On 28 May 2013, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Eng. Guillermo Alvarado Downing, Executive Director of OIRSA, adopted and signed the Official Implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the OIE and OIRSA. The signing ceremony, held on the second day of the 81st OIE General Session, was attended by the Delegates from OIRSA Member Countries; Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and other interested parties.

The new document is an extension of the official agreement signed on 21 May 2005 between the OIE and OIRSA (see Bulletin, no. 2005–3, pp. 48–49). It aims to achieve better sustainability of the Veterinary Services in OIRSA Member Countries by adding new areas of cooperation between these organisations, i.e. OIE PVS Pathway missions, such as PVS evaluation, PVS Gap Analysis and support missions in the fields of ‘veterinary legislation’ and ‘veterinary education’. The extension of the agreement also emphasises the need for technical and economic assistance in implementing the results of these missions.

From left to right, front row: Dr N.L. Gómez Rodríguez (Delegate of the Dominican Republic to the OIE), Eng. G. Alvarado Downing (Executive Director of OIRSA), Dr B. Vallat (Director General of the OIE), Dr L.O. Barcos (OIE Regional Representative for the Americas); back row: Dr M.A. González Cano (Delegate of Panama to the OIE), Dr J.H. Amador Salinas (Delegate of Honduras), Dr M.A. Azalón Robles (Delegate of Guatemala), Dr A. de Gracia (Representative of OIRSA in Panama), Dr G. Rojas Hidalgo (Delegate of Costa Rica to the OIE), Dr F. Frago Santamaría (OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America), Dr M.E. González Ortiz (Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department), Dr Danilo Martinez, Director of Food Safety, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry, Nicaragua