annually for the period 2016–2018 since the start of the Sixth Strategic Plan). The voluntary contributions received in 2018 (Statement of income by donor, page 76 of doc. 87 SG/4) totalled EUR 24 067 637. Furthermore, bank interest totalling EUR 179 482 was generated in 2018.
434. Operating expenses for 2018 totalled EUR 20 893 959 and were in large part devoted to financing Work Programme activities implemented by OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. These operational expenses were covered by income received before 2018 and in 2018 (multiannual programmes).
435. It should be noted that EUR 5.4 million corresponded to the transfer to the Regular Budget of voluntary contributions collected in 2018 through the World Fund to finance the OIE-WAHIS investment. Furthermore, the AMR conference organised in Morocco in October 2018 and the PPR conference organised in Brussels in September 2018 were financed exclusively through the World Fund.
436. In 2018, EUR 897,000 in management expenses collected through the World Fund was transferred to the Regular Budget (compared to EUR 757,000 in 2017).
437. The Director of Finance wished to thank all the Members (Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan), international organisations (World Bank, European Union) and foundations and other organisations (International Horse Sports Confederation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts) and various other donors (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines, Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health, International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD], International Fund for Animal Welfare [IFAW], International Coalition for Working Equids [ICWE], St Jude Children's Hospital and World Trade Organization) that had contributed to the World Fund in 2018. These thanks would be the subject of a resolution of the Assembly.
438. To complete these presentations, the Director General reminded the Assembly of its decision to safeguard the statutory activities of the OIE, which were financed by the Regular Budget (activities relating to standard-setting, verification of countries' disease status, management of animal health information), whereas the World Fund was dedicated to solidarity activities and activities to support good governance in Member Countries and capacity-building for national Veterinary Services. She stated that this applied both to the Headquarters' budget and to the budget for the Representations.

**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year**
(Docs 87 SG/15 and 87 SG/16)

439. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors, Dr Bolthe Michael Modisane (South Africa) and Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benitez (Paraguay), confirming the proper management of the OIE accounts, and the report of the External Auditor appointed by the OIE.
440. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor appointed by the OIE, Mr Didier Selles, and his recommendations. The External Auditor emphasised the efforts that had been made to balance the budgets of the Regional Representations and noted that further efforts were needed to reduce cash payments.
441. Congo (Dem. Rep. of) requested a more detailed explanation of the reference made in the report regarding the nine Members having benefited from the 10-year prescription and confirmation that the final version of his report dated 29 April had been presented to the Council and to the World Assembly of Delegates.
442. The External Auditor reiterated the rules relating to the 10-year prescription. In 2018, nine Members had had their statutory contributions for the year 2008 cancelled, corresponding to EUR 128,000. These Members' arrears corresponded to 73% of the total amount of contribution arrears. He confirmed that his report, dated 29 April 2019, had been presented to the meeting of the Council in May 2019 and to the World Assembly of Delegates.
443. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

**Acknowledgements to Members and partners that made voluntary contributions
or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings
and the provision of personnel**

444. The Director General conveyed her warmest thanks to the partners:
- for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2018, as well as,
 - for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2018, and
 - for providing staff remunerated directly by their country to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2018.
445. Draft Resolution No. 4 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

446. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of the accounts of the OIE for a further year.
447. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

2019 Budget
(Doc. 87 SG/5)

Regular Budget

448. Dr Dehove reminded Delegates that the initial Regular Budget for 2019 (EUR 12 770 000) had been adopted at the General Session in May 2018.
449. Four Members had confirmed that they would be contributing in extraordinary category A for the year 2019 (EUR 1.2 million in additional income with respect to the statutory contributions).
450. The new organisation of income in three sections: (1) statutory and extraordinary contributions, (2) operating income, (3) extraordinary income (including recovery of investment subsidies), as presented in May 2017, was used.
451. In accordance with Resolution No. 6 adopted on 24 May 2006 putting in place a mechanism for financing the Regional Representations, a part of the statutory contribution was allocated to the Representations and was directly recorded in the accounts of the Representations concerned. Within the framework of continuing to put in place an accrual accounting system, it was proposed that 100% of the statutory contributions be accounted for in the Regular Budget accounts. In compliance with the accounting rules the risk of non-recovery of contributions was recognised in the accounts by a depreciation provision.
452. The part allocated to the Representations was now shown under Regular Budget expenses on a newly created budget line. The structure of the table of expenses by field of activity was modified as follows (to better reflect the analytical accounting chart and the different fields of activity of the OIE): (i) a special line for Information Systems Unit expenses was added; (ii) the “Missions and various meetings” line was replaced by “Missions and organisation of various meetings” to include the staff costs of the Events Coordination Unit; (iii) the “General expenses” line was modified to include the staff costs of the Logistics Unit (building maintenance); (iv) a line was created to show more clearly the amounts transferred to the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, including the part of the statutory contributions paid to the Representations.
453. In view of the agreements and conventions signed or confirmed for 2019, the estimated level of management expenses deducted from the grants received by the World Fund was expected to remain stable.
454. Since 2017, the voluntary contributions for the use of Arabic were included in OIE income.
455. Income from rental of rooms was expected to remain relatively stable in conjunction with an increase in the (unremunerated) use of rooms for meetings organised by the OIE. A prudent revision of income such as the fees for evaluation of disease status application dossiers and investment income was also integrated. A specific income item to offset planned expenditure for the OIE-WAHIS project was also included (EUR 1.17 million).
456. In terms of income other than statutory and extraordinary contributions, the estimated figure was calculated at EUR 3.1 million.
457. The OIE had had to revise expense forecasts to take into account recognised commitments, while taking care to protect the budgets needed for information systems and implementation of the new IT systems master plan, animal health information, the preparation of international standards, verification of sanitary statuses, support for control programmes for priority diseases, strengthening of human resource management, the establishment of a PVS Secretariat, evaluation of the PVS Pathway, support for GF-TADs activities and preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan. Staff costs were forecast to account for 52.2% of total expenses (54.5% in 2018).

458. The monitoring table of investments scheduled for 2019 (Appendix IV of Doc. 87 SG/5) provided details with a clear separation between, on one hand, current work and investments (chiefly relating to upkeep of the two headquarters' buildings) and, on the other hand, computer work and investments: implementation of the new IT systems master plan and management of the OIE-WAHIS investment. Amortisation of the OIE-WAHIS investment (estimated in 2019 at EUR 2.3 million for Phase 1 of the project), foreseen for a period of 10 years, would be calculated *pro rata temporis* from the launch date of the tool.
459. Dr Dehove concluded by stating that the 2019 Budget had been revised and set, in terms of income and expenses, at an amount of EUR 15 410 000.
460. Draft Resolution No. 5 presenting the revised 2019 Budget was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 5 at the end of this report.

Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

461. Dr Dehove briefly presented the 2019 budget of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The creation of a Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with no financial impact for the OIE, had been taken into account (second semester of 2019). The fragile budgetary situation of the four Representations in Africa was again emphasised.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

462. In accordance with the accrual-based accounting system, the OIE recognised the amounts of signed contracts within the framework of World Fund activities even though the corresponding funds had not yet been received: EUR 31 315 329 at 31 December 2018 (funds due to be received in 2019 and subsequent years), compared to EUR 18 968 250 at 31 December 2017 and EUR 28 210 553 at 31 December 2016. These amounts corresponded to multiannual contributions yet to be received under the terms of contracts already signed with donors. Other contracts and income were expected for 2019 and 2020, notably to fund the OIE-WAHIS project but were not yet recognised in the accounts (supplementary agreements being finalised, but not yet signed at 31 December 2018).

Presentation of the Planned Working Programme for 2019–2020 (Doc. 87 SG/6-A)

463. The Director General presented the broad lines of the Organisation's Planned Working Programme for the months ahead, pointing out by way of introduction that her proposal had been prepared on the basis of the roadmap she had presented to the Assembly at the 84th General Session (May 2016) to implement the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan, and that the programme for 2019–2020 took into account the objectives already achieved and the actions already undertaken in 2018 and during the first months of 2019.

She also emphasised that close monitoring of the actions undertaken since 1 January 2016 would serve as the reference point for the OIE Council and General Directorate started work on preparing the Seventh Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2026, which would be submitted to the Delegates for approval at the General Session in May 2020.

For details of the Planned Working Programme, Delegates were invited to refer to doc. 87 SG/6-A. Over and above the administrative activities of managing the Organisation and monitoring institutional relations with Members and partners, the Director General placed special emphasis on the following:

1. The OIE-WAHIS modernisation project

Following the technical specification phase and the setting up of a project team in 2017, as well as the selection of an IT firm in the first quarter of 2018 after a tendering procedure, the first phase of application development had begun and the first deliverables were due to be presented at the end of 2019 with a view to their implementation by countries at the beginning of 2020.

The project's governance bodies, namely the Strategic Committee and the Users Committee, would be consulted periodically, and the Council was being kept informed of progress with the project at each of its meetings.

2. **Standard-setting activities**

The Director General stated that the primary objective would be to maintain the scientific excellence of the work carried out at each stage in the development of OIE standards so as to ensure their relevance, strengthen their recognition as international standards and, ultimately, maintain the credibility of the OIE. In 2020, the Standards Department will have to initiate the process of preparing the elections of the members of the specialized commissions to be held in 2021.

3. The OIE would **continue to develop the Observatory** notably aimed at identifying the difficulties and constraints faced by Member Countries in applying OIE standards. The project would be monitored in compliance with its governance, namely the strategic orientation validated by the Council, and the technical advice provided by the reference group composed of representatives of several Member Countries, regional economic communities and competent international organisations in the field of standardisation. Promotion of the project would continue, using every opportunity provided by international meetings, and the support of OIE Members, for the operational deployment of the project.
4. With regard to **veterinary medicinal products and antimicrobial resistance**, activities relating to the implementation of the OIE's strategy on the responsible and prudent use of veterinary medicinal products, and antimicrobial agents in particular, in order to control the development of resistance to antibiotics, were a priority mission of the OIE. In collaboration with WHO and FAO, activities in the field of antimicrobial resistance would be maintained, taking into account the recommendations put forward at the global conference organised in Marrakech (Morocco, October 2018) and the recommendations of the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group published in April 2019.
5. Regarding the **support given to Members**, Dr Eloit mentioned, among others:
 - the examination of applications for recognition of official disease status, in accordance with the revised procedures for the six diseases;
 - the operational implementation of the work programme relating to the PVS Pathway, in accordance with the procedures defined after the reflection process undertaken in 2017, and in line with any additional recommendations put forward by the external evaluation being carried out in 2019;
 - support for Members with implementing global strategies to control and eradicate priority diseases (PPR, FMD, rabies), but also with controlling African swine fever in line with the expectations formulated by Members at the 87th General Session during the discussions on Technical Item 2.
6. Ultimately, the Director General mentioned actions that had been taken to **improve the internal governance** of the OIE, namely strengthening of the technical and administrative capacities of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, in view of their essential role in implementing programmes and in relations with Members.
7. Dr Eloit further informed the Assembly that Regional Conferences would be held in the second half of 2019 for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region (in September in Japan) and the Middle East region (in November in the United Arab Emirates), and in 2020 for the Europe region (in November in Italy) and the Americas region (in September in Peru).

8. She noted that two global conferences had been scheduled for 2020, namely a conference on new technologies having an impact on methods of data collection and verification (potentially in the United Arab Emirates at dates to be confirmed), and a conference on biological risks and biosecurity measures, taking the example of an industry such as the pig sector, currently facing a major crisis due to African swine fever (conference venue and dates to be confirmed).
9. Dr Eloit concluded by emphasising that these activities would be supported by active communication and would be deployed while seeking to strengthen partnerships. All these topics would again be considered with the Council during the preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan, and then with Members within the framework of the corresponding budgetary dialogue.

