RESOLUTION No. XXIX

Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The interaction of human and animal health is producing unprecedented challenges and opportunities,

2. Zoonotic diseases are emerging and re-emerging with greater frequency, international scope, and economic importance,

3. The factors and forces driving the expansion and scale of zoonoses are still in place and are unlikely to significantly change in the near future, thus, the risks posed by emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases will continue unabatedly for some time,

4. Member Countries have again indicated their overwhelming support for a greater OIE role in confronting the challenges of such zoonoses,

5. Member Countries strongly believe that emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases will become a progressively greater factor in the demands on the activities of Veterinary Services, thus impacting on future partnerships, resources, and programmes,

6. FAO/WHO/OIE are engaged in cooperative agreements that will continue to provide important international linkages,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE should actively consider within the development of the fourth strategic plan the broadening of its scope, commitment, and thinking regarding emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and place a high priority on developing guidelines for the prevention and control of these diseases.

   The preparation of the fourth Strategic Plan will include proposals related to the purpose of the Code in matters of zoonotic aspects of listed diseases.

2. The OIE will consider the creation of a new Ad hoc Group on Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonoses that will be inter-disciplinary in membership and help to advise on sustainable agriculture development that does not increase the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and on surveillance systems that cover the wildlife, domestic animal, and human continuum. The group will also assist in the education of OIE Member Countries.

   The new Ad hoc Group will work in collaboration with the existing OIE Working Groups on Wildlife Diseases and Animal Food Production Safety and the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology and other relevant bodies or experts, in particular OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.
3. The OIE should provide training through workshops and other means for Member Countries and academic veterinary and medical institutions on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, especially in regional activities.

4. The OIE will undertake to explore opportunities and mechanisms to promote awareness through conferences and interactions between the Veterinary Services of Member Countries, and their public health counterparts.

5. The OIE will continue to support and urge Member Countries to make progress on timely and accurate reporting of zoonoses and sharing information on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, realising that many of these new diseases are not associated with animal trade or traditional listed diseases.

6. In the event of serious outbreaks of zoonotic diseases that transcend national borders, the OIE will demonstrate leadership in providing guidance on disease control strategies at the animal production levels and will support the communication efforts of public health agencies in addressing human impacts.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)