Concluding that

Brucellosis is a disease affecting humans and most domesticated mammals, which causes economic repercussions and public health hazards,

Brucellosis occurs in a number of species of non-traditional farmed animals and in some species of wildlife,

New species of Brucella are emerging,

It has been demonstrated by several countries that eradication of brucellosis is achievable,

A survey of OIE Member Countries in the Americas has confirmed that brucellosis is managed in very different ways and remains widely distributed,

Control programmes for brucellosis include extensive vaccination of livestock and mass diagnostic tests to detect infected animals,

Classical Brucella abortus S19 and B. melitensis Rev1 vaccine strains contain antigens that under normal conditions elicit an antibody production that interferes with serological diagnosis,

Classical serological tests are unable to distinguish vaccinal antibodies from those induced by pathogenic strains, but new serological tests capable of making this distinction are now available,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. All countries in the Americas consider implementing national programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of brucellosis in species where public health or economic benefit warrant such implementation.

2. The OIE, in close cooperation with other international organisations, facilitate the improvement and modernisation of brucellosis diagnostic testing in livestock, providing training, technical advice, standardised procedures and standardised diagnostic reagents.
3. Research be initiated or continued in the following areas:
   
   - new, non-interfering vaccines for species other than cattle;
   - development of vaccines suitable for alternate delivery to wildlife species;
   - development of a standardised nucleic acid assays for the various species of \textit{Brucella};
   - validation and standardisation of diagnostic tests for all species;
   - implications of new \textit{Brucella} sp. to humans and animals;
   - efficacy of RB51 vaccine in cattle and other species.

4. The OIE, in close cooperation with countries and other international organisations, facilitate the organisation of a regional computer network for sharing data on brucellosis and the adoption of recommendations regarding identification, diagnostic tests, vaccination, movement and husbandry of animals in the region.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2000)