Establishment of a Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

(Doc. 87 SG/14)

464. Dr Dop presented the project to establish a Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, aimed at strengthening the presence of the OIE in the Arabian Peninsula. This office would work in liaison with the Regional Representation for the Middle East in Beirut and would be housed on the site of the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority. The latter would place at its disposal the appropriate budgetary, human and logistical resources.
465. Dr Al Qassimi presented an overview of the geography and organisation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), highlighting how each Emirate was also a city with a specific focus of activities within the UAE. As such, he highlighted that Abu Dhabi is the official capital and hosts the governmental authorities, whereas Dubai is recognised as the economic and commercial centre of the UAE, Sharjah as the educational and cultural hub, the northern emirates being known for their eco-tourism. He further emphasised that Abu Dhabi represents approximately 80% of the land of the UAE and holds the same proportion of the live animal population of the country, representing approximately 5 million heads. He also explained that Al Ain, the second city of the emirate, had a strong tradition of transhumance. He concluded that the choice of Abu Dhabi to host the sub-regional representation had been made in recognition of its strong agricultural practice.
466. Dr Dop further detailed the process that had led to the signature of the agreement with the *Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority* (ADAFSA) and underlined the critical importance of the commitment of the host country to supporting the sub-regional representation to the success of its activities.
467. Dr Al Qassimi took the floor and reiterated that the United Arab Emirates was committed to cooperating with the OIE and developing livestock production and trade in live animals and products of animal origin. He expressed a desire to draw on the scientific expertise of the OIE to help countries in the sub-region to implement the standards promoted by the OIE, stating that the mandate of ADAFSA was to improve the competence of UAE countries and other countries in the region in terms of animal health. The United Arab Emirates also wished to provide financial and logistical support, as well as human resources, for the sub-regional representation.
468. Following a review of the conditions laid down in the OIE Basic Texts for opening a bureau, Dr Dop pointed out that the United Arab Emirates were already committed to respecting them and to providing the necessary resources for the proper operation of the bureau. He mentioned the categories of activities for which the bureau was responsible, as well as the coordination of some specific projects such as the BESST (*Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade*) initiative, for which a feasibility study had been entrusted to the ILRI (*International Livestock Research Institute*). Dr Dop also mentioned that this bureau would be interested in employing new (especially digital) technologies in the service of animal health.
469. After having been previously approved by the Council and the Regional Commission for the Middle East, Draft Resolution No. 10 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

Proposed 2020 Contributions Scale and 2020 Budget Estimates
(Doc. 87 SG/6-B)

470. The Director of Finance began by reminding Delegates of the mechanism adopted in May 2018 for indexing statutory contributions to the annual consumer price index of the OECD.
471. Resolution No. 15 of 25 May 2018, relating to “Taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members”, stated that each year, the Resolution relating to the financial contributions of OIE Members would take into account the annual Consumer Price Index (“OECD-Total” CPI) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the previous year, when calculating the financial contributions of OIE Members for the following year. The annual consumer price index (“OECD-Total” CPI) was 2.6% for 2018.
472. In application of Resolution No. 15 of 25 May 2018, it was therefore proposed that the statutory contributions for 2020 be increased by 2.6% compared to the level for 2019. The OIE would call for only 50% of the total contributions due in accordance with the six-category scale from Members classified as LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. This proposal was contained in draft Resolution No. 7 (Financial contributions of OIE Members for 2020).
473. The value of the contribution unit was set at EUR 8 628. For 2020, the total theoretical amount of contributions would thus be EUR 11 000 700, the amount taken into account to establish the Regular Budget.
474. The OIE now recognised the total amount of contributions for the year under ‘income’. Continuing the process of putting in place an accrual accounting system, the Director General had proposed to budget for 100% of the total amount of statutory contributions. This approach would be maintained for the 2020 Budget. In compliance with the accounting rules, the risk of non-recovery of contributions would then be recognised in the accounts by means of a depreciation provision.
475. In accordance with the mechanism established by Resolution No. VI of 24 May 2006, a part of each contribution unit would be allocated, provided that the contribution had actually been paid, to the budget of the Regional Representation corresponding to the Regional Commission of which the country was primarily a member.
476. Two Members having already indicated their intention to contribute in Extraordinary Category A and one Member in Extraordinary Category B, it was proposed that income of EUR 1 080 340 be entered in this respect. This amount corresponded to the difference between the amount of the extraordinary contribution to be paid and the corresponding statutory category.
477. Operating income in the Regular Budget, other than that derived from statutory contributions and extraordinary contributions, was estimated to be EUR 3.1 for 2020. A specific income item to offset planned expenditure for the OIE-WAHIS project was also included.
478. The 2020 Budget had been built taking into account the priorities announced by the Director General (Doc. 87 SG/6-A).
479. Expense forecasts took into account recognised commitments, while taking steps to protect the budgets needed for information systems, animal health information, preparation of international standards, verification of sanitary statuses, support for control programmes for priority diseases, strengthening of human resource management, the functioning of a PVS Secretariat, evaluation of the PVS Pathway, support for GF-TADs activities and preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan. Staff costs were estimated to account for 54% of total expenses (54.5% in 2018). These expense estimates for 2020 also took into consideration the need to finance the new IT systems master plan, as well as the OIE-WAHIS investment (EUR 1.13 M in 2020).
480. On this basis, the draft Regular Budget for 2020 (94th Financial Year), as presented, was balanced in terms of income and expenses in an amount of EUR 15 510 000. Income would

essentially consist of statutory contributions (EUR 11 000 700) and the payment of three extraordinary contributions. Other income was estimated at EUR 3 428 960 (operating income, such as registration fees, sales of publications, fees for evaluation of disease status application dossiers, World Fund management expenses, internal contributions, other operating income, investment income, extraordinary income including recovery of subsidies, etc.).

481. The Director General thanked the Assembly for its support for the activities of the OIE despite the financial constraints that the Delegates themselves had to face concerning the budget of their services.
482. Draft Resolution No. 6 (Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 94th Financial Year of the OIE, 1 January to 31 December 2020) was adopted with 115 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions.
483. Draft Resolution No. 7 (Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2020) was adopted with 114 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions.
484. Draft Resolution No. 8 (Planned Working Programme for 2019–2020) was adopted unanimously.
485. Resolutions Nos 6, 7 and 8 appear at the end of this report.
486. In her concluding remarks to the Assembly, the Director General acknowledged its constant support for the Organisation despite the many budgetary and administrative constraints that Delegates had to contend with, and she reiterated her personal commitment, and that of the teams at the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, to accomplishing the missions entrusted to them.

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the East African Community (EAC)**

(Doc. 87 SG/19)

487. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with EAC, approved by the Council.
488. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

(Doc. 87 SG/20)

489. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN, approved by the Council.
490. Draft Resolution No. 12 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

(Doc. 87 SG/21)

491. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with UNICRI, approved by the Council.
492. In response to New Zealand's question about the scope of joint activities with UNICRI, Dr Dop indicated that he would cover the field of biological threat reduction in line with the OIE World Conference held on this theme in Canada in 2017. He also pointed out that during the meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa, the theme of agro-crime had been raised, and that the OIE had a department in which staff is dedicated to biological threat issues.
493. Draft Resolution No. 13 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

494. The Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
495. The Final Report of the technical and administrative sessions would be sent to the Delegates at the beginning of the following week. The Delegates had until 15 June 2019 to submit in writing any rectifications to the report, no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions.
496. The Director General informed the Assembly that the General Session had, this year, been attended by 129 Delegates, representatives from 3 observer countries and territories, 21 guests of honour with a total of over 853 participants. She also explained that social media communication had been prioritised over the traditional press conferences as it was more efficient and involved fewer constraints, and she noted that social media communication had greatly increased compared with previous years. She underlined the fact that the interviews conducted during the General Session had been viewed around 14,000 times, that the social networks had connected around 200,000 people and that the OIE website had received more than 34,000 hits. She highlighted that these communication channels enhanced the outreach and visibility of OIE activities and should be increasingly used. The Director General thanked the Delegations for their active participation and highlighted the continuing support of Members for OIE activities, such as the United Arab Emirates, which would soon welcome a new sub-regional representation. She also expressed her appreciation for events such as bilateral meetings, side events, and even social or informal events held throughout the General Session, providing fertile intercultural exchanges and relations in the true spirit of the Organisation. She renewed her warm thanks to Bolivia and Uzbekistan for the receptions they organized. Finally, she thanked the OIE staff involved in the preparation and smooth running of the General Session, notably the teams working in the background and the communication team.

Closing Session

497. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the discussions. He congratulated the Members of the Council, the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the translators, the messengers, the photographer and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and his Delegation.
498. The President reiterated his goal of improving Member participation in the debates and encouraged them to submit their comments on the innovations introduced this year, in particular the opening session and the interactive session during the meetings of the Regional Commissions. He also voiced his desire to extend these innovative practices in order to increase interactions during the meetings of the biennial Regional Commissions. He welcomed the increased participation in kiosks and events on the fringe of the plenary sessions and invited Members to provide comments in order to enhance the running of the General Session. Finally, he noted the work in progress on the Seventh Strategic Plan and invited Members to continue to share their suggestions on the priorities of the Organisation for the coming years.
499. He ended his address by declaring the 87th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
500. He invited the Delegates to return for the 88th General Session in May 2020.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

RESOLUTIONS

**Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates
during their 87th General Session**

26 – 31 May 2019

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. 1](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2018
- [No. 2](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2018
- [No. 3](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2018)
- [No. 4](#) Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the Provision of Personnel
- [No. 5](#) Modification of the 2019 Budget
- [No. 6](#) OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 94th Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2020)
- [No. 7](#) Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2020
- [No. 8](#) Planned Work Programme for 2019-2020
- [No. 9](#) Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. 10](#) Creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation
- [No. 11](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the East African Community (EAC)
- [No. 12](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- [No. 13](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- [No. 14](#) OIE's Engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance
- [No. 15](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members
- [No. 16](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members
- [No. 17](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members
- [No. 18](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members
- [No. 19](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members
- [No. 20](#) Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members
- [No. 21](#) Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members
- [No. 22](#) Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members
- [No. 23](#) Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material

- [No. 24](#) Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest
- [No. 25](#) Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*
- [No. 26](#) Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
- [No. 27](#) Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- [No. 28](#) Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- [No. 29](#) Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
- [No. 30](#) Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres
- [No. 31](#) Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE
- [No. 32](#) How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required
- [No. 33](#) Global situation relating to African swine fever

RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2018

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2018 (87 SG/1).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management,
Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2018**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2018 (87 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 3

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2018)**

In application of Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Financial Report for the 92nd Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2018) (87 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 4

**Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made
Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE,
or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the Provision of Personnel**

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2018 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2018,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan;

The European Union (European Commission and European Parliament) and the World Bank;

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the International Horse Sports Confederation, the PEW Charitable Trusts, the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the St Jude Children's Hospital and the World Trade Organization;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2018.

2. Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican (Rep of), Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep of), Laos, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Vietnam;

for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2018.

3. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Norway, Panama, United Kingdom and United States of America;

for the provision of personnel paid directly by their country to support the implementation of the programmes of the OIE in 2018.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2019 Budget

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

Considering the variation in expenses and income for the 93rd Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2019),

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To modify Resolution No. 6 of 24 May 2018 and replace paragraphs 1 and 2 of the said Resolution with the following paragraphs:

1. The budget of the 93rd Financial Year, corresponding to the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, is set, on the basis of the following income and expenses, at an amount of EUR 15 410 000:

1.1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount EUR
Section 1	OIE Members' contributions established according to the categories provided in Article 11 of the Organic Statutes of the OIE and in accordance with Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE	10 722 750
	Extraordinary contributions	1 201 050
	Sub-total Section 1	11 923 800
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	90 000
	Publication sales	30 000
	Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications	100 000
	World Fund overheads	850 000
	Internal contributions	680 000
	Other operating income	1 336 600
	Sub-total Section 2	3 086 600
Section 3	Investment income	20 000
	Extraordinary income	85 600
	Recovery of subsidies	43 000
	Cancellation of provisions	251 000
	Sub-total Section 3	399 600
	TOTAL	15 410 000

1.2. Expenses

1.2.1 Expenses by budgetary section

Budgetary sections	Amount EUR
1. Purchases	177 700
2. Outside services	4 914 750
3. Taxes	17 000
4. Staff costs	8 040 500
5. Administrative expenses and financial charges	1 301 050
6. Extraordinary expenses	-
7. Depreciation and amortisation expenses	959 000
TOTAL	15 410 000

1.2.2 Expenses by field of activity

Field of Activity	Amount EUR
1. Assembly and Council	982 000
2. General Directorate and Administration	2 345 950
3. Communication	489 500
4. Information Systems	813 500
5. Animal Health Information	1 734 000
6. Publications	588 300
7. International Standards and Science	3 178 500
8. Regional Activities	1 295 500
9. Missions and organisation of various meetings	773 500
10. General expenses	1 055 200
11. Regional and Sub-Regional Representations	1 195 050
12. Depreciation and amortisation expenses	959 000
TOTAL	15 410 000

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 6

**OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 94th Financial Year
(1 January to 31 December 2020)**

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

That the budget for the 94th Financial Year, corresponding to the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, shall be set in terms of income and expenses at an amount of EUR 15 510 000, established as follows:

1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount EUR
Section 1	OIE Members' contributions established according to the categories provided in Article 11 of the Organic Statutes of the OIE and in accordance with Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE	11 000 700
	Extraordinary contributions	1 080 340
	Sub-total Section 1	12 081 040
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	100 000
	Publication sales	30 000
	Fees for evaluating disease status dossiers	100 000
	World Fund overheads	850 000
	Internal contributions	710 000
	Other operating income	1 220 000
	Sub-total Section 2	3 010 000
Section 3	Investment income	20 000
	Extraordinary income	42 460
	Recovery of subsidies	33 500
	Cancellation of provisions	323 000
	Sub-total Section 3	418 960
	TOTAL	15 510 000

2. Expenses

2.1. Expenses by budgetary section

Budgetary section	Amount EUR
1. Purchases	179 100
2. Outside services	4 630 400
3. Taxes	17 000
4. Staff costs	8 381 500
5. Administrative expenses and financial charges	1 207 000
6. Extraordinary expenses	-
7. Depreciation and amortisation expenses	1 095 000
TOTAL	15 510 000

2.2. Expenses by field of activity

Field of Activity	Amount EUR
1. Assembly and Council	982 000
2. General Directorate and Administration	2 251 500
3. Communication	503 500
4. Information Systems	827 500
5. Animal Health Information	1 657 000
6. Publications	604 300
7. International Standards and Science	3 313 500
8. Regional Activities	1 287 500
9. Missions and organisation of various meetings	783 000
10. General expenses	1 087 200
11. Regional and Sub-Regional Representations	1 118 000
12. Depreciation and amortisation expenses	1 095 000
TOTAL	15 510 000

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2020

In accordance with Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules,

CONSIDERING

The need to meet the budgetary expenses of the OIE for 2020,

Resolution No. 8 dated 1 June 2001 related to contributions by the Least Developed Countries (LDC),

Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2014 creating two categories of extraordinary contributions,

Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018 related to taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

- 1) that the annual contributions from Members of the OIE be established for the 2020 Financial Year as follows (in EUR):

Category	Annual total contribution
1 st category	215 700 EUR
2 nd category	172 560 EUR
3 rd category	129 420 EUR
4 th category	86 280 EUR
5 th category	43 140 EUR
6 th category	25 884 EUR

that the OIE will call for only 50% of the total contributions due, in accordance with the six-category scale, from the Members classified as LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

- 2) that Members, while retaining the choice of category in which they are registered, may if they wish opt for one of the two extraordinary categories for 2020, in which case, the Members concerned shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question.

