

## Preparatory meeting to establish an 'Alliance of countries with pastoralism activities by nomadic populations'

Paris, France, 29 May 2013

The first meeting of OIE National Delegates to establish an 'Alliance of countries with pastoralism activities by nomadic populations' was held in the Maison de la Chimie in Paris on 29 May 2013, during the 81st OIE General Session.

The meeting, chaired by Mr Tuvaan Tsevegdoj, Vice-Minister of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia, and Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, was attended by 42 participants, including several OIE officials from Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations; Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO; and various Delegates and representatives from OIE Member Countries, from both the African and Asian regions.

The meeting was organised on the initiative of the President of Mongolia, to enable all countries with nomadic and pastoralist populations to discuss these activities in terms of their cultural, sanitary and economic impacts, as well as to develop a network for their preservation and management.

In recognising that pastoralism activities are a part of the world's cultural heritage, as well as an important source of national income, Mr Tuvaan Tsevegdoj discussed the need to maintain this culture in accord with the OIE international standards on animal health and welfare. He also highlighted the enormous potential offered by pastoral and nomadic activities to improve their country's economic status, since they produce high-quality organic meat as the result of natural breeding practices, qualities in great demand in the marketplace. Everyone present was enthusiastic about this initiative and pledged their support to the establishment of an alliance of pastoralist countries, contributing various comments and proposals.



Participants in the meeting



From left to right: Dr Tuvaan Tsevegdoj, Vice Minister of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia; Dr Baatar Togoonyam, CVO of Mongolia; Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE; Dr Batsukh Zayat, OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific



Dr Tuvaan Tsevegdoj and Dr Bernard Vallat accompanied by several participants in the meeting

The topics discussed were mainly concerned with the production of organic meat and the importance of establishing appropriate standards to avoid the potential transmission of animal diseases. Several participants suggested the organisation of an international conference on pastoralism activities by nomadic populations as a first step towards the creation of an alliance to ensure that these practices can continue and thrive.

In commenting on the importance of pastoral and nomadic activities to safeguard the environment against desertification, and the need to join together to secure the livelihoods and social stability of nomadic pastoralist populations, Dr Vallat pointed out that vaccination policies and animal welfare programmes could play a significant role in preventing the spread of animal diseases among nomadic livestock and in ensuring the safe and profitable trade of animal products. Dr Vallat concluded the meeting by confirming once again the commitment of the OIE to this initiative and by considering the possibility to raise it in the relevant OIE Specialist Commission, so that suitable guidelines and standards could be developed.