CONSIDERING THAT

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. Antimicrobial resistance is a global public and animal health concern that is influenced by both human and non-human antimicrobial usage. The human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to prevent or minimise antimicrobial resistance selection pressures on both human and non-human pathogens.

The second joint FAO/OIE/WHO workshop on management options for non-human antimicrobial usage in March 2004 in Oslo and recommended that the concept of “critically important” classes of antimicrobials for human usage should be developed by WHO. A similar list for animal usage should be pursued by the OIE.

The list of Critically Important Antibacterial Agents (CIA) for Human Medicine was established in February 2005, in a working group meeting in Canberra.

The OIE ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance prepared a questionnaire to collect proposals on antimicrobials of veterinary importance. The questionnaire was sent to the 167 OIE Member Countries and to International Organisations having signed a co-operation agreement with OIE in order to establish such a list. A list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance was compiled from the information received from Member Countries and was circulated to OIE Member Countries.

When finalised, the list could complement the OIE Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix 3.9.3).

The list could be useful for the risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance in accordance with OIE Terrestrial Code Appendix 3.9.4. In this context, lists of CIA for humans and for animals are elements that could be taken into account in a risk assessment process.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To publish a preliminary list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance based on the list compiled by the OIE ad hoc Group from the answers received to the questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries.

To ask the Director General to reconvene the ad hoc Group to further refine the list and consider breaking it down into subcategories according to type of usage.

To use the list further refined within the framework of the work in progress with the WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on antimicrobial resistance.

To regularly update the list in accordance with new scientific information.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)