IMPROVING VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES PERFORMANCE
EXPERIENCE WITH AN OIE VETERINARY LEGISLATION AGREEMENT

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The Uganda Veterinary Board, established under the Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1958, serves as the veterinary statutory body (VSB) of the country. The Uganda Veterinary Board is empowered to register veterinary surgeons, establish the qualifications for registration, prohibit practice by non-registered individuals and to discipline misconduct by registered veterinary surgeons. The Veterinary Surgeons Act, however, does not provide authority for the Board to establish continuing education requirements for re-registration of veterinary surgeons or to recognize, register and regulate veterinary paraprofessionals. For these reasons, among others, the Uganda Veterinary Board does not meet the international standards for veterinary statutory bodies as set forth by the OIE in Chapter 3 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

In an effort to address these insufficiencies, a new Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Bill was drafted in 2004. However, despite repeated review and redrafting, the Bill has not been enacted and the Uganda Veterinary Board continues to lack a full range of necessary functions to meet international standards. The OIE PVS Evaluation for Uganda conducted in 2007, the OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission conducted in 2010, and the OIE PVS Gap Analysis Mission conducted in 2011 all identified the existing constraints on the authority of the Uganda Veterinary Board and recommended a review of the draft Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Bill with the goal of modification and enactment. Around the same time, Kenya was adopting a new Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act (2011) and Uganda saw an opportunity, not only to review their own existing draft Bill but to harmonize it with the Kenyan Act.

In 2011, Uganda requested a Veterinary Legislative Agreement with the OIE in order to, inter alia, review and revise the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Bill with the goal of enactment in order to ensure that the Uganda Veterinary Board has the necessary powers and authorities to meet international standards for a VSB. The issues and activities associated with this ongoing effort will be discussed during this presentation.

Keywords: Veterinary Legislation – OIE Standards – VSB Uganda.