The two extraordinary categories of contribution of a lump sum are as follows:

Category A: EUR 500 000 minimum

Category B: EUR 300 000 minimum

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 8

Planned Work Programme for 2019-2020

Considering the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2016-2020 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1) DECIDES

To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2019-2020 (87 SG/6-A), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.

2) RECOMMENDS THAT

Members provide the necessary support to allow the Planned Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the Regular Budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other form of support to OIE activities.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of his mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of 1 year (2019) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of OIE Accounts.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation

IN ACCORDANCE with Article 33 of the General Rules of the OIE,

CONSIDERING

1. The attention paid by the OIE to regional and sub-regional matters,
2. The objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020, in particular the chapter relating the support to the Members for the capacity building of the National Veterinary Services,
3. The current network of the OIE Representations established, with the support of the Council of the OIE, in Argentina (Buenos Aires), in Belgium (Brussels), in Botswana (Gaborone), in Japan (Tokyo), in Kazakhstan (Astana), in Kenya (Nairobi), in Lebanon (Beirut), in Mali (Bamako), in Panama (Panama City), in Russia (Moscow), in Thailand (Bangkok) and in Tunisia (Tunis),
4. The need of an extension of the Representation's network to carry out the activities programme of the Organisation, in favour of the Members,

AND CONSIDERING

The commitment of the United Arab Emirates to support the proper functioning of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE COUNCIL'S OPINION

DECIDES

The creation in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) of a Sub-Regional Representation of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 11

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the East African Community (EAC)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the East African Community (EAC),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and the EAC was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 February 2019 (87 SG/19),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 12

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and the ASEAN was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 February 2019 (87 SG/20),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 13

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and the UNICRI was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 February 2019 (87 SG/21),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 31 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 14

OIE's Engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance

CONSIDERING

1. That antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is globally recognised as a growing political concern with serious social, economic, human health and animal health repercussions, as demonstrated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution A-71/3 adopted in 2016,
2. The Second OIE Global Conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents, putting standards into practice, organised in October 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco, that confirmed commitment to supporting global strategies and initiatives developed under the leadership of the Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO) and recommended to further strengthen international collaboration and coordination including with the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other related institutions to build a stronger economic case for sustainable investment,
3. The ongoing AMR activities in the framework of the Tripartite, following the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018, and its joint workplan to support countries in implementing National Action Plans in support of the Global Action Plan on AMR,
4. The Monitoring and Evaluation framework developed by the Tripartite to measure country progress in the implementation of the Global Action Plan using a harmonised approach,
5. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund “Combatting the rising global threat of AMR through a One Health Approach” on the verge of being established by the Tripartite to enable joint resource mobilisation for the implementation of the Tripartite workplans on AMR,
6. The *Ad hoc* Inter-agency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG) report, provided to the United Nations Secretary General in April 2019 after public consultation, and particularly its recommendations regarding global leadership and coordination on AMR, and calling on Member States to effectively address AMR by developing and implementing multisectoral One Health National Action Plans,
7. The upcoming UN Secretary General report prepared for the UN General Assembly in September 2019 in response to the Resolution A-71/3 to provide an update on progress made by Member States and the Tripartite on the implementation of the Political Declaration and recommendations emanating from the Ad-hoc Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance,
8. The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials developed following the adoption of Resolution No. 36 at the 84th General Session in May 2016, which also considered previous Resolutions related to AMR and the harmonisation of registration requirements for veterinary drugs,
9. The recommendation to OIE Members, to follow the guidance of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, particularly by developing National Action Plans, in respect of the use of antimicrobial agents in animals adopted through Resolution No. 26 at the 83rd General Session in May 2015,

10. The importance and the relevance of the OIE standards, guidelines, tools and interventions carried out by the OIE to date in the fight against AMR, and the need to maintain its active involvement in Tripartite activities and to reaffirm its role in the global leadership regarding the challenge of AMR for animal health and welfare,

AND RECOGNISING the need to urgently implement the Tripartite Workplan on AMR supported by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund to further scale up the global effort and support to the countries and to strengthen OIE's capacity to respond to the growing challenge and expectations in addressing AMR,

THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continues to strengthen the central role of the Tripartite in engaging and coordinating all critical stakeholders at the global level through a Joint Tripartite Secretariat function, as well as through the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund, "Combatting the rising global threat of AMR through a One Health Approach" while taking into account the most effective use of current resources and work streams,
2. The OIE further contributes to the rapid implementation of the recommendations emanating from the work of IACG and the UNGA, in accordance with the GAP and the OIE Strategy on addressing AMR,
3. The OIE regularly informs its Members of the global situation and progress made regarding the global use of antimicrobial agents in animals and the fight against AMR.

AND DECIDES THAT

The OIE Director General establishes a permanent Working Group on AMR supporting the implementation of the OIE Global Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the organisation's capacity to respond to global challenges according to its mandate.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Japan	Poland
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	Portugal ²⁷
Austria	Estonia	Lesotho	Romania
Belarus	Eswatini	Lithuania	San Marino
Belgium	Finland ²⁵	Luxembourg	Serbia ²⁸
Belize	France ²⁶	Madagascar	Singapore
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Malta	Slovakia
Brunei	Greece	Mexico	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Montenegro	Spain ²⁹
Canada	Guyana	New Caledonia	Suriname
Chile	Haiti	New Zealand	Sweden
Costa Rica	Honduras	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Croatia	Hungary	North Macedonia	The Netherlands
Cuba	Iceland	Norway	Ukraine
Cyprus	Indonesia	Panama	United Kingdom ³⁰
Czech Republic	Ireland	Peru	United States of America ³
Denmark ²⁴	Italy	Philippines	Vanuatu

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD free zones³² where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

Bolivia: one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2011;

one zone consisting of the Department of Pando as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2018;

Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:

- one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
- one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
- one zone covering Zone 4a;
- one zone covering Zone 6b;

²⁴ Including Faroe Islands and Greenland.

²⁵ Including Åland Islands.

²⁶ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

²⁷ Including Azores and Madeira.

²⁸ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

²⁹ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

³⁰ Including Falkland Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man and Jersey.

³¹ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

³² For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

one zone covering Zone 7 designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2018;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Chocó Department);

one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galapagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Kazakhstan: five zones as designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2018 consisting of as follows:

- Zone 1 consisting of West Kazakhstan, Atyrau, Mangystau and south-western part of Aktobe region;
- Zone 2 including north-eastern part of Aktobe region, southern part of Kostanay region and western part of Karaganda region;
- Zone 3 including northern and central parts of Kostanay region, western parts of North Kazakhstan and Akmola regions;
- Zone 4 including central and eastern parts of North Kazakhstan region and northern parts of Akmola and Pavlodar regions;
- Zone 5 including central and eastern parts of Karaganda region and southern parts of Akmola and Pavlodar regions;

Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997.

Russia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD free zones³³ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;

³³ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

- Bolivia: one zone covering the regions of Chaco, Valles and parts of Amazonas and Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2013, February 2014 and August 2018;
- Brazil: one zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997);
one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010;
one extended zone designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2017, composed of the States of Amapá, Roraima, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Acre, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, Bahia, Tocantins, Alagoas, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and parts of Mato Grosso do Sul;
- Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;
one zone consisting of Kinmen County as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the OIE Director General in September 2017;
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:
- one zone consisting of Almaty region;
 - one zone consisting of East Kazakhstan region;
 - one zone including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;
 - one zone including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;
 - one zone including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;
- Turkey: one zone designated by the Delegate of Turkey in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 16

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognising the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member, namely the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of)	Mongolia	Namibia
India	Morocco	Thailand

2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify the OIE Headquarters the occurrence of FMD in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CBPP free according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Eswatini	Portugal ³⁵
Australia	France ³⁴	Singapore
Botswana	India	South Africa
Brazil	Mexico	Switzerland
Canada	New Caledonia	United States of America
China (People's Rep. of)	Peru	Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a CBPP free zone³⁶ according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2015.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

³⁴ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion.

³⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

³⁶ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as CBPP free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 18

**Endorsement of Official Control Programmes
for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for CBPP based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia.
2. The Delegate of this Member shall notify the OIE Headquarters the occurrence of CBPP in its country or territory in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 19

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Estonia	Lithuania	Portugal ³⁸
Australia	Finland ³⁷	Luxembourg	Romania
Austria	Germany	Malta	Serbia ³⁹
Belgium	Hungary	Mexico	Singapore
Brazil	Iceland	Namibia	Slovakia
Bulgaria	India	New Zealand	Slovenia
Chile	Israel	Nicaragua	Spain ⁴⁰
Colombia	Italy	Norway	Sweden
Costa Rica	Japan	Panama	Switzerland
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Paraguay	The Netherlands
Cyprus	Latvia	Peru	United States of America
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Poland	Uruguay
Denmark			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Canada	Ecuador	Greece
Chinese Taipei	France	Ireland

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having zones⁴¹ recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau;

United Kingdom: one zone consisting of Northern Ireland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2016.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having zones⁵ recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

United Kingdom: two zones consisting of England and Wales, and Scotland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016, and in December 2018.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

³⁷ Including Åland Islands.

³⁸ Including Azores and Madeira.

³⁹ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

⁴⁰ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁴¹ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 20

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from AHS,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as AHS free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria	Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Qatar
Andorra	Denmark	Lithuania	Romania
Argentina	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Singapore
Australia	Estonia	Malaysia	Slovakia
Austria	Finland ⁴³	Malta	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France ⁴⁴	Mexico	Spain ⁴⁶
Belgium	Germany	Morocco	Sweden
Bolivia	Greece	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	New Zealand	Thailand
Brazil	Iceland	North Macedonia	The Netherlands
Bulgaria	India	Norway	Tunisia
Canada	Ireland	Oman	Turkey
Chile	Italy	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
China (People's Rep. of) ⁴²	Japan	Peru	United Kingdom ⁴⁷
Chinese Taipei	Kazakhstan	Philippines	United States of America ⁴⁸
Colombia	Korea (Rep. of)	Poland	Uruguay
Croatia	Kuwait	Portugal ⁴⁵	
Cyprus	Latvia		

AND

2. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

⁴² Including Hong Kong and Macau.

⁴³ Including Åland Islands.

⁴⁴ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁴⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁴⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁴⁷ Including Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey and Saint Helena.

⁴⁸ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

RESOLUTION No. 21

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from PPR,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as PPR free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Portugal ⁵¹
Australia	Ecuador	Lithuania	Romania
Austria	Estonia	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belgium	Eswatini	Madagascar	Slovakia
Bolivia	Finland ⁴⁹	Malta	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France ⁵⁰	Mauritius	South Africa
Botswana	Germany	Mexico	Spain ⁵²
Brazil	Greece	New Caledonia	Sweden
Canada	Hungary	New Zealand	Switzerland
Chile	Iceland	Norway	Thailand
Chinese Taipei	Ireland	Paraguay	The Netherlands
Colombia	Italy	Peru	United Kingdom ⁵³
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Philippines	United States of America ⁵⁴
Cyprus	Latvia	Poland	Uruguay
Czech Republic			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a PPR free zone⁵⁵ according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2014.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

⁴⁹ Including Åland Islands.

