The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has worked actively for more than a decade on veterinary products, including antimicrobial agents, and developed a coherent strategy for its activities in this area. Given that antimicrobial resistance is both an animal and human health issue, the OIE works closely with its Member Countries, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In 2012, the OIE developed a questionnaire on monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobial agents used in animals. The questionnaire was sent to OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for Veterinary Products of the 178 OIE Member Countries. The questionnaire was structured in two parts. The first part aimed at obtaining information on the general context on the implementation of a national legislation covering veterinary medicinal products including questions on the use of growth promoters. The second part of the questionnaire was designed to obtain information on the implementation of the OIE standard on “Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food producing animals” (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 6.8.). This part was split in two depending on whether the OIE Member Countries have or do not have an official system for collecting quantitative data on antimicrobial agents used in animals. Apart from conducting a survey of OIE Member Countries’ implementation of the OIE standard, the purpose of this questionnaire was also to improve the awareness and provide an overview of the management of antimicrobial use in animals by OIE Member Countries.

A summary of the answers received from 152 OIE Member Countries will be presented during this Global Conference.

The OIE is planning to make use of the conclusions of this survey to determine what actions need to be taken and to develop its strategy in this field.