⁵⁰ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Barthélémy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁵¹ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵² Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵³ Including Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, and Saint Helena.

⁵⁴ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁵⁵ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as PPR free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 22

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from CSF,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of disease status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already having an OIE official disease status. The document has been published on the OIE website,
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CSF free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Denmark	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Australia	Finland ⁵⁶	Mexico	Slovenia
Austria	France ⁵⁷	New Caledonia	Spain ⁵⁹
Belgium	Germany	New Zealand	Sweden
Bulgaria	Hungary	Norway	Switzerland
Canada	Ireland	Paraguay	The Netherlands
Chile	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom ⁶⁰
Costa Rica	Latvia	Portugal ⁵⁸	United States of America ⁶¹
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Romania	Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having CSF free zones⁶², according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2014;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goias, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins, Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea, in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2018;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

⁵⁶ Including Åland Islands.

⁵⁷ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion.

⁵⁸ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵⁹ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁶⁰ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man and Jersey.

⁶¹ Including Guam, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁶² For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as CSF free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 23

**Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material
to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest**

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Member to maintaining this status, reaffirmed through OIE Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REFERRING to OIE Resolution No. 23 (2014) urging OIE Members to approve the mandate for designated facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’), and requesting the Director General of the OIE to put in place a system to monitor and evaluate designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities,

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate provided under Resolution No. 23 (2014) (Appendix), hereinafter ‘the Mandate’, for Rinderpest Holding Facilities provides designation criteria and conditions, and describes the purpose of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facilities,
2. All FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility applications are assessed by the FAO-OIE Joint Advisory Committee for Rinderpest, hereinafter ‘the Committee’, using criteria approved by both organisations, and the details of the applicant facilities that have been assessed by the Committee are published in their meeting reports,
3. Applicant facilities assessed by the Committee and recommended for inspection are subject to a formal detailed on-site evaluation by a team, comprised of international experts, to determine their capacity and compliance with expected norms for bio-safety and bio-security with respect to the storing of rinderpest stocks and the Mandate,
4. The report and findings of the expert on-site evaluation team are reviewed and evaluated against international biosafety and biosecurity standards and the Mandate by the Committee and their recommendations are endorsed by the respective internal procedures of the FAO and OIE,
5. When a Rinderpest Holding Facility fails to demonstrate compliance with the Mandate its status will be suspended with immediate effect, pending review by the Committee, the OIE and FAO,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate, on behalf of the OIE, and subject to equivalent action by FAO in accordance with its processes for designation, the following facilities as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material, subject to re-evaluation every 3 years, with the category specified for each facility and proposes to add them to the list of FAO-OIE approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities (available on the OIE and FAO websites):

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks

1. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France
2. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, China

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France
2. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, China.

.../Annex

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

Annex

**MANDATE FOR A FACILITY HOLDING
RINDERPEST VIRUS CONTAINING MATERIAL**

The facilities in which rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing material⁶³ can be held (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’) should have a mandate which justifies their function and ensures safe storage of this material.

The Rinderpest Holding Facility has a separate mandate and approval mechanism from an OIE Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and an FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, the OIE Delegate must support the application and be fully aware of the Mandate.

The following text describes the Mandates of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility:

- A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks
 - B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.
- A) Rinderpest virus holding facilities for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:**
1. To safely hold rinderpest virus (hereinafter “RPV”) containing material at an appropriate level of bio-containment and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent its accidental or deliberate release.
 2. To accept RPV-containing material from FAO and OIE Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.
 3. To notify FAO and the OIE before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.
 4. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and the OIE.

⁶³ Rinderpest virus-containing material means field and laboratory strains of RPV; vaccine strains of RPV including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other material from animals known or suspected to be infected; laboratory-generated diagnostic material containing live virus, recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or nonsegmented) containing unique RPV nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, and full length genomic material including virus RNA and its cDNA copies; subgenomic fragments of RPV genome (either as plasmid or incorporated into recombinant viruses) that cannot be incorporated into a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered to be RPV-containing material, neither are sera that have been either heat-treated to at least 56°C for at least two hours, or shown to be free from RPV genome sequences by a validated RT-PCR assay;

5. To retain an up-to-date inventory of RPV-containing material and sequence data (including recording entry and exit of this material into and out of the facility), and to share this information with FAO and the OIE through the designated rinderpest database.
6. To send an annual report to the OIE and FAO
7. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity.
8. To provide technical advice or training to personnel from other FAO and OIE Members on the destruction, safe shipment of RPV-containing material, and/or decontamination of facilities.
9. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
10. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.
11. To seek approval from FAO and the OIE before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of research or any other purposes, including in private sector institutions, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
12. When FAO and the OIE carry out an audit or site inspection the rinderpest holding facility shall fully cooperate and provide all the relevant reports and information.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of vaccine stocks including current and expired vaccines and any materials solely for vaccine production and to share such information with FAO and the OIE through the designated rinderpest database.
2. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines.
3. To regularly test the quality of the vaccines in accordance with the OIE guidelines.
4. To maintain and follow procedures approved by FAO and the OIE for managing vaccine stocks (storing packaged and manufactured vaccine).
5. To contribute, when requested by FAO and the OIE, to the global rinderpest vaccine bank and preparedness strategy, including through the emergency manufacture and preparation of vaccines in accordance with OIE standards.
6. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and OIE Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.
7. To notify FAO and the OIE before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure the chain of custody.
8. To provide vaccine virus seeds or vaccines to other institutes (public or private sector) for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and the OIE.
9. To send an annual report to the OIE and FAO.
10. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity.
11. When FAO and the OIE carry out an audit or site inspection the rinderpest holding facility shall fully cooperate and provide all the relevant reports and information.

RESOLUTION No. 24

**Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus
Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest**

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Member to maintaining this status, reaffirmed through OIE Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REITERATING the importance of reducing the risk posed by rinderpest virus containing material stocks through the destruction of virus in a safe manner and/or the transfer stocks to designated facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’),

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Resolution No. 23 (2014) requested the Director General to put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to designate, inspect, monitor and evaluate Rinderpest Holding Facilities,
2. Resolution No. 20 (2018) informed the OIE Members that OIE would re-evaluate, jointly with the FAO, the five Rinderpest Holding Facilities that were designated in Resolution No. 25 from the 83rd General Session, in May 2015.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To extend the designation, on behalf of the OIE, and subject to equivalent action by FAO in accordance with its processes, of the following facilities as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material, subject to re-evaluation every 3 years, with the category specified for each institute and to maintain them on the list of FAO-OIE approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities (available on the OIE and FAO web sites):

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
2. High Containment Facilities of Exotic Diseases Research Station, National Institute of Animal Health, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan.
3. USDA-APHIS, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Plum Island, New York, United States of America.
4. The Pirbright Institute, Surrey, United Kingdom.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia
 2. Building for Safety Evaluation Research, Production Center for Biologicals; Building for Biologics, Research and Development (storage), National Institute of Animal Health, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 25

Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous OIE General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the February 2019 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 12 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
 2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 26

Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous OIE General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Manual* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2019 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 13 to 16 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annex 16 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B in English, the text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 13, 14 and 15 of Document 87 SG/12/CS4 B in English, the text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. Annex 13 (Chapter 2.2.9.)
 - a) In Section 2.2.1., delete “grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes pugio*)”.
 - 2.2. Annex 14 (Chapter 2.3.4.)
 - a) In Section 2.2.1., delete the word “Northern” in “Northern pike (*Esox lucius*)”.
 - 2.3. Annex 15 (Chapter 2.3.6.)
 - a) In Section 2.2.2., move “Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*)” from the list of species in the second paragraph to the list of species in the first paragraph.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in the on line version of the *Aquatic Manual* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous OIE General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2019 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 13 of Document 87 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 of Document 87 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 4, 9, 10 and 13 of Document 87 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 3 (Glossary)
 - a) In the definition for “Early warning system”, delete “an” before “incursion” and add “occurrence,” before “incursion”.
 - 2.2. In Annex 4 (Chapter 1.4.)
 - a) In Article 1.4.5., point 2, add “access to” before “laboratories”.
 - b) In the English version only, in Article 1.4.6., point 1, the fourth paragraph, replace ‘prove’ with ‘demonstrate’.
 - 2.3. In Annex 9 (Chapter 7.Y.)
 - a) In the Spanish version only, delete “PROCESADOS” in the title of the chapter.
 - b) In the English version only, in Article 7.Y.7., the first paragraph, add “most” before “often”.
 - c) In the Spanish version only, in Article 7.Y.7., the first paragraph, replace “A menudo,” with “Muy frecuentemente”.

- 2.4. In Annex 10 (Chapter 8.14.)
 - a) In Article 8.14.2., point 1 d),
replace “8.14.9.” with “8.14.10.”.
 - b) In Article 8.14.2., point 1 e),
replace “8.14.7.” with “8.14.8.”.
 - c) In Article 8.14.2ter., point 1 c),
replace “8.14.9.” with “8.14.10.”.
 - d) In Article 8.14.2ter., point 1 d),
replace “8.14.7.” with “8.14.8.”.
 - e) In Article 8.14.3, point 2 b),
replace “8.14.5., 8.14.6., or 8.14.7.” with “8.14.5., 8.14.6., 8.14.7., or 8.14.8.”.
 - f) Replace the text of Article 8.14.6. with the text of Article 8.14.7. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.
 - g) Add the text of Article 8.14.9. from the 2018 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* as a new Article 8.14.8. As a consequence of this amendment, renumber Articles 8.14.8., 8.14.9. and 8.14.10. as Articles 8.14.9., 8.14.10. and 8.14.11., respectively.
 - h) In point 5 a) of the renumbered Article 8.14.9. (OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies), replace “8.14.9.” with “8.14.10.”.
 - 2.5. In Annex 13 (Chapter 15.1.)
 - a) In Article 15.1.1bis., point 1,
replace “F-value” with “Fo value”.
 3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 28

**Amendments to the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:
 - 2.1.1. Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing
 - 3.1.6. Echinococcosis (infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* and with *E. multilocularis*)
With the amendments approved by the Assembly:
To delete Table 2. *Global distribution of Echinococcus granulosus (s.l) with associated genotypes found in different animal hosts*, but retain in the text the reference from which it is derived (Deplazes *et al.*, 2017.)
 - 3.1.13. New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old World screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
 - 3.5.1. African horse sickness (infection with African horse sickness virus)
 - 3.5.5. Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western and Venezuelan) (**NB: merged version**)
 - 3.5.6. Equine infectious anaemia
 - 3.5.7. Equine influenza (infection with equine influenza virus)
 - 3.7.9. Peste des petits ruminants (infection with peste des petits ruminants virus)
 - 3.8.1. African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)
With the amendments approved by the Assembly:
To delete lines 94 to 100: “*Animals which have recovered from either acute or chronic infections may become persistently infected, acting as virus carriers. The biological basis for the persistence of ASFV is still not well understood, nor is it clear the extent to which carriers may shed the virus (Carrillo et al., 1994). Recovered ASFV carrier pigs and persistently infected wild pigs constitute the biggest problems in controlling the disease. The serological recognition of carrier pigs has been vital for the success of eradication programmes in endemic ASF areas (Arias & Sánchez-Vizcaíno, 2002b; Sanchez-Vizcaino et al., 2015).*”

The text removed from the chapter will be referred to the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases for advice. The OIE Biological Standards Commission will then further consider the relevance of re-inserting additional epidemiological information in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

- 3.8.3. Classical swine fever (infection with classical swine fever virus)
(NB: Vaccine Section only)
 - 3.9.7. Mange
 - 2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Biological Standards Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; the technical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission are published in the reports of the meeting of the Commission,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*)
National Reference Laboratory for Animal Brucellosis (NRLAB), China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC), Beijing, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Cysticercosis
Helminthosis Laboratory, Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lanzhou, Gansu Province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Glanders
Anses Maisons-Alfort, Animal Health Laboratory, Bacterial Zoonoses Unit, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine infectious anaemia

Division for the Diagnosis of Viral Diseases and Leptospirosis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana (IZSLT), Rome, ITALY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies

National Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health, Bucharest, ROMANIA

OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian mycoplasmosis (Mycoplasma gallisepticum, M. synoviae)

Pendik Veterinary Control Institute, İstanbul, TURKEY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia

Pendik Veterinary Control Institute, İstanbul, TURKEY

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Collaborating Centres,
2. The Terms of Reference of each of the four elected OIE Specialist Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,
3. All OIE Collaborating Centres applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant institutions that have been assessed by a Specialist Commission are published in the reports of the meeting of the Commission,
5. All Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Collaborating Centre follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of OIE Collaborating Centres (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Collaborating Centre for Detection and Identification in Humans of Emerging Animal Pathogens and Development of Tools for their Diagnoses

Institut Pasteur, Paris, FRANCE

OIE Collaborating Centre for Health of Marine Mammals

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZSPLVA), Italian National Reference Centre for Diagnostic Activities in Stranded Marine Mammals (C.Re.Di.Ma.), Torino, ITALY

University Research Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety (IUSA-ULPGC), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), Atlantic Center for Cetacean Research (ACCR), Arucas Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, SPAIN

OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSAM), Teramo, ITALY

Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, SWEDEN

OIE Collaborating Centre for Risk Analysis and Modelling

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC), Royal College Street, London, UNITED KINGDOM
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, UNITED KINGDOM

OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (CEFAS), The Nothe, Dorset, UNITED KINGDOM

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 31

Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for animal diseases by the OIE, and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic kit is taken by the Assembly,
2. The Resolution has established that “fitness for purpose” should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of the OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits is to establish a register of recognised kits for OIE Members and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,
4. OIE Members need kits that are known to be validated according to OIE standards in order to enhance confidence in kits,
5. The OIE register of recognised diagnostic kits provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that validate and certify tests marketed in kit format,
6. According to the OIE Standard Operating Procedure, registration of the diagnostic kits included in the OIE Register has to be renewed every 5 years,
7. During the 74th General Session of the OIE in May 2016, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General renews for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit	BioChek UK Ltd	Fit to detect Newcastle disease virus specific IgG antibodies in chicken sera and for the following purposes: 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/flock); 2. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination);

		<p>3. To monitor infection or disease in unvaccinated populations;</p> <p>4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/ flock health schemes/disease control).</p>
TeSeE™ Western Blot	Bio-Rad Laboratories	<p>Fit for the post-mortem detection of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) in cattle (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE), in ovines and caprines (BSE and scrapie), and in cervids (chronic wasting disease, CWD), and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm TSE suspected positive samples detected at the screening laboratories in countries with active/passive surveillance programmes. Any sample with a negative result according to the TeSeE™ WESTERN BLOT assay interpretation criteria, following a positive rapid test result, should be tested with one of the other OIE certified confirmatory methods, Immunohistochemistry (IHC) or SAF-Immunoblot; 2. To confirm the prevalence of infection with one of the TSE associated diseases (BSE, scrapie, CWD) in the context of an epidemiological survey in a low prevalence country; 3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures) and to assist the demonstration of the efficiency of eradication policies.

2. In accordance with OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kit certified by the OIE for a period of 5 years:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test	Enfer Scientific ULC	<p>Fit for the detection of antibody to <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> in cattle serum samples, to be used as an ancillary test in conjunction with other methods for serological prevalence surveys, or diagnosis and management of <i>M. bovis</i> infection within herds, for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm, but not negate, diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases, including confirmation of positive screening tests in individual animals and in herds with infection prevalence ranging from very low to high, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum. 2. To detect <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> infected animals not positive by single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) or interferon gamma release assay (IFNγ) tests, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum. 3. To confirm, but not negate, infection in animals giving inconclusive reactions in the SICCT, based on detection of antibodies in bovine serum.

		<p>4. As a screening test, to identify animals most likely to have visible lesions by scoring the number of <i>M. bovis</i> antigens recognised by seropositive animals with bovine tuberculosis.</p> <p>Species and specimens: This test has been validated and approved for testing serum samples from cattle, as noted above.</p> <p>Regarding intended use in point 4 above, during the first 5 years of registration, additional data will be required to better qualify and categorise the relationship between the number of <i>M. bovis</i> antigens and the likelihood of visible lesions.</p> <p>This test is also provisionally approved for testing milk samples from cattle as a herd screening test or as a supplemental confirmatory test for use in individual animals, when used in conjunction with other methods for diagnosing and managing <i>M. bovis</i> infection.</p>
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 32

**How external factors
(e.g. Climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns)
will impact Veterinary Services and the adaptations required**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Veterinary Services are a public good that contribute to the economic, environmental, social and health dimensions of their countries, and play a fundamental role towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Veterinary Services will need to work with a broad range of partners in order for the world to strategically plan and attain economic, social, environmental and health security;
3. One of the three main objectives of the 6th Strategic Plan of the OIE is to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of National Veterinary Services, which would include their resilience against internal and external factors;
4. Several external factors, such as climate change, conflicts, socio-economics and trading patterns, have an impact on Veterinary Services and their performance in the mid- to long term;
5. Members and other stakeholders expect Veterinary Services to respond to these external factors and to help bring about a desired future;
6. Greater awareness of influential external factors and greater preparedness for their effects will help the Veterinary Services mitigate the risks that they pose and take advantage of the opportunities they offer;
7. The future impact of external factors on Veterinary Services can be assessed through systematic, participatory and multi-disciplinary approaches, such as Foresight, and the vulnerability of Veterinary Services can be reduced through adaptation and mitigation strategies based on planning and reactive adjustments to change;
8. Members are ultimately responsible for driving the adaptation of their Veterinary Services.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members, in coordination with other stakeholders, should undertake a systematic process to consider how external factors might affect the performance of their Veterinary Services and how their Veterinary Services can contribute to building economic and social resilience as part of their national strategic planning;
2. Members should develop a system to register and monitor risks associated with external factors, which can affect the operations and performance of their Veterinary Services in the mid- to long term;

3. Members should explore the opportunities associated with external factors, such as those arising from technological progress, which can improve the capacity of Veterinary Services to influence, respond and adapt to change in the mid- to long term;
 4. Members should consider how external factors may affect future performance of their Veterinary Services in key areas, such as finance, human resources, legal affairs and operations, and take appropriate measures to reduce institutional risks;
 5. The OIE should establish and coordinate regional and global initiatives to evaluate how external factors, including climate change, may affect Veterinary Services in the mid- to long term, as well as how Veterinary Services can increase their influence to bring about a desired future with economic, social, environmental and health security;
 6. The OIE should assist Veterinary Services to develop international, regional and national linkages with institutions and actors, both public and private, that are engaged in development and resilience planning;
 7. The OIE should continue to make efforts to strengthen the resilience of Veterinary Services against the impact of external factors, such as climate change. This would include (i) encouraging continued discussion and analysis to support their understanding of these complex issues; (ii) developing best practice recommendations and guidelines, tools and training programmes to build their capacity in Foresight; and (iii) continuing to implement the Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway (PVS) to increase their management, planning and leadership skills.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RESOLUTION No. 33

Global Control of African Swine Fever

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The epidemiological characteristics of African swine fever (ASF) and the current spread of the disease in domestic and wild pig populations pose a global threat to the industrialised and small-scale pig sector that together provide a key source of animal protein for food security and support livelihoods of farmers and stakeholders in many OIE Member Countries,
2. The spread of ASF is having negative impacts on animal health and welfare internationally, resulting in socio-economic impacts on livelihoods, national food security and for international markets and trade, and therefore has significant potential to hinder the coordinated efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty worldwide under the Sustainable Development Goals,
3. Control of ASF is feasible but unlikely to be successful and sustainable unless the efforts are part of a coordinated regional and global approach, and embedded into supra-national frameworks that consider the diverse socio-cultural, geographical, political, linguistic and economic needs of each region, through engagement with a broad range of international, regional and national agencies,
4. The lack of an effective vaccine and the existence of knowledge gaps in several critical areas, including the epidemiology of ASF in wild pigs and the role of ticks, are impediments to the control of ASF that need to be addressed through coordinated research and development programmes,
5. While pig meat and pig commodities are extensively traded posing a potential risk for the spread of ASF, the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provides the harmonised international standards through which zoonotic risks can be mitigated, including through zoning, compartmentalisation and application of commodity-based trade measures.
6. The implementation of OIE standards in relation to ASF risk management, including prevention and preparedness, can be supported through developing specific guidance on application of generic approaches, in particular for risk analysis, zoning and compartmentalisation.
7. A mechanism to facilitate the involvement of key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to improve understanding of the complex value chains of the pig industry, and the relationship such value chains have with national biosecurity systems, and promote inter-sectoral collaboration at national, regional and global levels is essential for the control of ASF,
8. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is an effective framework to fight against transboundary animal diseases, since it empowers regional alliances by providing guidelines, direction and coordination among members and partners,
9. Establishment of regional Standing Groups of Experts on ASF (SGEs-ASF) under the umbrella of GF-TADs, promotes regular exchange of information and best practices among risk managers and international and national experts with a view to coordinate disease control policies and build science-based national control strategies.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. ASF control be considered a very high priority by Members, regardless of their current status for ASF, as a result of the disease's significant impact on animal health and welfare, economies, rural development, social and political behaviour, and the current situation heightening panzootic risks for all countries;
2. Members consider ASF as a disease that requires risk management by development and refinement of national control programmes, including preparedness measures for contingency planning, prevention, early detection, rapid response and compensation policies to support industry recovery, which would be enhanced by regular risk analysis and coordination with the control activities for other priority diseases already in place;
3. Members recognise that risk communication is crucial to effectively address high risk practices and strengthen biosecurity measures in the national pig sector and concerning the wild pig population. Risk pathways and practices should be identified through risk assessment, and addressed by enhancing cooperation and coordination among the relevant private and public stakeholders;
4. Members maintain transparency and trust with trading partners through timely and comprehensive disease reporting to the OIE to inform risk managers in protecting ASF free countries and zones and to enable better monitoring of the progress of ASF control programmes in endemic areas;
5. Members that are trading pigs and pig commodities with countries or zones affected by ASF fully implement relevant OIE standards to ensure safe international trade and mitigate the risk of ASF incursion, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade;
6. Members with trade in pigs and pig commodities consider the potential impact of an ASF incursion, and manage risks to business continuity within their preparedness plans making use of the OIE standards in relation to zoning, compartmentalisation and commodity-based trade that can be recognised by trading partners within certification arrangements;
7. Members should take all practical steps to prevent the spread of disease between countries through illegal practices such as the carriage of contraband meat, meat products and live animals during travel and migration;
8. Members make the best use of the possibilities offered by the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway to advocate national governments to improve Veterinary Services and support national surveillance and control programmes, the facilitation of trade activities as well as the prevention of disease introduction in free countries;
9. A global initiative for the control of ASF be launched using the GF-TADs mechanism to develop, improve and harmonise national, regional and global partnership and coordination to address ASF at the source, enhance prevention and preparedness, minimise adverse impacts on animal health and welfare, international trade, and social wellbeing;
10. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO, takes into account regional specificities to identify and define the guiding principles and key pillars required for the successful global control of ASF in compliance with the relevant OIE standards and guidelines;

11. The OIE and FAO through the GF-TADs coordinating mechanism, support the establishment of regional SGEs and strengthening of expert networks at national, regional and global levels, and provide policy and technical support based on the latest scientific evidence to their Members Countries for the elaboration and implementation of ASF control programmes;
 12. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO, establishes and maintains an ASF Reference Laboratory network, including experts from and beyond the OIE Reference Laboratories, to support global control of ASF by improving the quality and validation of laboratory tests provided by international and national reference laboratories and building up local capability in support of regional control programmes;
 13. The OIE develops specific guidelines for the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation in support of OIE Members seeking to establish and maintain a swine population or subpopulation free from ASF within their territories for the purposes of international trade and disease prevention or control; existing experiences and best practices should be taken into consideration;
 14. The OIE and FAO work with development partners to achieve agreement on the value and merits of investment for global control of ASF and facilitate access to financing for their Members to implement recommended measures for preparedness, prevention, detection and control;
 15. The OIE, FAO and the Members support research alliances that will generate scientific knowledge using interdisciplinary approaches and tools to contribute to the successful control of ASF, including development of safe and efficient vaccines, reliable diagnostic tests, surveillance strategies, epidemiological studies, socio-economic studies, application of appropriate standards for humane killing of animals for disease control purposes, disposal of animal and their products, and decontamination methods.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2019)

RECOMMENDATIONS

**of Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1st June 2018**

**Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
on 30 May 2019**

**28th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Tbilisi, Georgia, 17 to 21 September 2018

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy

Recommendation No. 1

**Application of biosecurity in different production systems at
individual, country and regional levels**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Biosecurity represents a key measure contributing to the prevention and control of all diseases of livestock and animal welfare, with private sector benefits at both the individual and commercial farming level, as well as public sector benefits at individual and collective, national and regional levels;
2. The current edition of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* has provisions only for *Biosecurity procedures in poultry production* (Chapter 6.5) and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* has no provision on biosecurity;
3. Although non-commercial farms may be a dead end in terms of disease spread, backyard units can contribute to spread of diseases.

And considering that, based on the response to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Regional Commission for Europe in preparation of this technical item:

4. The vast majority of the responding countries have a legal basis for the implementation of livestock biosecurity and have biosecurity plans that are enforced;
5. Biosecurity plans in the region mainly cover commercial poultry and pig farms and these have been strengthened in response to the recent epidemics of avian influenza and African swine fever;
6. The priority diseases that biosecurity requirements and plans cover are avian influenza, African swine fever, salmonellosis, tuberculosis, and aquatic animal diseases, among others;
7. Biosecurity plans in aquaculture appear to be of a high level where they exist;
8. Disease control tools such as vaccination, minimising contact at the wildlife interface, disease surveillance in both wildlife and at-risk domestic populations, and culling of wild animals are means enabling prevention, early detection, and reduced spread of diseases between wild and domestic animals;
9. The level of control of biosecurity, as a means to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents, is variable in the Region;
10. Farmers and hunters are the stakeholders with whom collaboration has most frequently been established to implement or improve biosecurity;
11. Awareness campaigns and capacity building activities are relevant tools for promoting the implementation of biosecurity at individual and collective, country and regional levels; and

12. Insufficient budget, difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time, lack of human resources, and limited expertise are the main factors adversely affecting the ability of Veterinary Services and industry working together to apply biosecurity.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members' Veterinary Authorities advocate with their animal production industries, including small commercial farms, for increasing awareness for and investment in biosecurity;
2. Members' Veterinary Authorities consider establishing a unit or function to support the field implementation of biosecurity, when relevant;
3. Members' Veterinary Authorities encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Centre on biosecurity in the Region, which could provide support to and coordinate capacity-building activities on biosecurity to Members;
4. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with private sector, assess and share lessons learned and best practices on biosecurity, including activities targeting aquatic animals;
5. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with animal production industries, provide guidance to farmers regarding biosecurity and animal disease prevention and control, including in relation to good husbandry practices and vaccination, with a view to reduce the need for the use of antimicrobial agents, thus contributing to the prevention of antimicrobial resistance;
6. The Standing Group of Experts on ASF under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), supported by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, pursue the activities undertaken, especially in relation to biosecurity in commercial and non-commercial farms, and in hunting grounds; the guidelines developed be largely publicise through appropriate channels and use, as appropriate, as background for other diseases;
7. The OIE develop further guidance on biosecurity aligned with the relevant sections of both *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and consider the development of templates for biosecurity planning in collaboration with relevant partners;
8. The OIE include greater reference to biosecurity in the development of the 7th Edition of the PVS Tool (terrestrial and aquatic);
9. The OIE collect and publish on the regional website examples of best practices in biosecurity; and
10. The OIE and its Members, when developing communication materials and engaging dialogue with the industrial sector, consider the contribution of the relevant expertise needed to address the socio-cultural and socio-economical aspects of biosecurity.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)

Recommendation No. 2

**Importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution
(with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services
for a proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious threat to human health, animal health and welfare, plant health, and also to the environment and food security throughout the world and cannot be successfully tackled without multi-sectoral cooperation;
2. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working closely together with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to ensure the development and implementation of global strategies and measures designed to restrict the development and spread of AMR, and contribute to the fulfilment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
3. The Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) alliance has recently been strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with a strong focus on tackling AMR;
4. Modern advances in information technology have led to the development of e-tracking systems that can be used to monitor the entire chain of antimicrobial agents' circulation;
5. The OIE provides its Members with standards, assistance and leadership with regard to their policies on strengthening and harmonising their surveillance systems on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and it supports their efforts to implement science-based international standards;
6. OIE Members need to share their experience and work together to address the problem of combating AMR and promote the prudent use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine; and
7. The OIE is organising the “Second Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance – *Putting Standards into Practice*”, to be held in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 29 to 31 October 2018.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members strengthen their national legislation with the aim of implementing the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, adopted in the form of Resolution No. 36 by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates at the 84th General Session of the OIE in 2016;
2. Members develop, approve and implement national action plans for AMR in human and veterinary medicine under the “One Health” approach, taking into account multi-sectoral and multinational experience and aligned with the Global Action Plan developed by WHO and formally endorsed by OIE and FAO;

3. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in collaboration with other relevant Competent Authorities, foster awareness and understanding of the problem of AMR, strengthen knowledge and ensure, as much as possible, surveillance of all steps of antimicrobial use, including their manufacture, distribution, storage and application and the disposal of unused antimicrobials;
4. Members' Veterinary Services follow the recommendations in the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, in particular regarding restrictions on the use of fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and colistin, and refrain the use of antimicrobial agents of critical importance as growth promoters in absence of risk assessment;
5. Members' Veterinary Authorities promote a strong collaboration between veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, and farmers in order to implement the principles of good animal health/husbandry practices, including biosecurity, to reduce the need for antimicrobials and take steps to ensure that, when their use is unavoidable, they are used in a responsible and prudent manner in accordance with relevant international standards, including Chapter 6.10 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and Chapter 6.2 of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*;
6. Members' Veterinary Authorities implement the principles of good distribution practice to improve the monitoring of amounts of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products (AVMPs) sold at national level, using, wherever possible, an e-tracking system or other forms of data collection in accordance with the requirements of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) and the OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals;
7. Members' Veterinary Authorities pursue the implementation of a veterinary prescription-only based distribution system for antimicrobials, including those intended for use in both food-producing animals and companion animals, so as to improve or maximise as far as possible the traceability of antimicrobial distribution;
8. OIE Delegates nominate their national Focal Point for Veterinary Products if they have not already done so, encourage their Focal Point's active participation in OIE capacity-building activities, and take advantage of their expertise to support the implementation of national AMR-related activities in collaboration with all interested parties;
9. Members take advantage of the upcoming OIE Global Conference to update their knowledge and, in preparation for the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, to contribute to the future work of the OIE on AMR;
10. The OIE collect and publish, on the OIE regional website, examples of AMR-related best practices, particularly on the use of e-tracking systems, and highlighting the consequences of overuse and misuse of antimicrobial agents;
11. The OIE, in the development of the model curricula for veterinary paraprofessionals, ensure that the role of veterinary paraprofessionals in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents, be well addressed; and
12. In future activities undertaken under the PVS Pathway, the OIE provide its Members with tools and capacity-building activities with a greater focus on AMR.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)

**24th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 19 to 23 November 2018

Recommendation

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Veterinary Authorities (commonly referred as Official Veterinary Services) were originally established to ensure the control and, where possible, eradication, of specific diseases (rinderpest as from the late 19th century and, in the Americas, foot and mouth disease);
2. As emerging issues present a threat to animal, human and environmental health, this initial vision must now be broadened to respond to complex global health, political, sociocultural, technological and diversity-related situations;
3. The Veterinary Services need the necessary financial or human resources to meet these new demands properly. That makes it necessary to innovate and find the best way to tailor animal health and food safety management, at primary production level, to each country's individual circumstances;
4. One of the main missions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the promotion of Veterinary Services to improve their legal framework and resources, with the primary aim of establishing quality Veterinary Services, as defined in the Chapter 3.1 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* which provides details on the provisions relating to the quality of the Veterinary Services and their fundamental principles of quality;
5. The OIE has a proven record of supporting the strengthening of Veterinary Services and, since the establishment of its flagship programme, the OIE PVS Pathway, it has continued to affirm that for the Veterinary Services to fulfil their mission and generate a global public good, they require sustainable investment;
6. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-resourced in many countries, leading to sub-optimal organisation and staffing of Veterinary Services, thereby jeopardising animal health and welfare nationally, regionally and globally, with consequences on public health;
7. According to the definition of *Veterinary Services* in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the provision of veterinary services involves a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations, ranging from the *Veterinary Authority* to authorized private veterinary care providers (veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals) and also including various types of private sector organisations;
8. The Veterinary Services, as per defined by the OIE, play a significant role in delivering public good and achieving several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including: ending poverty, ending hunger and ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all;
9. The private sector, including producers and industry, plays a very important role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, as it provides them with support to enable them to fulfil their mandate more effectively; and that, in addition;
10. Private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals can also play a key role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, either as individuals or working as part of a veterinary service company, or in a production, or supply company;

11. The OIE PVS Evaluation contains a section where countries evaluate performance with respect to their Veterinary Authority's relationship with the private sector;
12. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and consideration and appreciation of the work of private veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals as well as other private sector partners are an intrinsic part of modern public administration, and that they exist both in the region and across the world, provide an animal health management vision that focuses on improved effectiveness and efficiency (better use of resources) and can be tailored to countries' individual circumstances;
13. Countries in the region are interested in strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors, including through PPPs, as demonstrated by the high number of responses from the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 and also by the adoption of Resolution no. 39 regarding "*Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners for international animal health and livestock sector development programmes and the implications for the OIE*" by the OIE Members at the 85th General Session in May 2017;
14. In several countries in the region, public-private interaction has been key in implementing disease prevention, control, and eradication programmes and achieving countries' current animal health status;
15. Collaboration with the private sector on matters relating to the Veterinary Authority may differ in nature, scope and outreach. It may cover animal health, animal welfare, food safety at primary production level, trade or related areas. It may be established for one or more species, one or more diseases or hazards of interest to public health, or one or more territories within a country;
16. The analysis of the answers⁶⁴ from countries in the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 as part of its *Public-Private Progress* initiative, highlights that:
 - the principal reason for most countries in the region to establish PPPs in the first place was to control or eradicate foot and mouth disease. However, in recent years, PPP initiatives have increasingly been established in other areas, such as poultry and swine health, and bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis control;
 - most PPP initiatives identified in the region were largely driven by the private sector, with a focus on exports;
 - the experience was assessed as good to excellent in terms of impact, although no mention was made of it having been subject to a formal evaluation;
 - most of the PPP proposals have been on-going for several years and aspired to become permanent, demonstrating their sustainability.
17. The OIE has done a large amount of work over the past months to design a better tailored PVS Pathway more aligned with the national and regional needs;
18. The OIE is in favour of the development of impactful PPPs in the veterinary domain in order to strengthen national Veterinary Services in a sustainable manner.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Delegates raise the awareness of decision makers about the key role played by the Veterinary Services and the importance of providing them with sufficient financial and human resources to guarantee that their performance is sound (in compliance with OIE standards) and sustainable;

⁶⁴ Analysis done by the author of the Technical Item 1 to complete the work done to developing his report.

2. Members support the OIE work in advocating to resource partners to invest in the OIE PVS Pathway;

THAT THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS:

3. Work to build their capacity, including the application of concepts of economics of animal health, enabling them to prioritise activities according to their economic and social impact, and to design efficient intervention strategies that help them to identify sources of public and private funding;
4. Consider the participation of veterinarians or veterinary paraprofessionals in activities deemed relevant by the Veterinary Authority in order to generate greater benefits;
5. Consider the principles of economics to define and share responsibilities between the public and private sectors, as well as financing and delivery mechanisms;
6. Support the establishment of impactful and sustainable PPPs in the veterinary domain, based on the guidelines for PPPs to be developed by the OIE in 2019 for use by both the public and private sectors, while always complying with the responsibilities of the Veterinary Authority;
7. Establish formal, representative and ongoing platform of dialogue with private sector organisations, including veterinary associations and veterinary paraprofessionals, producer associations and private companies, to define a strategy of collaboration with the private sector, including PPP initiatives, that is geared to the challenges faced and the situation in each country;

AND THAT THE OIE

8. Help Delegates, via the development of advocacy material, to sensitize decision makers on the value of sustainable Veterinary Services and the potential benefits of collaborating with the private sector to improve the quality and sustainability of their activities;
9. Lead a practical training programme for its Members for the development and implementation of sustainable PPPs, using the guidelines under development by the OIE;
10. Maintain an up-to-date database, containing PPP experiences, in a format that makes it easy to disseminate to serve as a motivation for other countries;
11. Support the development of methodologies and tools for the technical and socioeconomic evaluation of collaborative initiatives with the private sector, to complement the guidelines for PPPs to be published in 2019; and
12. Support, together with the Veterinary Authorities, the development and implementation of new technologies either through PPPs or through agreements with private providers, universities and technology centres, all with the aim of strengthening the Veterinary Services.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 23 November 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)

**23rd Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Hammamet (Tunisia), 25 February - 1 March 2019

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) The PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

**Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role
in improving animal health and welfare in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. In many Member Countries, particularly those without enough numbers of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) are called upon to provide a wide range of activities and services in the areas of animal health, veterinary public health and laboratory diagnosis and their participation can be essential to the performance of the National Veterinary Services;
2. The OIE recognises the important role that VPPs can play within strong National Veterinary Services and commits to a better definition of the role of veterinary paraprofessionals, including their education and training;
3. The OIE had developed the Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals for three tracks of VPPs, namely Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and Laboratory Diagnosis and is currently working on the publication of model curricula for the same three categories;
4. Chapter 3.4 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* indicates that a Member Country's veterinary legislation should provide a basis for the regulation of veterinarians and VPPs and suggests the creation of a regulatory entity, the veterinary statutory body (VSB), to carry out that regulation;
5. The OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services contains Critical Competencies for assessing Members' performance with respect to VPPs;
6. The OIE is providing support to its Members to explore, plan and implement Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the delivery of Veterinary Services and will soon publish guidelines for Public- Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain (the «OIE PPP Handbook») to provide practical advice to its Members and relevant private sector stakeholders, including VPPs;
7. The outcomes of the OIE Regional Conference on the role of veterinary para-professionals in Africa held in Pretoria in 2015, in collaboration with the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) and GALVmed catalysed the work of the OIE on VPPs;

And considering that, based on the responses to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Regional Commission for Africa in preparation of this Technical Item:

8. Countries indicated that the role fulfilled by VPPs is either “very important” or “important”, and as such, they make an important contribution towards veterinary service delivery in Africa;
9. Countries identified disease prevention, surveillance and control and eradication as the most important contributions made by VPPs;
10. VPPs experience numerous challenges including, but not limited to, lack of job opportunities, lack of resources, lack of formal recognition and lack of training;

11. VPPs are present in both the private and public sector, with the animal health category being the most widely recognised VPP group within both sectors;
12. On average, more than enough VPP training facilities are available in Member Countries and the duration of the formal training they provide differs widely between countries ranging from 6 to 36 months according to the country's specific needs and availability of resources;
13. Most of the activities carried out by VPPs are done under the supervision of a veterinarian;
14. Most of the countries indicated that VPPs are regulated, but less than half of them are regulated by a Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB);
15. VSBs are mostly involved in assessing the curriculum, while they are involved to a lesser extent in setting exit examinations, continuous professional development activities and the placement of students for internships;
16. The majority of the Member Countries do not allow VPPs from other countries to work within their country; and
17. The majority of Members indicated the presence of Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) usually trained for less than a month with no regulatory oversight of their work.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBERS

1. Actively use the OIE Competency Guidelines and the OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals as advocacy documents to engage a dialogue with educational authorities and training institutions in order to stimulate the development and/or upgrading of VPPs education;
2. Undertake human resource needs assessments to determine the number and types of VPPs needed to fulfil the responsibilities of the Veterinary Services and use the OIE Competency and Curricula documents to help define the job responsibilities and relevant training required for additional VPPs;
3. Establish a Veterinary Statutory Body or make sure, whenever possible, existing VSBs' mandates include recognising the different categories of VPPs, identifying their prerogatives and activities and defining their training requirements for licensure or registration;
4. Take advantage of the PVS Pathway mission reports and implement the recommendations related to VPPs and VSBs;
5. Request the undertaking of an OIE Veterinary Legislation Agreement with a focus on VSB-related legal reform when relevant;

AND THAT THE OIE

6. Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially through the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme;

7. Organise sub-regional workshops for creating an enabling environment for the effective identification of human resource needs for VPPs in the VS as well as their training and utilisation;
 8. Provide access to experts for undertaking curriculum review and reform efforts with VPP training institutions;
 9. Through its work on public-private partnerships and the development of the OIE PPP Handbook, work with Members and VPP associations to facilitate the use of private sector VPPs and veterinarians to fulfil the responsibilities and obligations of the VS with regard to animal health and welfare, veterinary public health and laboratory diagnosis; and
 10. Undertake a partnership with the *École inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires* of Dakar, and any other relevant institutions, aiming at developing quality VPP training activities in Africa.
-

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2019
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)

Recommendation No. 2

**The PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment
in Veterinary Services in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock performance, incorporating animal health, has a major impact on economies and livelihoods in Africa given the high contribution of livestock production to agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and the high contribution of agricultural GDP to national GDP, particularly in the poorer countries of Africa;
2. A combination of a focus on cropping, institutional weaknesses and failed historical approaches has resulted in chronic under-resourcing of the livestock and Veterinary Services sectors during the 70's and 80's, especially in proportion to their influence on economies and livelihoods, from both national governments and international donors;
3. Multi-lateral African government initiatives such as the Maputo Declaration on agriculture and food security expenditure (Maputo, 2003), the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (Malabo, 2014), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa 2015-2035 – LiDeSA (2015), are attempting to reverse this by promoting solidarity in increasing African government investments in agriculture and livestock respectively, and that one of the four strategic objectives of LiDeSA is to enhance animal health and increase production, productivity and resilience of livestock production systems;
4. Some key OIE resource partners are also attempting to boost support to the livestock sector, citing its indispensable and growing role in agricultural and rural development, income generation, food security and nutrition, public health, national and international trade, and the environment;
5. Livestock contributes directly to 8 of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and indirectly to all 17;
6. There is also a growing awareness of the major role animal health and production can play, particularly in its pastoral dimension, in the prevention and mitigation of organised crime in certain parts of Africa;
7. The market for livestock products in Africa is growing rapidly with, for example, annual per capita consumption of meat and milk expected to approximately double by 2050; with the population expected to also double over this period, demand could quadruple; and
8. The livestock sector faces high economic impact diseases continuing to devastate livestock populations across Africa, with many of these diseases also posing public health risks as zoonoses.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBERS

1. Actively engage with the evolved PVS Pathway and take ownership of its outputs as a means to advocate for both increased and better targeted resourcing of animal health and veterinary public health as a key contribution to livestock sector development in Africa;
2. Use the messaging as provided in the PVS Pathway Advocacy One Pager and detailed in the PVS Pathway Business Case, to advocate for resourcing to strengthen Veterinary Services and therefore the livestock sector within their governments, particularly at Ministerial levels;
3. Advocate for stronger Veterinary Services by using integration of PVS Pathway findings and recommendations as a way to promote their strategic planning and funding proposals within the agricultural sector;
4. Use PVS Pathway mission report findings and recommendations in dialogue with relevant technical and financial partners to increase and better target support available to strengthen Veterinary Services and the livestock sector based on national needs and development strategies;
5. Utilise the PVS Pathway to also support advocacy and investment targeting animal health issues affecting species other than livestock such as aquatic animals, companion animals (e.g. rabies), wildlife and bees;
6. Consider an update via requesting a PVS Evaluation Follow Up where any existing PVS Evaluation report is greater than five years old, or where significant changes to the Veterinary Services have occurred;
7. Tailor PVS Pathway engagement based on governance or technical needs via the new opportunities presented by PVS Pathway evolution; including options to receive training, conduct PVS Self-evaluation, supplement PVS Evaluation missions with specific content on PPR or rabies, and receive PVS Pathway Strategic Planning support to integrate findings in a national strategic plan to strengthen Veterinary Services;
8. Consider engaging in established PVS Pathway targeted support in One Health, veterinary legislation and veterinary laboratories, and newer forms of targeted support in veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional education and public-private partnerships;
9. Make their existing and future PVS Pathway reports publicly available, or, at a minimum, available to official OIE technical and financial partners, given their usefulness in guiding the provision of development support;

AND THAT RELEVANT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

10. Strengthen and formalise the value and use PVS Pathway outputs to inform the design of, investment in, and monitoring of relevant development strategies and projects, and financial and technical support, to strengthen Veterinary Services and the livestock sector in Africa, in close partnership with the OIE and Members concerned;

AND THAT THE OIE

11. Continue to advocate at the global level on the importance of Veterinary Services and investing in the livestock sector, including by refining messages, and accessing and providing robust supporting data and reports;
 12. Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially the support to integrate findings and recommendations within national strategic plans as a mechanism to enhance country ownership and sustainability, and increase investment; and
 13. Continue to advocate and coordinate with other relevant international, regional and national technical and financial partners, to collaborate in the implementation and use of the PVS Pathway, based on complementary institutional mandates and relative strengths.
-

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2019
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)

REPORTS

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions

held during the 87th General Session

Paris, 27 May 2019

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 93 participants, including Delegates and observers from 33 Members of the Commission, 1 observer country, and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Rep., Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Observer countries: France.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA⁶⁵, EISMV⁶⁶, GALVmed⁶⁷, IEC⁶⁸, SADC⁶⁹, The Donkey Sanctuary, and WAEMU⁷⁰.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Past-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of South Africa, and seconded by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 February to 1 March 2019

Dr Alemayehu Mekonen Anbessie, Delegate of Ethiopia to the OIE, briefly presented the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 February to 1 March 2019. It was attended by a total of 124 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 39 Members of the region and representatives from regional and international organisations, as well as private-sector representatives, including private veterinary organisations from the region and from the host country.

⁶⁵ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC

⁶⁶ EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar*

⁶⁷ GALVmed: Global Alliance for Livestock Medicines

⁶⁸ IEC: International Egg Commission

⁶⁹ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁷⁰ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

Dr Anbessie briefly reviewed the agenda of the Conference, highlighting some of the topics presented and outcomes of discussions, including those related to the development of the Seventh Strategic Plan. Full details are available in the report of the Conference.

He then commented on the two recommendations adopted by the Regional Commission regarding Technical Item 1, entitled “*Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa*”, and Technical Item 2, entitled “*PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa*”. Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement at the 87th General Session.

Finally, he reminded Delegates that the report of the Conference, including the recommendations, was available on the Delegates’ website.

3. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2021

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane reiterated his country’s offer to host the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2021. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- African horse sickness and equine influenza: current situation in Africa and disease control measures

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Global collaboration for response to contemporary animal health emergencies, including agro-crime

6. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Chargée de Mission from the OIE Regional Activities Department through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results. The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. Dr Michael Modisane and Dr N'lemba Mabela facilitated the discussions. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 6:00 p.m.

.../Annex

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 27 May 2019

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 February to 1 March 2019
3. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2021
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021.
6. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 105 participants, including Delegates and observers from 27 Members of the Commission and representatives from 13 international or regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States of America and Uruguay.

International/regional Organisations: ALA⁷¹, CARICOM⁷², CVP⁷³, EU DG SANTE⁷⁴, FAO, HealthforAnimals, ICFAW⁷⁵, IICA⁷⁶, IMS⁷⁷, OIRSA⁷⁸, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁷⁹, WAP⁸⁰ and WTO.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Mark Trotman, President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Barbados, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from 19 to 23 November 2018

Dr Mark Trotman provided a brief overview of the outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from 19 to 23 November 2018. It was attended by 89 participants, including Delegates from 23 Members, 1 observer country and representatives from regional and international organisations, together with representatives from the private sector and private veterinary organisations from several countries in the region and the host country.

71 ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

72 CARICOM: Caribbean Community

73 CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

74 EU DG SANTE: Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission

75 ICFAW: International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare

76 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

77 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

78 OIRSA: *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria*

79 PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

80 WAP: World Animal Protection

Dr Trotman briefly reviewed the agenda of the Conference, highlighting the different topics presented and outcomes of discussions, including: development of the Seventh Strategic Plan; follow-up of the recommendations adopted at the latest conferences of the Regional Commission; the animal disease situation in the region; and details about African Swine Fever in Europe (situation, measures and policy coordination under the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe), among other issues of relevance to the region.

Dr Trotman also gave details of the two Technical Items presented: Technical Item 1 on “*The role of private veterinarians in Official Veterinary Service programmes: mechanisms for interaction, accreditation and quality control in a globalised world*” and Technical Item 2 on the “*Sustainability of Veterinary Services: experiences and challenges*”. He explained that, as the two topics were complementary in nature, the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had decided to formulate a single recommendation to encompass the discussions on both Technical Items. This recommendation will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement at the 87th General Session.

To conclude, he said that the final report, including the recommendation and list of participants, had been sent to Members and was available on the Delegates’ website.

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in 2020

Dr Mercedes Lucía Flores Cancino, Delegate of Peru to the OIE, reiterated her country’s offer to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

She also confirmed that, this time, the Conference will be held in September 2020 instead of November 2020, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. It will be held in Cuzco.

Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- Public-Private Partnerships.

Furthermore, the Regional Commission suggested the following additional Technical Item (without a questionnaire for Members) for inclusion in the Agenda of the Conference:

- Border biosecurity.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Capacity analysis for the progressive implementation of International Veterinary Electronic Certification e-CVI 2050 at global level.

6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Council

Dr Mark Trotman reminded participants that the Delegate of Mexico had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on the Council, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez, Delegate of the Dominican Republic, was proposed, for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2021.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

7. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to serve on the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Following the nomination of Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez to join the OIE Council, the Delegates of the Americas proposed that Dr Jaspinder Komal, current Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Canada, take the position of Vice-President left vacant by Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez. Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez, Delegate of Nicaragua to the OIE, has been proposed to replace Dr Jaspinder Komal as Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Bureau shall be constituted as follows:

President: Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)

Vice-President: Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado (Bolivia)

Vice-President: Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

Secretary General: Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua)

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

8. Regional actions to prevent the entry and spread of African Swine Fever

The Regional Commission decided to address strategies for preventing the entry and spread of African Swine Fever in the Americas under GF-TADs. To this end, the planning of actions in the region was discussed. The results of all these actions will be presented at the forthcoming Conference of the Regional Commission.

9. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results. The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, Vice-President of the OIE Council and Delegate of Paraguay, as well as Dr Mark Trotman facilitated the discussions. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

.../Annex

Annex

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 27 May 2019

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from 19 to 23 November 2018
3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in 2020
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021
6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Council
7. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to serve on the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
8. Regional actions to prevent the entry and spread of African Swine Fever
9. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA,
THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 80 participants, including Delegates and observers from 29 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of ~), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of ~), Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of ~), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France and Hong Kong SAR.

International/regional organisations: HealthforAnimals, ICFAW, NACA⁸¹ and WSAA⁸².

The meeting was chaired by Dr Tashi Samdup, Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Bhutan, seconded by Dr Mark Schipp, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Australia, with the support of Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019

Dr Norio Kumagai, Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Japan, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Sendai City from 2 to 6 September 2019.

⁸¹ NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

⁸² WSAA: World Small Animal Veterinary Association

He reported briefly on the various arrangements that Japan had made to start organising the conference. Dr Kumagai provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that they would be provided with all the details in a timely manner.

3. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- Strengthening the cooperation on African Swine Fever prevention and control in the Asia-Pacific region.

A second general topic was proposed:

- Development of standards for management and control of aquatic animal diseases (and antimicrobial use) and the use of compartments to support the application of these standards.

Although not a Technical Item, this topic will also be included in the agenda of the Regional Conference.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- The future of animal health and its contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Animal health and veterinarians play a critical role in global food systems and the health and welfare of the globe and its citizens. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the global objectives expected to guide the actions of the international community between 2016-2030. This Technical Item could help to refine and consolidate how the OIE makes significant and meaningful contributions towards many of the SDGs through the effective discharge of its core responsibilities in animal health and the veterinary profession.

5. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Him Hoo Yap, member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Singapore, reminded participants that, in March 2019, the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission had sent a letter to all OIE Delegates in the region calling for proposals for regional common positions to be presented at the plenary discussion of the OIE General Session, based on “the coordination procedure for developing regional positions” adopted at the Regional Commission meeting in May 2017. He reiterated that the proposals submitted by Members had been compiled and circulated to all regional Delegates several times for their consideration and comments.

Dr Yap then introduced a list of proposals for regional common positions put together by the Regional Core Group, which considered all Members’ comments received so far.

There was discussion among the Delegates regarding the proposals, some of which were unanimously approved by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 87th General Session on behalf of the 36 OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Yap concluded by thanking all Delegates of the region for their active participation in the coordination procedure and expressed the hope that the region continues to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues.

6. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Mark Schipp reminded participants that the Delegate of Cambodia had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and the Delegate of the People's Republic of China had also stepped down, leaving vacant his position as Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Norio Kumagai was unanimously proposed as President, leaving vacant the position of Secretary General. Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam, Delegate of Malaysia, was selected to be proposed as Vice President and Dr Alireza Rafiepoor, Delegate of Iran, was unanimously proposed as Secretary General. These positions will be for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which will be held in May 2021.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Dr John Stratton, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results.

The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. The regional members of the OIE Council and Dr Tashi Samdup facilitated the discussions. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 5:30 p.m.

.../Annex

Annex

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA,
THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 27 May 2019

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Organisation of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019
3. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021
5. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session
6. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 113 participants, including Delegates and observers from 48 Members of the Commission and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations:

AnimalhealthEurope, CIRAD⁸³, EC⁸⁴, EEC⁸⁵, Four Paws, FVE⁸⁶, IDF⁸⁷ and WFO⁸⁸

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, seconded by Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Austria, and with the support of Dr Budimir Plavšić, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Update on the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ulrich Herzog provided an overview of the work of the Regional Core Group (RCG) of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the activities implemented following the 86th General Session, highlighting the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework over the past year.

⁸³ CIRAD: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

⁸⁴ EC: European Commission

⁸⁵ EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission

⁸⁶ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁸⁷ IDF: International Dairy Federation

⁸⁸ WFO: World Farmers' Organisation

He began by providing participants with a historical overview of the RCG, its Terms of Reference and a Regional Work Plan Framework for the 2017-2020 period and defined regional priorities. He explained that the Regional Work Plan Framework would be reviewed regularly according to needs and new developments, and listed six strategic objectives adopted at the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2017: 1. Contributing to the development of scientifically-based standards and guidelines; 2. Establishing trust through transparency and communication; 3. Ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services; 4. Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases; 5. Antimicrobial resistance and “One Health” Policy; 6. Promotion of animal welfare, together with a relevant set of activities to achieve those objectives.

Dr Herzog then provided a detailed update on their implementation, which had been reviewed and evaluated by the Regional Core Group at its 7th meeting (Bern, Switzerland, 17-18 December 2018) and 8th meeting (Madrid, Spain, 29-30 April 2019). The main points highlighted were: 1) the positive impact of increased human resources in the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in the smooth implementation of regional activities, including during both RCG meetings and the need to allocate resources for ongoing work; 2) the support from Russia for translating relevant chapters (for adoption) of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*; 3) the relaunch of the regional website which, as of September 2019, should be up and running; 4) the active participation of Members of the region in the GF-TADs-related activities in general and, more specifically, in the Standing Groups of Experts (SGE) on African Swine Fever and Lumpy Skin Disease as well as the recently established SGE for rabies in the Balkans supported by the EC; 7) the implementation of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, and 8) the implementation of the actions of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Platform.

Dr Herzog informed participants that all information regarding the work of the Regional Core Group was available on a dedicated webpage. Finally, Dr Herzog provided a list of proposed speakers to deliver speaking notes on the four OIE *Code* chapters and User’s Guide (Aquatic *Code*) selected by the RCG for a common position on behalf of the 53 Members of Europe.

3. Outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 17 to 21 September 2018

Dr Ulrich Herzog presented the main outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Tbilisi (Georgia) on 17-21 September 2018. Full details are available in the report of the Conference.

- Participants agreed to develop the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan as a logical follow-up to the achievements of the Sixth Strategic Plan. Delegates and partners have been invited to actively contribute to the development of the Seventh Strategic Plan once the OIE has launched the consultation process.
- The Members have been encouraged to further improve their transparency and data accessibility on animal diseases.
- Four proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres were unanimously approved by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, helping to reinforce the network of OIE Collaborating Centres, with priority topics to support the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan.
- The participants were encouraged to continue contributing to data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals and to publish their related data and national reports.
- The OIE Regional Commission for Europe expressed its support to the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare and called for a start to the process of identifying priority topics with a view to developing the Third Action Plan (2020-2022).

- The Members have been encouraged to make better use of the *PVS tool*, including the PVS Aquatic Tool, and to take this opportunity to strengthen their collaboration with the human health sector. The OIE will hold a PVS Pathway training workshop to help Eastern European countries to fully leverage the recommendations of PVS Pathway reports and has begun a consultation on the use of the PVS Pathway by European Union Member States.
- The Members reiterated the importance of improved inter-organisational and intersectoral cooperation to ensure preparedness, early detection and diagnosis, as well as transparency in reporting, with active involvement of all stakeholders.
- The participants proposed to review the process of identifying subjects for Technical Items, to allow flexibility in addressing emerging issues.
- The recommendations of the two Technical Items developed during the Conference will be proposed for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 87th General Session.

4. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2020

Dr Silvio Borrello, Delegate of Italy to the OIE, reiterated his country's offer to host the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

He also confirmed that, this time, the Conference will be held in November 2020 instead of September 2020, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. It will be held in Catania, Italy.

Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Electronic certification and related technologies for animal and animal products trade: opportunities and challenges.

7. Update on the OIE platform on animal welfare for Europe

Dr Ulrich Herzog briefly mentioned the three main current developments:

- An external evaluation of the OIE Platform was conducted from January to April 2019. The report will be finalised shortly and will be made available on the website of the OIE Platform (<https://awp.oie.int>). The report recognises that the Platform has delivered the planned activities in an effective and efficient way; the current activities and scope remain relevant; however, improvements in monitoring the impact of the activities are needed.

- The draft Terms of Reference of the Platform, to complement the initial Concept Note adopted in 2013. The objective is to clarify the procedures applicable to the Platform, including the composition of its Steering Group, which should be chaired by a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe.
- The draft Third Action Plan of the Platform for 2020-2022. The list of priority topics in the Second Action Plan for the 2017-2019 will not be amended. The emphasis will be put on activities relating to transportation and the development of assessment and monitoring tools.

These developments were already presented at the meeting of the RCG in Madrid, Spain (29-30 April) and at the meeting of the Steering Group of the Platform in Lyon, France (15-16 May). The work on the Terms of Reference and the Third Action Plan will continue in the subsequent RCGs and General Sessions, until their final approval and adoption at the meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe during the 88th General Session in May 2020.

8. Application for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium for Animal Welfare between the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale de Abruzzi and Molise (IZSAM)* and the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

Dr Lena Hellqvist Björnerot, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer of Sweden, jointly with Dr Silvio Borrello, presented to the Regional Commission a proposal that the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW) join the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale de Abruzzi and Molise (IZSAM)*, the current OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare, to form an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium for Animal Welfare. The two institutes have signed a Memorandum of Understanding detailing how the consortium would function.

They provided a brief review of the consortium and said that full details were sent to Delegates in advance and, if needed, could be requested from the meeting rapporteurs.

The Commission approved this proposal.

9. Discussion on common positions for selected chapters of the OIE *Codes* (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 87th General Session)

The Regional Commission agreed that a common position be put forward at the 87th General Session on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, on the following four items:

- Chapter 9.Y (killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products): support for the adoption of the latest version of this chapter. (Speaker Switzerland)
- Chapter 8.14 (infection with rabies virus): support for the adoption of this chapter, provided that the text, as regards Article 8.14.6, reverts back to the current wording of Article 8.14.7 and Article 8.14.9. Should this not be accepted, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe will not support the adoption of this chapter. (Speaker Israel)
- Chapter 15.1 (infection with African Swine Fever virus): support for the adoption of the latest version of this chapter. (Speaker Latvia)
- *Aquatic Code*: support all amendments to the *Aquatic Code*. (Speaker Norway)

10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to join the Council as member and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Vice-President and Secretary General

Dr Maris Balodis reminded participants that the Delegates of Russia, Serbia and Belarus had stepped down, leaving vacant their positions as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on the Council, and Vice-President and Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe respectively, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following Delegates were unanimously proposed, for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council and the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which will be held in May 2021:

Member of the Council:	Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia)
Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:	Ms Vesna Dakovic (Montenegro)
Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:	Dr Ivan Smilhin (Belarus)

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

11. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Dr Maroussia Clavel, Head of the OIE Performance and Change Management Cell, through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results. The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 5:25 p.m.

.../Annex

Annex

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 27 May 2019

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Update on the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
3. Outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 17 to 21 September 2018
4. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2020
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021
7. Update on the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
8. Application for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium for Animal Welfare between the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale de Abruzzi and Molise* (IZSAM) and the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW)
9. Discussion on common positions for selected chapters of the OIE *Codes* (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 87th General Session)
10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to join the Council as member and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Vice-President and Secretary General
11. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 47 participants, including Delegates and observers from 14 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: AOAD⁸⁹, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Government of United Kingdom), FAO and ICFAW.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Elias Ibrahim, President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon, accompanied by Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Bahrain, Dr Mahmoud Alhanatleh, Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Jordan, Dr Majid Al Qassimi, member of the OIE Council and Delegate of the United Arab Emirates, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019

Dr Al Qassimi confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Abu Dhabi from 10 to 14 November 2019.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements that the United Arab Emirates had made to start organising the conference. Dr Al Qassimi provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that they would be provided with all the details in a timely manner.

3. Selection of a Technical Item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for efficient sustainable animal health systems and Veterinary Services.

⁸⁹ AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Practical application of biosecurity risk assessment at farm settings.

5. Proposition to establish an OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, presented the OIE Regional Commission with a proposal to designate a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi.

Dr Dop provided the Commission with brief details on the countries to be covered by this Representation and the activities to be developed, while Dr Al Qassimi confirmed the United Arab Emirates commitment in supporting the OIE by allocating in-kind and financial resources for the new office.

Dr Dop also explained the rationale for establishing this new OIE Sub-Regional Representation.

According to the Article 33 of General Rules, the Commission was consulted and unanimously approved the proposal presented by Dr Dop. The Delegates warmly thanked Dr Al Qassimi and the Emirati Authorities for their offer which will provide a significant support to the OIE for the implementation of its activities for the benefit of the countries in the region.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for adoption.

6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as Vice-President

Dr Elias Ibrahim reminded participants that the Delegate of Saudi Arabia had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the recently appointed Delegate of Saudi Arabia, Dr Sanad Alharbi, was unanimously proposed, for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which will be held in May 2021.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Dr David Sherman, Chargé de Mission at the OIE Regional Activities Department, through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results. The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. Dr Al Qassimi facilitated the discussions. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 5:40 p.m.

.../Annex

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 27 May 2019

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Organisation of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019
3. Selection of a Technical Item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021
5. Proposition to establish an OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as Vice-President
7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan
