Paris

79 SG

2011

Final Report

General Session

22-27 may 2011

OIE

79th General Session • Paris, 22–27 May 2011

Final Report 2011

CONTENTS

List of abbreviations

ALA	:	Latin American Poultry Association
ANSES	:	French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety
AU-IBAR	:	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAN	:	Andean Community of Nations
CAS	:	Consejo Agropecuario del Sur (Southern Agricultural Council)
CISA	:	Inter-American Committee on Avian Health
COPEG	:	Panama/United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm
COSALFA	:	South American Commission for the fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries
ECOWAS	:	Economic Community of West African States
EMA	:	European Medicines Agency
EU	:	European Union
EUFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
GLEWS	:	Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including zoonoses
GDP	:	Gross domestic product
IABS	:	International Alliance for Biological Standardization
IAEA	:	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare
ICMM	:	International Committee of Military Medicine
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IFAH	:	International Federation for Animal Health
IFPMA	:	International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
INRA	:	French National Institute for Agricultural Research
NACA	:	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NGOs	:	Non-governmental organisations
OFFLU	:	OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza
OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)

PAHO–PANAFTOSA	:	Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization
PCP	:	Progressive Control Pathway
PEI	:	Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (Germany)
PHEFA	:	Hemispheric Plan of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
PVC	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone Countries
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
RVC	:	Royal Veterinary College (United Kingdom)
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SCP	:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VESO	:	National Centre for Veterinary Contract Research and Commercial Services (Norway)
WAEMU	:	West-African Economic and Monetary Union
WB	:	World Bank
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WSPA	:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO	:	World Trade Organization
WVA	:	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Technical Sessions

79 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2011

Introduction

1. The 79th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates[1] of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 22 to 26 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie and at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), on 27 May, under the chairmanship of Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay), President of the Assembly. Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item I and Dr Florência Cipriano (Mozambique) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item II.

2. Delegations from 153 Member Countries participated in the General Session.

3. Observers from two non-member countries or territories and representatives of 25 international or regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the Session.

4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.

5. Dr Dominique Martinez (INRA[2]) and Dr Joseph Domenech (OIE) participated in the General Session as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.

6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.

7. Dr Romano Marabelli and Dr Barry O'Neil, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, participated in the General Session.

8. One Head of State and 16 Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

SUNDAY 22 MAY 2011

Opening Session

9. President Correa Messuti welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Mr Fernando Armindo Lugo Méndez (President of the Republic of Paraguay), Mr Md. Abdul Latif Biswas (Minister of Fisheries and Livestock of Bangladesh), Mr Mamadou Korka Diallo (Minister of Livestock of Guinea), Mr Hussein Hajj Hassan (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Ramootsi Lehata (Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Lesotho), Mr Bary Emmanuel Rafatrolaza (Minister of Livestock of Madagascar), Mr Hari Narayan Yadav (Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Nepal), Mr Mahaman El-hadji Ousmane (Minister of Livestock of Niger), Mr Emilio José Kieswetter (Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama), Ms Yelena Skrynnik (Minister of Agriculture of Russia), Mr Arumugam Thondaman (Minister of Livestock and Rural Community Development of Sri Lanka), Mr Mykola Vladimirovich Prysiazhnyuk (Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Policy of Ukraine), Ms Eta Rory (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries of Vanuatu), Mr Vasily Kazakevich (Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus), Mr Seung Chung (Vice-Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea), Mr Malkhaz Akishbaia (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia) and Mr Benedict Ole Nangoro (Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Development of Tanzania), Ms Pascale Briand (Director General of Food at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Rural Affairs and Land Development of France) and Mr Mamadou Kané (Secretary General of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Mali).

---

1 Hereafter "the Assembly"

2 INRA: French National Institute for Agricultural Research

10. Dr Correa Messuti gave a reminder in his address that the 79th General Session was taking place in the context of the 250th anniversary of the creation of the world's first veterinary school, in Lyons (France), and of the veterinary profession. The declaration of a world free from rinderpest would also be a key event marking the success of veterinary action. He emphasised that current global issues, such as increasing trade, the depletion of certain resources and demographic growth continuing at an exponential rate, should prompt veterinarians to extend their field of competence and adopt a multidisciplinary approach.

    In this context, he believed that the OIE would continue to carry out its key tasks in the field of animal health governance and to provide support for the Veterinary Services of its Members. This would take place within an ongoing partnership framework aimed at better coordination and work synergy, in particular for the operational implementation of the 'One Health' concept.

    Finalisation of the modernisation of the OIE Basic Texts would be a very important step in giving the organisation instruments suitable for the current situation.

11. The President then reviewed the main activities of the OIE and the conferences that would be held in 2011 and 2012 and thanked the Director General and the OIE teams for their excellent work.

12. The President paid homage to Dr Jean Blancou, Director of the OIE from 1990 to 2000, who had passed away in November 2010, and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, former President of the OIE and OIE Regional Representative for Africa, who had passed away in November 2010. He praised their personal qualities and their professional commitment to the development of the OIE and to serving its Members.

13. Following his address, the OIE President handed the floor to the President of Paraguay, Mr Lugo Méndez, then to Mr Diallo, Mr Hajj Hassan, Mr Kieswetter, Ms Skrynnik, Mr Thondaman, Mr Vladimirovich Prysiazhnyuk (who read a personal message from the President of the Republic of the Ukraine), Mr Chung, Mr Nangoro, Ms Briand and Mr Kané.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

14. Dr Correa Messuti reminded the participants that in 1985 the International Committee had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then presented the persons selected by the Council to receive the awards: Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Franck Berthe (France), Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe) and Dr Yukol Limlamthong (Thailand) for the Meritorious Service Award.

15. Dr Correa Messuti commended Dr O'Neil and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Berthe, Dr Limlamthong and Dr Hargreaves and presented them with the Meritorious Service Awards. Due to illness, Dr Hargreaves had delegated a person close to him to receive his award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.

16. Mrs Despina Spanou, in the name of the European Commission, presented the Photographic Competition "Vets in your daily life", organised jointly with the OIE as part of World Veterinary Year 2011. The President announced the five candidates selected: Ms Molly Feltner for Africa, Mr Ariel Alejandro Corvalàn Herrera for the Americas, Mr Somenath Mukhopadhyay for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Mr Istvan Konyhàs for Europe and Ms Genoveva Kriechbaum for the Middle East. The Photographic Competition main prize was awarded to Mr Somenath Mukhopadhyay (India).

17. The Director General also announced the OIE decision to award a special OIE prize to another competitor. The special OIE prize was awarded to Mr Bojia Endebu Dugama (Ethiopia).

18. Several audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony.

19. Following the ceremony, Dr Correa Messuti declared open the 79th General Session of the Assembly.

MONDAY 23 MAY 2011

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

20. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as Members or observers.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

21. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.

22. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 80th and 81st General Sessions

23. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 80th and 81st General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan), elected Members of the Council, included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

24. The Assembly appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Nasser al Hawamdah (Jordan), Auditors and Members of the Council, to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions. They were also tasked with acting as scrutineers for the elections scheduled during the General Session.

25. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President the list of Delegates who, owing to their country's situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and to be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2010
(Doc. 79 SG/1)

26. Dr Vallat presented the main points of the report.

27. Following the adoption of the Fifth Strategic Plan by the Assembly in 2010, the development of strategic policies into a draft Work Programme for 2011–2013 and the extraordinary meeting of the Council in September 2010 and the regular meeting of February 2011 all helped to finalise the draft text being proposed this year for the Delegates' approval.

28. Work continued on modernising the Basic Texts governing the OIE to try to obtain the broadest possible consensus. New proposals were prepared for the attention of the Delegates and would be presented for adoption during the 79th General Session.

29. Two Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions were held in 2010 (Europe and the Americas).

30. The premises of the OIE Headquarters were extended in 2010 following the occupation of new office space. Dr Vallat thanked countries that had paid voluntary contributions, within the context of the subscription opened under the terms of Resolution No. XI of 30 May 2008, in either 2009 (France, Italy, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom), 2010 (the People's Republic of China, Canada and Luxembourg) or 2011 (Australia). The Latin-American Poultry Association also contributed to the subscription. He indicated that other Member Countries had announced their intention to respond favourably, as soon as possible, to the subscription.

31. By the end of 2010, the OIE had 177 Members. A 178th country acceded to the OIE at the beginning of 2011 (Timor Leste) and discussions were continuing with several other countries. Dr Vallat informed the Assembly of the newly established OIE Sub-Regional Representation for East Africa and the Horn of Africa, in Nairobi (Kenya). Discussions were also underway regarding the forthcoming setting up of another Representation, in Moscow (Russia).

32. The OIE pursued its standardisation efforts through the work of experts of the OIE's four Specialist Commissions and its Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups. The OIE had also undertaken work, in line with the recommendations of the Delegates, on the links between animal diseases and climate change, as well as on the decline in bee populations.

33. The OIE continued its efforts to modernise the tools for the collection, transmission and communication of animal health information, as well as working with certain regional organisations to make information systems compatible.

34. Two global scientific conferences were successfully held in 2010, one with the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (Paris, France) and the other on Veterinary Legislation (Djerba, Tunisia).

35. Preparations began in 2010 for four more global scientific conferences, due to take place in 2011 and 2012: the Conference on Wildlife, February 2011, (Paris, France); the Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes, June 2011 (Panama City, Panama); the Conference on Rabies Control, September 2011 (Seoul-Incheon, Republic of Korea); and the Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, June 2012 (Thailand).

36. To date, more than 100 countries had, on a voluntary basis, undergone an initial 'diagnosis' of their Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE quality standards, using the OIE-PVS[3] Tool.

37. If countries so wished, PVS support could be coupled with support for modernising their national veterinary legislation and for the 'prescription' (PVS Gap Analysis), as well as monitoring the progress achieved. By the end of 2010, more than 54% of countries that had undergone an initial PVS evaluation had thus submitted an official application for a PVS Gap Analysis mission.

38. The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (World Fund), which finances implementation of the PVS, also enabled the continued co-financing of regional capacity building activities, priority being given to the Veterinary Services, Delegates and national Focal Points, in particular through the organisation of regular information seminars and training workshops in each region.

---

3 PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

39. The OIE continued its engagement in strengthening national veterinary scientific communities in developing countries through its laboratory twinning programme. This programme was also helping to extend the worldwide network of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories.

40. Support for the GLEWS[4] and OFFLU[5] global networks continued.

41. Economic studies carried out with World Fund financing on the cost of animal disease prevention systems and on criteria for prioritisation of diseases were published.

42. The OIE, in relation with WTO[6] and interested organisations in the private sector, continued its work on the impact of private standards on the safety of international trade in animals and animal products. Active cooperation with WHO[7] and the Codex Alimentarius Commission also continued on certain key topics such as antimicrobial resistance and biotechnologies.

43. The policy of publications in printed and electronic format and the communication activities were stepped up to increase awareness of OIE activities and disseminate the OIE's key messages and its scientific books and articles to a broad public. The major task of reconstruction of the OIE website was now completed.

44. The OIE continued to work with international organisations with which it has partnership agreements. A Tripartite Strategic Note was signed in April 2010 by the Directors General of FAO[8], OIE and WHO. Negotiations were set in motion with other organisations aimed at placing the existing cooperation relationships on an official footing. Regular collaboration with the WTO continued as usual.

45. The OIE negotiated and finalised several cooperation agreements, with UNESCO[9], the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).

46. The examination of dossiers submitted by a number of countries helped to make significant progress towards the declaration of global eradication of rinderpest, to be pronounced during the present Session. The OIE and FAO had also committed to post-eradication monitoring programmes for the disease.

47. The Delegate of Cuba believed that the OIE had fulfilled the objectives of the Fourth Strategic Plan, which encouraged and reinforced Veterinary Services.

48. The Delegate of Senegal expressed the gratitude of his country for the compassion shown by the OIE on the death of Dr Niang. He congratulated the OIE on having organised many seminars and training sessions that made a positive contribution to strengthening the capacities of the Veterinary Services. He welcomed the initiative of organising a global conference on rabies control, since this disease was a major public health problem in developing countries.

49. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

---

4 GLEWS: Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including zoonoses
5 OFFLU: OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza
6 WTO: World Trade Organization
7 WHO: World Health Organization
8 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
9 UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Composition of the Working Groups

50. The Director General announced the formation of three OIE Working Groups:

- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
  - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
  - Dr Marc Artois (France)
  - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
  - Dr John Fischer (United States of America)
  - Dr Ted Leighton (Canada)
  - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
  - Dr Yasuhiro Yoshikawa (Japan)

- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
  - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
  - Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission)
  - Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO)
  - Dr Steve Hathaway (New Zealand)
  - Dr Selma Doyran (Codex Alimentarius Commission)
  - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
  - Dr Maged Younes (WHO)
  - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)

- Working Group on Animal Welfare
  - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand) (Chairman)
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
  - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
  - Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
  - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
  - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)
  - Prof. Neville Gregory (IMS[10])
  - An Expert proposed by IDF[11] (observer)
  - An Expert proposed by IEC[12] (observer)

51. The Assembly approved the composition of the Working Groups.

Planned Working Programme for 2012

(Doc. 79 SG/6 – Appendix I)

52. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2012, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the members of the Council. It was also announced that this programme could be extended in the fields of veterinary education and support for Veterinary Orders if donors were to support such projects.

53. The Planned Working Programme for 2012 submitted to the Delegates for approval was presented at Appendix I of document 79 SG/6.

54. The Assembly adopted the Planned Working Programme for 2012.

---

10 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

11 IDF: International Dairy Federation

12 IEC: International Egg Commission

TECHNICAL ITEM I

The Contribution of Veterinary Activities to Global Food Security for Food derived from Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals

(Doc. 79 SG/9)

55. Dr Barry O'Neil, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Dominique Martinez, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

56. Dr Martinez presented his report, which was based on the answers received from OIE Members to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item and on his team's analysis of existing data publicly available.

57. Agriculture was today faced with the challenge of feeding the world's growing population, forecasted to reach 9 billion in the coming 40 years, and at the same time preserving the earth's resources.

The general context of food security depicted 4 billion poor in the world (< 2 USD/day) of which 1 billion were starving (< 1 USD/day); and when the world population reached 9 billion in 2050 there would be an additional 2 billion poor, 97% of them in developing countries.

Food security was not, however, limited solely to the quantitative aspects of food supply. Food security existed when there was reliable, physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that met dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. In a global context, food security was heterogeneous in nature and was represented by a double burden of nutrition: undernourishment endemic in developing countries and an increase in obesity in developed countries.

This situation should be seen in the light of the current trends in livestock production, whereby developing countries had increased production rates in comparison with the stagnation experienced in developed countries. This was reinforced by the figures demonstrating that livestock were essential for 70% of the poor, with almost three-fourths of the world's livestock being farmed in developing countries (73%); the livestock of importance in developing countries are buffaloes, goats, ducks, geese and camelids. A 3% annual increase in demand for meat and milk in developing countries had been recorded, with the main drivers of increased demand being: population growth, urbanisation, change in lifestyle and increasing household income.

In addition to being a source of energy (biomass), livestock production had a high systematic impact on value chains, providing a strong stimulus for economic growth and contributing to the income and livelihoods of those engaged in the production, processing and marketing chains at the national and international levels, and ultimately to countries' GDP[13]. The livestock sector was creating livelihoods for 1 billion poor.

Furthermore, the contribution of livestock to the economy of developing countries was often under-estimated, not taking into account the various services provided: hauling, draft power, insurance and savings, and manure. Animal products of high nutritional quality (milk, meat, eggs) were particularly important in the human diet, especially in developing countries and for child nutrition. A controversial FAO report had pointed to the livestock sector as one of the causes of environmental problems, namely land erosion, climate change, air and water pollution, scarcity of water resources and the loss of biodiversity.

13 GDP: Gross domestic product

In consideration of these factors, the growth in demand for food products in a context of global change called for a major shift from purely productivist agricultural practices to more ecological approaches.

The various types of production methods could be associated with a series of risks: intensive farming could lead to high disease propagation rates and high susceptibility to disease, but would enable the effective implementation of biosecurity measures; smallholders and mixed crop/livestock systems were associated with a high risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases at a medium distance; and, extensive (pastoral) livestock farming might result in long-distance transmission of pathogens, which could be transboundary. Disease spread associated with animal production might have devastating consequences for national economies and local livelihoods. Any health problem or contamination occurring in production systems and marketing chains would therefore have complex repercussions throughout the food chain "from farm to fork".

The veterinary sector was consequently one of the guarantors of the stability and steady development of the world food system through its activities deployed at each stage in the system: production at the farm level, and processing, distribution and marketing at the national and international levels. Hence, an efficient Veterinary Service was an essential instrument for ensuring food security as it helped implementation of necessary corrective actions in the production systems, including control and prevention of animal diseases.

The 'One Health' approach in livestock production was also important in controlling human pathogens at their animal source, preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases as well as monitoring the epidemiological evolution of non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases and obesity, diabetes and cancer) in the human population.

58. The replies to a questionnaire that the OIE had sent to the Veterinary Services of its 178 Member Countries indicated that all those that had replied had established an institutional, legislative and technical framework organising veterinary activities. However, the allocated budgets and resources revealed a wide disparity between industrialised countries and developing countries, with chronic underinvestment in the least wealthy countries, illustrated by the fact that in more than 60% of countries, public investment in the relevant fields amounted to less than 2 USD per capita per year, despite the importance of the livestock sector in contributing to GDP (agriculture contributes to around 40% of GDP in Sahelian countries).

There was a consistent demand for increased investment in Veterinary Services for the management and control of the livestock sector. The two main categories of activities, focusing on animal health management and food safety, were organised along classical lines with systems of surveillance and control, traceability and laboratory analyses involving both public and private sector partners. It was worth noting that the results highlighted that, at one end of the food chain, inspection was reported in 94% of countries in abattoirs, while at the other end of the food chain only 79% of countries reported inspection at retail points. Moreover, 90% of countries had food hygiene laboratories, separate from animal health laboratories in 74% of cases. The levels of activity and operational effectiveness, which were directly dependent on the allocated resources, also revealed the disparity between rich and poor countries.

The majority of Veterinary Services perceived their activities as having a high impact on food security and, more particularly, the perception of a fairly homogeneous impact on the four components of food security, namely access, sustainability, availability, and utilization. The general impression was that the latter two components were more influential.

Virtually all of the countries that responded wished the OIE to further increase its involvement and support in the field of food security and step up its work on the influence of animal production on environmental change.

Discussion on Technical Item I

59. Dr O'Neil thanked Dr Martinez and his co-authors and congratulated them on the excellent presentation.

60. The Delegate of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, stated that food security was a key issue in Africa not only in terms of ensuring access to food for local consumption but also for accessing global trade markets. He asked the OIE to develop international standards that could be easily implemented by African Members without creating barriers to trade.

61. The Delegate of France thanked the CIRAD/INRA team for the interesting outcome of the study. He informed the Assembly that during the ongoing French presidency of the G20, France was proposing incorporating a paragraph in the recommendations on veterinary networks, to stress the importance of surveillance systems and cooperation between international organisations.

62. The Delegate of Niger highlighted the important role of Veterinary Services in Africa and stressed the need for continued capacity building actions targeting food safety and food security, recalling the recent OIE National Focal Point on Animal Production Food Safety training seminar in Tunis on food safety. He also expressed his appreciation of the regulatory work developed by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and later endorsed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in making accessible regulations on food safety of products of animal origin and other foodstuffs at the regional level.

63. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic brought to the attention of the Assembly the current situation in the Americas regarding the decreased enrolment rates for veterinary medicine at universities and asked for the OIE's support and assistance in order to motivate new generations of veterinary students.

64. The Delegate of Germany stated that the presentation contextualised veterinary activities from a fresh perspective, different from a conventional one based on animal diseases. The Delegate pointed out the importance of striking a good balance between the effective control of diseases and ensuring basic food supply in developing countries.

65. The Representative of the ILRI[14] asked whether the study took into consideration local access to Veterinary Services.

66. The Delegate of Bangladesh evoked the need for residue monitoring and control programmes in ensuring food safety as regards the use of antibiotics and growth promoters.

67. The Delegate of Ireland brought two issues to the attention of the Assembly: first, that the study should also take into consideration deforestation and other activities detrimental to the environment, often associated with multinational corporations, rather than pinpointing livestock production in general as a cause for environmental degradation; secondly, that food security in developed countries was also influenced by the loss or waste of food during the production process and throughout the food chain (30 to 35%) and that more efficient Veterinary Services could counter this trend.

68. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China indicated that food security was a national strategic priority and encouraged the OIE to continue its work in this field, including launching global awareness programmes.

---

14 ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

69. The Delegate of Norway pointed out that seafood produced through both catching fishery and aquaculture should be part of the global solution to food security and that Veterinary Services should extend their competence in these areas.

70. The Representative of FAO stated that he was pleased that data provided by FAO had been useful for the study. He indicated that the importance of aquaculture should not be underestimated. He also pointed out that the impact of the Veterinary Services in ensuring national livelihoods and health could not be overemphasised. He expressed FAO's desire to work with the OIE in furthering ongoing and new actions in ensuring veterinary contribution to food security.

71. The Delegate of Yemen stressed the importance of animal trade and considered that the presentation would be useful for future veterinarians.

72. Dr Martinez, in reply to comments and questions, suggested that there should be greater focus on multidisciplinary research in order to further develop methods for animal disease control with reduced negative impact on food security. To address the problem of reduced enrolment rates and low motivation in veterinary education and training, he recommended that cost–benefit studies be carried out to demonstrate the importance of veterinary activities for the national and global economy, which could trigger a change in perceptions of the role, responsibility and impact of veterinarians. Dr Martinez stated that, when developing strategies and policies for aquaculture, the mistakes made with the intensive production of terrestrial animals, particularly monogastrics, should not be repeated. Dr Pascal Bonnet, one of the co-authors, underlined the important contribution Veterinary Services could make to improving access to food in spatial, physical and financial terms and also for the better use of non-food products, such as manure as fertilisers, within environmentally sound production systems.

73. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Martinez and his co-authors for their presentation and encouraged the OIE to pursue actions related to food security. He invited the Delegates of Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Rwanda, Yemen, and the representatives of FAO and ILRI, to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2011

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE

74. The President explained to the Assembly that presentations at a Plenary Session were only made by intercontinental, international organisations. These could be made every three years, except for WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, the World Bank, WTO, and the WVA[15], which could make their presentations every year if they so desired. Regional organisations could make their presentations in principle every other year within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

15 WVA: World Veterinary Association

75. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional intercontinental organisations.

World Health Organization

76. Dr Elizabeth Mumford, Scientist, Global Influenza Programme, World Health Organization (WHO), provided a short summary of background information and reported on the relevant activities of WHO in 2010.

77. Dr Mumford commenced by introducing WHO's involvement in public health at the human–animal interface and collaboration with partners in animal health and agriculture. WHO recognised the impact of animal diseases and environmental threats on the health of people, and was determined to facilitate and support the cross-sectorial actions needed to protect human health.

78. The Representative of WHO highlighted the importance of joint responsibility and the establishment of complementary agendas, by building on and strengthening existing institutions, to garner better results. The consolidated interest at international level has led to the prioritisation of activities at the human–animal interface.

79. The Representative of WHO then provided background information on the Tripartite Concept Note – Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal–human–ecosystems interfaces: FAO/OIE/WHO collaboration (April 2010) and stated that this Note is currently being operationalised into a Tripartite joint strategy and a plan for action in order to work forward at global level.

80. The Representative of WHO presented ongoing WHO activities which addressed risks at the human–animal interface, namely, the International Health Regulations (IHR), the Organization's international legal instrument seeking to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks with the potential to cross borders and threaten human health worldwide. Within the IHR, Member States were requested to build capacity for meeting core competencies, and to ensure that health legislation was appropriate and effective. Given that there remained some potential gaps regarding national capacities at the human–animal interface, the Representative of WHO stated that WHO would confront such challenges in collaboration with the partners, including the OIE.

81. Another activity of WHO was the *Codex Alimentarius*, which represented the core of the WHO/FAO Food Standards Programme. Through the Codex Alimentarius Commission, internationally harmonised global food standards were being developed in order to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in food trade. Dr Mumford highlighted the involvement of the OIE in this activity through the provision of expertise and the alignment of new and existing standards.

82. The Representative of WHO informed the Assembly that WHO was now formally collaborating with the OIE–FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenzas (OFFLU) through WHO's influenza vaccine strain selection process in order to detect potentially public-health relevant genetic and antigenic changes to influenza viruses circulating in animals.

83. The World Health Day 2011 focused on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its global spread. Dr Mumford signalled that AMR would be a priority area for WHO work in the coming years. In this regard, the Representative of WHO recognised the OIE's involvement in the development of the Codex Guidelines on Risk Analysis of Antimicrobial Resistance alongside WHO and FAO; these guidelines would be considered for adoption at the forthcoming session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be held in Geneva (Switzerland) in July 2011.

84. The Representative of WHO also made reference to the ongoing interagency collaborations to address the challenges of controlling and preventing rabies and other zoonotic diseases in animal reservoirs and humans worldwide.

85. Attention was drawn to WHO activities to assess the public health burden of food-borne diseases. The animal health sector had an important role to play in raising producers' ability to meet food safety standards.

86. Reference was made to the established collaborative global platforms, GLEWS and INFOSAN, aiming at facilitating the exchange of key or emergency information among partners. Looking to the future, the Representative of WHO expressed the need to bring practical solutions for implementing inter-sectorial collaboration in policy and technical activities directly to countries confronted with cross-sectorial issues. In this regard, some work was already ongoing in countries, to address specific priority issues such as avian influenza H5N1, Rift Valley fever, rabies, food safety, food security and numerous other topics.

87. The Representative of WHO stressed the importance of the close collaboration and coordination with partners in animal health including the OIE, to facilitate more consistent, cross-sectorial national and regional approaches, in particular to ensure that, firstly, governance and legal frameworks were strong, aligned and functional, secondly that routine surveillance systems were in place and mechanisms for risk assessment had all the necessary data to function effectively, and finally that public and animal health laboratories were engaged and technically competent.

88. The Representative of WHO stated that the Tripartite partnership was working closely with the Government of Mexico and other key players to prepare a ministerial-level meeting to identify, develop and establish principles for cross sectorial collaboration.

89. The guidance provided to WHO IHR National Focal Points stressed the importance of establishing working relationships with non-health sectors in order to provide Member States with relevant information on health issues and to gather information relevant to public health.

90. The Representative of WHO brought to the attention of the Assembly the Tripartite involvement in the USAID-funded IDENTIFY project, which aimed to build laboratory capacity and networks to detect the known human and animal diseases, with the ultimate goal of detecting new or emerging pandemic threats at the human–animal interface. The work was focused at regional level, but most of the activities were directly targeted at laboratories located in geographic "hot spots" for new or emerging diseases, such as South East Asia and the Congo Basin.

91. The Representative of WHO underlined the importance of mutual trust among partners working at the international, regional and national level. Dr Mumford concluded her intervention by presenting a video of the address given by Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, at the launch of Vet2011 in Versailles in January 2011.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

92. Dr Karen Hulebak, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), provided a summary of the activities in 2010 and highlighted collaborations with the OIE.

93. Dr Hulebak recalled that the OIE was regularly invited to provide information on its activities at the Codex Commission, Committees and Task Forces. Dr Hulebak emphasised that scientific and technical expert interaction was a fundamental component of the cooperation between the OIE and Codex. Codex and the OIE had accomplished a higher level of coordination, mainly through the Codex Chair and Secretariat participation in the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

94. Dr Hulebak highlighted that Codex was striving to ensure that the work of the OIE and Codex be coordinated so that their respective texts and standards were coherent and complementary to one another and to avoid duplication, while ensuring that together their work covered the entire food chain.

95. Dr Hulebak noted an accomplishment of particular importance to Codex and the OIE – the completion of the following two publications: *The Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* and *The Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat*.

96. Dr Hulebak also recalled that the World Health Assembly in 2010 had approved an amendment to Article 4 of the cooperation agreement between the OIE and WHO on the joint development of international standards relating to animal production with an impact on food safety.

97. Dr Hulebak indicated that the collaborative work between Codex and the OIE was taking place according to guidelines adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2005. On behalf of Codex, she noted the WHO agreement and drew the attention of the OIE to the fact that joint development did not equal joint standards. Discussions on this matter would continue at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, in 2012.

98. Dr Hulebak stated that another development of interest to the OIE was that Codex had started work on its new Strategic Plan 2013–2018. During the first stage of the Plan's development, discussions took place in each of the Regional Coordinating Committees, focusing on the validity of the current Plan's objectives as goals for the new Plan. New global challenges that Codex should address in its future work included the impact of climate change on food safety, the participation of developing countries and technological advances relevant to Codex work.

99. Dr Hulebak indicated that the equitable participation of developing countries continued to be a challenge and stated that a Midterm Review of the Codex Trust Fund presented at last year's Commission meeting found that the Codex Trust Fund had been an important catalyst for change in Codex work at country and regional levels, and that the Fund had contributed to an increase in networks within regions. Taken together, these accomplishments indicated that the Codex Trust Fund had achieved its primary objective of increasing the participation of developing countries, but the review noted that the sustained participation of developing countries would continue to be difficult. Finally the review recommended that there should be a gradual shift of the Codex Trust Fund resources towards strengthening scientific and technical inputs from developing countries in the work of Codex.

100. Dr Hulebak indicated that two studies commissioned by Codex's Executive Committee on the speed of standards development had demonstrated that, overall, the speed of standard-setting in Codex had increased over the past decade with the average period for processing a food safety standard of 3.5 years.

101. Codex work was based on independent scientific advice and risk assessments provided by expert consultations organised by FAO and WHO. It was noted that, as the demand for Codex standards increased, the demand for supporting scientific advice likewise increased. The main areas of demand for scientific advice included contaminants, food additives, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, and microorganisms. Dr Hulebak expressed the opinion that an attempt to help FAO and WHO meet these needs was the relatively new

Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA), an initiative aimed at creating more flexible avenues for funding provision of scientific advice.

102. Dr Hulebak drew the attention of the Assembly to two major challenges facing the Codex Commission.

103. Firstly, consensus-based decision-making was becoming a growing challenge as Codex saw an increase in "nationally sensitive issues" as barriers to consensus. Codex was taking new steps to increase the use of facilitated consensus building through collaborative negotiation and facilitated sessions, and through increased mediation activity by Codex committee chairs. An example from this year was, for the first time in Codex, the use of the technique called "Friends of the Chair"; this technique was often used in other United Nations organisations and in WTO, but never before in Codex. Dr Hulebak believed that there would be an increasing emphasis in coming years on the use of mediated negotiation to facilitate Codex decision-making.

104. Secondly, private standards remained a topic of heated debate for Codex member countries. Discussion at the last two Codex Commission sessions concluded that the legal and trade implications of private standards were better dealt with in WTO; thus, together, Codex, FAO and WHO should engage with global private standard-setting bodies to encourage their participation in Codex as observers and, possibly, encourage private standards organisations to employ Codex and OIE standards. Such a step could move trading partners closer to the goal of greater harmonisation, which was one of the original goals at the establishment of Codex.

105. Dr Hulebak concluded her speech by highlighting that the OIE also faced some of the constraints that she had mentioned and that the Codex Alimentarius Commission would be happy to work with the OIE to build OIE and Codex strengths and address their common challenges.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

106. Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief, Animal Health Service, FAO, presented a global overview of FAO's activities and its collaboration with the OIE.

107. Dr Lubroth recalled the mandate and vision of FAO including: (i) to lead international efforts to defeat hunger and (ii) to help developing countries and countries in transition to modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition.

108. Dr Lubroth stressed that food security, livelihoods, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management formed part of the core activities of FAO.

109. Dr Lubroth illustrated FAO's ongoing animal health/disease portfolio including country and regional projects which were directed at combating the following diseases: anthrax, African swine fever, brucellosis, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Ebola Reston virus (ERV), foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), influenza H1N1, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), Newcastle disease, rabies, African horse sickness, peste des petits ruminants (PPR), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, tick-borne diseases, tsetse and trypanosomiasis (T&T) and transboundary animal diseases. FAO was also active in supporting Veterinary Services at the national level.

110. Dr Lubroth depicted the areas which needed to be considered in the livestock and animal health framework, making reference to natural resources and key elements in the food production chain, such as feed, abattoirs and veterinary drugs, that were directly linked to food safety and animal health and production. Dr Lubroth placed special emphasis on wildlife, stating that it was a target area given that millions of people depended on wildlife for survival.

111. The FAO's legal teams, working with technical departments, were offering services to countries and regional entities in the following broad thematic areas: animal health and production, trade and compliance with international standards, disease response, environmental and natural resource health and issues surrounding equity. Between 2006 and 2011 the FAO's Legal Service had completed 20 projects and now had 10 ongoing projects, with two new projects in the pipeline and due to commence shortly.

112. The diagram of the OIE PVS Pathway was presented to the Assembly by Dr Lubroth, who emphasised the contribution of FAO to the development, implementation and coordination of activities included in the OIE's Strategic Plan. He reiterated that FAO was a privileged partner of the OIE.

113. Dr Lubroth indicated that FAO and the OIE had sent a questionnaire on rinderpest virus samples to all countries in early 2010 and that a resolution would be presented to the FAO Conference in June 2011, which would raise awareness of countries concerning their responsibilities in a post-rinderpest environment.

114. A programme of work in a post-rinderpest world should consist of: (i) surveillance including rumour tracking, differential diagnosis, reporting and GLEWS (Global Early Warning System for major animal diseases, including zoonoses); (ii) contingency plans to be accompanied by simulation exercises; (iii) vaccine stockpiles for emergency use, with the support of appropriate legislation; and, (iv) a ban on the use of rinderpest vaccines for the control of PPR. These actions needed to take into consideration legislative frameworks, compliance with international standards and the development of new research strategies.

115. Dr Lubroth depicted the overall collaborative framework with the OIE, referring to the complementarities and synergies between the two organisations. The collaboration emerging from the Tripartite Concept Note – Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal–human–ecosystems interfaces: FAO/OIE/WHO collaboration (April 2010), was mentioned as it represented a vision for creating a world capable of preventing, detecting, containing, eliminating and responding to animal and public health risks with an impact on food security.

116. Dr Lubroth stressed that the 'One Health' concept should not only include human and animal health, but also the health of the ecosystem, which was an important and essential component of this holistic approach.

117. Dr Lubroth concluded his speech by stating that the Action Plan goal, from an animal health perspective, was "to establish a robust, global animal health system that effectively manages major health risks that arise from and affect animals paying particular attention to the human–animal–ecosystem interface using the One Health approach and … placing disease dynamics into the broader context of sustainable agriculture, socio–economic development, environmental protection and sustainability".

World Trade Organization

118. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, World Trade Organization, provided a short summary of background information and reported on the activities of the WTO SPS Committee in 2010 and early 2011.

119. Ms Fall drew the attention of the Assembly to the fact that during the timeframe 1995 – March 2011, 325 Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee against SPS measures maintained by WTO Members. Of these 325 STCs, 41% were related to SPS measures linked to animal health and zoonoses, 28% related to food safety and 25% to plant health. Among the animal health and zoonoses-related STCs, 35% related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), 31% to "other animal health concerns", to 24% to foot and mouth disease and 10% to avian influenza.

120. Ms Fall mentioned that in 2010, 10 new STCs of relevance to the OIE were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee. Also, several WTO Members used the opportunity to provide information relating to animal health measures and zoonoses.

121. A total of 1064 notifications of new or proposed SPS measures were submitted by WTO Members in 2010. Of these, 134 notifications identified animal health as the objective of the measure being taken, while 755 identified the protection of humans from zoonoses or plant pests as the objective, and 111 notifications identified an OIE standard as relevant, by citing either the application of the OIE standard or a deviation from it.

122. In March 2010, the SPS Committee completed the Third Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement. WTO Members have identified three priority issues so far for further work by the SPS Committee: the cooperation between the SPS Committee and the OIE, Codex and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); the improvement of procedures for monitoring the use of international standards; and control, inspection and approval procedures (Article 8 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement). The report of the Third Review can be found in the WTO document G/SPS/53. Ms Fall informed the Assembly that a Workshop on SPS Coordination at National and Regional Levels would be held in Geneva on 17 October 2011.

123. Regarding recent development concerning private standards, an *ad hoc* working group had proposed six actions to the SPS Committee for adoption (G/SPS/W/256). Five of those six actions were adopted by the SPS Committee in March 2011 relating to the definition of the scope of discussions on SPS-related private standards and promotion of information exchange among various entities (G/SPS/55). A specific dedicated discussion would take place at an informal meeting of the SPS Committee in June 2011.

124. The WTO Secretariat had continued to provide technical assistance to WTO Members and was organising the following four regional training events on the SPS Agreement in 2011: (i) Regional workshop for the Caribbean on 26–29 July; (ii) Regional workshop for Anglophone African countries in November; (iii) Regional workshop for Francophone African countries in November; and (iv) Regional workshop for Arab and Middle Eastern countries in November. The WTO document (G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.1) contained detailed information relating to all the SPS activities planned for 2011, including application information and deadlines for WTO funding.

The World Bank

125. Dr François Le Gall, Lead Livestock Specialist, the World Bank, commenced his intervention by signalling the commitment of the World Bank to the activities of the OIE, their importance as Global Public Goods, the noble objective of improving animal health globally, and reiterating their support for the work that Veterinary Services were implementing regionally and internationally.

126. Dr Le Gall recognised the importance of animal health and its contribution to poverty reduction, food security, food safety, trade, economic growth, nutrition, income generation and job creation, safety net, and public health.

127. Dr Le Gall stated that the constant and growing threat posed by animal diseases (existing, emerging and re-emerging), including zoonotic diseases, in the context of population growth, increased demand for food, globalisation, climate change, and the difficult current international financial crisis. In view of this he underlined the important role of livestock in mitigating the recent food security and financial crisis at the household and regional levels.

128. Dr Le Gall noted the progress made in the area of improving early detection and rapid response systems for emerging and re-emerging diseases, and, in this regard, encouraged the work towards the introduction and use of the 'One Health' approach. He underlined the importance of the Tripartite Concept Note – Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal–human–ecosystems interfaces: FAO/OIE/WHO collaboration (April 2010) and welcomed the continuation and strengthening of this collaboration.

129. Dr Le Gall acknowledged the leading role of the OIE in animal health and welfare, the dedication of all its Members, the scientific and technical excellence of its networks of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and its strategic positioning at the centre of many important collaborations.

130. Dr Le Gall supported the OIE's Fifth Strategic Plan, highlighting as particularly important the new actions linked to 'One Health': veterinary education, and livestock and the environment (including biodiversity and climate change). Dr Le Gall correlated the solidarity principle of the OIE to the mandate of the World Bank, and commended the OIE for its constant efforts to assist its Members.

131. Dr Le Gall indicated that the collaboration between the World Bank and the OIE was strong and this month marked 10 years of formal collaboration between the two bodies. The original Memorandum of Understanding was in the process of being revised and modernised to take into account the recent developments and increased collaboration between the institutions.

132. At global level, in the context of emerging and enzootic animal diseases, and beyond the HPAI and H1N1 crises, the World Bank had been one of the first donors to contribute to the OIE's World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (OIE World Fund) through a 3-year Development Grant Facility (DGF) of 3 million USD. Although this DGF recently came to an end, the World Bank expressed its satisfaction that many donors had since joined this effort, and that the participation of the World Bank seemed to have been influential in this regard. The Advisory Committee of this Fund was still chaired by the World Bank.

133. Dr Le Gall stated that the OIE World Fund was a key instrument for the OIE to implement its vision of good governance of Veterinary Services worldwide and to assist Members through capacity building in line with the Fifth Strategic Plan. As Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the OIE World Fund, Dr Le Gall thanked all donors for their financial support and all members for their active contribution.

134. The OIE, through its Director General, recently requested Dr Laurent Msellati, Veterinarian and Operations Adviser in the East Asia Pacific region for the World Bank, to coordinate the issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* in 2012 on "Good Governance of Veterinary Services and how to finance its efficient delivery". This task

illustrated the mutual trust that existed between the two organisations. Dr Le Gall commented that the Livestock Working Group would fully support Dr Msellati in delivering a document which, the World Bank hoped, would benefit OIE Members.

135. The Livestock Working Group within the World Bank was also keen to support the work of the OIE through its global and regional conferences. The World Bank had participated in the Animal Welfare conference in Cairo (Egypt) in October 2008, the Global Conference on FMD in Asuncion (Paraguay) in June 2009, the Veterinary Education meeting in Paris (France), the first International Conference on Veterinary legislation in Tunis (Tunisia) in 2010, and the Global Conference on Wildlife Animal Health and Biodiversity in Paris (France) in 2011. Subsequent to the FMD conference in Paraguay, the donors' joint paper entitled "Perspectives for moving towards Global Control of FMD: an opportunity for donors", coordinated by the World Bank and with important contributions from key donors, was published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, highlighting the strong commitment of the donors to OIE- and FAO-led initiatives. Dr Le Gall mentioned that the World Bank would continue to send representatives to attend OIE events, and expressed an interest in participating in the forthcoming global conferences on aquatic animal health and on rabies in June and September 2011, respectively.

136. Dr Le Gall mentioned that, in Africa, the Secretariat of the Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty alleviation and sustainable growth in Africa (ALive) had been successfully transferred to AU–IBAR in March 2009. It was now based in Nairobi (Kenya), which was becoming an important hub for livestock in Africa, the OIE and FAO having recently established sub-regional offices there. Dr Le Gall indicated that the World Bank would be an important partner of the ALive Platform and would continue to support the partnership in areas of comparative advantage. For instance, one of the important outputs of the platform was the "Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit", which was being implemented in Zambia after Mali. This toolkit would complement the OIE PVS Pathway, both in their respective sub-sectors (animal production and health) to guide African countries' investments in the livestock sector for poverty reduction, economic growth and food security.

137. In Europe and Central Asia, the OIE, together with World Bank-financed projects, continued to transform the PVS Evaluations and PVS Gap Analyses into strategic action plans that could guide Chief Veterinary Officers and governments to upgrade Veterinary Services. These plans had subsequently been incorporated as component activities into World Bank and other donor investment projects in several countries in the region. The interventions had included investments in legislative and regulatory reforms, Veterinary Services' infrastructure, information and surveillance systems and establishment of private veterinary services. All of this effort had focused on prevention and control of diseases of national and regional concern, with particular emphasis on the 'One Health' agenda. This was exemplified by the Central Asia One Health Project, and agricultural competitiveness and food safety projects and programmes that supported upgrading the sanitary and phytosanitary measures, of which the OIE PVS Pathway was a fundamental component.

138. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank had financed the now completed Emergency FMD project (including the Tracking System) in Uruguay, which continued to be a best practice and a model being promoted by the OIE in other countries of the region.

As part of a new Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Project, the World Bank would propose to finance the continued operation and eventual expansion of the Livestock Information/Tracking System.

139. The World Bank had recently completed the implementation of a grant to the Council of Ministers of the six countries of the 'expanded' Mercosur (CAS[16]) in order to strengthen the Regional Veterinary Council (CVP[17]), which had substantially contributed to an improved collaboration among countries on transboundary diseases. Dr Le Gall made reference to the direct participation of the OIE in the joint financing and publishing of a high profile consultancy that addressed the cost–benefits of animal diseases. Moreover, the OIE Regional Representative for the Americas participated on a regular basis in the meetings and in other activities sponsored by the project. The CAS and CVP had submitted a proposal for a second phase of this project, but unfortunately due to the imminent closing of the Avian Flu Trust Fund, the Bank was unable to provide the necessary funding. The World Bank had received communication from the CVP of the approval of the PHEFA[18] in the recent Panaftosa meeting in Recife (Brazil) and expressed readiness to follow up with the relevant parties to evaluate if the World Bank, building on the successful experience of the CVP project, could support the implementation of the regional activities involved in the Plan, under the leadership of Panaftosa.

140. In Asia, the World Bank was engaged in animal health in three key areas; firstly, by strengthening Veterinary Services infrastructure, mainly through the Animal and Human Influenza (AHI) global programme, which had been extended until December 2013; secondly, by supporting strengthening of partnerships, including tripartite partnerships: all the projects mentioned incorporated a human health component, and therefore would contribute to strengthening in-country collaboration between animal health and human health services; thirdly, providing knowledge, for instance through the preparation of guidelines on biosecurity, the development of a compensation sourcebook and the development of extensive training material.

141. Dr Le Gall stated that the World Bank had recognised the OIE's PVS Pathway as the key instrument for the country evaluation of Veterinary Services and as a basis of good governance. The PVS Pathway was frequently referred to in World Bank "Project Appraisal Documents" and in other official documents describing projects funded by the World Bank. Opportunities for joint analytical work was emerging at the national level, as shown by the recent request from the World Bank to the OIE to provide technical support to the development of a Policy Note in Namibia related to livestock, economic growth and employment opportunities, including an important component related to animal health and Veterinary Services reinforcement. Dr Le Gall expressed his delight that the OIE Director General had accepted this request and, on behalf of the World Bank, gave assurances that the relevant recommendations drawn from the Policy Note would be aligned with the PVS Pathway findings and would comply with OIE's international standards.

142. Dr Le Gall stated that, from a donor perspective, the PVS Gap Analysis, the "prescription", and evolving strategic plans were extremely useful tools for defining public investments needed in animal health. The World Bank congratulated the OIE and its Members on the impressive progress of the OIE PVS Pathway since its launch in 2006 and highlighted that more than 100 PVS Evaluation missions had been implemented and in two-thirds of the cases a subsequent PVS Gap Analysis had already been undertaken. Dr Le Gall encouraged Chief Veterinary Officers to take full advantage of these very important analytical and pre-operational tools by ensuring their use for the development of national strategies for poverty alleviation, food security and economic growth, including the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) and other regional programmes.

---

16 CAS: Consejo Agropecuario del Sur (Southern Agricultural Council)
17 CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries
18 PHEFA: Hemispheric Plan of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

143. Dr Le Gall stated that the recent animal disease-related events, such as the avian influenza crisis followed by the food security crisis, had contributed to repositioning livestock and animal health issues as a priority in the development agenda of the World Bank and many other regional and international organisations. He stressed that a lot needed to occur in order to maintain the current momentum and that these commitments needed to be translated into actions.

144. Dr Le Gall issued a reminder that 2011 was World Veterinary Year, and thus a time to recognise that Veterinary Services had been neglected for too long on the development agenda by both national governments and donors. Calling on the success of the eradication of rinderpest, he encouraged active participation in future battles such as the global control and eradication of FMD. He emphasised the importance of shared responsibilities and the close collaboration at both national and international levels as an imperative for success. In concluding, Dr Le Gall stated that the World Bank was proud to be a member of this global partnership and affirmed that it was committed to supporting the OIE.

World Veterinary Association

145. Dr Tjeerd Jorna, President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), reported on the organisation's activities.

146. Dr Jorna commenced by thanking the OIE for its positive collaboration during the past year and highlighted as an example the joint preparation of activities for World Veterinary Year 2011. Mention was also made of WVA participation in the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education.

147. Dr Jorna reminded the Assembly that 2011 marked not only the 250 years of veterinary education, founded by Claude Bourgelat in 1761, but also the 250 years of the veterinary profession. Dr Jorna stated that the King of France, Louis XV, gave Claude Bourgelat the opportunity to found the first veterinary school in Lyons to control cattle diseases. Creation of the profession had commenced with the fight against rinderpest, the disease that has now been controlled and eradicated in the world. It would now be necessary to focus on the eradication of foot and mouth disease, an economically devastating livestock disease.

148. Dr Jorna stated that attention should also be given to diseases in companion animals, such as rabies in dogs. He pointed out that the eradication of rabies was possible via the vaccination of dogs. It should be recognised that post-bite treatment of rabies in humans was much more expensive than vaccinating dogs. Dr Jorna stated that, during his recent journey to Kenya, he had learned that more than 10 000 dog bites were registered annually, costing 700 Kenyan shillings per person to provide treatment, whereas the same amount of money could vaccinate 1 400 000 dogs. Rabies was also present in wildlife, but recent experiences in the Baltic States and in Mexico demonstrated that this could also be controlled effectively.

149. Dr Jorna stated that rabies was a key theme of the World Veterinary Year and that the OIE and the WVA were pleased to announce that, out of the seven applications received, the winner of the World Veterinary Award was the Veterinary Association of Myanmar. The prize would be presented during the closing ceremony of the World Veterinary Year that would take place during the 30th WVA World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town (South Africa), organised by the South African Veterinary Association. He informed the Delegates that the Congress would cover a wide range of topics, and received support from the OIE, FAO and WHO.

150. Dr Jorna invited the Delegates to participate also, during the same Congress, in the global summit on the "Responsible use of antimicrobials: lessons learned and future approaches on the use of antimicrobials", organised with the input of the OIE, FAO and WHO. He stressed that this topic was being discussed in many developed countries and that the use of antimicrobials in intensive or industrial livestock production systems had to change in order to prevent antimicrobial resistance.

151. Dr Jorna informed the Assembly that the WVA had posted position papers and statements on its website concerning the responsible use of antimicrobials, rabies and veterinary statutory bodies. During the OIE conference on veterinary legislation in Djerba (Tunisia) in 2010, the WVA undertook to organise a conference jointly with the OIE to emphasise the importance of veterinary statutory bodies; a preliminary meeting organised by the OIE had already taken place on this subject in Mali (Africa) in early 2011.

152. Dr Jorna pointed out that, despite the reference in the OIE *Code*, not all countries had a veterinary statutory body. The main body for veterinary graduates and veterinarians during their professional lifetime should be an autonomous organisation belonging to the veterinary profession. Working in compliance with internationally recognised standards would certainly bring benefits for the entire profession and for society as a whole.

153. Dr Jorna mentioned that, two weeks before, the WVA had celebrated the foundation of the first veterinary school in Lyons. During the celebrations, a conference on veterinary education was organised by the veterinary school of Lyons and the OIE. Given that participants were very satisfied, and in order to ensure continuity, a third conference on veterinary education would be organised in Asia in 2013 – the year of the 150th anniversary of the WVA.

154. Dr Jorna expected that WVA would cooperate with the global network of deans' organisations and with the OIE for the organisation of the aforementioned conference. However he underlined that the WVA was not only organising conferences, but also had a mandate to develop and promote policies for the entire veterinary profession, including clinical practitioners, for livestock and for companion animals, covering animal health and welfare and public health.

International Committee of Military Medicine

155. Colonel (Veterinarian) Paul Van der Merwe, Chairman of the Commission for Veterinary Sciences of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM[19]), reported on the organisation's history and activities.

156. The ICMM was established in 1921 after the First World War had revealed the importance of close collaboration between the Armed Forces Medical Services of all nations, both in wartime and in times of peace.

157. Colonel Van der Merwe mentioned that, in line with the spirit of the Geneva conventions, the ICMM set as its goal maintaining and strengthening the bonds of continued professional collaboration between persons throughout the world, whose mission is to care for the sick and wounded of the armed forces and to seek to improve their condition and relieve their pain, in times of peace or conflict.

158. The ICMM was recognised by the World Health Organization as an "international organisation specializing in medico-military matters" in 1952.

19 ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine

159. Colonel Van der Merwe pointed out that it had soon been realised that animals, which had been used extensively in the First World War, were integral to the health of soldiers and that good animal health management was an integral part of public health. A Veterinary Technical Commission was therefore established, anticipating the birth of the 'One Health' concept, as veterinarians in the armed forces were an integral part of military health services.

160. Colonel Van der Merwe mentioned that, to date, the mission of the Veterinary Technical Commission of the ICMM was to maintain and strengthen the bonds between all military veterinary services of ICMM Member States, to promote military veterinary scientific activities and to participate in the development of military veterinary inputs for humanitarian operations. He further mentioned that military veterinary services were involved in: (i) the health and welfare of all military animals; (ii) food safety and the security of all food and water consumed by soldiers; (iii) disease surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases; and (iv) assistance in battlefield trauma and life support.

161. Colonel Van der Merwe considered that a unique feature of the armed forces was that field operations were often conducted in chaotic situations where governmental services had collapsed or were virtually non-existent. In conflict or post-conflict situations, services were provided under severe conditions, and standards, such as for food safety, still had to comply with international requirements. To ensure this, military healthcare professionals were trained and educated to work as multidisciplinary teams under severe conditions. Military services were also involved in post-conflict reconstruction and development in partnership with governments and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

162. To achieve its mission, ICMM had signed agreements with various organisations such as the OIE, to ensure the exchange of the most recent scientific knowledge and to function optimally in the best interest of the health of soldiers. Colonel Van der Merwe congratulated the OIE for its excellent ongoing work in setting scientific standards that could be implemented under all conditions.

163. Colonel Van der Merwe concluded by saying that the ICMM was partnering with the World Veterinary Association the 30th World Veterinary Congress to be hosted in South Africa in October 2011; for the first time ever this Congress would have a military veterinary break-out session. He invited the Delegates to support this event celebrating the 250th year of the veterinary profession.

TECHNICAL ITEM II

Implementation of a Global Strategy for FMD Control

(Doc. 79 SG/10)

164. Dr Florência Cipriano, Chairperson of the Session, introduced Dr Joseph Domenech, the Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

165. Dr Domenech presented his report on the steps to be followed in the elaboration of a global strategy for foot and mouth disease (FMD) control, which would set out the medium- and long-term objectives, the general principles and options, the costs and a timetable for implementation. This strategy would be prepared by the OIE and FAO within the framework of their GF-TADs partnership.

166. Some results of studies were provided on the socio-economic impact of the disease, but emphasis was placed on the need for more studies to elucidate the cost–benefit of prevention and control programmes, as few studies currently existed.

167. An FMD control programme could not be successfully implemented unless countries made a firm political commitment. However, in view of the transboundary nature of the disease, a regional approach was indispensable, as was coordination at a worldwide level. Some examples of regional programmes were provided, followed by a description of the basic principles and necessary tools for implementing any control strategy.

168. The report highlighted the special role of the OIE, both in specific fields (standards and guidelines, official recognition of the FMD status of countries or zones within countries, etc.) and in cross-cutting areas (epidemiological surveillance, PVS Pathway, etc.), and it also referred to the activities of FAO and a number of regional bodies. The setting up of an OIE/FAO GF-TADs Working Group on FMD, the finalisation of a monitoring and control tool PCP[20]-FMD, and the outcome of several major international conferences on FMD were also mentioned.

169. The OIE's commitment to a new phase of support for the prevention and control of FMD was reflected in the proposed new article for Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*), which provided for the OIE to endorse national FMD control programmes submitted to it by countries on a voluntary basis and accompanied by documented evidence that the programme could be successfully implemented.

170. A detailed OIE/FAO global strategy would be presented and discussed at the 2nd Global Conference, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2012. A document on the cost–benefit of prevention and control programmes and a costed implementation agenda would also be presented to donor agencies and government representatives, to convince them of the importance of investing in the control of this major transboundary disease of livestock, as the associated strategies and tools clearly came under the heading of global public goods.

Discussion on Technical Item II

171. Dr Cipriano thanked Dr Domenech and congratulated him on his excellent presentation.

172. The President of the OIE explained to the Assembly that the Resolution for this Technical Item would be presented later by the President of the Scientific Commission in his presentation. There would be additional opportunities to comment on the item and to introduce amendments to the proposed Resolution.

173. The Delegate of Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the OIE Member Countries of South and Central America including Mexico, stated that this was a good overview of the current situation, and that FMD control was a medium- to long-term effort. He added that his region had considerable experience since the 1980s and that the COSALFA[21] had approved the second phase of PHEFA for 2010–2020. He would be happy to share the region's experience with other OIE Members and expressed interest in being a part of this future work within the OIE.

---

20 PCP: Progressive Control Pathway

21 COSALFA: South American Commission for the fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease

174. The Delegate of Sudan, supported by the Delegate of Lesotho and speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, strongly supported the development of a global strategy on FMD control and expressed the need for clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the different partners. In his view, a global strategy should take into account regional specificities. In Africa in particular, the challenges at the wildlife–livestock interface, during the elaboration and implementation of the global control strategy, should not be taken to constitute additional barriers to trade.

175. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China stated that his country was giving great importance to strengthening institutions and updating legislation, and expressed his support to the strategic plan developed for South-East Asia and to the Global Strategy. Concerted efforts should be made through the Regional Commissions of the OIE. FMD-endemic countries should recommend experts as members of the GF-TADs Working Group. He further suggested that each country should nominate a national focal point on FMD, responsible for day-to-day work and coordination.

176. The Delegate of Japan stressed the importance of good vaccine quality and vaccine matching. He recommended the development of a strategic vaccination programme, including systems for information exchange on circulating viruses and quality assurance of vaccines. He added that stamping-out policies and movement control should be incorporated into the disease control framework while taking into account the specific situations of each Member.

177. The Delegate of Norway stated that the last FMD case in Norway was reported 60 years ago and that Norway was one of the founding members of the European Commission for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD). She stated that global FMD control was an ambitious goal and could only be reached through a stepwise and realistic approach. It was important to distinguish between control and eradication as they might call for different tools, while the PCP was considered as a good start. She advocated long-term commitment by governments and donors.

178. The Representative of ILRI pointed out that, for many stakeholders, FMD was not the first priority. He inquired about how the Global Strategy incorporated incentives and awareness raising.

179. All the speakers highlighted the conciseness and comprehensiveness of the presentation and congratulated the Rapporteur on his clarity.

180. To the comments made, Dr Domenech replied that:

– FMD was not comparable with rinderpest, but lessons could be drawn from the eradication of the latter disease. When designing strategies, one must be realistic, concentrate on high-risk areas and build on existing initiatives, with due regard to vaccine matching, sharing of information, and transparency.

– Regional organisations should be strongly involved in FMD control. The roles and responsibilities of each partner needed to be defined in the framework of global coordination. All regions and countries could improve their FMD situation, even countries with many other challenges.

– There was general support from Delegates to the OIE to continue to work on the development of new policies and tools and to continue collaboration with FAO in this field.

181. Dr Cipriano again thanked Dr Domenech for his presentation.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

182. Dr Barry Hill, President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had been extremely busy during the previous 12 months, not least because of its expanded mandate and several new initiatives and activities. He thanked the other members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Ricardo Enriquez (Vice-President), Dr Franck Berthe (Secretary-General), Dr Olga Haenen, Dr Huang Jie and Dr Victor Manuel Vidal for their excellent contributions. He expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants assisting the Commission, Prof. Don Lightner, Prof. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya and Dr Rohana Subasinghe (FAO), and the Commission's *ad hoc* Groups, as well as the many experts providing out-of-session assistance. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Hill gratefully acknowledged the continuing support of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the guidance and assistance given to the Aquatic Animals Commission by several members of staff of OIE Headquarters, in particular Dr Sarah Kahn, Dr Gillian Mylrea and Ms Sara Linnane.

183. The Commission met twice, from 11 to 15 October 2010 and from 14 to 18 February 2011. The meeting reports were provided as Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 A and Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B, respectively. At the October 2010 meeting, the Commission addressed comments that Members had submitted on texts provided with the report of the February 2010 meeting of the Commission. Texts provided with the report of the October 2010 meeting, and relevant Member comments were addressed by the Commission at its February 2011 meeting and the amended texts presented to Members in the usual manner.

The Commission was grateful to the following Members and organisations for their comments on existing and proposed new draft texts: Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, European Union, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America and the ICFAW[22].

The Aquatic Animals Commission was pleased that a large number of Member comments had been submitted but noted that some comments were still not being provided in the requested format and were not supported by a science-based justification. The Commission would strongly encourage OIE Members to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards for aquatic animals by submitting comments on its proposals and would be grateful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale.

184. Five *ad hoc* Groups reporting to the Aquatic Animals Commission had held meetings during the preceding 12 months:

– Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance: 27–29 July 2010;

– Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals: 4–6 October 2010 (Paris); electronic consultations during February 2011;

[22] ICFAW: International Council for Animal Welfare

– Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals: electronic consultations July to September 2010; 25–26 January 2011 (Paris);

– Pathogen Differentiation for Aquatic Animal Diseases: 27–28 January 2011;

– Finfish Team of the *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases: electronic consultations during December 2010 and January 2011.

All *ad hoc* Groups had submitted reports of their meetings to the Aquatic Animals Commission. Dr Hill reminded Delegates that many of the Commission's proposals on texts for adoption were based on the reports and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Groups. He emphasised the importance for Delegates of ensuring that those reports be read in conjunction with the Commission's meeting reports.

185. As in previous years, Aquatic Animals Commission members had continued to update Delegates and others worldwide on developments in aquaculture and aquatic animal health, and specifically on the continued development of the OIE standards in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*). Since the previous General Session, members of the Commission or other OIE representatives had made presentations on the work of the Commission at the following OIE Regional Conferences and other meetings:

– 2nd Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (Paris, France, 21–23 June 2010);

– 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Astana, Kazakhstan, 20−24 September, 2010);

– 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay, 16−19 November 2010);

– 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Kigali, Rwanda, 14−18 February 2011);

– OIE Global Conference on Wildlife: Animal Health and Biodiversity – Preparing the Future (Paris, France, 23−25 February 2011);

– International Symposium for Infectious Salmon Anaemia (Oslo, Norway, 13–15 September 2010);

– 9th Meeting of the NACA[23] Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (Bangkok, 8−10 November 2010);

– Tahiti Aquaculture 2010: 'Conference for Sustainable Aquaculture on Tropical Islands' (Tahiti, 6−10 December 2010);

– 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (Rome, Italy, 31 January – 4 February 2011).

With the support of the Director General, the Commission would continue to provide updates at forthcoming conferences of each of the OIE's Regional Commissions, and other relevant meetings.

[23] NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

186. As of April 2011, 141 Members had nominated an aquatic animal focal point and Dr Hill encouraged Members that had not already nominated one to do so. During the past year, Regional OIE training workshops for aquatic animal focal points had been held in all Regions, as follows:

- Africa: Swakomund, Namibia, 15–19 June 2010;
- Middle East: Umm el Quwain, United Arab Emirates, 27–29 September 2010;
- Europe: Dubrovnik, Croatia, 16−18 November, 2010;
- Americas: Roatan, Honduras, 23–25 November 2010;
- Far East, Asia Pacific: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 19−22 April, 2011.

A member of the Aquatic Animals Commission attended each workshop and delivered presentations on the OIE standards for aquatic animal diseases.

187. ***Aquatic Animal Health Code*: proposed amendments to existing text**

Dr Hill again thanked Delegates for providing comments and suggestions on the proposed changes to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and gave an assurance that all Members' comments had been considered carefully by the Aquatic Animals Commission and appropriate amendments had been made, where agreed.

He reminded Delegates that the *Aquatic Code* texts now proposed for adoption were provided in Annexes 3 to 15 in Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.

188. **Glossary**

The Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to modify the definition of "feed" in the Glossary to clarify that it includes living organisms. The Commission considered that this modification, which would lead to an element of overlap between the definitions for "feed" and "live feed", was necessary to address confusion on the part of some Members about the scope of the Chapter 6.1. Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) conveyed the appreciation of the EU for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission and wished to note that several additional comments on other texts being proposed for adoption had been submitted for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

The EU did not support the definition of "*feed*" proposed for inclusion in the Glossary, because this proposal was not consistent with the definition of "feed" in the *Terrestrial Code* and that used by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Delegate of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work and supported adoption of the proposed definition.

Dr Hill noted that the definition had been amended to reflect the use of live organisms, such as *Artemia*, in aquatic animal feed. However, given the difference of opinion expressed by the Delegates, he agreed to withdraw the proposal. The Commission would review the definition at its next meeting.

The revised Glossary (Annex 3) was not proposed for adoption.

189. **Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the proposed amendments to Chapter 1.2. Criteria for listing diseases in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission compared these proposed changes with the text in Chapter 1.2. Criteria for listing diseases in the *Aquatic Code* and made a number of amendments for harmonisation of the two *Codes*.

The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, expressed his appreciation of the work of the Commission. He also requested an explanation of what was meant by 'negatively affect' (wild aquatic animal populations) in Article 1.2.1., criterion 2.

Dr Hill indicated that the explanatory notes in this article would be reviewed and clarified at the next meeting of the Commission.

The revised Chapter (Annex 4) as described above was adopted unanimously.

190. **Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.)**

A Member had proposed that the OIE listed disease 'necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP)' be renamed as 'Texas necrotising hepatopancreatitis'. In view of the fact that the bacterial agent of NHP was likely to be formally named in the near future, the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed that the name of the disease be changed to 'Infection with [pathogen name once accepted]' once this has been finalised. The Commission considered that changing the disease name to Texas necrotising hepatopancreatitis would cause unnecessary confusion.

Another Member had provided extensive scientific information in support of a request that pancreas disease (PD) be added to the diseases listed by OIE. The Commission reviewed the supporting documents and in view of the technical detail involved referred it to an *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases (Finfish Team) to undertake an assessment of the disease. The *ad hoc* Group concluded that neither the data provided by Chile nor its own assessment provided sufficient evidence to satisfy Criteria 6 and 7. The Commission therefore had invited Chile to submit additional supporting evidence in relation to Criteria 6 and 7, taking into consideration the comments made in the *ad hoc* Group's assessment.

Another Member had proposed that the disease name 'Gyrodactylosis (*Gyrodactylus salaris*)' be changed to 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*' and provided a rationale for this. The Commission agreed with this proposal as it was in line with the approach to the more recently adopted chapters on amphibian and mollusc diseases. The Commission would intend to take this approach with all listed diseases. If the new name, 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*', was adopted, the relevant disease chapter in the *Aquatic Code* (Chapter 10.3.) and the *Aquatic Manual* (Chapter 2.3.3.) would be amended accordingly.

The member of the Chile delegation thanked the Commission for considering the listing of Pancreas disease, and indicated that he would provide the requested information, once available.

The revised Chapter (Annex 5) as described above was adopted unanimously.

191. **Disinfection of salmonid eggs (Article 10.4.13., Article 10.5.13. and Article 10.9.13.)**

A Member had proposed that Articles on egg disinfection for all listed diseases that did not exhibit true vertical transmission be developed. The Commission agreed with the suggestion but repeated the request that Members provide protocols on disinfection for non-salmonid eggs intended to prevent egg surface transmission of disease agents. Dr Hill explained that such protocols were needed in the *Aquatic Manual* prior to the development of Articles on egg disinfection for relevant non-salmonid diseases in *Aquatic Code* chapters.

A Member questioned whether risk assessment, as referred to in point 1 of the Articles, could be replaced by a description of disease specific additional risk mitigation measures to be taken by the exporting country to ensure the safe trade in disinfected eggs. The Commission considered that this point would be addressed by changes proposed to the *Aquatic Manual* chapter on disinfection.

The Commission agreed with a Member's proposal to add a new point 2 at the end of each of the Articles 10.4.13., 10.5.13. and 10.9.13., advising that OIE Members might wish to consider internal measures, such as renewed disinfection of salmonid eggs upon arrival in the importing country.

The revised Articles (Annex 7) as described above were adopted unanimously.

192. **Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services (Chapter 3.1.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had considered the proposed amendments to the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* and amended the text of Chapter 3.1 in the *Aquatic Code* as appropriate, as part of the on-going harmonisation of the two *Codes*. The Commission had considered Member comments but made no amendments because it felt that the proposed text changes were to clarify intent and that it was clear as written.

The Delegate of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE and supported by Benin, thanked Dr Hill and the Commission for further promoting the use of the OIE PVS Tool to assess Aquatic Animal Health Services and supported adoption of the revised chapter.

The revised Chapter (Annex 8) as described above was adopted unanimously.

193. **Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Chapter 5.3.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on a proposed amendment to Article 5.3.2. Two Members had concerns regarding the use of the word 'raw' in Article 5.3.2. point 4b. The Commission clarified that the underlying concept in this point was that waste might potentially be infectious. The Commission did not see the need to change the current wording as 'raw' is a term commonly used in commodity trade.

Dr Hill clarified that the term 'commodity based approach' meant that the products under consideration for listing were aquatic animal products commonly traded and that the characteristics inherent to those products have an impact on the level of risk posed by trade.

Several Members comments indicated that they did not fully understand the commodity based approach being taken in developing the products listed in Article X.X.3. and Articles X.X.11. (amphibians, fish) / X.X.12. (crustaceans, molluscs), assessed against the criteria. Dr Hill informed Delegates that to clarify the means by which commodities were assessed as safe, the *ad hoc* Group was developing a guidance document that would be finalised by June 2011 and subsequently placed on the OIE website.

The revised Chapter (Annex 9) as described above was adopted unanimously.

194. **Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds (Chapter 6.1.)**

Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on Chapter 6.1. and made relevant amendments. A Member commented that the introduction and scope appeared to be in conflict with respect to public health concerns. In response, the Commission amended the introduction to clarify that this chapter covered both aquatic animal health and public health. The Commission agreed with a Member's proposal to delete Article 6.1.5. as certification was covered elsewhere in the *Aquatic Code*. Relevant provisions had been included as a new point in Article 6.1.4.

Several comments had been received from a Member about the risks associated with phytoplankton production for use as aquatic animal feed. The Commission considered that this topic had been addressed in a general way in the chapter but that more detailed recommendations could be provided, and had asked the OIE International Trade Department to obtain advice from an expert for consideration by the Commission at its meeting in October 2011.

Two Members had commented on the risks of using whole live or frozen fish as feed. The Commission noted that this was a widespread and growing practice and that some aquaculture sectors, particularly new sectors depended on this source of feed. The Commission decided to review the issue in more detail and had asked the OIE International Trade Department to obtain advice from FAO and other experts as appropriate for future consideration by the Commission.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, commented on Article 6.1.1., and requested replacement of the words "are also important references" by "may be relevant sources of guidance" as the term 'reference' was ambiguous in this context. The Delegate recommended that a conservative approach be taken when including references in the *Aquatic Code*. However, the *Aquatic Code* should include cross references to the Codex Alimentarius Commission documents, where appropriate.

The Delegate of Canada thanked the Commission for its work and supported adoption of this chapter but strongly urged the Commission to consider the development of a new chapter addressing the hazards associated with feeding live aquatic animals to aquatic animals. The Delegates of Norway, Finland and Australia supported this recommendation.

The Delegate of Norway thanked the President and Members of the Commission for their excellent work and supported the comment made by the Delegate of Finland.

Dr Hill agreed to the modification of the text proposed by the Delegate of Finland. He noted that the Commission, at its next meeting, would address the issue of using unprocessed fresh fish, including live fish, as fish feed and invited all OIE Members to submit proposals to inform the work of the Commission in developing a text.

The revised Chapter (Annex 10), amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

195. **Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.2.)**

Delegates were informed by Dr Hill that two Members had again proposed the addition of text referring to OIE collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The Aquatic Animals Commission again noted that all the OIE work on animal production food safety was conducted in active collaboration with the CAC and therefore considered there was no need to make a specific statement to this effect in individual articles in the *Aquatic Code*. Furthermore, the proposed text was in line with the equivalent text in the *Terrestrial Code*.

In order to ensure consistency with the *Terrestrial Code*, the Commission had amended text in Article 6.2.1. to align with changes made in the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The revised Chapter (Annex 11), as described above, was adopted unanimously.

196. **Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Chapter 7.2.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed comments by several Members on Chapter 7.2. The Commission agreed with some of the comments and had amended the text accordingly.

The revised Chapter (Annex 12) as described above was adopted unanimously.

197. **Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption (Chapter 7.3.)**

Numerous comments on Chapter 7.3. had been received from several Members and the ICFAW and, in response to some, the Commission had made appropriate amendments to the text. However, the Commission did not accept some ICFAW recommendations owing to the fact that the OIE policy to date, in both the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*, was generally not to adopt quantitative measures. A Member had recommended that a description and assessment of pharmacological methods for stunning be added to the chapter. The Commission decided not to include pharmacological methods for stunning because more information on the food safety aspects of these methods was needed before proposing text for adoption. Dr Hill requested that Members provide technical information on pharmacological methods that were currently authorised in their country for the stunning and killing of fish intended for human consumption.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, congratulated Dr Hill on the clarity of his presentation. She noted that aquaculture was a very important industry for the Côte d'Ivoire. With respect to Article 7.3.5.g, the Delegate requested removal of the parentheses around the words "e.g. to clear the gut or to reduce undesirable organoleptic properties".

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the chapter and stated that the chapter should be maintained under review in light of scientific developments on this topic.

Dr Hill agreed to the proposal of the Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire and to the suggestion of the Delegate of the United Kingdom.

The revised Chapter (Annex 13), amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

198. **Taura syndrome (Article 9.5.3.) and epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Article 10.1.3.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on amendments to Article 9.5.3. on Taura syndrome and Article 10.1.3. on Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis with respect to heat treatment to render products safe for trade. The Commission agreed with the recommended amendments and revised the text accordingly.

The revised Articles (Annex 14), as described above, were adopted unanimously.

199. **Listed aquatic products in Articles X.X.3. and X.X.11. (amphibians and fish) / X.X.12. (crustaceans and molluscs) (all disease chapters except epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, Taura syndrome and *Bonamia ostreae*)**

The Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on amendments to the aquatic product listings in Articles X.X.3. and X.X.11. (amphibians and fish) / X.X.12. (crustaceans and molluscs) for all disease chapters, and agreed with the Group's recommendations. Dr Hill reminded Members that the revised product listings were based on product assessments using the criteria listed in Articles 5.3.1. and 5.3.2.

Dr Hill pointed out that the products 'fish roe' and 'chilled fish products from which the skin, fins and gills have been removed' proposed for inclusion in Article 10.3.3. (Gyrodactylosis) were newly listed products supported by recent assessments provided by the EU and Norway. The inclusion of 'chilled fillets and steaks' proposed in Article 10.2.12. (Epizootic ulcerative syndrome) was based on a revised product assessment. The revised product assessments and the new product assessments for 'fish roe' and 'chilled fish products from which the skin, fins and gills have been removed' for inclusion in Article 10.3.3. (Gyrodactylosis) were provided at Annex 19 Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.4. for Members' information.

The Delegate of Norway, supported by the Delegate of Spain and speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for the inclusion of points i) and j) in Article 10.3.3. (Gyrodactylosis). She proposed alternative text for points g) and h), i.e. removal of the timeframe and clarification of the salinity, based on scientific information.

Dr Hill agreed that the proposed amendments made the text more robust.

The revised Articles (Annex 15), amended as described above, were adopted unanimously.

200. ***Aquatic Animal Health Code*: proposed new chapters**

201. **Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals (new Chapter 6.3.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Responsible Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on the proposed new Chapter 6.3. 'Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquatic Animals' and agreed with the proposed amendments. Contrary to the recommendation of a Member, the Commission agreed with the need to make provision for an aquatic animal health professional being authorised to prescribe or recommend the use of antimicrobial agents, given that veterinarians were not centrally involved with aquatic animal production in many countries. This reflected the reality of aquatic animal production, especially in developing countries.

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the availability of registered antimicrobial agents for use in aquatic animal production was very limited compared with terrestrial animal production. In aquatic animal production there was an extreme shortage of authorised antimicrobial agents; in addition, there were many different species used in aquatic animal production. The Commission agreed that the chapter should make provision to address these problems, including providing for off-label use, under appropriate conditions.

Following a Member's comment, the Commission asked the *ad hoc* Group to give further consideration to aquatic animal feeds containing antimicrobial agents, and the responsibilities of aquatic animal feed producers and aquatic animal producers in regards to feed, and develop some additional details for inclusion in the chapter at the next revision.

The Delegate of Chile supported the adoption of this chapter but recommended that the Commission consider expanding the chapter to include antiparasitic agents and other pharmaceuticals used in veterinary medicine.

The Delegate of Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, proposed addition of the word "aquatic" before the word "animals" in the definition "Pharmacovigilance of antimicrobial agent" in Article 6.3.3. – i.e. to clarify that the definition applies to aquatic animals.

The Delegate of Norway had some concerns about the wording in Articles 6.3.7. and 6.3.8., specifically the use of the word "recommend" and "recommendation". She considered that the key term was 'prescribed' or 'prescription'. She also considered that the phrase "authorised to prescribe veterinary medicines" should be included when describing the actions of an aquatic animal health professional prescribing antimicrobial agents. She proposed replacing the word "effectiveness" by the word "efficacy" in Articles 6.3.5. and 6.3.7. Finally, she proposed the deletion of the second sentence in Article 6.3.7. paragraph 7, as it was not relevant to this chapter and was covered in other chapters in the *Aquatic Code*.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the proposals made by the Delegate of Norway.

The Delegate of Russia commented that as this chapter of the *Aquatic Code* addressed the safety of international trade it should be more specific in defining what was meant by an 'aquatic animal health professional'. If this could not be defined, the right of prescription should be limited to veterinarians.

Dr Hill agreed to the proposal of the Delegate of Tunisia. He also supported the proposals made by the Delegate of Norway and the EU. Regarding the comments from the Delegate of Russia, Dr Hill undertook to develop a descriptive text, in the context of the Commission that he chaired, on the aquatic animal health professional, reflecting the use of the term in the *Aquatic Code*.

The revised Chapter (Annex 6), amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

202. **Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes (new Chapter 7.4.)**

The Aquatic Animals Commission appreciated the large number of Member comments on the new draft chapter on killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes and amended the text as appropriate. These recommendations were based on the premise that a decision to kill the farmed fish for disease control purposes has been made, and addressed the need to ensure the welfare of the farmed fish until they were dead. The stunning and killing of fish for human consumption was covered in Chapter 7.3.

The revised Chapter 7.4. Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes was presented at Annex 17 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B for Member comments.

203. ***Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

Dr Hill informed Delegates that work had started on preparing the seventh edition of the OIE *Aquatic Manual* for publication in 2012. The revised production schedule provided for sending the amended chapters to Members for comment a second time prior to the General Session such that the Delegates receive the texts that will be proposed for adoption and eventual publication. This process was similar to that for the *Terrestrial Code* and equivalent to the process being adopted for the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Guidelines for deciding which aquatic animal species should be listed as susceptible in the disease-specific chapters have been sent to the authors of the individual disease chapters. The authors have been asked to update their chapters and these will be sent by OIE to independent scientific reviewers and to Members for comments. Dr Hill reminded Delegates that in the meantime, amendments adopted at this General Session would be made to the web version of the sixth edition of the *Diagnostic Manual*.

204. **New chapters on amphibian diseases**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on the draft chapters for diseases of amphibians: Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus. As most of the comments were of a highly technical nature, the Commission sent them to the authors for immediate review and to propose any necessary revisions to the draft chapters. The Commission had examined the amended draft chapters and the proposed changes and proposed them for adoption. If adopted, the new chapters will be included in the 2011 web version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported adoption of the new chapters but proposed an amendment to the scope of the chapter on Infection with ranavirus by adding the words “in the major families of Anura and Caudata” after the words “subclinical infection”.

The revised Chapters (Annex 16), amended as described above, were adopted unanimously.

205. **Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen**

The Aquatic Animals Commission had further considered the issue of listing susceptible species in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* and proposed to take a broader approach to this issue. The Commission concluded that these criteria (previously provided to Members in the ‘Guidance document for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen’) should be used to assess species for susceptibility for the disease specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*, rather than only as a guidance document for authors of *Aquatic Manual* disease specific chapters.

The Commission had considered Member comments and OIE Reference Laboratory expert comments received following circulation of the guidance document in the report of the Commission’s meeting in September 2009. The Commission had amended these criteria and proposed that, once finalised, these be included as a new chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*. In light of the revised approach to this issue, a new *ad hoc* Group on Listing

Aquatic Animal Species as Susceptible to Infection with a Specific Pathogen had been convened to finalise these criteria and to develop a worked example using the criteria for koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD) in time for the meeting of the Commission in October 2011.

The revised criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen were presented at Annex 18 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B. for Member comments.

206. **Model disease-specific surveillance chapters**

Dr Hill reported that the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance together with the three experts from OIE Reference Laboratories for the diseases in question had made good progress in developing text on surveillance for (i) viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), (ii) infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, and (iii) white spot disease, to provide model disease-specific chapters for the *Aquatic Code*. However, it had become clear that with the approach being taken, the task was very ambitious and required a lot of detailed scientific information that would need significantly more time to compile for completing the chapters.

The Aquatic Animals Commission concluded that, in the immediate future, the *ad hoc* Group should focus on developing the sections on sampling considerations for surveillance for the three diseases so that these could be proposed as model chapters for inclusion in the 2012 edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. The *ad hoc* Group was requested to have the draft model chapters ready for consideration by the Commission at its meeting in October 2011 and then sending to Members for comment.

207. **Pathogen differentiation for aquatic animal diseases**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that, in response to a Member comment on the need for addressing the issue of pathogen strain differentiation, including relevance for notification obligations, an *ad hoc* Group had been convened to consider the scientific arguments for and against strain differentiation and to propose a way forward. The *ad hoc* Group had recently reported to the Aquatic Animals Commission and made initial recommendations on guiding principles. The Commission agreed that the *ad hoc* Group continue with the development the guidelines as a set of criteria, then apply these to the most relevant of the OIE listed diseases. The *ad hoc* Group would first address infectious salmon anaemia virus to produce a worked example for the Commission to consider at its October 2011 meeting.

The *ad hoc* Group report was presented for Members' information at Annex 22 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.

208. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that, at its meeting in October 2010, the Aquatic Animals Commission had postponed reaching a final decision on three applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status, until assurances were received that the laboratories had the capacity for speedy receipt and shipment of samples and reference reagents and materials. The Delegates of the two countries concerned had since provided such assurances and the Commission therefore recommended OIE Reference Laboratory status for these laboratories, details of which were presented at item 10.1 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Hill reported that the OIE had been notified of proposed changes of experts at two OIE Reference Laboratories. After reviewing the expert's details, the Commission recommended their acceptance (see item 10.2 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B).

The Delegate of Japan requested clarification on the proposed revised terms of reference for OIE Reference Laboratories included in the Basic Texts with respect to the requirement for veterinary experts within scientific teams. The Delegate asked if a veterinary expert had to be a member of the team working in OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases. Dr Vallat commented that this topic would be discussed later in this General Session.

209. Due to time constraints, Dr Hill could not complete his presentation. He drew Delegates' attention to the following topics, which were of importance to Members: PVS Tool applied to Aquatic Animal Health Services; Veterinary education; Twinning programmes and the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: 'Aquatic Animal Health Programmes: their benefit to global food security'. Details on these topics were presented in Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 A and Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Hill closed his presentation by informing Delegates that the details of the Commission's work plan for 2011/2012 were provided in Annex 20 of Doc. 79 SG/12/CS4 B.

210. The Delegate of Norway thanked Dr Correa Messuti for the new presentation format and the extended time for discussion. She highlighted the importance of the upcoming OIE Conference in Panama and encouraged other Delegates to attend this important event. Dr Vallat strongly encouraged participation of Delegates or their representative, notably OIE Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, in the OIE Conference.

211. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 13
Adoption of two draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

212. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 13 on the Adoption of two draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*. The text appears under Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

213. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 25 on Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

214. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), presented the activities of the Commission, including the outcomes of its meetings held in September 2010 (Doc. 79 SG/12/CS3 A) and in February 2011 (Doc. 79 SG/12/CS3 B). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Groups for the Evaluation of Member Status for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*; the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology; the *ad hoc* Group on Rabies; the *ad hoc* Group on the Editing of a Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance; the *ad hoc* Group on Classical Swine Fever; the *ad hoc* Group on the Interaction between Climate and Environmental Changes and Animal Diseases and Production; and the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance; and also the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. A total of 14 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups were convened during the year under the auspices of the Commission. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his appreciation of the support provided by the Director General and the staff at the OIE Headquarters. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and Working Group on Wildlife Diseases for their supporting role.

215. **Review of the annual work programme**

During the meetings in September 2010 and February 2011, the Commission reviewed the programme and terms of reference of scheduled meetings for the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2010–2011 period in support of the work programme and priorities of the Commission. The Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 78th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included the better understanding of the interaction between the environment, wildlife and livestock in relation to disease control and the allocation of disease-free areas; the development of a draft policy for global control of FMD and the new provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* to support a global FMD control initiative; further discussions on and the development of explanatory text for the *Terrestrial Code* on the application of the concepts of *protection zone*, *containment zone* and *compartmentalisation*; the finalisation of a draft policy for the OIE on the recognition of the livestock–wildlife interface in the development of OIE standards; the amendment of the chapter on classical swine fever in the *Terrestrial Code* to allow for the official recognition of disease status; review of the process for the evaluation of the disease status of Members to enhance efficiency and transparency; and the organisation of OIE global conferences on FMD, rabies and wildlife. During its meetings in September 2010 and February 2011, the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission held joint meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern.

2010/2011 Activities

216. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

a) The development of text for inclusion in chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* to allow for the endorsement of official FMD control programmes

In support of the programme for the global control of FMD and to allow Members to better engage their policy makers in a national strategy for FMD control, a draft article for the *Terrestrial Code* was developed to enable the endorsement of the official FMD control programme of a Member wishing to enter the OIE pathway to eventually

obtain an officially recognised FMD free status. To facilitate the application of Members for the endorsement by the OIE of their official FMD control programmes, a questionnaire based on the existing questionnaires for the recognition of official disease status was also developed for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. This text was being presented for adoption during the 79th General Session.

b) OIE/FAO programme for a global FMD control strategy

As reported under Technical Item II of this General Session, a Joint FAO/OIE FMD Working Group had been established under the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee. The FMD Working Group (WG) would function in a complementary manner to, and in collaboration with, the OIE Scientific Commission and other OIE Specialist Commissions and would use recommendations of the Scientific Commission as the scientific basis for the GF-TADs initiatives. To enhance transparency and communication between the Commission and the WG, the Commission requested that a representative of the Scientific Commission be invited to attend the meetings of the WG where necessary. The Commission also noted that the role of OIE Reference Laboratories for FMD within the global strategy required further clarification.

The Commission reviewed the updated version of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD provided by the WG and did not see a need for further amendments. The Commission agreed that the PCP was a useful and valuable tool for countries wishing to use it and would guide them towards eventual freedom from FMD, but that it should not be regarded as a standard or a prerequisite for applying for endorsement by the OIE of official FMD control programmes.

c) Maintenance of official disease status by Members

Following recent incidences of the re-occurrence of FMD in countries having officially recognised disease free zones or free country status, the Commission identified the urgent need for the more direct involvement of the Commission in monitoring the activities of those Members to ensure that they continue to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and to maintain their allocated disease free status. Although Members were obliged to confirm annually to the OIE the maintenance of their disease status, the Commission believed that regular selective on-site expert missions to Members to verify the annual reports or to give guidance on the ongoing implementation of the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, for example in instances where the disease status of a country or zone was threatened, would assist in enhancing the integrity of the OIE system for official disease status recognition. The Commission proposed that the Director General should mandate visits of expert missions to selected regions in 2011 and 2012.

The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD reference laboratory network on the evolution of the FMD situation worldwide.

217. **Application of the concept of compartmentalisation**

To promote a better understanding of the application of the concept of compartmentalisation, the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology had developed, at the request of the Commission, a generic checklist for the practical application of compartmentalisation, which also included the salient features of the previously published checklist for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The checklist was forwarded to the Code Commission for a final review and for publishing on the OIE website.

218. **Official disease status recognition and self-declaration for disease freedom**

The Commission discussed, on the one hand, the policy implications of the self-declaration of disease freedom by Members and, on the other hand, the official recognition of disease status by the OIE, in view of the possible inclusion of new diseases such as classical swine fever and African horse sickness in the list of diseases for which the OIE had a procedure for official recognition of country status. For the four diseases for which the OIE had such a procedure (FMD, CBPP, BSE and rinderpest), self-declarations did not apply. The Commission acknowledged that for vector-borne diseases for which a status of seasonal freedom might apply or for diseases for which the *Terrestrial Code* specified as requirements for a free status the absence of disease in the domestic population but not in the wildlife population, different criteria might be considered for recognition of disease status. The Commission considered that, for future policy purposes, it was necessary to clearly differentiate between official disease status and the endorsement of a disease control programme (as currently under consideration for FMD).

The Commission concluded that each disease should be considered in accordance with the specific disease characteristics, trade and other concerns in respect of compatibility with the policy and need for either official recognition of disease status or self-declaration of freedom. It would therefore not be advisable to formulate a generic policy that would apply to all circumstances.

219. **Rabies**

Following extensive Member comments on the draft chapter prepared by the *ad hoc* Group, the Scientific Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group reconvene before the September 2011 meeting of the Commission to address the proposals and concerns expressed by Members.

220. **Official disease status recognition for equine diseases – African horse sickness (AHS)**

The Commission reviewed the comments of Members on the proposed changes to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on AHS as well as the two country questionnaires on AHS drafted by the a*d hoc* Group to assist Members when applying for official disease status recognition similar to the process currently applied for FMD, CBPP, rinderpest and BSE. Most Member comments referred to perceived uncertainties associated with recognition of the country status for a vector-borne disease and the subsequent maintenance of zonal or country free status. The Commission agreed that Members should be given the opportunity for a second round of comments following changes made by the Commission.

221. **Draft policy paper on the wildlife–livestock interface as it relates to standard setting by the OIE**

The Commission had identified, as a priority issue in its work programme, the development of a draft policy for the OIE on the wildlife–livestock interface as it relates to standard setting and the application of concepts such as zoning and compartmentalisation. Both the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology had been tasked with drafting such a policy for consideration by the Commission. Inputs from the *ad hoc* Group and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases were consolidated into a single document for further discussion between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission in the forthcoming year.

222. **Procedures for the evaluation of applications for disease status recognition**

The Commission noted with appreciation that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the Scientific and Technical Department for the benefit of Members. This document would be placed on the OIE website in an attempt to enhance transparency and understanding by Members of this important function of the Commission, the Scientific and Technical Department and the OIE in general.

223. **Work of *ad hoc* Groups in progress**

The President of the Commission informed Delegates of tasks assigned to *ad hoc* Groups that would be completed during the year for consideration at the 80th General Session in 2012:

Brucellosis: The *Terrestrial Code* chapter was revised *in toto* by an *ad hoc* Group, but it still needed further refinement and consideration of the inclusion of small ruminants, and possibly a chapter on brucellosis in camelidae.

Rabies: The much outdated *Terrestrial Code* chapter was revised with a change of emphasis to classical (dog) rabies (*Lyssavirus* genotype). Following receipt of extensive comments on the first draft chapter, further refinement would be made this year.

Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance: Good progress had been made with this much-needed handbook, which would be a practical guide for veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals. Wildlife surveillance and principles of epidemiological monitoring would also be addressed in the Guide.

Official disease status recognition for classical swine fever (CSF): Following receipt of extensive Member comments, the *ad hoc* Group would reconvene in July 2011 to finalise the amended chapter to provide for the possible official recognition of country status for CSF.

Peste des petits ruminants: An *ad hoc* Group would review the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*, especially in view of the southward spread of this disease in East Africa.

Updating the* Terrestrial Code *chapter on Rift Valley fever: The Commission requested the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group on Rift Valley fever to review and update the current chapter.

Ad hoc *Group on Animal Health and Welfare and Public Health Concerns during Natural Disasters:* The Commission had discussed the need for OIE policy and guidance in the event of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and agreed that a multidisciplinary team of experts could provide guidance to the OIE and its Members. The Commission requested the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group under the auspices of the Scientific Commission to address the matter.

Ad hoc *Group on Enzootic Haemorrhagic Disease (EHD):* The *ad hoc* Group held its first meeting from 14 to 16 March 2011 and recognised that there was a considerable lack of knowledge regarding important aspects of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of the EHD virus. In developing the new draft chapter for EHD, the Group used the bluetongue chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* as a template.

Ad hoc *Group on Bee Diseases:* Relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* would be finalised taking account of Member comments.

Ad hoc *Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:* Updating of the remaining chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* would be pursued.

224. **Working Group on Wildlife Diseases (Doc 79 SG/13)**

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the excellent work done by the Working Group in support of the objectives of the Commission and the OIE. The Commission also noted with appreciation the contribution of members of the Working Group to the training of designated OIE Focal Points on Wildlife, especially through the provision of a training manual, which would be updated for a second series of training workshops.

Amendments to Chapters 6.11. and 5.10. of the *Terrestrial Code* (Quarantine measures for non-human primates and Model veterinary international certificate) proposed by the Working Group were discussed and endorsed by the Commission and were forwarded to the Code Commission for consideration.

The Scientific Commission considered the request of the Working Group to review the chapter on theileriosis in the *Terrestrial Code* and acknowledged that the current chapter was outdated and that it would like to see a revision, especially because of wildlife involvement and the negative trade implications of the disease, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The review of the appropriate chapters was placed on the work programme of the Commission and would be addressed after completion of other outstanding priorities.

The Working Group exchanged valuable information with the Commission on the reporting of non-listed wildlife diseases and their potential impact on trade. The Commission acknowledged that this issue needed to be further discussed within the Working Group in liaison with the Animal Health Information Department. The Working Group was requested to formulate proposals on options for reporting of non-listed wildlife diseases for consideration by the Commission. The Commission also noted with appreciation the liaison initiated by the Working Group with other relevant organisations to complement the activities of the Working Group. The Commission reiterated the need for members of the Working Group to make themselves available to serve on OIE *ad hoc* Groups for diseases or topics where wildlife was or could be implicated.

The OIE Global Conference on Wildlife "Animal Health and Biodiversity – Preparing for the Future", which took place in Paris from 23 to 25 February 2011, was acknowledged as a great success thanks to the active contribution of the Working Group and many co-workers – including the OIE Scientific and Technical Department. The Conference served to draw the attention of policy makers and other stakeholders worldwide to the important roles played by wildlife, as well as wildlife health and welfare at the human–animal–environment interface.

225. **Evaluation of Members for official recognition of disease status**

a) Evaluation of Member status for foot and mouth disease

During the past year, nine applications for the recognition of FMD free country and zonal status, with or without vaccination, were considered by the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Member Status for FMD. Following the successful control of outbreaks of FMD in Botswana and in Japan, the Scientific Commission restored the free status of Zone 7 in Botswana as identified by the Delegate of Botswana, as a distinct zone free of FMD where vaccination is not practised, and Japan as a country free without vaccination in February 2011.

Agreement of March 2007 between the OIE and the CVP: Reinstatement of high surveillance zones as FMD free zones where vaccination is practised

Applications had been received from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay to reinstate the high surveillance zones (HSZ) bordering the four countries as separate zones free from FMD where vaccination is practised. The Commission recalled that the HSZ had been implemented following an agreement in March 2007 between the OIE and the CVP (*Comité Veterinario Permanente del Cono Sur*). Countries party to the agreement were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. The thrust of the agreement was to implement a regional approach for FMD control in the southern cone region following outbreaks of FMD prior to the establishment of the agreement. The application of the agreement was monitored by expert missions of the OIE in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The conclusion of these missions was that there was full commitment by the participating countries and that excellent progress had been made with the implementation of the agreement and the regional approach for the control of the disease.

The Commission acknowledged that the application of the participating countries to reinstate the HSZ as FMD free zones where vaccination is practised signalled the final stage of a successful project between the OIE and the CVP in the region. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group to reinstate the HSZ bordering Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia with the status of free zones with vaccination, as was the case prior to the Agreement between the OIE and the CVP, on the understanding that the reinstated FMD free zones would be kept separate from the adjacent FMD free zones practising vaccination and that the reinforced control measures would continue.

Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission also endorsed the following recommendations for adoption by the Assembly:

Philippines: Recommendation of disease free status without vaccination for Zone 2 of the Island of Luzon.

Brazil:

- the recognition, as a single, distinct FMD free zone with vaccination, of the former protection zones located in the States of Bahia and Tocantins; and
- the incorporation of the current protection zone located in the State of Rondônia into the FMD free zone with vaccination, as well as the expansion of this free zone by inclusion of part of the municipalities Lábrea and Canutama, located in the State of Amazonas.

These recommendations were submitted for approval by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 14**.**

b) Evaluation of Member status for rinderpest

The Commission reviewed and amended a draft revised chapter on rinderpest developed by the *ad hoc* Group that was intended to replace the existing Chapter 8.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The proposed new chapter provided for specific requirements for disease control in the post-eradication period and for the maintenance of global rinderpest freedom. The draft chapter was forwarded to the Code Commission for consideration and circulated to Members for comment. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group that the annual reconfirmation by Members of their rinderpest free status would no longer be necessary following the declaration of global disease freedom.

The Commission took note of the outcome of the 4th meeting of the Joint OIE/FAO Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication, which was held at the OIE Headquarters on 13 and 14 January 2011. It was noted with appreciation that a book would be published as a joint venture by OIE and FAO on the history of rinderpest

eradication. The Commission expressed its concern on the numerous issues that were yet to be addressed or completed for a smooth advancement of activities in the post-eradication period, such as updating of a database on live virus kept in stock and the development of a global contingency plan including guidelines on vaccination strategies and vaccine banks.

The Commission considered and supported the recommendations for rinderpest free status for the following OIE Members:

Azerbaijan, Comoros, Federated States of Micronesia, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, São Tomé and Principe, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan and United Arab Emirates.

The Commission considered and supported the recommendations for rinderpest free status for the following non-members of the OIE:

Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Grenada, Kiribati, Kosovo, Liberia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Tuvalu.

The Commission concluded that all countries with rinderpest-susceptible livestock, both Members and non-Members of the OIE, and their non-contiguous territories were now considered rinderpest-free and that a declaration of global rinderpest freedom could be made by both the OIE and FAO. The Commission acknowledged that many countries, organisations and individuals contributed to realising this historic achievement and expressed its sincere gratitude and congratulations to all.

These recommendations on official rinderpest free status were submitted for approval by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 15.

The Commission also submitted for approval by the Assembly Draft Resolution No. 18 to declare the world free from rinderpest and to request the OIE and its Members to undertake follow-up actions to maintain the world free from rinderpest.

c) Evaluation of Member status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

Based upon the report of an OIE expert mission to the People's Republic of China, as well as the scientific evidence provided by the Chinese authorities, the Commission recommended that the Code Commission consider including yak (*Bos grunniens*) as a susceptible species for CBPP within Article 11.8.1. of Chapter 11.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of three Members for the evaluation of their CBPP status and agreed to recommend the following country status to the OIE Assembly for adoption:

- ***People's Republic of China*:** country free from CBPP

The applications from two other Members were not approved and were referred back to the applicant Members.

These recommendations were submitted for approval by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 16.

d) Evaluation of Member status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Commission supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group that Member applications for BSE risk status evaluation should indicate the specific BSE risk status for which a Member wished to be evaluated. To avoid withdrawal of the application after the assessment by the *ad hoc* Group, a Member would be asked, at the time of

application, whether the Member would accept the allocation of controlled risk status should the *ad hoc* Group be of the opinion that a Member did not yet meet the requirements of a negligible BSE risk status.

As requested by the Commission, the *ad hoc* Group had discussed in detail the use of the BSurvE model in the event of Members with small bovine populations, or whose cattle demography was different from the baseline assumptions in the model, not meeting all the surveillance requirements as laid down in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission decided that the current BSurvE model should first be submitted for review by the original authors to determine if the proposals of the *ad hoc* Group could be accommodated within a possible amendment of the current model. The Commission recommended that, in the interim, the *ad hoc* Group should continue to apply the provisions currently used to resolve such cases.

The Commission considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of three Members for the evaluation of their BSE risk status. One application was referred back to the Member because of insufficient supporting data while the evaluation of the following countries was approved for recommendation to the Assembly for adoption at the 79th General Session:

- ***Denmark*** - negligible risk status for BSE
- ***Panama*** - negligible risk status for BSE

The Commission noted that the dossiers of three Members were received too late for analysis prior to the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group and could therefore not be evaluated.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 17.

226. **Future work programme of the Scientific Commission**

The Commission identified the following issues that needed to be attended to and/or finalised during the coming year:

- Finalisation of the update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies.
- Finalisation of a Guide for Terrestrial Animal Disease Surveillance.
- Updating of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis (*Brucella abortus, B. melitensis, B. suis*) considering also the role of camelidae.
- Review and updating of the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter on peste des petits ruminants (PPR) following the southward spread of the disease within Africa and its suspected spread in Central Asia.
- Updating and finalisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF for official recognition status.
- OIE policy on the wildlife–livestock interface and its relationship to standard setting for the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Development of guidelines for general disease control strategies.
- New work on the animal health and welfare and public health concerns during natural disasters.

227. After the presentation of the report, the President opened discussions on the issues raised.

228. The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, requested an extension of the list of diseases with a procedure of official disease status recognition. He welcomed the announcement on the inclusion of classical swine fever and African horse sickness, as official zonal or country freedom was considered a helpful trade facilitating measure.

229. The Delegate of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the SADC[24] countries, and maintaining that his comments would probably apply to all African countries, drew the Assembly's attention to the work to be done by the Commission on BSE surveillance requirements, noting that SADC countries with small cattle populations had difficulties in achieving the required sample size. The Delegate recommended that the Commission refer the surveillance model of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE back to the original authors of the BSurvE model for reconsideration, and requested that SADC countries be solicited to provide input, such that a revised model could take into account the context of African countries. The Delegate further suggested that the OIE take into account in the future the African region's historical freedom from BSE.

230. The Delegate of Bangladesh stated that his country was now free from rinderpest and free from BSE. Nevertheless he noted that his country still suffered from various diseases of poultry and livestock, such as avian influenza, brucellosis and FMD, and that the country was experiencing difficulties in evaluating vaccine efficacy for these diseases. The limitations in veterinary infrastructure in the country and a lack of harmonisation of disease control activities with neighbouring countries were impeding successful disease control in Bangladesh. As an example, he stated that, in 2010, thousands of cattle and small ruminants had died as a result of virulent viral diseases. The OIE should continue to encourage transparency in animal disease reporting.

231. The Delegate of Guatemala, speaking on behalf of the OIE Members of the Americas region, expressed his satisfaction that the OIE was striving to meet the needs of Members for recognition of official disease status. In his view, for official country status it was important to consider the diseases with a heavy impact on trade, which, for the Americas, would be poultry and pig diseases such as classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

232. The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, offered the continued technical assistance of the EU for the work of the Scientific Commission and its *ad hoc* Groups. He congratulated the Commission on the transparency in communicating its work programme. He mentioned that the EU would be in favour of extending the list of diseases for which there would be procedures for official disease status recognition, but only on condition that the OIE had sufficient staff to cope with the increased workload. The EU commended the Scientific Commission and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases for their policy-oriented work in the field of the wildlife–livestock interface and supported the continuation of these efforts.

233. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked the OIE for having conducted an OIE expert mission to assess China's application for CBPP free status in accordance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*.

[24] SADC: Southern African Development Community

234. The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, highlighted the importance of the work on the wildlife–livestock interface conducted by the Commission, assisted by the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. There was a need for a clear policy and a strategy regarding this interface, particularly on how to deal with the transmission of diseases between wild and domestic animals, for instance in the case of FMD, African swine fever, classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza, and in relation to disease control measures such as zoning.

235. The Director General of the OIE offered an explanation concerning the extension of the list of diseases included in the procedures for official disease status recognition. The Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE included a policy note that the OIE would only consider a limited extension of the list. Work to integrate classical swine fever and African horse sickness was ongoing, and highly pathogenic avian influenza might be discussed in the future. For any disease to be considered, the Scientific Commission would first have to formulate a scientific opinion on the scientific feasibility of its inclusion. In a second step, this opinion would be submitted to the OIE Delegates for their consideration and eventual approval.

236. The President of the Commission thanked the Delegates for their constructive comments. In reply to the comments of the Delegate of South Africa, he referred to the latest report of the Scientific Commission and the paragraph on the surveillance guidelines and surveillance model for the recognition of BSE risk status, which was now under study. Concerning the recognition of historical freedom from BSE, even if the concept were to be accepted, there would still be a need for actions concerning surveillance data. This issue was explained the previous year by the President of the Code Commission. Regarding the comments of Bangladesh, he referred to the presentation made by Dr Domenech under Technical Item II on the Global FMD Control Strategy. The President of the Commission stressed the need for regional approaches in FMD control programmes, as in an endemic area one country alone could not combat the disease successfully without regional collaboration. In response to the comments of the Delegate of Hungary, the President of the Commission clarified that the Scientific Commission and the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE were striving to maintain a good balance between geographical diversity and technical excellence when identifying experts participating in *ad hoc* Groups. Finally, he replied to the comments of the Delegate of Kenya that the President of the Code Commission would provide more detailed information in his presentations the following day.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

237. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption. The Delegate of the Philippines submitted minor editorial comments for the amendment of the Resolution. The resolution as amended was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Recognition of the Rinderpest Disease Status of Members and Non-Members

238. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 15 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Disease Status of Members

239. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

240. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Towards global control and eradication of foot and mouth disease

241. The President submitted revised Draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption, which had taken into account suggestions made by Members after the presentation of Technical Item II.

242. The Delegate of Argentina welcomed the inclusion of the word "eradication" in the preambular paragraphs of the revised draft resolution. He requested that the Working Group mentioned in point 3 under section 'DECIDES' involve experts from all five OIE regions. He further proposed that this point 3 under section 'DECIDES' be shifted to the beginning of this section as point 1. With this change Argentina supported adoption of the resolution. These proposals were accepted by the Assembly.

243. The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Commission for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), welcomed the revised draft resolution and the efforts made to accommodate his request, as well as that of Norway, to take a realistic approach and to mention even more clearly the future close cooperation between the OIE and FAO.

244. The Delegate of Brazil, speaking on behalf of 13 South American countries, supported inclusion of a clear reference to the collaboration between the OIE and FAO, and further requested that the development of regional plans be taken into account. The President of the OIE clarified that this request had already been taken into account.

245. The Delegate of Niger stated that the diversity of livestock systems was an important factor in Africa and should be taken into account in the resolution.

246. The Delegate of Colombia requested clarification on point 2 under section 'DECIDES' concerning 'the epidemiological and virological situation in the neighbouring areas', namely whether the Scientific Commission would take into account in its evaluation the epidemiological situation of the neighbouring countries.

247. The Director General clarified that different factors would have to be taken into consideration depending on whether neighbouring countries were infected or when they had gained freedom from the infection, for example border protection.

248. The Delegate of the United Kingdom expressed concern about the wording of point 3 under section 'DECIDES', namely on the support of experts, as competent authorities might not be able to guarantee their involvement in the Working Group activities.

249. The Director General proposed to add that these experts should possibly be selected from OIE Reference Laboratories. The Delegate of the United Kingdom agreed with this proposal.

250. The Representative of FAO indicated that limiting the origin of these experts to OIE Reference Laboratories might make the provision too restrictive and would exclude experts from the private sector, epidemiologists, economists, etc.

251. The Director General responded that the wording he had suggested was not intended to be restrictive and this proposal was withdrawn, with the agreement of the Delegate of the United Kingdom.

252. The Delegate of Uruguay, together with all previous speakers, supported adoption of the resolution, which, once adopted, would constitute a major step forward towards the global control and eradication of foot and mouth disease. The Delegate of Colombia observed that the proposed amendments had improved the understanding of the resolution. Her suggestion on point 2 of "DECIDES" was accepted.

253. The resolution was adopted unanimously, with amendments. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Amendment to Resolution No. XXIII of 28 May 2008 "Update on the cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or reinstatement of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*"

254. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption.

255. The Delegates of Argentina and Chile made editorial comments to streamline the title of the Resolution across the three languages, the English version still containing rinderpest in the title.

256. The Delegate of Japan thanked Dr Bruckner for the Commission's initiative for maintaining transparency and consistency in the OIE disease status recognition process, including missions to examine the situation in the countries concerned. The Delegate proposed to establish criteria to decide on cases where an expert mission should be dispatched. Transparency should also be ensured in the process of preparing and publishing the reports of these missions.

257. The Delegate of Sudan expressed his concern at the cost of expert missions to be covered by the visited country. He called for financial support from donors, such as FAO.

258. The Director General of OIE, in his reply to the Delegates of Japan and Sudan, stressed that the OIE, through its Scientific Commission, bears full responsibility for official disease status recognition. It was therefore the prerogative of the Scientific Commission and the Director General to decide on the deployment of such a mission, select the participating experts and identify the sites to be visited by the mission. Applicant countries for recognition of their disease status or national programme would need to pay travel and accommodation of experts. It was impossible to calculate in advance the annual cost of these missions for the OIE. He assured the Delegates that, for Members with limited financial resources, it would be possible to seek assistance from donors to cover the cost of missions.

259. The president of the Scientific Commission highlighted that it was crucial to differentiate between official recognition of FMD free status and the endorsement of official control programmes for FMD in infected countries.

260. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

261. The Assembly adopted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

262. **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Dr Alejandro Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) had held its tenth meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 2 to 4 November 2010. He noted that the full report, including the work programme for 2011, was appended to the report of the February 2011 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to all OIE Delegates and had been published on the OIE website.

263. Dr Thiermann briefly mentioned the key points raised at the APFSWG meeting. The APFSWG requested that the OIE undertake a review of the scientific literature on the control of *Salmonella* spp. in food-producing animals other than poultry and verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) in food-producing animals with the purpose of reducing foodborne illness. The APFSWG developed terms of reference for this work and would examine the review at its 2011 meeting and make proposals on the need for and feasibility of developing OIE standards for these pathogens.

The APFSWG welcomed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic Parasitic Diseases and supported the new draft chapters and the work direction. The chapter on *Trichinella* infection complemented the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) and was an example of how the OIE was taking the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission into account.

The APFSWG proposed to work in collaboration with the Working Group on Animal Welfare (AWWG) to draft terms of reference for a literature review on the scientific evidence for relationships that may exist between the welfare of food-producing animals and food safety. The APFSWG requested that the OIE arrange for this work to be undertaken prior to its next meeting in 2011. The APFSWG together with the AWWG would review the outcome of the literature review and propose the next steps for the OIE.

264. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Animal Production Food Safety

265. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

266. **Working Group on Animal Welfare**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Welfare (AWWG) had held its ninth meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 23 to 25 June 2010. He noted that the full report, including the work programme for 2011, was appended to the report of the February 2011 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to all OIE Delegates and had been published on the OIE website.

Dr Thiermann referred briefly to the following key points raised and discussed at the ninth AWWG meeting:

- A successful joint meeting was held between the AWWG and representatives of the OIE Collaborating Centres in Italy, Chile/Uruguay and New Zealand/Australia.

- It was agreed to encourage interaction between the AWWG and the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases via an initial exchange of meeting reports.

- A Guidance note for *ad hoc* Groups on the development of animal welfare standards, especially for animal production systems, was developed emphasising the importance of using outcome-based or animal-based criteria where possible, but also discussing situations where input-based criteria can be used.

- Planning for a Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, to be held in the last quarter of 2012 in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region, would commence in mid-2011.

- Support was expressed for the proposed development of standards for working animals in collaboration with relevant animal welfare NGOs[25] and the FAO.

- It was agreed to commence discussion about disaster relief and management of animal welfare in conjunction with relevant animal welfare NGOs.

- To assist with the development of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS), it was agreed to review "lessons learnt" from the development of the RAWS for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region and make this information available to other OIE Regions.

267. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Animal Welfare

268. The Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo commented, with respect to point 3 of the Recommendations, that OIE Members should be encouraged to nominate animal welfare Focal Points as soon as possible. The Director General of the OIE supported this intervention.

269. The Delegate of Brazil observed that, in the Spanish copy of the Resolution, point 11 of the Recommendations did not reflect the evolving nature of this important work. The President recommended that the Spanish copy of the Resolution should be modified accordingly.

[25] NGOs: non-governmental organisations

270. The Delegate of Germany noted that there were joint activities between the OIE and FAO to support the implementation of animal welfare standards in countries. She proposed to make reference to this joint work, in point 5 of the recommendations, which made reference to the Veterinary Services. The Director General replied that the OIE had an official agreement with FAO, as already mentioned by the FAO representative at this General Session, and that the respective activities of the two organisations were presented in a charter to the Agreement. Animal welfare was not mentioned in this charter. FAO's decision to work in the field of animal welfare had not been agreed with the OIE, but FAO would be invited by the Council to discuss the matter on a formal basis. The President agreed with the Director General that the reference proposed by the Delegate of Germany should not be included before the two organisations had formally discussed the matter.

271. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 22, modified as described above, for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

272. Dr Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE Headquarters from 6 to 17 September 2010. The Commission had met again from 1 to 11 February 2011 to examine reports of *ad hoc* Group meetings, as well as Member comments on the report of its September meeting and to identify issues which should be presented at the General Session. The items and comments on texts that were not being submitted for adoption at this General Session and that could not be dealt with during the February meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2011, together with any new Member comments on the report of the February 2011 meeting as well as those received at this General Session.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Commission (Drs E. Bonbon and J. Caetano and Profs S.C. MacDiarmid and A.M. Hassan) for their expertise and dedication and commitment during the entire year. He lamented the absence of Dr S.K. Hargreaves for health reasons from this year's Code Commission meetings. He also thanked Dr Kahn and her staff at the OIE Headquarters for their hard and continuous work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

Dr Thiermann considered that it had been a very productive year for the OIE, with 45 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption. Dr Thiermann appreciated Members for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage further participation from Members, especially from developing countries.

Dr Thiermann noted that several Members had commented on errors in and discrepancies between the Spanish and English texts of the *Terrestrial Code* and the report of the Code Commission meeting. He advised Members that a special translator had recently been recruited with the financial support of Spain to examine in depth all Spanish texts for accuracy and develop a glossary of terms used in the *Terrestrial Code*. He assured Delegates that the OIE would make continuous efforts to resolve these linguistic issues and to expedite the distribution of the French and Spanish versions of the Code Commission reports. However, he also brought to the attention of Delegates that, thanks to the great efforts and commitment of the International Trade Department staff, the OIE was able to distribute the informal English text of the February 2011 report, as well as the Spanish and French versions, in less than two months, a record time.

Dr Thiermann also thanked Members for respecting the OIE convention regarding the submission of comments, i.e. suggested modifications shown as <u>double underline</u> and ~~strike through~~ and the provision of a scientific justification for the proposal. He reminded

Delegates that if comments were resubmitted without modification or new justification the Code Commission would not, as a rule, repeat previous opinion. Dr Thiermann encouraged Members to refer to the explanations provided in previous reports in formulating their comments.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. Since February 2010, the report and all annexes of the Commission had been posted on the OIE Delegates' website as Microsoft Word documents to facilitate the process of providing comments. He also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, as annexes to the report, on the OIE public website. This would continue to provide an opportunity for other organisations and the general public to be aware of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and for them to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann advised that the Delegate bags contain CD-ROMs with the complete report of the September 2010 and February 2011 meetings of the Code Commission, including annexes with Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports. The folder distributed at the General Session contained only the Introductory Part and Part A (containing texts for adoption) of the February 2011 report of the Code Commission, due to the volume of material.

Dr Thiermann noted that several Members had pointed out that they had had difficulty in finding scientific rationale or background justification for certain revisions. He reminded Members that, when reviewing proposed *Terrestrial Code* revisions, they should also consult the reports, including annexes, of other OIE Specialist Commissions as in some cases the basis for the revision was found in these reports.

Dr Thiermann highlighted the progress made in coordinating the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions. He reminded Members that comments on the proposed revisions to the chapters on Veterinary legislation (3.3.), Antimicrobial resistance (6.7. and 6.8.), and Zoonotic parasitic diseases (8.4. and 8.13.) should be submitted by the end of May 2011 due to the timing of relevant meetings. Unless otherwise indicated, detailed comments should be submitted by mid-August each year for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting and by the beginning of January for the February meeting. The Code Commission could not review comments submitted by Members just before the General Session. He reminded Members that the Code Commission would not examine any comments submitted after the Commission's February meeting, including just prior to the General Session. Any comment from Members received after the February meeting would have to be brought up by Members during the discussion and adoption process at the General Session, or otherwise would be considered by the Code Commission at its September meeting.

273. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the Assembly that any modification to the text of the *Terrestrial Code* would be detailed in a Resolution submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

274. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption.

275. **Glossary**

Dr Thiermann noted that the definition of 'antimicrobial agent' was revised to clarify the text.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had transferred to the Glossary the definition of the term 'euthanasia' from Chapter 7.8. (Use of animals in research and education), because it was also used in Chapter 7.7. (Control of stray dog populations) and indicated that it had been deleted from Chapters 7.7. and 7.8.

Dr Thiermann noted that, though the Code Commission had proposed a new definition of 'wildlife' in its September meeting in accordance with the recommendation of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, this definition was removed in February after reviewing Member comments calling for the categories (e.g. feral animal, captive wild animal) to be specified whenever wild animals were mentioned in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Thiermann added that following Members' recommendations, the definitions of 'captive wild animal' and 'feral animal' had been modified for clarity.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised Glossary to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work and supported adoption of this text.

The Delegate of Japan thanked the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for their work in defining wild and feral animals. With respect to equine viral arteritis, classical swine fever and Aujezsky's disease, the Delegate asked the Code Commission to provide a rationale for the modifications proposed to the three chapters on these diseases. Dr Thiermann explained that once the definitions were adopted, the Code Commission would undertake a review of all relevant chapters and replace existing terms where appropriate.

The Delegate of Mali, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, thanked the Commission for its excellent work, including the fact that the Commission had taken into account the comments from African Delegates on the definition of euthanasia. He commented that African countries did not support the deletion of the definition of wildlife.

In response, Dr Thiermann proposed that, rather than deleting the definition of wildlife, it would be amended by deleting the words "any combination of".

The Delegates of Hungary and Mali supported Dr Thiermann's proposal.

The revised amended chapter (Glossary) was adopted unanimously.

276. **Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that, in response to Members' comments, the Code Commission had proposed to modify Article 1.1.3., on immediate notification, making reference to the relevant provisions in the specific disease chapters, as presented in the September report. He added that further amendments to Articles 1.1.1. and 1.1.3. had been proposed in February to improve clarity and to heighten awareness of the importance of using WAHIS for reporting.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

277. **Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed the amendments to Article 1.2.1. that had been proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents, which had met from 29 June to 1 July 2010. In a joint meeting with Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, the Code Commission had made modifications to the text proposed by the *ad hoc* Group, with the exception of the decision tree, which would be modified only after the proposed new text had been adopted. Dr Thiermann indicated that, as stated in the February report, the modified Article 1.2.1. had been circulated only once for Member comments and thus only Article 1.2.3. was being proposed for adoption.

Dr Thiermann mentioned that, in response to Member comments, the Code Commission agreed that no new diseases (including chronic wasting disease) should be considered for listing until such time as the revised listing criteria had been adopted. However, the decision to delist diseases, where there was general support among Members for their delisting, should not be delayed.

Dr Thiermann noted that the proposed deletion of chapters at the September meeting had been largely supported by Members and therefore presented the following chapters for deletion:

Chapter 10.6. Avian tuberculosis
Chapter 10.7. Duck virus enteritis
Chapter 10.9. Fowl cholera
Chapter 10.12. Marek's disease
Chapter 15.5. Teschovirus encephalomyelitis

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia thanked the Code Commission for the high standard of its work and supported the proposed amendment to the chapter. He stated that Australia would provide detailed comments to the Commission and encouraged the Commission to include introductory text on the objectives of listing animal diseases, and indicated that this should be aligned with the objectives of the *Terrestrial Code* as set out in the foreword, which referred to assuring the safety of international trade.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, requested that the OIE verify whether swine vesicular disease still met the criteria for disease listing.

The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the proposal. He congratulated the OIE on the decision to retain information on delisted diseases in the *Terrestrial Manual*. He also requested that the list of diseases be reviewed once the criteria had been adopted.

The Delegate of Japan appreciated the work of the Commission in revising criteria for disease listing and supported the decision not to consider new diseases for listing until the new listing criteria had been adopted. However, the Delegate considered that the same reasoning should apply to delisting diseases and therefore opposed adoption of the proposal.

With respect to the comments of the Delegate of Japan, Dr Thiermann noted that the proposal to delist diseases had been based on the existing criteria, that the proposal had already been circulated to Delegates in September and that no comment had been submitted in February 2011.

The Delegate of Niger supported the comment of the Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire, and mentioned that, in the French version of the report, equine rhinopneumonitis virus was mentioned twice in Point 4 of Article 1.2.3.

Dr Thiermann agreed that an introductory text to the chapter would be beneficial and that the Commission would address this issue. He noted that swine vesicular disease was not proposed for deletion. Dr Thiermann agreed with the comments of the Delegate of Hungary with respect to retaining chapters on delisted diseases in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

278. **Quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapters 3.1. and 3.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had agreed to Members' recommendations to include the words 'or animal welfare' in Article 3.1.1. He noted that a Member's concern about the inclusion of animal welfare in the responsibilities of Veterinary Services was not supported by the Code Commission, given that, since 2005, the Assembly had adopted seven animal welfare standards for the *Terrestrial Code* and that in most countries the Veterinary Authority was the main governmental authority responsible for implementation of these standards.

In regard to the recommendation to add a definition of 'veterinary regulations' in Article 3.1.1., Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had decided to include a definition in the Glossary of the term 'veterinary legislation' and delete the words "and regulation" from the text in Article 3.1.1.

Dr Thiermann reported that, in view of the general support of Members for the work of the OIE in strengthening the quality of Veterinary Services, including through the development of recommendations on the minimum competencies of day 1 graduate veterinarians, the Code Commission had proposed to include new text in Article 3.2.14., sub-point 2 a (vi) as follows: "curriculum addressing the minimum competencies of day 1 veterinary graduates to assure the delivery of quality Veterinary Services, as described by the OIE".

Dr Thiermann also noted that the minimum competencies of day 1 veterinary graduates had been received positively by participants at the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education (held in Lyons, France on 13–15 May) and that the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education and the Code Commission would continue to review those competencies and other recommendations.

Regarding a new chapter on veterinary legislation which was circulated for Member comments in September 2010, Dr Thiermann explained that, due to the fact that the text required additional editing, the Code Commission considered that it was not yet ready for adoption. While recognising that an *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation would be convened in July 2011, he strongly encouraged Members to provide additional comments, for consideration by the *ad hoc* Group. The Code Commission may propose a revised text on veterinary legislation for adoption in 2012.

Dr Thiermann presented revised Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. for adoption.

The Delegate of Bangladesh requested that similar work be considered in aquatic animals. Dr Thiermann responded that similar work would be undertaken in the relevant chapter in the *Aquatic Code* under the leadership of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

The Delegate of Colombia requested information on how the OIE had developed its recommendations on the competencies of veterinarians. For example, had the education of professions other than the veterinary profession been considered? Dr Thiermann replied that the work of the OIE was on the competencies required for veterinarians to work effectively in national Veterinary Services. The Director General of the OIE clarified that the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education had defined three levels of competency, the first being for all 'day 1' graduates, the second mainly for public sector veterinarians and the third covering advanced competencies eligible for a specialisation. The Delegate of Colombia clarified that her question related to the definition of professionals other than veterinarians working in national Veterinary Services. The President commented that in a holistic world, characterised by interdisciplinary teams, different professions interact. However, the work of the OIE at this time is focused on the education of veterinarians.

The Delegate of Norway supported Chapter 3.2. but recommended that more information on animal welfare be included in this chapter. She suggested that animal welfare be the subject of a specific article in this chapter. Such an article would assist evaluators when using the PVS Tool.

Dr Thiermann replied that the *ad hoc* Group could be asked to look at this suggestion, including the elaboration of more specific competencies on animal welfare.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported the proposed changes to Chapter 3.2., including the concept of 'day 1' competencies; however, he had some concerns. He noted that the United States of America would provide comments to the Code Commission according to the deadline set. In relation to aquatic animals, he requested that the issue of competence of aquatic animal professionals working with aquatic animals not be delayed until this chapter is finalised, but rather be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Canada supported the extensive work undertaken by the OIE on veterinary education. He supported the comment of the Delegate of the United States of America with respect to not deferring the work on aquatic animal health professionals.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the OIE approach to veterinary education, but had a comment for consideration before supporting adoption. He requested deletion of the words "as described by the OIE" in the article referring to minimum competencies of day 1 veterinary graduates. The Director General suggested that this phrase be replaced by "as proposed by the OIE". The Delegate of Austria did not support this proposal.

The Delegate of Canada noted that it may be better to await a resolution regarding the proposed competencies of veterinarians, to be provided at the end of the week before adopting the proposed text.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom supported the intervention of the Delegate of Austria. He considered that it would be premature to adopt the proposed wording at this stage. He requested clarification of the status of the various documents under discussion, including their status as standards or guidelines. To address the points raised by the Delegates of Austria and the United Kingdom, the President proposed to include the phrase "to be described in future *Terrestrial Code* chapters". The Delegate of Austria did not support this proposal.

The Delegate of Brazil commended the Code Commission on its excellent work and suggested alternative wording on the text under discussion.

The Delegate of France sought to progress the subject by adding a footnote to the *Terrestrial Code*. However, Dr Thiermann pointed out that this solution was not technically feasible, as footnotes were not used in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The proposal of the President, to replace the phrase in contention with the phrase "as described in the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*", was accepted by the Delegate of Austria.

The Delegate of Gabon, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, recommended that more details be provided on the minimal competencies of other professionals, such as aquatic animal health professionals. He also made a recommendation regarding the French translation, recommending the consistent use of the term '*enseignement vétérinaire*'. He called for the inclusion of more information on veterinary education in the OIE PVS Tool.

The Delegate of the People's Republic of China, taking account of the importance of continuous veterinary education, requested the addition of text to this effect in the document on the day 1 competencies of veterinarians. Dr Thiermann indicated that this was part of ongoing work.

Chapter 3.1. was adopted unanimously.

Chapter 3.2., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

279. **New chapter on communication (Chapter 3.4.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on Communication, which had met from 30 June to 2 July 2010, and had proposed a new draft chapter on communication.

Dr Thiermann presented the new chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, generally supported adoption but wished to remind the OIE of the comments previously submitted, including on the topic of crisis management. The Delegate also reminded the Commission of the need for clarity in respect of the implications of this chapter for trade. As there was no urgency to adopt the new chapter, he recommended that adoption be considered in 2012.

Dr Thiermann advised that the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, while including the facilitation of safe trade, was broader, as mentioned in the revised foreword to the *Terrestrial Code*, on which some Members had already submitted comments. He proposed the following modifications to the new chapter. In the first paragraph on 'General Considerations', the phrase "target audiences" should be replaced with "target groups".

In Article 3.4.4. paragraph 4, which deals with the management of communication systems, notably the roles and responsibilities of the communications unit, Dr Thiermann suggested to replace the word "unit" by "personnel".

The Director General of the OIE, replying to the comment of the Delegate of Austria concerning the implications of *Terrestrial Code* texts for international trade, agreed on the need for clarity regarding trade standards and more horizontal texts, which are of more general relevance and application for all countries. Dr Vallat noted that this was an issue of substance and should be discussed at the next General Session, as the impact of the *Codes* and *Manuals* went far beyond animal health in world trade. The measures described in the *Codes* and *Manuals* would result in an improvement in global animal health, including the safety of food trade.

Based on this explanation, the Delegate of Hungary supported adoption of the chapter.

The revised amended Chapter 3.4. was adopted unanimously.

280. **Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability (Chapter 4.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported on minor modifications that had been made to the chapter in response to Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

281. **Zoning and compartmentalisation (Chapters 4.3. 4.4. and 5.3.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed Member comments and comments from the Scientific Commission on references to susceptible wildlife species, as well as on the implementation of a containment zone, and made appropriate changes to the texts. Modifications were also made in Articles 4.4.7. and 5.3.7. to improve clarity on notification obligations in cases where the status of a compartment had to be revoked.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised chapters for adoption.

The Delegate of Algeria noted that the second paragraph of Article 4.3.2. was different in the French and English texts. Dr Thiermann proposed to change the second "and" to "as well as" in the English version, and to revise for consistency between the French and the English texts.

The Delegate of the People's Republic of China noted that the term 'wildlife' was used in this chapter although it had been deleted from the Glossary. He urged caution in the use of the term throughout the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann appreciated the comment of the Delegate of the People's Republic of China, noted the definition of wildlife that had been adopted, and agreed that the use of the term 'wildlife' throughout the *Terrestrial Code* would be reviewed in the year to come.

Dr Thiermann noted that, because of the modification of the chapter on compartmentalisation, the Commission had seen a need to modify the text in Article 5.3.7.

The Delegate of Chile asked whether the modifications made in Chapter 5.3. should also be reflected in the articles dealing with zoning. He also took the opportunity to inform the Assembly of Chile's current activity on the implementation of compartmentalisation in swine production.

The Delegate of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, requested clarification on the need to report an outbreak of disease when it occurred outside a compartment, as opposed to when it occurred within a compartment. Dr Thiermann agreed that this needed to be clearly understood in the context of agreements between trading partners and that the Code Commission would address this comment at its September 2011 meeting.

The chapters, amended as above, were adopted unanimously.

282. **Semen and embryos (Chapters 4.5., 4.6., and 4.7.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had revised these chapters taking Member comments into consideration and harmonising the auditing recommendations on semen collection with those on embryos. The audit interval in Article 4.5.2. point 8, was changed from 6 months to 12 months on the basis that an annual audit would provide a suitable level of oversight and would be consistent with the 'at least once a year' audits for embryo collection teams.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had removed references to teschovirus encephalomyelitis in Chapter 4.6. in line with the proposed delisting from Article 1.2.3. Dr Thiermann noted that, based on a Member's comments, several articles on bluetongue had been revised to bring them into line with the chapter on bluetongue.

He explained the revision of Article 4.6.3.2. (b) in light of the fact that ram semen was not, typically, tested before rams enter a semen collection centre and especially not in a pre-entry isolation facility.

Finally, Dr Thiermann reported that, following International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) recommendations, the Code Commission had added a reference to equine coital exanthema virus as a pathogen in category 4 in the text of Article 4.7.14.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapters for adoption.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the proposed Chapter 4.7. but, commenting on the list of diseases contained in Article 4.7.14., indicated that some of the diseases were not OIE listed diseases. He recommended that these non-listed diseases be presented in a separate article from that containing OIE listed diseases. On this point, Dr Thiermann proposed to delete the reference to equine coital exanthema (EVH-3) at this time, on the basis that the Commission would discuss the merits of including non OIE listed diseases at the recommendation of the IETS and present recommendations to Members at the next General Assembly in light of these discussions.

The Delegate of Spain also commented on the use of the terminology on horses/equids in the Spanish translation of the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Thiermann replied that this terminology would be reviewed throughout the *Terrestrial Code*.

Chapters 4.4. and 4.6. were adopted unanimously.

The proposal for adoption of the revised Chapter 4.7. was withdrawn.

283. **Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported on amendments made in response to Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, commented on the use of the term 'wildlife' and urged the retention of a definition of this term in the Glossary.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

284. **Quarantine measures applicable to non-human primates (Chapters 5.9. and 5.10.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had endorsed text modifications proposed by the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and supported by the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapters for adoption.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

285. **Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed (Chapter 6.3.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed the chapter, taking Member comments into account, and had made minor modifications to the chapter, including changes to the definition of contamination.

Dr Thiermann also mentioned that, due to lack of progress in the drafting of the chapter on pet food, the Code Commission had decided to withdraw the draft until there was clear indication of progress.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

286. **Biosecurity procedures in poultry production (Chapter 6.4.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed Member's comments on the draft text proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which had met in May 2010. He recalled that the purpose of this chapter was to provide general guidance to Members wishing to improve biosecurity in poultry establishments with the goal of improving poultry health and productivity.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, commented that the chapter did not specifically apply to international trade. However, adoption of the chapter would make it binding on international trade. He also considered that the chapter contained too much detail and encouraged the Commission to reduce the text to include only the key elements of biosecurity.

Dr Thiermann replied that standards, guidelines and recommendations, once adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates, all have the same weight under the WTO SPS Agreement. He stated that the chapter has been considered previously by Delegates and comments made previously had been adopted. The President noted that the introduction to the chapter stated that the chapter was not specifically related to trade. He proposed to postpone adoption of the chapter.

The Delegate of Bangladesh recommended the addition of a text defining 'biosecurity' for the purposes of this chapter. Dr Thiermann replied that the purpose of the chapter was to define procedures applicable to poultry production to reduce disease risk.

The President considered that the proposed new text in the introduction (Article 6.4.1.) should not be adopted, pending further discussion of the applicability of the chapter, and other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, to international trade.

The Delegate of Norway supported inclusion of the proposed new text in Article 6.4.1. and pointed out that this could be done in advance of future discussion.

Dr Vallat proposed to place the first sentence of Article 6.4.1. under study.

This proposal was supported by the Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, and by the other Delegates.

The chapter, modified as described, was adopted unanimously.

287. **Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry (Chapter 6.5.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that some amendments had been made in response to Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, commented on Article 6.5.6. paragraph 3, regarding the use of the term 'litter'. He proposed to add the words 'as such' to the phrase 'litter should not be reused' in the beginning. He also recommended closer alignment of the French and English versions of this text, noting that paragraph 3 had been removed from the French version.

The Delegate of The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, drew attention to Article 6.5.5., stating that 'antimicrobials' should be replaced by 'antimicrobial agents' and that, in point 3 of the same article, the terms bactericidal/bacteriostatic excluded the use of antimicrobial agents in feed.

Dr Thiermann agreed to the proposals of the Delegate of Nigeria and to the first proposal of the Delegate of The Netherlands. He proposed to consider the second proposal of the Delegate of The Netherlands at the September 2011 meeting of the Code Commission, to ensure that relevant modifications would be made throughout the chapter, as appropriate.

The chapter, amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

288. **Animal welfare (Chapters 7.3. to 7.8. and new chapter on Broiler chicken production systems)**

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission had continued to work on adopted Chapters 7.3. to 7.8., with advice from the Working Group on Animal Welfare (AWWG) and *ad hoc* Groups, in order to incorporate further details, particularly on poultry recommendations.

Dr Thiermann presented modified Chapters 7.3. to 7.8. for adoption.

The Delegate of Japan made a general comment on the OIE animal welfare standards, thanking the Working Group on Animal Welfare for its good work, notably the production of a guidance document and the discussion paper developed in 2006. He also noted the concern of Japan about the use of quantitative measures, which should only be used with clear scientific justification.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, generally supported adoption of the chapters, but proposed a modification to the last sentence of point 6e of Article 7.3.5., by deleting the words "under tropical and subtropical conditions", based on the fact that poultry should be given relief from high temperatures in all countries, not only those in tropical and subtropical zones.

The Delegate of Canada supported the amendment proposed by the Delegate of the United Kingdom and advised that Canada had provided additional comments for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of France commented that the text mentioned by the Delegate of the United Kingdom, in relation to Article 7.3.5. point 6e, was lacking in the French version of the Code Commission report.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented that the request for deletion of the text in point 6e related to text that had already been adopted and asked that OIE Members be given an opportunity to consider the requested amendment.

On the basis of a vote, the proposal put forward by the Delegate of the United Kingdom and supported by the Delegate of Canada, was accepted by the Assembly. The President proposed to place the text in Article 7.3.5. point 6e under study, for further consideration in 2012.

The Delegate of Thailand commented on Chapter 7.5., noting that in his country the equipment used for stunning did not comply with the provisions in this chapter on water bath stunning equipment, notably the requirement for water baths to be fitted with a device for recording electrical parameters. The Delegate considered that the table showing minimum electrical parameters for stunning chickens was not consistent with Islamic slaughtering requirements and that these parameters could also have harmful effects on meat quality. The Delegate requested that the OIE review these matters. The effectiveness of stunning should be the focus of these recommendations.

The President noted that these provisions related to text that had already been adopted and agreed that the Code Commission should examine the points raised by the Delegate of Thailand at its September 2011 meeting.

Regarding Chapter 7.7., the Delegate of Gambia, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, recommended modifying the definition of "feral dog", by removing "for successful reproduction" in Article 7.7.2. paragraph 3. Moreover, in the French version of the text, the word "*naturel*" should be replaced by the word "*sauvage*".

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, recommended modifying Article 7.8.4., point 1c., by adding the words "and maximum" after the word "minimum" in the text. In response, Dr Thiermann proposed to remove the word "minimum" from the sentence. The Delegate of the United Kingdom agreed to this proposal.

On Article 7.8.7., the Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, also requested that the OIE strengthen its policy on the long-term goal of reducing or eliminating the use of wild caught nonhuman primates, on the understanding that this practice should be strongly discouraged, by replacing the word "generally" with "strongly" in the first paragraph of point 1 of Article 7.8.7.

Chapter 7.3., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

Chapters 7.4., 7.5. and 7.6. were adopted unanimously.

Chapter 7.7., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

Chapter 7.8., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

New chapter on Broiler chicken production systems (Chapter 7.X.)

Dr Thiermann noted with appreciation the extensive work of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems and the OIE AWWG in addressing extensive Member comments on the draft text. Dr Thiermann noted that, in response to

comments of Members and animal welfare organisations, the Code Commission had made a number of amendments to the text. He noted that, once the Chapter on Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems was adopted, it could be a useful reference for the drafting of additional chapters on animal welfare and animal production systems.

The Delegate of Costa Rica, commenting on behalf of the Member Countries of the PVC[26], the Andean community and OIRSA[27], thanked the OIE for its work on animal welfare and the inclusion of animal welfare in the OIE's Fifth Strategic Plan. She raised a concern of developing countries that animal welfare could become a barrier to trade. She also noted the need for balance between animal health and welfare provisions. For broiler chicken production systems, the Delegate made several comments about the measures included in the draft chapter, noting that no scientific justification had been given and that these measures could become barriers to trade. There was no advice about tolerances for the measures, nor were there means to assess the effective application of measures. She noted that the Working Group on Animal Welfare had given priority to the period from the arrival of 1-day-old chickens to harvest and that the standards for transport were not covered in the proposed new chapter but were covered elsewhere. The Delegate of Costa Rica did not support adoption of the draft chapter and considered that OIE Members should have the opportunity to consider the points raised in her intervention.

The Delegate of Lesotho, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, supported by the Delegate of Burkina Faso, recommended that the definition of backyard chicken in Article 7.X.1. be reconsidered. She stated that in West African countries backyard chickens were raised under biosecurity and could be traded between countries. The differences between intensive and semi-intensive production systems should also be reconsidered. The Delegate considered that the entire chapter was too detailed and that OIE Members could not adopt it. She recommended that the draft text be returned to the *ad hoc* Group for more work.

The Delegate of the People's Republic of China supported adoption of the chapter, because this could help to improve animal welfare and meat quality, and noted that the People's Republic of China supported the principle of animal-based criteria. He considered that the approach taken would make it feasible for Members to implement the standard.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, acknowledged the work achieved but did not support adoption. The Delegate recommended that more general guidance on how to implement outcome-based measures and specific benchmarks be provided. Given the focus on commercial production systems, crates and slatted flooring should not be recommended on animal welfare grounds.

The Delegate of Guatemala, speaking on behalf of the OIE Members of Central America, agreed with the recommendations of African and EU Members that the chapter should be withdrawn from consideration for adoption and be studied further by the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

The President of the Commission encouraged Members to provide guidance to the OIE as there were clearly two different visions regarding this chapter, with some Members requesting the inclusion of only provisions concerning animals, while others were requesting more detailed and specific recommendations on the means to be used.

---

26 PVC: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone Countries

27 OIRSA: International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health

The Delegate of the United States of America considered that the chapter should be outcome focused, based on the best science available, and not too prescriptive, recognising the variety of production systems worldwide.

The Delegate of Costa Rica proposed that the document of CISA[28] (2008–2009) be taken into account as the countries of the region supported the approach taken in this document. The Delegate also supported the intervention of the United States of America.

The Delegate of Cuba considered that Dr Thiermann was clear in his analysis of the situation, notably recognising the significant differences between the comments made by Members. He also considered that it was in any case important to retain flexibility to provide the best opportunity for implementation by Members, so that the proposals in the new chapter being developed would be balanced and could be implemented by all countries, for the current proposal did not seem to him acceptable.

Dr Thiermann reiterated that, to develop a chapter acceptable to all Members, a common approach would need to be agreed, taking into account the wide range of production systems throughout the world. He proposed to define broiler production more clearly, to clarify which production systems, among those used globally, were the subject of the new chapter and which were not. He suggested that one way forward might be to take a similar approach to that taken in Chapter 7.5., where different methods were listed, with their relevant advantages and disadvantages.

The President withdrew the proposal for adoption of the new chapter 7.X. and asked OIE Members to provide clear guidance to the Code Commission to facilitate the provision of acceptable responses to their concerns.

289. **Anthrax (Chapters 4.13. and 8.1.)**

Dr Thiermann reported to the Assembly that the Code Commission had reviewed Member comments and made modifications to several articles. He also explained that following a request by a Member, the Code Commission had reviewed and updated Chapter 4.13. and transferred the articles on anthrax disinfection procedures from Chapter 8.1. to a new article at the end of Chapter 4.13.

The Delegate of Bangladesh commented on Article 8.1.5., stating that carcases should not be opened in the case of anthrax infection, nor should they be subjected to post-mortem inspection. He also sought clarification on Article 8.1.7. regarding the risks of transfer of anthrax via meat and milk. The Delegate stated that animals suffering from anthrax should not be milked.

Dr Thiermann agreed with the points made by the Delegate of Bangladesh and noted that these texts had already been adopted and that no modifications were needed.

The Delegate of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, noted that anthrax remained an important disease of livestock as well as wildlife in Africa and stated that Africa wished to thank the Code Commission for having agreed to accept its comments made during the 78th General Session; the proposed changes were thus supported in their entirety.

Dr Thiermann presented these amended chapters for adoption.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

---

28 CISA: Inter-American Committee on Avian Health

290. **Aujeszky's disease (Chapter 8.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that Article 8.2.1. had been modified for consistency with the structure of other chapters (e.g. classical swine fever) and to better define the disease, the populations concerned and the determination of status.

Dr Thiermann noted, that in response to Member comments, the text of articles relating to disease surveillance had been modified to be less prescriptive in terms of the recommendations on surveillance. He explained that the national Veterinary Services were the best placed to evaluate the radius of the surveillance zone based on national epidemiological factors.

Dr Thiermann commented that the revisions discussed earlier in relation to the use of terminology relating to wildlife would be carefully reviewed in this chapter and in other parts of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented on a request made by his country in 2010 to provide for the use of vaccination using modern and well established DIVA techniques. As such techniques had been accepted in the chapter on classical swine fever (CSF), the United States of America requested that the Code Commission consider this request in relation to Aujeszky's disease.

The Delegate of Mexico expressed support for the comment of the Delegate of the United States of America, requesting that the chapter be more closely aligned with the CSF chapter.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported clear and precise use of terminology relating to wildlife.

The Delegate of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, called for consistent text on wildlife throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, notably to avoid trade-disrupting effects of disease in wildlife.

Dr Thiermann replied to the comments made, stating that the Code Commission was awaiting advice from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission to make provision for the use of vaccine in the prevention of Aujeszky's disease. He agreed with the comments of the Delegate of Germany and those of the Delegate of Ghana, and noted that, in the latter case, the President of the Scientific Commission had already noted that concerns associated with the role of wildlife in disease epidemiology would be addressed in the development of an OIE global policy on wildlife.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

291. **Bluetongue (Chapter 8.3.)**

Dr Thiermann indicated that, as a result of discussions with the Scientific Commission, the proposed amendment to Article 8.3.3. point 3 c) and Article 8.3.8. point 6 proposed during the September 2010 meeting had been withdrawn, thus reverting to the 2010 version of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had included an explanation of the expression 'vector protected' in Article 8.3.15. and proposed to replace the expression 'vector proof' throughout Chapter 8.3., as had been done for Chapter 12.1. (African horse sickness).

Dr Thiermann noted that a Member had repeatedly asserted that not all *Culicoides* species were competent vectors. However, to date, it had not been possible for the Code Commission to determine whether this was applicable to all situations. Dr Thiermann encouraged the Member to provide the Scientific Commission with a supporting document for further evaluation.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the chapter but expressed reservations about Article 8.3.8., stating that the evaluation of data should be based on evidence of the effectiveness of these measures. Premises considered to provide protection against attack by vectors should be approved by the Competent Authority.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe, commenting on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, supported the adoption of the whole chapter.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

292. **Foot and mouth disease (Chapters 8.5. and 1.6.)**

Chapter 8.5.

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had proposed to include in the *Terrestrial Code* the concept of an OIE-endorsed official control programme for FMD. After having discussed with the Scientific Commission the content and placement of this concept within the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission decided to place the new article with the articles on FMD surveillance, based on the strictly voluntary nature of this undertaking and the substantial number of Members' comments.

Dr Thiermann noted the proposal of a Member to redraft Chapter 8.5. with the objective of improving clarity (simplifying the structure of the chapter, correcting the English grammar and simplifying the writing style). However, he considered that the OIE should wait for the adoption of the important new text on the official control programme for FMD before asking the Scientific and Code Commissions to undertake this large editorial exercise. The Code Commission decided to revert to the 2010 text for Articles 8.5.22., 8.5.23. and 8.5.24., and consider this request when the Scientific Commission reviewed the scientific provisions of Chapter 8.5.

Dr Thiermann noted that Article 8.5.41. had been amended based on a consensus with the Scientific Commission and on input from the International Scientific Working Group of the International Natural Sausage Casings Association (INSCA).

Chapter 1.6.

Dr Thiermann explained that, due to the voluntary nature of the OIE endorsement of the official control programme and the need to refer to this activity among the procedures for self declaration and for official recognition, the Code Commission had modified Chapter 1.6. It had added new Articles 1.6.1.bis and 1.6.5.bis, modified Article 1.6.3. and changed the chapter title in order to address Members' concerns.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified Chapter 8.5. and the portion of Chapter 1.6. relating to FMD for adoption.

The Delegate of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas, stressed the importance of including references to wildlife species of significant importance. Dr Thiermann noted the comment but emphasised the need to review such questions chapter by chapter with the input of experts and the Scientific Commission.

The Delegate of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, made several comments, including the need for corrections to achieve consistency between the English and French versions of the text in the second paragraph of Article 8.5.1. concerning the exception of dromedaries; in Article. 8.5.47.bis point 1, proposing to amend the second sentence to read "such as report of PVS analysis" rather than "evidence can be provided by countries following the PVS Pathway"; proposing to replace "territory" in Point 4 of Article 8.5.47.bis with "country"; and proposing to replace "dossier" with "documentation".

The Delegate of the United States of America asked Dr Thiermann to consider the introduction of DIVA-based techniques into future recommendations for control of FMD based on consultation with relevant experts and the Scientific Commission.

The Delegate of Namibia, supported by the Delegate of Sudan, supported minor changes to the proposed Chapter 1.6. as these would facilitate the procedure.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, generally supported adoption but reiterated the comments previously made by the EU on the importation of milk and milk products used for animal feeding. The Delegate requested that these comments be taken into consideration at the next Code Commission meeting.

Dr Thiermann replied to the Delegate of Namibia, advising that the OIE would make any needed corrections to the English and French texts. He was in favour of maintaining the term "PVS Pathway", as it covered all elements subsequent to the PVS report, as well as the term "dossier". Finally, Dr Thiermann did not agree to modify the reference to "the entire territory".

Chapter 8.5. was adopted unanimously.

Chapter 1.6., as related to FMD, was adopted unanimously.

293. **Rinderpest (Chapter 8.12.)**

Dr Thiermann pointed out that, in accordance with the global freedom from rinderpest which had been declared on Wednesday (25 May), annual reconfirmation of rinderpest free status by individual Members had become unnecessary.

Therefore, Dr Thiermann proposed to delete the text relating to annual reconfirmation from Article 8.12.2. The text proposed was:

(Last paragraph of Article 8.12.2.)

*The Member will be included in the list only after the submitted evidence has been accepted by the OIE. ~~Retention on the list requires that the information in points 2a), 2b) and 2c) above be re-submitted annually and~~ C*changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events should be reported to the OIE according to the requirements in Chapter 1.1.*

Dr Thiermann noted that, to address the fundamental changes brought about by the declaration of global rinderpest freedom, the Code Commission proposed to introduce a new chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* on Global Freedom from Rinderpest. In collaboration with the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission would propose a draft text for Members' consideration later this year. Once the new chapter had been adopted, the existing Chapter 8.12. (Rinderpest) would be suspended. It would however be retained in the *Terrestrial Code* as a suspended chapter and relevant provisions could be reinstated if rinderpest were to become re-established in a country or region.

In the meantime, Dr Thiermann encouraged Members to be proactive in modifying trade measures to reflect global eradication, notably by removing references to rinderpest from international animal health certificates.

The proposed amendment was adopted unanimously.

294. **Vesicular stomatitis (Chapter 8.15.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that Articles 8.15.1. and 8.15.6. had been revised following Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented this modified chapter for adoption.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

295. **Avian influenza (Chapter 10.4.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that minor amendments had been made in response to Members' recommendations.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Bangladesh asked for advice on the use of vaccination. Dr Thiermann indicated that all information on vaccination was available in the *Manual* and in other reference material published by the OIE.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

296. **Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.13.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that Article 10.13.1. had been revised in response to Member comments on the need to improve clarity on disease notification requirements. Article 10.13.21. on procedures for virus inactivation was also revised in response to Member comments and after expert consultation.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Mexico pointed out a translation error in the Spanish version of the text. Dr Thiermann agreed to correct this error.

The chapter, amended as above, was adopted unanimously.

297. **Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 11.8. and Article 1.6.5.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the yak (*Bos grunniens*) had been added to the list of susceptible animals.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the questionnaire had been revised following a Member comment.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter and article for adoption.

The chapter and article were adopted unanimously.

298. **Lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.12.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had withdrawn the proposal to include an article on safe commodities in this chapter and had decided to forward it to the Scientific Commission for review and advice.

Dr Thiermann also noted that susceptible species had been specified and relevant amendments had been made.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Gabon, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, commented on Article 11.12.1.bis, seeking advice on why the text on dairy and beef products as safe commodities had been deleted.

Dr Thiermann replied that expert advice indicated that these products could not be considered as safe under all circumstances and that additional recommendations would need to be developed. This matter was currently under consideration by experts and the Scientific Commission.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

299. **Equine diseases (Chapters 12.1., 12.6. and 12.9.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that amendments had been made to improve the clarity of these chapters.

Dr Thiermann drew Members' attention to the revision of Chapter 12.1. on African horse sickness (AHS) and the related questionnaire (Article 1.6.6.). These had been circulated for Member comment but were not being proposed for adoption in view of the significant number of comments and concerns expressed by Members about provisions for the official recognition of a free zone. He also noted that the Scientific Commission would undertake a review of the entire chapter on AHS with a view to harmonising it with the chapter on bluetongue.

Dr Thiermann presented Chapters 12.6. and 12.9. for adoption.

The Delegate of Ireland recommended modifications to improve the consistency of use of the terms 'equid' and 'equine' in the *Terrestrial Code*. In Chapter 12.6., he proposed to replace 'domestic horses, donkeys and mules' with 'domestic equidae' in the first paragraph of Article 12.6.1. He also proposed to add 'captive wild, feral' between 'domestic' and 'and wild' in the third paragraph of Article 12.6.4. In Chapter 12.9., he proposed to delete 'feral' in the first sentence of Article 12.9.1.

Dr Thiermann's recommendation that consistency should be carefully checked in relation to the decisions on the treatment of wildlife rather than trying to make a 'quick fix' at the General Session was accepted by the Delegate of Ireland.

The Delegate of the United States of America asked the Code Commission to consider including, for the next General Session, text on young vaccinated animals (colts) in Articles 12.9.2. and 12.9.6. as had been previously recommended. The United States of America would submit scientific evidence in support of its proposal.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

300. **Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) (Chapter 14.5.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that amendments had been made based on Member comments and the advice of the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

301. **Scrapie (Chapter 14.9.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that the issue of categorisation of host genotype had been discussed with the Scientific Commission and that the position of both Commissions was not to include in the *Terrestrial Code* information on pathogen /host genotype interactions at this time.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

302. **Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that, in response to Member comments and taking into consideration the new definitions for wild animals, amendments had been made to the text where 'wild pig(s)' were mentioned.

Dr Thiermann also explained that, based on the advice of the Scientific Commission, the articles relating to surveillance had been amended.

Finally, Dr Thiermann noted that the Scientific Commission would review the entire chapter with a view to the consideration of official recognition of classical swine fever (CSF) status.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of the United States of America asked that the comments previously submitted on Articles 15.2.25. and 15.2.27. on sero-surveillance be considered by the OIE.

The Delegate of Niger, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, commented on Article 15.2.1., warning that this could provide grounds for discrimination against countries where CSF was present in wild animals.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the modified chapter, but did not agree with the inclusion of the modified terminology on wildlife. She asked the OIE to take into account prior EU comments on populations of captive wild pigs, which might be in zoos or kept for meat production. She called for a distinction to be made, as in the chapter on Aujeszky's disease, separating domestic pigs and captive wild pigs on the one hand and feral pigs and wild pigs on the other.

The Delegate of Germany indicated that proposals for modification of Articles 15.2.2. and 15.3.7. had already been sent to the OIE, on the understanding that the Scientific Commission would revise the chapter in light of the development of an OIE global policy on wildlife.

The proposal for adoption of the revised chapter was withdrawn.

303. **Future work programme**

Dr Thiermann drew Members' attention to the future work programme of the Commission reflecting developments to date. He highlighted the important work of the Scientific Commission on rabies, rinderpest, bee diseases and swine vesicular disease as well as that of relevant *ad hoc* Groups on zoonotic parasitic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, veterinary legislation and veterinary education. He also underlined the important ongoing work on animal welfare and livestock production systems.

Dr Thiermann noted that in September 2011 the Code Commission would again review its work programme, taking into account the outcomes of this General Session, Members' comments, and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. He encouraged Members to provide comments on the future work programme of the Code Commission as this provided an important input to the Commission in its future deliberations.

304. The Delegate of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, called for the OIE to develop a new chapter on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). The Delegate noted that there were some difficulties in developing specific provisions for virulent and mild strains responsible for causing PRRS. Dr Thiermann replied that this matter would again be discussed with the Scientific Commission.

305. The Delegate of Japan raised the issue of the need to develop an official standard-setting procedure in the OIE. The Delegate drew the attention of the Assembly to the collaboration between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) including the proposal to develop joint OIE/CAC standards, which would require the equivalent official standard-setting principle as stipulated in the CAC Procedural Manual. The Delegate stated that Japan would provide comments on this topic to the Code Commission for consideration at its September 2011 meeting. In reply, the Director General drew the attention of Delegates to the issue of joint standards and asked them to coordinate with CAC focal points in each OIE Member Country to reflect the points of view of Veterinary Services in countries' response to the circular letter sent by the Codex Secretariat to all Member Countries on the question of common standards.

306. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

307. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 26 on Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

308. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

309. The Delegate of Canada drew the attention of Delegates to the fact that only two proposed chapters had not been adopted at this General Session. This spoke to the excellent work of the Commission and the experts in the Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups which supported the development of international science-based standards. With respect to the proposed new chapter on the welfare of broiler chickens, he wished to reinforce the message that it was imperative, given the diversity of views from the various regions on the chapter,

for national Focal Points for Animal Welfare to work with their counterparts to improve the draft chapter so that the chapter could be adopted in 2012. In this regard, he pointed out that, despite having identified animal welfare as a priority for the OIE's mandate in the Third Strategic Plan in 2000 and despite having made progress in establishing animal welfare standards as they related to transportation and slaughter during the 11 years since the launch of the Third Strategic Plan, the Organisation had yet to adopt a standard for welfare in animal production systems. He cautioned Delegates on the importance of the OIE's credibility and leadership role in the development of such standards. In the absence of leadership by the OIE and its membership, the OIE would have to accept that others might fill the void. He concluded that the establishment of a guidance chapter similar to the one produced by the Working Group on Animal Welfare on the approaches and use of input-based and output-based measurements might be helpful in the interpretation and implementation of production system chapters. The Director General and the President strongly supported this intervention.

Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE (contd)

International Alliance for Biological Standardization

310. Dr Michel Lombard, Co-Chairman of the Publication Committee of the IABS[29] reported on the activity of the IABS, focusing on its collaboration with the OIE.

311. Dr Lombard explained that the IABS was a non-profit association based in Geneva (Switzerland) and had a global membership. Its mission was to contribute to the advancement of scientific and medical knowledge on biological products by facilitating communication between developers, producers and regulators of these products for use in humans and animals.

312. IABS was well known for the organisation of conferences and for its peer-reviewed and widely referenced journal '*Biologicals*', published by Elsevier.

313. Since 2005, IABS had been working with the OIE on current topics relating to veterinary vaccines.

314. The four areas of activity of the IABS included, for human medicine: a. vaccines and sera; b. blood transfusion; c. biotherapeutic products; and for veterinary medicine: vaccines and sera.

315. IABS had signed agreements with the OIE and WHO, as well as with bodies representing industry in the human health sector (IFPMA[30]) and the animal health sector (IFAH[31]).

316. Since the signing of the agreement with the OIE in 2005, OIE representatives had been permanent members of the IABS Veterinary Scientific Committee and could participate in other meetings if they wished. Other Committee members included representatives of institutions such as the EMA[32], PEI[33] in Germany, VESO[34] in Norway, and ANSES[35] in France, representatives of major industry groups in the animal health sector and retired experts.

---

29 IABS: International Alliance for Biological Standardization
30 IFPMA: International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
31 IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health
32 EMA: European Medicines Agency
33 PEI: Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (Germany)
34 VESO: National Centre for Veterinary Contract Research and Commercial Services (Norway)
35 ANSES: French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety

317. IABS had published the proceedings of veterinary conferences organised in partnership with the OIE. The manuscripts were revised and edited by the IABS Publication Committee before being printed and distributed to conference participants. The proceedings were also sold through the OIE and by the scientific publisher Karger.

318. Since 2010, IABS and Karger had also provided readers with an economical and far more flexible online service, enabling them to purchase and download conference proceedings or individual papers.

319. An implicit aim of the agreement signed by the OIE with IABS was to broaden the OIE's public and to inform IABS' readership of OIE activities. IABS and its partner Karger had succeeded in distributing more than 5200 copies of OIE conference proceedings to a new clientele. For every copy of OIE conference proceedings distributed to participants, between 1 and 2.5 additional copies were sold.

320. Since collaboration between the OIE and IABS began in 2005, a total of 5238 volumes had been ordered from around the world, each copy being read by several persons, including university students and laboratory researchers. IABS was therefore helping to raise the visibility of the OIE among the IABS readership. This success was also due to the OIE's choice of relevant topics of current interest.

321. Those people ordering books through the IABS were considered to comprise a different readership from those who purchased books directly from the OIE.

322. Dr Lombard concluded by stating that the harmonious collaboration between the OIE and IABS had brought OIE publications to the attention of all the scientific readership of the IABS, mainly comprising universities and major private sector and governmental laboratories worldwide, thereby raising awareness of the diversity and quality of OIE activities. The IABS hoped that this fruitful collaboration would continue now that it was easy to use the Internet to consult papers presented at conferences.

International Livestock Research Institute

323. Dr Jeffrey Mariner, Veterinary Epidemiologist at ILRI, reported on the organisation's history and activities.

324. ILRI formed part of a Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which included 15 centres active in the area of agriculture for development. Among them, ILRI was the only centre specialising in livestock.

325. Recently, a major organisational change had taken place resulting in a shift from core funding to full cost recovery. This new model had led to the creation of a consortium integrating a larger number of centres, with one board and a series of Consortium Research Programmes (CRPs). The focus areas of the CRPs included: 1. Agricultural systems for the poor and vulnerable; 2. Enabling agricultural incomes for the poor; 3. Optimising productivity of global food staples (rice, wheat, maize, dryland cereals, legumes, root and tubers, livestock and fish); 4. Agriculture for improved nutrition and health; 5. Water, soils and ecosystems; 6. Forests and trees; and 7. Climate change and agriculture. Of these, ILRI played a leadership role for CRPs 3, 4 and 7.

326. ILRI was responsible in particular for biosciences in Eastern and Central Africa, through CRP 3.7.: Livestock and fish, CRP 4: Nutrition and health as well as a new initiative "Participatory Epidemiology Network for Animal and Public Health" (PENAPH), implemented in partnership with the OIE.

327. ILRI was implementing a value chain approach to research in order to identify areas of interest, contrary to the previous focus on vaccines and diagnostics. ILRI was now focusing on conducting research on new biotechnologies in order to enhance product access and product safety. ILRI was working to maximise benefits and reduce risks so as to improve agriculture and ultimately reduce poverty and ensure food security and environmental sustainability.

328. Dr Mariner provided an outlook on the Biosciences for Eastern and Central Africa Centre, a platform to conduct research, that was characterised by: 1. Shared research and training facility for national agricultural research institutes and universities in Africa; 2. World-class laboratories and equipment for cutting edge research and training; 3. Core scientific and technical competencies in livestock, crop and microbial research; 4. Scientific critical mass of scientists drawn from national, regional and international institutions; 5. Partnerships, links and networks with research and training institutions; and 6. A focal point for the biosciences community in Africa.

329. Dr Mariner stated that the lessons learnt from rinderpest eradication could indicate where to focus research. On the basis of this understanding, ILRI in partnership with the OIE, FAO, AU–IBAR, RVC[36], Vétérinaires sans Frontières and the African Epidemiology Network, had created the PENAPH project in order to: Build surveillance capacities in participatory epidemiology via a comprehensive institutional approach, good practice guidelines and training standards and certification; Strengthen and improve research, policy and advocacy through the development of tools; Place focus on Pro-poor and One Health; and Exchange knowledge with a strong participatory approach involving all stakeholders. This project demonstrated that an institutional approach to capacity building could reinforce the capacities of Veterinary Services. Dr Mariner presented PENAPH's key concepts, key players, partners and stakeholders for good implementation of animal health systems including veterinary schools, public and private veterinary services and the use of OIE standards.

330. Dr Mariner also stated that ILRI was highly involved in the decision-support tool for the prevention and control of Rift Valley fever epizootics in the Greater Horn of Africa. This tool provided an effective framework for conducting research and for defining disease control and eradication plans.

331. ILRI was promoting a comprehensive approach based on an institutional model focusing on risk-based assessments incorporating participatory stakeholder involvement to study transmission dynamics and to integrate virus–host–vector genomics.

332. Dr Mariner concluded by stating that ILRI's actions were giving priority to addressing problems faced by small-scale producers.

Distribution of animal health status certificates (Rinderpest)

333. The OIE Members and non-OIE Members listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country/territory was now recognised as free from rinderpest, for which the OIE had a mandate to recognise animal health status: Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Comoros, Gambia, Grenada, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Micronesia (Federated States of), St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sao Tomé and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates.

[36] RVC: Royal Veterinary College (United Kingdom)

Declaration of global eradication of rinderpest

334. The President invited Dr William Taylor, Chairman of the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication, to present the major conclusions of the final report of the Joint Committee.

335. Dr Taylor briefly presented the history of rinderpest and the milestones in the process leading to its eradication. He stated that the Joint Committee had reviewed the evidence assembled by the OIE and FAO and concluded that rinderpest was now eradicated from the planet. At the end of his presentation he handed over the full report of the Joint Committee to Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and to Ms Ann Tutwiler, Deputy Director General of FAO.

336. The President thanked Dr Taylor for the presentation of the final report and the work of the Joint Committee providing the evidence to the Directors General of both OIE and FAO that rinderpest was now eradicated from the globe.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18 Declaration of global eradication of rinderpest and the implementation of follow-up measures to maintain world freedom from rinderpest

337. Following screening of the video on the declaration of eradication, the President invited Dr Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission, to present Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption by the Assembly.

338. Dr Brückner, in his introductory remarks, highlighted the importance of the eradication of rinderpest for the veterinary profession. Nevertheless, he reminded the Delegates that the work was not entirely accomplished. There were still a number of laboratories in the world that were holding rinderpest virus or vaccine stocks and that work on the sequestration of remaining virus samples or isolates in a secure international virus repository was ongoing. He then read out the draft resolution to the Assembly.

339. The President thanked Dr Brückner and submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

340. The President then invited the Representative of FAO to make her statement on the global eradication of rinderpest.

341. Ms Ann Tutwiler, Deputy Director General of FAO, representing the Director General of FAO, emphasised that the eradication of rinderpest was an excellent example of fruitful and successful international collaboration. She announced that the FAO Conference would adopt the resolution prepared by the FAO on global rinderpest eradication on 28 June 2011, in the presence of Ministers for Agriculture and other high-level government representatives. The eradication of rinderpest had been regarded by FAO as a priority task since its foundation in 1944, because rinderpest eradication contributed to safeguarding food security and protecting the livelihoods of many people across the globe. From this major achievement, the FAO learned the following lessons: the crucial importance of partnerships having an open dialogue and establishing trust; the essential role of political and financial support and commitment; and finally the emphasis placed on this major endeavour as an 'International Public Good'.

342. The President, in his concluding remark, thanked all the speakers for their contributions. He highlighted again the historic significance of this moment. He expressed his sincere gratitude to all countries and individuals who had sometimes spent their whole lives combating rinderpest. Referring to the ongoing work on virus sequestration, he also thanked the Delegates who supported the work of the OIE and FAO, including the efforts to

develop an inventory of existing stocks, and encouraged them to continue to collaborate with the OIE and FAO through their participation in the FAO/OIE survey concerning rinderpest virus-containing material stocks in their country. He announced that progress on this activity would be reviewed and discussed again in 2012.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

343. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 14 to 16 September 2010 and from 8 to 10 February 2011, were presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Commission (Docs 79 SG/12/CS2 A and B). He thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, Dr Mehdi El Harrak, Secretary General, Dr Hualan Chen, Dr Alejandro Schudel, and Dr Paul Townsend. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of Prof. Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, had been unstinting in their support.

344. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

The Biological Standards Commission recommended designation of the *OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Drug Regulatory Programmes* at the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Maryland, United States of America. The Commission also discussed the applications of the *Collaborating Centre for Research and Diagnosis of Emerging and Existing Pathogens of Wildlife*, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center; and the *Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Emerging, Re-Emerging and Transboundary Diseases of Animals in the Caribbean and Central America*, Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CENSA), Cuba. Noting that there was some overlap with existing Centres in the the Americas Region, the Biological Standards Commission requested the Council to give advice on this matter.

On this point, the Director General of the OIE informed the Assembly that the Council had discussed this matter at its last meeting. The Council confirmed the recommendation of the designation of the *OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Drug Regulatory Programmes*, United States of America. With regard to the other two Collaborating Centre applications, the Council recognised that the proposed topics were already partly covered by existing Collaborating Centres in the same region. As the revised mandate for Collaborating Centres that would be proposed for adoption at the end of this General Session foresaw the principle of designating no more than one Collaborating Centre per region per speciality, the Council recommended that both applicants seek conformity with the new mandate and rules. Nevertheless, as the new text was yet to be adopted, both Centres could be approved this year on condition that they would review their title and scope for 2012 to comply with the new rules. The Centres were as follows:

OIE Collaborating Centre for Research and Diagnosis of Emerging and Existing Pathogens of Wildlife (United States of America). If adopted, the Centre would contact the existing Collaborating Centre on Wildlife in Canada with the objective of creating a consortium with that Centre and re-applying as a single, combined Collaborating Centre composed of the two entities in 2012.

OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Emerging, Re-Emerging and Transboundary Diseases of Animals in the Caribbean and Central America (Cuba). It was recognised that this Centre also had important experience in the area of biological disaster management. As this expertise was a necessity for the OIE, the Centre would be asked to add this scope as a collaborative activity for the OIE; a proposed new title would be submitted along with a revised application in 2012. This would minimise overlapping with the activities of the existing Collaborating Centre in Colorado, United States of America.

Under these conditions, the Council recommended the designation of the three applicant Collaborating Centres at the 79th General Session.

The Assembly approved the designation of the three Centres as described above, with the stated conditions regarding the latter two Centres.

The Biological Standards Commission recommended acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status:

– *Anaplasma* spp. *and Babesia* spp*:* Centro Nacional de Servicios de Constatación en Salud Animal (CENAPA), Morelos, Mexico.

– *Equine infectious anaemia:* Harbin Veterinary Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Harbin, People's Republic of China.

– *Equine influenza and Equine rhinopneumonitis:* Institute of Virology, Veterinary Medicine, Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

– *Foot and mouth disease:* Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Gansu Province, People's Republic of China.

– *Swine influenza:* National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa, United States of America.

A number of OIE Reference Laboratories had notified changes in their designated expert. In each case the Commission had reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names of new experts presented by Prof. Caporale to the Assembly would be published in the list of OIE Reference Laboratories.

The Assembly approved the designation of new Reference Laboratories and the change in OIE Experts as described above.

With regard to the general approach to evaluating applications, the Biological Standards Commission had noted the request of the OIE Council that the Commission develop objective criteria to assess and select applications for Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, document these criteria and apply them in a consistent manner. Guarantees should be given in terms of legal and budgetary provisions, even if many governments and governmental entities were bound to operate on a yearly budget.

The Commission had also noted the request of the OIE Council to review critically the performance of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, in an effective, practicable and sustainable manner. Objective criteria were needed and should be documented. In addition to the assessment of their annual reports, site visits to Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres should be arranged on a random basis.

A number of twinning projects were now active or in the pipeline. The Commission had reviewed a number of OIE Laboratory Twinning proposals and gave its favourable opinion on their technical principles. The Commission had drawn lots to select three twinning projects that had either been completed or were underway for independent financial and

technical audit to be set up by the Director General. The President of the Commission expressed his interest in the results of these audits. In parallel, a twinning feedback workshop had been held on 30 and 31 March 2011 to share lessons learnt and continue to make the programme more efficient and effective. The President of the Commission proposed to work on a new twinning strategy to better achieve a geographical balance in expertise on animal health and welfare.

Annual reports were received from 154 out of 158 Reference Laboratories and from 33 out of 34 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. An analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the January meeting of the Commission (p. 3). The full set of reports would be supplied on CD-ROM to Members and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

The President of the Commission noted that the OIE Headquarters had streamlined its system of counting the total number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and he presented updated figures and detailed information on their geographical distribution.

345. **Past *ad hoc* Group meetings**

a) Reports of the Meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on the Scientific Partnerships among OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

The reports of this *ad hoc* Group's meetings were included in Appendix III of both the September and February Reports of the Commission's meetings. The President of the Commission gave details on the *ad hoc* Group's rationale, in particular its position on including epidemiology and disease control in the mandate for Reference Laboratories, and its recommendation that the designated expert be a veterinarian. The Commission had agreed to the *ad hoc* Group's proposed changes to the mandate and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, on the understanding that a final proposal would be prepared at a later date by the OIE Council as an integral part of the Basic Texts of the OIE, for adoption by the Assembly.

b) Report of the Second Meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids

The Commission had taken note of the report of this *ad hoc* Group, provided at Appendix IV of the September report of the Commission. The Commission indicated that, as the test methods were not yet validated for camelids, it was premature to include them in the *Terrestrial Manual* and that the network of Reference Laboratories should prioritise the issue of validating diagnostic methods for diseases of camelids.

346. **Existing and proposed *ad hoc* Groups**

a) *Ad hoc* Group on the Quality of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccines

The Terms of Reference for this proposed OIE *ad hoc* Group were agreed: to provide guidance for Members when procuring foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccines. The output would be an updated standard in the *Manual*, describing production, control and marketing of FMD vaccines: how to choose a strain, what is meant by safety, efficacy and potency, and what tests to use to check for these characteristics. The Group met in March 2011 and would meet for a second time in June 2011.

b) *Ad hoc* Group on Validation of Tests in Wildlife

The Terms of Reference for this proposed OIE *ad hoc* Group were agreed by the Commission. The Group met in April 2011 and would meet again in autumn 2011.

The Commission identified three other priority areas: Modernising the *Terrestrial Manual*; Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories; and Rift Valley fever. Details of the proposals to address these issues were given in the report of the meeting of the Commission in February 2011.

347. **International standardisation/harmonisation**

a) Vaccines

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the 2010 report of the equine influenza expert surveillance panel, which was published in the OIE *Bulletin*.

b) Diagnostic tests

The Commission took note of written reports on standardisation programmes for the preparation of internationally accepted standard reference reagents for avian influenza, rabies, and enzootic bovine leukosis. The Commission felt that development of reference materials in accordance with OIE requirements was a vital part of a Reference Laboratory's responsibility and discussed ways to emphasise how the new mandate could reinforce this task.

c) OIE Register of diagnostic tests

The Commission reviewed a kit on salmonella typing within the framework of the appeal procedure, following the rejection of the application after the first round of evaluation. In the light of additional data submitted by the applicant and a more limited scope for the proposed purposes of the kit, the Commission decided, based on this new information, which had been evaluated by experts, to propose the kit for adoption by the Assembly.

348. **OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)**

During the General Session in May 2010, a Delegate had commented that the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*) production and management procedures were not transparent. To improve the production process of the *Terrestrial Manual*, the Commission reviewed and approved a revised production schedule. This new timetable provided for sending the amended chapters for comment a second time prior to the General Session to ensure that the Delegates would receive the final texts that would be proposed for adoption and eventual publication. This implied that the production cycle for a new or revised chapter would be extended to 18–24 months, which was similar to the *Terrestrial Code*. Furthermore, a specific *ad hoc* Group to advise the Commission on approaches to the modernisation and updating of the *Terrestrial Manual* would be set up by the Director General.

The chapter on rabies had been circulated in 2010, but as it received a large number of comments, particularly on the vaccine section, it was not proposed for adoption last year. The chapter was revised this year and circulated to Members for comment with the February report of the Commission, although the vaccine section remained "under study". The Commission proposed adoption of the revised diagnostic methods section.

A number of chapters identified by the Commission for update were currently in circulation, including the chapters on Aujeszky's disease and African swine fever.

349. **Liaison with other Specialist Commissions**

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission.

350. **Conferences, Workshops, Meetings**

a) OIE/FAO/IAEA[37] consultants meeting to develop a roadmap for the implementation of OIE principles and methods of diagnostic test validation

The Commission had agreed to the principle of developing a training programme on validation of diagnostic tests, based on the OIE draft *Terrestrial Manual* chapter and 'best practices' appendices. The Commission had also agreed to discuss how best to take this project forward at its forthcoming meeting. The Appendices that formed an integral part of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter had not yet been approved, but would be reviewed along with comments from experts at the next meeting of the Commission.

b) Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions

The Commission proposed that its members participate on a regular basis in Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions because Reference Laboratory and Collaborating Centre issues should be discussed and Biological Standards Commission activities should be presented there.

351. **Update on OFFLU**

The Commission had noted that the OFFLU network had developed considerably since its launch in 2005, with more than 60 of the world's leading animal influenza experts now participating in OFFLU projects. Achievements included a much stronger functional collaboration with the public health sector, and in particular with WHO; improved laboratory capacity in countries on all continents; widely disseminated guidance on surveillance, control, and biosafety; setting an animal influenza research agenda; and improved sharing of information and biological material. The annual report for 2010 could be consulted at the following Internet address:

http://www.offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/OFFLU_Annual_Report_2010.pdf

352. The President of the OIE thanked Prof. Caporale for his comprehensive presentation and gave the floor to the Director General before he opened discussions on the various issues raised.

Discussion on the report of the Biological Standards Commission

353. The Director General clarified the position of the Council on several questions that were raised by the President of the Commission. Regarding the proposed amendments to the mandate and internal rules of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, these would be presented for adoption later during the present General Session as an integral part of the Basic Texts. He emphasised that all the proposals of the *ad hoc* Group on Scientific Partnerships that were approved by the Biological Standards Commission were given due consideration by the Council with the exception of two points: the direct role of Reference Laboratories in disease management, and the requirement for the designated expert to be a veterinarian.

On the issue of disease management, the Council felt that as this was part of the core responsibilities of Veterinary Services it would be redundant to include it in the mandate of OIE Reference Laboratories. The latter should focus on diagnostics as a priority function. The Council therefore did not agree to extend the mandate of Reference Laboratories to include "epidemiology and disease control".

On the second point, the Council opined that the Basic Texts should not require that the designated expert be a veterinarian as this could pose a problem in a number of countries, and especially in laboratories for diseases of aquatic animals. The Council proposed as a compromise that veterinarians should be part of the expert teams in a Reference Laboratory.

---

[37] IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

The Director General stressed that these rules would not be applied to the existing Reference Laboratories for the time being and these laboratories should continue to operate and provide services to the OIE and its Members under current conditions.

The Council had also recommended that the delisting of a disease should not automatically lead to the withdrawal of Reference Laboratories for that disease, in the interests of all OIE Members in need of advanced expertise for that disease.

The Council and the Director General welcomed the proposal of the Biological Standards Commission to work on a more detailed twinning strategy and would be grateful for more precise guidance on future projects from the Biological Standards Commission. In response to the question raised by the President of the Commission on the results of the three twinning audits, the Director General was pleased to report that the results were all positive and provided further insight to improving the OIE twinning programme.

The Director General clarified the new, streamlined way of counting the number of Reference Laboratories: previously, the laboratories that had been designated for a number of related diseases (e.g. rinderpest and peste des petits ruminants) were counted as one laboratory. From now on, each disease would be counted as a separate laboratory and an annual report of activities related to the disease would be demanded.

Finally the Director General informed the President of the Commission that the possibility of participation of members of the Commission in the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions was under study because of budgetary constraints and very full programmes.

354. The Delegate of Cuba thanked Prof. Caporale for his report and the Director General for the twining initiative, which had been a great and enriching experience for Cuba. He further emphasised that biological disaster management was an important topic and he gave assurances that Cuba was committed to expanding the remit of the new Collaborating Centre, as requested. He also supported the decision of the Council to maintain the Reference Laboratories and the chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* on delisted diseases.

355. The Delegate of Zimbabwe pointed out that it would be difficult if only veterinarians could be appointed as experts of Reference Laboratories, and such a restriction ran contrary to the spirit of the 'One Health' initiative. Taking into account the epidemiological situation regarding SAT-type FMD in several countries in her region, she asked about the validity of the nonstructural protein (NSP) tests for FMD.

356. The Delegate of Australia noted that the following words that had been adopted by Resolution No. XVIII in 2004 formed part of the mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories: "Reference Laboratories of the OIE shall in the case of results that are confirmed positive for any OIE listed disease, immediately inform the OIE Delegate of the Member from which the samples originated as well as the OIE Headquarters". He requested that the following words from Resolution No. XVIII be added: "The results forwarded to the OIE will only be published by the OIE Central Bureau in agreement with the Delegate of the country concerned and after precise identification of the origin of the samples". The Director General stated that the resolution had been adopted unanimously by all the Delegates, and therefore remained binding on the OIE, and it was not legally desirable to add this obligation on the OIE Headquarters in the obligations of Reference Laboratories stated in the Basic Texts.

357. The President of the OIE gave the floor to the President of the Biological Standards Commission, who, in response to the Delegate of Zimbabwe, acknowledged as essential the concept of collaboration between human and animal health experts, but reiterated that in his belief veterinary competence would always be needed for diagnosis and control of animal diseases.

358. Taking into account and endorsing the recommendations of the Council as reported by the Director General, the Assembly adopted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission with the corresponding amendments.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Adoption of a draft chapter for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

359. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 23 on the Adoption of a draft chapter for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE

360. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 24 on the Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report. The Delegate of Chile highlighted an inconsistency in the Spanish translation and proposed appropriate wording.

THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the Beginning of 2011

(Doc. 79 SG/2)

361. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2010 and in the first months of 2011 (Doc. 79 SG/2). He indicated that he would begin by reviewing the trends in 2010 and early 2011 regarding exceptional disease events. He would then review the current situation relating to foot and mouth disease (FMD), rabies, West Nile fever (WNF), bluetongue (BT), African swine fever (ASF), highly pathogenic avian influenza due to virus serotype H5N1 (HPAI H5N1) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in terrestrial animals, and infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and infection with ranavirus in aquatic animals. He would then conclude with an overview of the animal health situation in wildlife based on the information gathered through the 2010 questionnaire on wildlife diseases.

362. **Exceptional epidemiological events reported to the OIE**

Between 1 January 2010 and 31 March 2011, 243 immediate notifications of exceptional epidemiological disease events were reported by 86 countries, involving 59 different diseases. The notification of these events depends on the epidemiological situation and on the surveillance capabilities of the Veterinary Services. Fifty-two percent of these exceptional events were related to seven diseases: FMD (14%), HPAI (11%), Newcastle disease (9%), low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry (6%), equine infectious anaemia (5%), West Nile fever (4%) and bluetongue (3%).

Terrestrial animal diseases

363. **Foot and mouth disease**

Dr Ben Jebara presented the geographical distribution of FMD across several continents.

Africa

FMD is present in many parts of the continent and 4 serotypes (A, O, SAT 1 and SAT 2) were reported in 2010 and the beginning of 2011. Some exceptional epidemiological events relating to FMD were notified from the southern part of the continent due to serotypes O, SAT 1 and SAT 2.

SAT 2 was reported by **Angola** with an outbreak that started in 2009; no new outbreaks were reported in 2010 and 2011 although surveillance is still being carried out. **Botswana** reported FMD due to SAT 2, an outbreak occurring in September 2010 in the northern part of the country, near the border with Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe; the infection was attributed to contacts with wild mammal species. In February 2011, Botswana reported a new outbreak due to the same serotype in Maun (outside the officially recognised FMD free zones). Another outbreak due to SAT 2 occurred in Francistown in April 2011; this outbreak was located in the eastern part of Botswana, in one of the two OIE recognised FMD free zones without vaccination.

Zimbabwe reported, between May and June 2010, five outbreaks with 204 cases (due to the same serotype) in a zone near the border with Botswana; the infection with SAT 2 was linked to contact with infected animals at a grazing/watering point. The source of the outbreaks was illegal movement of cattle from an endemic area. The outbreaks were brought under control using vaccination and movement control. **Mozambique** reported eight outbreaks due to SAT 2 in September 2010, in cattle and sheep in Gaza province; the source of the outbreaks appears to have been illegal movement of animals. Two more outbreaks were reported in December 2010 in the Maputo area.

Four FMD outbreaks due to SAT 1 were reported by **South Africa** in September 2009, adjacent to the FMD Infected Zone in Kruger National Park, where FMD infection is known to be present in wild mammals; the outbreaks were resolved in May 2010. A new outbreak of FMD in cattle, also due to serotype SAT 1, was reported in August 2010 in South Africa's FMD Protection Zone (in Limpopo). Between February and April 2011, 45 new outbreaks were reported due to the identification of subclinical infection in cattle in KwaZulu-Natal (serotype SAT 1). An unofficial source of information indicated that the FMD cattle fences were falling into disrepair in that region allowing uncontrolled animal movement to occur more easily. One outbreak was ascribed to the same event but it occurred further in the West in Gauteng in March 2011; these animals were traced from a farm in KwaZulu-Natal protection zone.

Namibia reported an FMD outbreak due to serotype SAT 1 in April 2010 in domestic animals in Caprivi. This zone was already considered as an infected zone by the Namibian Veterinary Authorities because of its geographical location. The outbreak was due to infected wild animals, possibly African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) and occurred near the border with Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe; 144 cases were detected in the outbreak out of a susceptible population of 1812 cattle. The last evidence of clinical disease was detected on 6 May 2010. A 40-km-radius protection zone was established around the infected Impalila Island in the Zambezi River; ring vaccinations were carried out within a radius of 80 km, resulting in the vaccination of 55 733 cattle. The area was placed under intensive surveillance and livestock movement restrictions until 20 December 2010.

Zambia reported an outbreak in cattle in September 2010 due to serotype O in the northern part of the country (near the border with Tanzania); the outbreak was linked to the illegal movement of animals from Tanzania.

In North Africa, **Libya** reported in February 2011 the reoccurrence of FMD with two outbreaks in cattle near Tripoli; the OIE FMD Reference Laboratory at Pirbright, United Kingdom, confirmed the presence of FMD virus serotype O.

Asia

Three serotypes (A, Asia 1 and O) were reported in 2010 and early 2011. Since January 2010, FMD due to serotype O has been spreading in Asia into previously free countries/territories, such as the **Republic of Korea** (the previous occurrence was in 2002) and **Japan** (the previous occurrence was in 2000).

China (People's Rep. of) reported several FMD outbreaks due to serotypes A and, for the first time since 1999, serotype O. Outbreaks of serotype A were reported in 2009 and all were resolved by February 2010. Serotype O was more recently being reported (starting from February 2010 and the latest reported outbreak was in March 2011) with 21 outbreaks across the country; these outbreaks involved 3983 cases and 20 863 destroyed animals among cattle, sheep, goats and swine. Vaccination for FMD is practised in the country for cattle, sheep, goats and swine.

After several years of absence, **Chinese Taipei** reported several FMD outbreaks, due to serotype O, at the beginning of February 2009 (the previous occurrence was in 2001) and **Mongolia** confirmed the presence of serotype O in April 2010 (the previous occurrence was in 2005). In March 2011, Chinese Taipei reported three outbreaks in pigs. During routine inspection, 15 pigs about to enter Tainan City auction market were found to have abnormal lesions on their feet. Vesicular lesions were also found in 30 pigs transported to a slaughterhouse from a pig farm in Penghu Island. In both outbreaks the presence of serotype O was confirmed. In May 2011 another outbreak due to the same serotype was reported in Xinpu Township.

In the case of **Japan**, the FMD event due to serotype O started in April 2010; 292 outbreaks occurred in the province of Miyazaki, with 614 cases, involving mainly cattle and swine. Emergency vaccination against FMD was carried out. A total of 125 668 animals in 1066 farms were vaccinated (including 48 796 animals in farms testing positive after vaccination) and were subsequently culled. All in all, 211 608 animals were culled and the event was resolved on 5 July 2010.

In January 2010, the **Republic of Korea** reported the reoccurrence of FMD due to serotype A (the previous occurrence was in 2002). The outbreaks concerned 29 cattle and 12 deer. Another event related to FMD due to serotype O started in April 2010, comprising eight outbreaks in Gyeonggi-Do and Incheon Metropolitan City and five outbreaks in Chungcheongnam-Do. All these FMD outbreaks were resolved within two months without resorting to vaccination. In November 2010, FMD due to serotype O reoccurred with 155 outbreaks. 331 135 animals were culled (mainly swine and cattle). At the beginning of the FMD epizootic, the Republic of Korea applied stamping out and, later on, from 25 December 2010, emergency vaccination was started in selected areas. Cattle and pigs in affected farms and within 500 m of affected farms in the unvaccinated area were culled and buried as a preventive measure; in the vaccinated area, the only animals culled were pigs and cattle in affected farms.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** reported the reoccurrence in December 2010 of FMD due to serotype O, with more than 100 reported outbreaks, involving swine and cattle. Vaccination has been applied with a locally developed vaccine but has not proved effective in controlling the disease. A joint FAO/OIE mission visited the country. The event is ongoing.

Mongolia reported the reoccurrence of FMD, six outbreaks due to serotype O occurring in the Eastern part of the country between August and November 2010. Cattle, sheep and goats were involved in the outbreaks, as well as wild Mongolian gazelles (*Procapra gutturosa*). A total of 6 562 671 domestic animals were vaccinated and 25 914 livestock were culled. The Mongolian gazelles may have played a role in the spread of the disease. In **Russia**, in the vicinity of the border with Mongolia and China (People's Rep. of), two

separate outbreaks due to serotype O were reported in Zabajkal`Skij kray, in July and August 2010. In both events vaccination was applied and they were declared closed in August and October 2010, respectively.

The first occurrence of FMD serotype A in **Myanmar** was reported in September 2010, with an outbreak in Rakhine State, near the border with Bangladesh.

Israel reported six outbreaks in cattle and sheep in Hazafon between March and May 2011; the serotype O was identified.

Europe

FMD was reported in 2010–2011 by **Bulgaria**, **Kazakhstan**, **Russia** and **Turkey**. The serotypes circulating were A and O.

Bulgaria reported the reoccurrence of FMD (the previous occurrence was in 1996) with 12 outbreaks in Burgas, which is near the border with Turkey. The event started with the identification of FMD lesions in a hunted wild boar in January 2011 and the identification of three additional outbreaks in domestic animals (goats, sheep, swine and cattle) in the same month. Meat and meat products from infected wild boar were considered to be the cause of the disease spreading to domestic animals. The analysis of the FMD virus showed it to be serotype O, topotype ME-SA, strain PanAsia-2ANT-10, which has more than 99.5% affinity with samples isolated in 2010 in Iran and Turkey and is most closely related to the FMD virus that circulated in Turkey in 2010. The situation regarding FMD in wild boar in **Turkey**, and more especially in Thrace region, should be looked at carefully since the presence of the infection in wild boar could jeopardise the officially recognised FMD free status of this zone. An OIE mission travelled to Thrace.

Kazakhstan reported the reoccurrence of FMD due to serotype O in June 2010 in cattle in the zone of Kokchetav (the previous occurrence of FMD in Kazakhstan was in 2007). Ring vaccination of 4000 susceptible animals was applied to control the spread of the disease.

In March 2011, **Russia** notified an outbreak caused by serotype O in the village of Us't-Imalka, located 18 km from the border with Mongolia, in the buffer FMD zone. In this zone, the veterinary authorities vaccinate cattle, sheep and goats, using a trivalent vaccine against serotypes O, A and Asia 1.

Americas

No exceptional disease events related to FMD were notified to the OIE. Outbreaks of FMD continued to be reported by **Ecuador** and **Venezuela**. Ecuador reported FMD due to serotype O in a number of provinces during 2010, in cattle, swine and sheep. Venezuela reported serotypes O and A in 2009 but no information has yet been provided for 2010.

These continuing notifications of FMD in several parts of the world highlight the continued threat of spread posed by FMD as a transboundary disease. Cross-border movements of animals and animal products contribute to the spread of FMD serotypes. The persistence of FMD serotypes in many continents indicates the need to maintain efforts to control the disease. Each eradication plan needs to be tailored to national needs and the national capacity to control the disease. Besides the procedure for OIE official recognition of FMD status (FMD free with or without vaccination), there is the newly launched FAO/OIE Progressive FMD Control Pathway. This roadmap can be used by OIE Members not yet ready to achieve official recognition status, to accelerate the procedure for obtaining disease free status.

364. **Rabies**

Dr Ben Jebara presented the distribution of rabies around the world. Although some countries have successfully implemented control measures and managed to eliminate the disease, rabies remains endemic in many countries, including in wild animal hosts. There are two epidemiological types of rabies: urban (involving feral dog populations) and sylvatic (involving bats, including vampire bats or wild *canidae*).

Exceptional epidemiological events related to rabies have been reported to the OIE in 2010 and early 2011 by **Indonesia**, **Sweden** and **Norway**. In March 2010, the **Palestinian Autonomous Territories** notified a case of rabies in the West Bank, in a female wild wolf shot after biting a farmer in the head.

In **Indonesia**, rabies is regularly reported on the main islands whereas some other islands are free from the disease. The rabies event in Bali was notified as the first occurrence on the island. Since the beginning of the event in November 2008 up to March 2011, 109 canine cases were reported on the island and 70 371 dogs and 916 cats were vaccinated. The disease is now considered to be endemic in Bali. The Veterinary Services notified the first occurrence of rabies in Nias Island (in Sumatera Utara), where the disease had never previously been reported; five cases were identified in dogs in February 2010. The Veterinary Services initiated a vaccination scheme (more than 35 000 dogs already vaccinated) supported by dog a population control plan.

Sweden reported the first occurrence of the European bat lyssavirus serotype in the country in March 2010. Eight clinically healthy Daubenton's bats (*Myotis daubentoni*) were sampled as part of an active surveillance programme and antibodies against European bat lyssavirus were found. No virus was isolated. According to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* the isolation of bat lyssavirus does not affect the rabies status of a country.

Norway reported in January 2011 the reoccurrence of rabies (the previous occurrence was in 1999) at Hopen, which is located in the Svalbard and Jan Mayen islands. This case, like the 1999 event, occurred in a polar fox (*Vulpes lagopus*). All humans and dogs at Hopen were vaccinated against rabies. Rabies has never been reported in mainland Norway. In the past, the disease was sporadically diagnosed in fauna in the Svalbard archipelago.

The animal groups with the highest number of reported cases in 2010 in the 83 countries that provided quantitative information were dogs (3663 cases), followed by wildlife species (3359 cases) and cattle (2774 cases).

Between 2006 and 2010, 82 countries reported rabies in humans, 64 (78%) countries submitted quantitative data and 18 (22%) provided no quantitative information. The total number of human cases in the period 2006–2010 was 24 890 and the number of deaths was 14 938. The cumulated frequency of human cases reported to the OIE in some countries in their annual report during the period 2006–2010 showed a disparity between the number of reported human cases and the situation in animals. This suggests that improvements need to be made for collection of data at national level and for a common understanding of the definition of a case (e.g. non-confirmed cases due to suspicion linked with bites by unidentified animals should not be counted as positive cases).

Many Member Countries reported the existence of feral dog populations as one of the problems in controlling rabies. This problem, along with the existence of wildlife reservoirs, needs to be addressed when designing and implementing national rabies control programmes.

365. **West Nile fever**

Dr Ben Jebara explained that WNF is maintained by a mosquito–bird–mosquito transmission cycle, whereas humans and equidae can be infected but are dead-end hosts. WNF is an OIE notifiable disease since January 2006. West Nile virus is reported in many regions of the world, with infections observed in birds, horses and humans.

Africa

Two exceptional epidemiological events related to WNF were reported to the OIE in 2010, by **Madagascar** and **Morocco**.

In May 2010, **Madagascar** reported six outbreaks that had started in September 2009 in poultry, affecting 418 animals among an exposed population of 2003 animals. WNF was known to have occurred in humans in Madagascar since 1975. However, the absence of surveillance in horses and birds (wild and domestic) explained this late confirmation of the disease in animals.

In August 2010, **Morocco**, which had not reported any outbreaks of WNF since 2003, reported 24 outbreaks in the equine population, with 25 cases and eight deaths. In December, the estimated morbidity rate was 14.86% and the mortality rate 5.71%. Seven thousand equines have been vaccinated.

Europe

The disease continues to spread to more countries, especially around the Mediterranean. In October 2008, **Austria** reported three cases of WNF in wild birds: a kea (*Nestor notabilis*) near Vienna that was diagnosed positive for West Nile virus at the University of Veterinary Medicine, and two cases involving a dead hawk and a sick hawk found near the A2 motorway in Wien-Umgebung. In March 2010, Austria reported the disease to be present in wild birds in the country.

In August 2010, **Greece** notified the first occurrence of WNF on its territory. Since then, Greece has notified 30 cases in horses in the Makedonia and Thessalia regions. Some of these were cases of infection (without clinical signs) detected within the framework of active serosurveillance.

In northern **Italy** (in Emilia-Romagna and Veneto regions) the disease was declared endemic in 2008. However, between August and November 2010, the disease was reported for the first time in Sicily and Molise and 98 horses were reported to be positive for WNF.

In September 2010, **Spain** notified the first occurrence of WNF in Andalucía region, with 39 horses being affected. WNF had been reported in wild birds in Castilla y Leon and Castilla-La-Mancha during the second half of 2009.

In **Bulgaria**, on 4 October 2010, samples taken from five donkeys bred in the Shabla village, Dobrich (north-east of the country) were serologically positive for WNF infection. The National Veterinary Services immediately ordered sampling of equines for serological testing and research for clinical signs for WNF in the area concerned. In November 2010, three horses bred in Staro Oriahovo, Varna district, were found to be positive for infection but without clinical signs. Investigations aimed at detecting clinical disease in the area have not found any evidence of increased morbidity or mortality in equidae or birds and have found no clinical signs of WNF in equidae in the area.

Portugal notified the first occurrence of WNF in October 2010, with two outbreaks affecting two horses in Setúbal division. In November 2010, **Romania** notified the reoccurrence of WNF, with three outbreaks involving six horses.

Americas

Exceptional epidemiological events related to WNF were reported by **Costa Rica** in 2009 and **Belize** in 2010.

Costa Rica notified three outbreaks of the disease in the Guanacaste region in November 2009. This event, which was resolved in February 2010, involved four cases in a population of 90 susceptible equines, three of which died. The control measures used were the control of arthropods, quarantine and control of movement of horses.

In June 2010, **Belize** reported a case of WNF. The case, in Orange Walk district in the north of the country, involved an equine that presented posterior ataxia and died after a disease course of six days. The difference between this outbreak (with 75 susceptible equidae) and the previous one identified in August 2005 was that there were no watercourses where migratory birds could have landed. The disease reoccurred in August 2010 in Cayo, in the western district of Belize, with three outbreaks involving a total of four cases and two deaths.

After four years without any clinical signs of the disease, **Argentina** notified a case of encephalitis in equines in May 2010 on a farm in the department of Río Cuarto, Córdoba province, where the presence of WNF was confirmed by serology (ELISA), PCR (encephalon samples) and histopathology.

A comparison of the notification of WNF in humans with its notification in animals indicated a lack of surveillance in animals (horses and/or birds) in many countries. For example, 14 countries notified human cases of WNF between 2006 and 2010 in their annual reports, yet several of these countries did not provide quantitative information on the disease in animals.

366. **Bluetongue**

Dr Ben Jebara addressed bluetongue and he indicated that the distribution and prevalence of the disease was governed by ecological factors (i.e. high rainfall, temperature, humidity and soil characteristics); hence, in many parts of the world, infections have a seasonal occurrence.

Africa

Algeria and **Morocco** notified the reoccurrence of bluetongue in 2010. In 2009, Algeria reported the reoccurrence of bluetongue due to bluetongue virus (BTV) serotype BTV-1, with 19 outbreaks in Ghardaia Wilaya in the north of the country, an event that was reported closed in February 2010. In February 2010, two outbreaks due to serotype BTV-4 with no clinical signs were confirmed by laboratory testing; they involved cattle in El Bayad. In September 2010, bluetongue due to serotype 1 occurred in the north of the country, in Bejaia, Tizi Ouzou and Bouira, with 46 outbreaks.

Since July 2010, **Morocco** reported 258 outbreaks due to serotype BTV-4 and 23 outbreaks due to serotype BTV-1. The country implemented vaccination and quarantine measures in response to the outbreaks. A total of 137 000 sheep were vaccinated in 2010. Between July 2010 and January 2011, a total of 1176 cases occurred in the various outbreaks.

Morocco and **Tunisia** vaccinate sheep against BT and vaccination is prohibited in Algeria.

Europe

In Europe, and more specifically in southern Europe, several BTV serotypes have been reported, especially around the Mediterranean basin. Vaccination campaigns have been undertaken for several BTV serotypes, on either a compulsory or voluntary basis.

Cyprus reported six outbreaks with 34 cases in November 2010 due to serotype 16.

In **Italy**, during the first semester of 2010, no significant changes were detected compared to previous years, except for seroconversion in some sentinel animals in Central and Southern Italy, where BTV serotypes 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 16 were known to be present. In these regions, restrictions on animal movements and vaccination were applied as control measures.

Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) was first introduced into Europe in August 2006, in Kerkrade, province of Limburg, in **The Netherlands**. Since then it has spread to almost all West European Countries and a few countries outside Europe.

Thanks to the vaccination strategy undertaken by countries to control the disease at the beginning of the epizootic, the situation has been improving and vaccination is no longer compulsory or is stopped in many European countries.

In 2010, the following European countries did not report the presence of BTV-8: **Austria** (not reported since 2008), **Belgium**, the **Czech Republic** (not reported since December 2008), **Denmark** (not reported since November 2008), **France**, **Germany**, **Greece** (not reported since March 2009), **Luxemburg** (not reported since September 2007), **The Netherlands** (not reported since 2007), **Norway**, **Sweden**, (not reported since 2008) and the **United Kingdom** (not reported since 2008).

Belgium is applying compulsory vaccination against BTV-8 for all cattle and sheep. No cases were reported in 2010.

France reported only one outbreak of BT in 2010, due to BTV-1 in sheep. The third compulsory vaccination of ruminant livestock started at the end of 2009 against serotypes 8 and 1. Starting from the third quarter of 2010, vaccination is done on a voluntary basis (except for animals intended for export).

In **Switzerland**, vaccination was not allowed, but this may change depending on how the situation develops. In 2010, only one outbreak was reported, a single case having occurred in March.

Portugal has been affected by BTV-1 since 2007 and annual vaccination programmes for BTV-1 were carried out. Entomological and animal surveillance programmes were being carried out. Vaccination is being performed in the whole country for BTV-8 and in a small southern region for BTV-4.

Spain reported bluetongue to be endemic and created a risk area for BTV-4 in the south of the country, in a joint attempt with **Portugal** to prevent any circulation of this virus if it were to be introduced from North Africa. A preventive vaccination plan against BTV-4 was drawn up to cover sheep and cattle in this area. In September 2010, Spain reported two outbreaks due to serotype 4 in Andalucía, with seven cases in cattle and goats.

Following the identification of residual BTV in the south of **Norway** in 2009, no new cases were identified in 2010. Surveillance with bulk milk sampling in the restricted area and blood sampling of cattle and sheep at abattoirs would continue. All the events were declared closed in January 2010. Vaccination has not been used in any part of the country.

Sweden declared itself to be free from bluetongue (BTV-8) with effect from 3 December 2010. The restriction zones and movement restrictions were lifted. In restriction zones vaccination had been mandatory for two years to ensure eradication. Dr Ben Jebara indicated that vaccination was currently prohibited in Sweden.

Turkey notified an outbreak of the disease due to BT-16 in May 2010 in sheep. Vaccination was implemented in response to the outbreak.

In **Greece**, the bluetongue outbreaks due to BTV-1 on the island of Lesvos were declared closed in April 2010. The BTV-16 event that started in November 2008 is continuing in the Greek islands near the Turkish coast. Up to now, more than 300 outbreaks due to this serotype have been reported.

In the first semester of 2010, **Russia** reported a bluetongue outbreak involving cattle in Kaluzhskaya Oblast. No information on the incriminated serotype was given and vaccination is practised.

Countries applying a vaccination strategy have considerably decreased the number of outbreaks in Europe and several countries have reported the absence of new outbreaks in 2010.

Middle East

In April 2010, **Qatar** declared the first occurrence of BTV-4 in the country. Four outbreaks with 102 cases were reported. **Oman** notified the presence of serotypes 1, 4, 8, 16 in Al Batinah (in the North) in February 2009.

Conclusion

Overall, the number of newly reported outbreaks worldwide decreased significantly from 2008 to 2010.

Several BT serotypes were reported around the Mediterranean basin. Serotypes 1 and 4 were reported to be circulating in the Maghreb, Southern European countries and the Middle East. Other serotypes (e.g. BTV-8 and BTV-24) were also reported in the Mediterranean area in 2009 and 2010. Surveillance needs to be maintained in order to detect the appearance of any new BT serotype.

367. **African swine fever**

Dr Ben Jebara presented the situation relating to African swine fever (ASF), which is enzootic in several countries in Africa and in few European countries. In African wild pigs (warthogs, bush pigs, giant forest hogs) the disease is usually subclinical and they act as a reservoir host for African swine fever virus (ASFV) in Africa. Domestic pigs (*Sus domestica*), European wild boar and American wild pigs are hosts that can display the clinical form of the disease.

Africa

The occurrence of ASF in the North and Extreme-North Provinces of **Cameroon** was a significant epidemiological event for the country in 2010; at least seven localities in these two regions were affected by the event. The disease was known to be present in other provinces of the country.

In 2010, **Central African Republic** and **Chad** reported the first occurrence of the disease. Central African Republic reported the disease in June 2010 in Ombella-Mpoko (Zerengogo, Bimboin) with 32 cases, 28 deaths and nine animals slaughtered. Difficulties were reported because there were no effective controls of animal movements at the borders and because many infected animals do not show clinical signs.

Chad reported nine outbreaks between October 2010 and March 2011 near the border with Cameroon. Sudden deaths were reported on 4 October 2010 in domestic pigs, with clinical signs such as fever and reticulo-endothelial bleeding. A total of 51 359 domestic pigs were reported dead and 92 991 destroyed. Following stamping-out conducted in northern Cameroon (Yagoua), some farmers were thought to have fled with their animals, crossing the Logone River towards Bongor in the south-west of Chad. A compensation scheme was implemented.

In December 2010, **Tanzania** notified the reoccurrence of ASF in the Mbeya province, near the border with Malawi and Zambia, the previous occurrence having been in April 2004. There were six outbreaks involving 13 854 swine, with 509 cases and 204 deaths. The disease was known to be present in other areas of the country.

In **Benin**, **Malawi** and **Nigeria**, the disease is reported to be present. In **Uganda**, four outbreaks of ASF were confirmed in 2010.

Kenya notified the reoccurrence of ASF in December 2010 (the previous occurrence was in November 2007) with two outbreaks, one in Kisumi East and one in Kakamega Central. The affected farms were those of subsistence farmers around built-up areas who feed their animals with swill. The two outbreaks totalled 200 cases.

Europe

Armenia reported the reoccurrence of ASF in March 2010 (the previous occurrence was in February 2008). Between March and October 2010, three outbreaks were notified in domestic pigs and two cases were identified in wild boar (*Sus scrofa Linnaeus*).

In **Italy**, the disease is known to be present in wild boar but only in Sardinia Island. In 2010, 80 cases in the wildlife population and 100 cases in domestic pigs were reported in Sardinia.

In September 2009, **Russia** notified the reoccurrence of ASF (the previous occurrence was in June 2009). Up to 6 May 2011, 131 outbreaks were reported in pigs and in wild boar, the majority occurring in the southern part of Russia (near the border with Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Georgia). Few outbreaks were reported in the north-western part of the country: three outbreaks were reported in Leningradskaya Oblast, in October 2009, December 2010 and March 2011; one outbreak occurred in March 2011 in Murmanskaya Oblast (bordering Norway and Finland); two outbreaks occurred in April 2011 in Arkhangel'skaya Oblast; and two outbreaks occurred in Nizhegorodskaya Oblast (in February and April 2011). This indicated that the disease was spreading throughout the country across several thousand kilometres.

In 2010, 75 outbreaks were reported, involving 41 cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and 1634 cases in domestic pigs, and the culling and destruction of 67 563 domestic pigs. In 2011, 20 outbreaks have been reported, with 200 cases in wildlife and 357 cases in domestic animals.

368. **Highly pathogenic avian influenza due to virus serotype H5N1 (HPAI H5N1)**

Dr Ben Jebara briefly retraced the evolution of HPAI H5N1. The first recorded occurrence of HPAI H5N1 was identified in a poultry farm in Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), in 2003. In late 2003 and in 2004, HPAI H5N1 was restricted to south-East Asia, but in 2005 it spread to Central Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe. In 2006, it reached the African continent and the Middle East for the first time and spread to Western Europe, where mainly wild birds were infected. He summarised the evolution of the situation up to 2009.

Dr Ben Jebara then presented the situation in animals in 2010 and early 2011.

In 2010, **Bhutan** notified the first occurrence in Chhukha province in free-range poultry, while the following six countries/territories had new outbreaks: **Bangladesh**, **China (People's Rep. of)**, **Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)** and **Vietnam**, as well as **Egypt** and **Indonesia** where the disease is endemic. During the year, the following 14 countries/territories notified the reoccurrence of the disease: **Bulgaria** (wild bird), **Cambodia**, China (People's Rep. of) (wild birds), Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), **India**, **Israel**, **Japan**, **Korea (Rep. of)**, **Laos**, **Mongolia** (wild birds), **Myanmar**, **Nepal**, **Romania** and **Russia** (wild bird).

In early 2011 the following countries continued to report new outbreaks of the disease: **Bangladesh**, **Egypt**, **Indonesia**, and **Vietnam**.

In early 2011 the following countries/territories reported the reoccurrence of the disease: **Cambodia**, **Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)**, **India**, **Israel**, **Japan**, **Korea (Rep. of)**, **Myanmar** and the **Palestinian Autonomous Territories**.

Africa

The disease was still reported as endemic in **Egypt.** In 2010, there were 428 reported outbreaks with 62 861 cases.

Europe

The spread of HPAI H5N1 suggested a certain role related to wild birds' migration. **Bulgaria** reported an outbreak involving a fallen wild bird in March 2010 (common buzzard [*Buteo buteo*]). **Russia** reported one outbreak in June 2010 with 367 wild birds found dead at a lake; the species affected were great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), goosander (*Mergus merganser*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

In **Romania**, the disease was confirmed in two birds in two backyards in Letea in March 2010. Letea is a small locality in the Danube Delta. At about the same time, another outbreak, involving 52 cases, occurred in the Danube Delta at a distance of 55 km from Letea. The source of infection was contact with wild species.

Asia

Since the disease first occurred, Asia is the continent that has reported the highest number of outbreaks. In total, twelve countries notified the disease in 2010 and early 2011.

In **Indonesia**, outbreaks of HPAI due to serotype H5N1 were still being reported and the disease reappeared again in Gorontalo (where it had been reported absent since 2007), the spread being attributed to illegal movement of animals.

Bhutan reported five outbreaks in February and March 2010. The outbreaks, in which there were 24 cases and 2970 animals were destroyed, occurred in Chhukha province near the southern border with India. **Bangladesh** reported 30 outbreaks in 2010 and has so far reported 160 outbreaks in 2011.

Cambodia reported two outbreaks in February 2010, in Prey Veng and Takeo provinces, involving 32 024 cases. In January 2011, an outbreak was reported in Prek Doung, Kandal province. Culling of poultry started on 30 January 2011.

In **Laos** (Vientiane Capital), two layers that died in April 2010 tested positive for avian influenza. After a further increase in mortality, actions to contain the spread of the infection were applied (culling of infected and potentially infected poultry and disinfection of the premises). On 27 May 2010, the surveillance zone was lifted.

China (People's Rep. of), reported an outbreak in May 2010 involving 170 wild birds: 141 brown-headed gulls (*Larus brunnicephalus*), 27 bar-headed geese (*Anser indicus*), one red-billed chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) and one Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope*). **Mongolia** also reported an outbreak in May in Whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) and in greylag geese (*Anser anser*); 26 cases in total were reported. **Mongolia** reported one outbreak in April 2011 in Whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) near the southern border with China. It has been confirmed to be H5; however, details of the neuraminidase were pending.

In **Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)** in 2010, two outbreaks were reported, one involving the carcass of a wild bird, a dead barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), and the other involving poultry. Since January 2011, the carcases of several wild birds have tested positive for HPAI due to serotype H5N1. The species involved, namely oriental magpie robin (*Copsychus saularis*), large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchus*) and black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), are common and widespread residents or common winter visitors (November to April) to Hong Kong (SAR-PRC). In addition, the carcases of a chicken and a duck tested positive, the duck having been collected on the shore of Tai O. An intensive surveillance system is in place for all poultry farms, poultry markets, pet bird shops and wild birds in Hong Kong (SAR-PRC). The H5N1-infected wild birds were detected within the framework of the ongoing surveillance programme for wild birds. No spread of the disease was evidenced.

Eight outbreaks with a total of 1114 cases were reported in **Nepal** in 2010, involving commercial poultry farms. Stamping out and cleaning and disinfection operations were completed in all the outbreaks.

In **Vietnam**, 43 outbreaks with 25 789 cases were reported in 2010. In 2011, 25 outbreaks with 22 969 cases have been reported. The control measures adopted in response to the outbreaks include screening, zoning and vaccination.

In **India**, five outbreaks with 1866 cases occurred in West Bengal in January 2010 and led to the destruction of 149 072 birds. In 2011, two outbreaks with 2578 cases were reported in Tripura and led to the destruction of 20 520 birds; stamping out of all domestic birds is being applied within a radius of approximately 3 km around the outbreaks, with compensation for the owners. An intensive surveillance campaign has been launched in a 10-km-radius zone and includes: closure of poultry markets and a ban on the sale and transportation of poultry products in the infected zone, and disinfection of premises after culling and sealing of premises where appropriate.

In **Japan**, an outbreak of HPAI was confirmed in December 2010 in Shimane prefecture. The event was contained within the affected farm through the application of control measures, including stamping-out and movement restrictions (10-km radius around the affected farm). The virus is believed to have been carried to the vicinity of the farm by migratory birds, as the outbreak occurred in a season when migratory birds fly from the

north to Lake Nakaumi near the farm. Other outbreaks of HPAI were reported in multiple prefectures in wild and domestic birds. All poultry in affected farms were destroyed. In all the outbreaks the virus strains were closely related. In total, 54 cases in wild birds and 2146 cases in poultry were reported in Japan.

In the **Republic of Korea**, in November 2010, as part of a continuous avian influenza surveillance programme, 39 wild birds were captured and sampled; H5N1 virus was confirmed. Clinical surveillance and disinfection on neighbouring poultry farms were stepped up. Avian influenza tests were also conducted in wild birds and 22 wild birds tested positive. To date, 57 outbreaks have been reported, involving 39 021 cases, 38 941 of which died, and 1 381 226 birds were destroyed. The poultry in the affected farms and within a 500-m radius of the affected farms were culled and buried. Disinfection and clinical surveillance has been intensified within a 10-km radius of the affected farms.

In February 2010, **Myanmar** notified three outbreaks involving poultry in Yangon and Sagaing provinces. There were 407 cases and 5074 birds were destroyed. In 2011, nine outbreaks have been reported, in Rakhine State and Sagaing. In these outbreaks there were 55 887 cases, 1585 of which died, and a further 60 401 birds were destroyed.

In January 2010, **Israel** reported an outbreak in a farm in Haifa, comprising three poultry houses containing 43 000 heavy breeder pullets. Clinical signs occurred in only one house. All the animals were culled. On 29 April 2010, in Hadarom province, two emus died in a mini zoo in Ein Gedi kibbutz and both tested positive for H5N1. None of the other birds in the zoo showed any clinical signs but all were culled and buried on site. In March and April 2011, two outbreaks involving 1000 cases in poultry and 1 case in a Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) were reported in, Jehuda and Samaria province (Israeli Settlements in the West Bank).

The **Palestinian Autonomous Territories** reported an outbreak in February 2011, in a turkey farm in the West Bank province. In April 2011 a marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) with respiratory signs was found in the wild in Jordan Valley, Jericho, in the West Bank. The animal died shortly after and H5N1 was identified through PCR.

Dr Ben Jebara addressed the seasonality of reported cases of HPAI, the decrease in the incidence of HPAI in animals. Since the beginning of the epizootic, a sufficient quantity of data has been collected to enable the identification of a seasonal pattern in the occurrence of new HPAI H5N1 outbreaks. The overall trend was for a concentration in the number of cases between December and March.

In 2004, 254 384 cases were reported. The percentage variation in the following years shows that, after a peak in 2006, there was a constant decline in the number of cases by year worldwide.

Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the importance of combating the disease at source; however, additional efforts were needed in order to monitor on a more regular basis the efficacy of the vaccines currently used and to try to increase vaccination coverage and decrease the interval between vaccinations in countries where the disease is endemic. In 2010, only three countries vaccinated in response to outbreaks. Nineteen countries notified the disease in 2010, and all of them reported and implemented movement control inside the country.

Dr Ben Jebara highlighted the differences in the control measures that affected countries had applied and indicated that in some cases they had not proved effective in controlling or eradicating the disease, as shown by the fact that some countries had been notifying the disease for a long time. There was a need to seriously evaluate the measures in these countries and correct the situation so as to achieve better control. This could not be done

without an effective animal health surveillance, early warning and rapid response system that included the regular evaluation of control programmes, including vaccination programmes. If control strategies were regularly evaluated, they could be adjusted to ensure maximum efficiency.

HPAI H5N1 is a zoonotic disease. In 2010, it affected 48 people, with 24 fatalities, and in 2011, up to end of March, 18 people were affected with 10 fatalities. Between 2005 and 2011, **Indonesia**, **Egypt** and **Vietnam** reported the highest number of human cases. The highest number of cases was reported during the expansion of the epizootic in 2006.

369. **Peste des petits ruminants**

Dr Ben Jebara explained that PPR occurs in African countries, in the Arabian Peninsula, throughout most of the Near East and Middle East and in south-west Asia.

Africa

In North Africa, the introduction of PPR for the first time in the Maghreb was notified by **Morocco** in June 2008. The OIE Reference Laboratory for PPR (CIRAD, Montpellier, France), confirmed the diagnosis and identified the causal agent as PPR virus - lineage IV. This lineage is present in the Middle East and is not an African lineage. The disease caused high morbidity and mortality and Morocco started mass vaccination to control the disease. No new outbreaks have been reported since 5 November 2008 and this first occurrence was declared resolved on 27 January 2009. The Middle Eastern origin of this lineage IV and its initially mild clinical picture in Morocco prompted other North African countries to conduct active surveillance and sero-monitoring for the disease so as to be able to confirm or rule out its presence. **Tunisia** conducted active surveillance for PPR in the country. The presence of PPR-seropositive animals was laboratory confirmed in May 2009 from samples collected in October 2008 following a random sampling investigation. Sheep and goats that were seropositive without clinical signs were detected among sampled animals in the Governorates of Jendouba, Kasserine and Sidi-Bouzid. For the first time Tunisia reported the detection of the clinical disease in an outbreak in Kairouan in April 2011 with two cases in sheep. In March 2011, **Algeria** notified the first occurrence of PPR infection, seven outbreaks with a total of 149 cases in sheep and goats being identified, mainly in the western part of the country. Samples were taken during an investigation conducted at the following wilayas: Tindouf, Bechar, Naama, Adrar and Tamanrasset (south-western part of Algeria). This investigation, using competitive ELISA, found a number of sera to be serological positive. Virological testing was carried out, with negative RT-PCR results for all sera. No clinical signs were observed in the animals. Further field investigations would be conducted and extended to other wilayas.

The presence of infection without clinical disease, as observed by Tunisia and Algeria, suggests that the disease has been present but clinically silent. It could also be that the clinical disease has not been noticed, since PPR disease can be confounded with other diseases present in the region, such as bluetongue.

In the whole of Africa, a total of 592 outbreaks with 40 155 cases were notified in 2010 (with a high dispersion of data between the numbers of cases present during this period by country, from 20 289 in **Ethiopia** to 10 in **Mauritania**). In recent years, the disease has been moving south-east, affecting **Kenya** (laboratory confirmation in 2006), **Uganda**, in 2007 and **Tanzania** in 2008; these three East African countries were still affected by the disease in 2010.

In 2008, **Niger** notified the reoccurrence of the disease, the previous occurrence having been in 2003.

Congo (Rep. of the) notified the first occurrence of PPR in 2006. Despite the control measures put in place, the disease spread to all the departments of the country due to non-compliance on the part of animals' owners with the measures taken by the Veterinary Services to prevent its spread. The Veterinary Services then decided to vaccinate sheep and goats throughout the country. In May 2009, the disease was declared endemic. In 2010, no new outbreaks were reported.

In **Tanzania**, after the first occurrence of the disease in the country in 2008 (in Arusha near the border with Kenya), new outbreaks of clinical cases of PPR were reported in the south of the country, in Mtwara, Ruvuma and Morogoro regions, in February and June 2010. These recent outbreaks were attributed to the migratory pastoralists moving towards the southern regions of Tanzania, bordering Mozambique. Following the vaccination campaigns, there have been no reports of new outbreaks to date. Around 6 million of the 17 200 000 small ruminants in the northern districts of Tanzania have been vaccinated.

In **Sudan**, PPR was observed for the first time in February 1971. In 2008, PPR was identified as a priority disease for the country. In 2010, surveillance conducted in 15 states identified 13 outbreaks and 2 368 879 sheep were vaccinated against the disease.

The outbreaks of PPR recorded in **Somalia** indicate a gradual spread of the disease eastwards. A vaccination campaign was carried out in the affected and surrounding areas in July 2009 and similar vaccination campaigns were carried out in Puntland and South and Central Somalia.

In 2010, **Morocco** carried out its third vaccination campaign against PPR (22.9 million sheep/goats vaccinated). Since 5 November 2008, no new outbreaks have been declared.

In **Burkina Faso**, 1008 sera from 48 villages in 13 regions of the country were analysed in 2010 and a high prevalence (33%) was found.

Asia

Bhutan notified the first occurrence of PPR in June 2010, with 27 cases in goats. The affected population was kept in an animal shelter in accordance with "tshethar" (practice of rescuing animals from slaughter, on religious grounds). The outbreak occurred after the introduction of four new "tshethar" animals on 13 April 2010. These animals originated from Phuntsholing (southern border town).

China (People's Rep. of) notified a reoccurrence of the disease in June 2010, the first occurrence since 2008: 133 cases and 69 deaths were reported in sheep and goats in the Tibet region, bordering India; 1094 animals were destroyed.

Aquatic animal diseases: Diseases of amphibians

Dr Ben Jebara presented the situation relating to the the newly listed diseases Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus.

370. **Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

In the period between 2009 and 2011, the disease was reported in an immediate notification by **Sweden**, where three outbreaks were detected in June 2010 in two wild species: common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and European green toad (*Bufo viridis*), with 5 and 34 cases, respectively.

According to the information provided in the six-monthly reports and/or the wildlife questionnaire, the disease was notified as present by the following countries: **Australia**, **Belgium**, **Canada**, **Costa Rica**, **The Netherlands, New Zealand**, **South Africa**, **Spain**, **Sweden**, **Tanzania**, the **United Kingdom**, the **United States of America** and **Uruguay**. In 2010, **Guatemala** and **Switzerland** reported the disease as suspected.

As a general indication, of the 157 countries that referred to the disease in the six-monthly reports and/or the wildlife questionnaire, 57% (89 countries/territories) stated they had no information and 28% (43 countries/territories) notified the disease as "never observed".

371. **Infection with ranavirus**

In 2010, the disease was notified as present by **Albania**, **Canada**, **Japan, The Netherlands**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States of America**. In its wildlife questionnaire, Albania reported the disease present but without any quantitative information. Japan reported three outbreaks of the disease, one case in *Hylidae* and two cases in *Ranidae*. **Malaysia** and **Uruguay** reported the disease as suspected. In February 2011, **The Netherlands** notified the first occurrence of infection with ranavirus disease, with one case in an edible frog (*Pelophylax kl. esculentus*) in the wild, in Dwingelerveld Lake, Drenthe Province. Of the 155 countries that submitted their six-monthly reports and/or their wildlife questionnaire, 60% (93 countries/territories) countries had no information on the disease and 28% (44 countries/territories) mentioned the disease as "never reported".

The lack of information on these diseases in many countries can be explained by the fact that they have only recently become OIE-listed diseases. Dr Ben Jebara invited Member Countries and Territories to start monitoring these diseases to be able to notify their presence or absence, thus enabling the OIE to describe their worldwide distribution more accurately.

2010 OIE Report on Wildlife Diseases Worldwide in 2010 (Doc. 79 SG/2A)

372. Dr Ben Jebara started the presentation on the report based on the answers received on the Wildlife Disease questionnaires submitted by OIE Members.

He underlined how, in the past two years, the quality of information reported in the Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases returned to the OIE had improved and the number of countries completing the questionnaire had also increased. The OIE Notification System for Wildlife Diseases has created a system of direct communication in each country between the Delegate, the Focal Point for Animal Disease Notification and the Focal Point for Wildlife responsible for reporting OIE-listed diseases in wildlife species and specific diseases of wildlife. He noted how for a number of countries, this had improved the quality of information submitted to the OIE in the six-monthly reports and the Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases. He also indicated that, for some diseases, an improvement in the level of surveillance and monitoring in wildlife had been achieved.

Of the 178 Wildlife Disease questionnaires for 2010 sent to OIE Members, 90 completed questionnaires had been received by 30 April 2011. This marked an improvement in the number of completed questionnaires received at the OIE compared to the number received by the same period for the 2009 questionnaire (83 up to 30 April 2010), demonstrating a greater willingness of Members to collect, collate and report data on wild animals, even though completion of the questionnaire is on a voluntary basis.

Twenty-two questionnaires were received from Africa, 13 from the Americas, 18 from Asia and Oceania and 37 from Europe.

Members that had submitted a completed Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases for 2010 by geographic region were as follows:

Africa: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo (Rep. Dem. of), Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia;

The Americas: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname, United States of America and Uruguay;

Asia and Oceania: Australia, Bhutan, Chinese Taipei, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand and Vanuatu;

Europe: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldavia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

A total of 17 294 cases in wild animals were reported in the questionnaires for 2010. Reported cases were related to 260 different species belonging to 87 different families. The information provided in this report was extracted from the questionnaires received from the above-mentioned Members and, where relevant, was completed with information on OIE-listed diseases in wild species collected through WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System).

Dr Ben Jebara then addressed OIE-listed diseases affecting wild animals.

OIE-Listed diseases affecting wild animals

373. **Rabies (2010 and early 2011)**

Dr Ben Jebara first summarised the rabies situation in wildlife. Outbreaks of rabies in terrestrial mammals are found in a broad geographic range of regions across the world. Based on information extracted from the questionnaires, cases of rabies in wild mammals in 2010 were reported by countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania and Europe. A total of 2170 cases of rabies (2963 cases in 2009 and 3530 cases in 2008) were reported in wild animals in 2010, involving 36 different species belonging to 23 different families. Some cases were simply reported to have occurred in wildlife, without any details of the affected species being provided.

A total of 33 Members reported the presence of rabies in their questionnaires (Africa: **Algeria**, **Ethiopia**, **Morocco**, **South Africa** and **Togo**; Americas: **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Canada**, **Chile**, **Cuba**, **Guatemala**, **Mexico** and **United States of America**; Asia and Oceania: **Israel**, **Korea (Rep. of)**, **Mongolia** and **Saudi Arabia**; Europe: **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **France**, **Georgia**, **Germany**, **Hungary**, **Italy**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Moldavia**, **The Netherlands**, **Poland**, **Romania**, **Slovenia**, **Sweden** [only antibodies to European bat lyssavirus in bats] and **Turkey**).

Europe

In 2010 Europe was the region that reported the largest number of cases of rabies (1842 cases). Seventeen countries reported the disease present: **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **France** (in bats only), **Georgia**, **Germany** (in bats only), **Hungary**, **Italy**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Moldavia**, **Poland**, **Romania**, **Slovenia**,

Sweden, **The Netherlands** (in bats only) and **Turkey** and 10 countries reported the disease absent (**Armenia**, **Austria**, **Denmark**, **Estonia**, **Finland**, **Greece**, **Liechtenstein**, **Norway**, **Slovakia** and **Spain**).

France and **Germany** made self-declarations indicating that they were "free from rabies". There were cases of rabies in bats in 2010 that were recorded in the Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases. Germany reported six cases in microbats (Microchiroptera) in the administrative divisions of Berlin, Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate and France isolated European bat lyssavirus (EBLV), type 1 in six serotine bats (*Eptesicus serotinus*) of the family Vespertilionidae, in the administrative divisions of Deux-Sèvres, Charente-Maritime, Doubs, Ardennes and Côtes-d'Armor.

The Netherlands reported that rabies was not detected in red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*); however, European bat lyssavirus type 1 (EBLV-1) was detected in bats (fam. Vespertilionidae).

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the main host reservoir of sylvatic rabies in Europe, continued to be the most frequently reported rabid wildlife mammal in European countries: 90.80% of all animal cases during 2010; 2.70% of cases were reported in five species (*Lutra lutra*, *Martes foina*, *Martes martes*, *Meles meles*, *Mustela putorius*) belonging to the family of Mustelidae. One family of bats (Vespertilionidae) represented 1.8% of all European wild animal cases reported in 2010.

The highest number of reported cases was from **Romania** (712 cases; 41.01%) followed by **Croatia** (598 cases; 34.44%) and **Italy** (203 cases; 12%).

In March 2010, **Sweden** sent an immediate notification after eight clinically healthy Daubenton's bats (*Myotis daubentoni*) were found to be antibody-positive for European bat lyssavirus in Skåne Län administrative division.

At the beginning of 2011, **Norway** submitted an immediate notification of the occurrence of rabies in three *Vulpes lagopus*. There was reason to believe that rabies was present in polar populations of different species in the area and in particular in polar foxes. Rabies has never been reported in mainland Norway. The disease had sporadically been diagnosed in fauna in the archipelago of Svalbard. The outbreak was resolved.

Africa

Forty-seven cases of rabies were reported by four countries (**Algeria**, **Ethiopia**, **Morocco** and **South Africa**). The disease was reported as suspected in wild species in two countries (**Guinea-Bissau** and **Niger**). The disease was reported present through WAHIS in domestic animals and absent in wild animals by **Benin**, **Ghana**, **Kenya**, **Sudan**, **Swaziland** and **Tanzania**. **Gambia** reported the disease absent in wild animals in the questionnaire.

The highest number of cases was registered in **South Africa** (25 cases; 53.19%), followed by **Ethiopia** (15 cases; 31.91%). **Morocco** reported four cases (8.51%) and **Algeria** three cases (6.38%). Algeria did not specify the species affected.

Ethiopia reported 15 cases in Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) in the Bale Mountain National park.

In **South Africa**, the most reported species was the bat-eared fox (*Otocyon megalotis*). There were three cases in common genet (*Genetta genetta*), three cases in Egyptian mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*), three cases in yellow mongoose (*Cynictis penicillata*) and one case in banded mongoose (*Mungos mungo*), all belonging to the same Herpestidae family. There was one case in a black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*), one case in a chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*) and one case in a common duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*).

In **Morocco**, two cases were reported in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), one case in a European hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) and one case in a guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*).

Americas

Rabies in wild animals was reported in eight countries in 2010, namely **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Canada**, **Chile** (in bats only), **Cuba**, **Guatemala** (in bats only), **Mexico** and **United States of America**. **Belize**, **Colombia** and **Uruguay** reported rabies present in domestic animals and absent in wild species.

A total of 331 rabies cases were reported involving 10 different species of wild mammals. The **United States of America** reported the disease as endemic in bats and wild carnivores but no quantitative data on the number of cases were provided.

In **Brazil**, the largest numbers of cases were reported in non-haematophagous bats with 97 cases (66.90%), followed by Canidae with 27 cases (18.62%), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) with four cases; for 23 cases the species was not specified.

In **Canada**, the most frequently reported rabid wildlife species were skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) with 60 cases (52.63%), followed by bats belonging to the family Vespertilionidae with 45 cases (39.47%) and Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) with six cases (5.26%).

In **Chile**, 61 cases were reported in bats.

In **Guatemala**, three cases were reported in vampire bats (*Desmodus rotundus*).

In **Cuba** only one case was reported, in Pinar del Río, in a small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*).

Asia, Oceania and the Middle East

Four countries reported rabies in wild animals in the questionnaire for 2010, namely **Israel**, **Korea (Rep. of)**, **Mongolia** and **Saudi Arabia**. The disease was reported to be absent in wild animals in **Australia**, **Chinese Taipei**, **Japan**, **Malaysia**, **Nepal**, **Singapore** and **Thailand**.

Israel, Mongolia and **Korea (Rep. of)** provided quantitative data.

In **Israel** 15 cases were reported, 12 in golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), two in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and one in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

In **Mongolia** the most frequently reported rabid wildlife species were red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with 31 cases (59.62%), followed by grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) with 18 cases (34.62%), and European badger (*Meles meles*) with three cases (5.77%).

In **Korea (Rep. of)** one case was reported, in Kangwon-do, in a raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*).

374. **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**

Dr Ben Jebara presented the information provided in the Questionnaire on HPAI due to serotype H5N1.

The question of how the interaction between wild birds and domestic birds contributes to the spread and persistence of HPAI is complex and not yet completely answered. Experience in some countries showed a direct role of wild birds in the transmission of the disease to domestic birds but the majority of outbreaks of HPAI due to H5N1 were attributed to the trade of birds, including the illegal trade between neighbouring countries. Reporting the disease in wild birds, while not affecting the status of a country with respect to trade of poultry, was a procedure that enabled a better understanding of the epidemiology and the spread mechanisms of the disease. This allowed monitoring of the disease situation in wild birds with more transparency in the notification of the disease in wild birds since the start of the epizootic.

In 2010, the countries/territories that reported highly pathogenic avian influenza due to serotype H5N1 (HPAI H5N1) in wild birds were: **Bulgaria**, **China (People's Rep. of)**, **Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)**, **Japan**, **Korea (Rep. of)**, **Mongolia**, and **Russia**. From the information gathered from the questionnaires, a total of 115 cases of HPAI H5N1 were reported in wild birds.

Europe

The information on HPAI H5N1 has already been provided above in the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the Beginning of 2011 (Doc. 79 SG/2A).

Asia and Oceania

A total of 114 cases were reported in the questionnaire returns. **Japan** reported six cases in two species, one in a Bewick's swan (*Cygnus colombianus*) and five in hooded crane (*Grus monacha*). **Korea (Rep. of)** reported 82 cases: 80 in three species belonging to the Anatidae family (one mallard [*Anas platyrhynchos*], five mandarin ducks [*Aix galericulata*], 74 Baikal teals [*Anas Formosa*]) and two cases in eagle-owls (*Bubo bubo*).

In May 2010, **Mongolia**, reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 at Ganga Lake, Dariganga soum, Sukhbaatar, with 26 cases in whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) and greylag geese (*Anser anser*).

For China (People's Republic of) and Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), information on highly pathogenic avian influenza due to serotype H5N1 is provided above in the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the Beginning of 2011 (Doc. 79 SG/2A).

The control measures in place in countries where the disease was either reported present or absent in 2010 showed that, with a good surveillance system, it was possible for a country to try to establish the situation in its territory in wild birds with regard to a disease. This was in line with the OIE's strategy to request countries to notify diseases in wild birds on the basis of a surveillance system so as to accurately reflect the true situation in their territory.

Dr Ben Jebara then gave a summary of the information gathered on foot and mouth disease through the Questionnaire.

375. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

Wild animals can often act as reservoir for animal diseases, a situation that makes the effective management and control of these diseases in domestic animals more challenging. For example, in **South Africa**, the presence of FMD in wild buffaloes in the Kruger National Park acts as reservoir for the virus.

Detection of diseases in wildlife could serve as an early warning, which is a prerequisite for a rapid response to an exceptional disease event occurring in domestic animals in a country. A good example of this was the FMD outbreak in **Bulgaria** that was first reported on 4 January 2011 when a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) was found to be positive for FMD virus serotype O, after being shot during the hunting season in an area located about 2 km from the border with Turkey.

In 2010, six countries reported a total of 1963 cases of FMD in wild mammals in the questionnaire: **Israel**, **Kenya**, **Mongolia**, **Nepal**, **Saudi Arabia** and **South Africa**; 24 countries/territories reported the disease absent: **Algeria**, **Austria**, **Benin**, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Brazil**, **Bulgaria**, **Canada**, **Chinese Taipei**, **Croatia**, **Denmark**, **Finland**, **Gambia**, **Germany**, **Greece**, **Hungary**, **Italy**, **Japan**, **Latvia**, **Poland**, **Senegal**, **Swaziland**, **Tanzania**, **United States of America** and **Uruguay**. One country, **Niger**, reported that the disease was suspected.

Asia and Oceania

Two countries, **Mongolia** and **Nepal**, reported a total of 1716 cases of FMD in wild animals in the questionnaire:. Information on other countries reporting FMD in wild animals in 2010 was gathered from WAHIS.

Mongolia reported 1605 cases of FMD serotype O; there were two outbreaks, one in August and one in September 2010, in Dornod and Sukhbaatar, involving black-tailed gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*).

Nepal reported the occurrence, in May 2010, of 111 cases of FMD serotype O, one case in a hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), 50 cases in barasingha (*Cervus duvaucelii*), 57 cases in cheetal (*Axis axis*) and three cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Africa

A total of 247 cases were reported in the questionnaire by two countries, namely **Kenya** and **South Africa**.

Kenya reported that 236 cases of FMD occurred between February and September 2010. These included one case in lesser kudu (*Tragelaphus imberbis*), two cases in greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), three cases in waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*), 20 cases in giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), 61 cases in desert warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) and 149 cases in African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*). The geographical distribution of serotypes was as follows: serotypes A, O, C[38], SAT-1 and SAT-2 in the North-eastern provinces of Garissa/Ijara (75 cases), in the Meru National Park (64 cases) and in Tsavo National Park (97 cases).

South Africa reported 11 cases of FMD serotype SAT-2 in the Kruger National Park, 10 in impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) and one in a greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*).

Dr Ben Jebara then addressed the information on specific diseases affecting wild animals gathered with the Questionnaire on wildlife diseases.

[38] Results of analysis made by the National Laboratory in Kenya, pending confirmation of samples sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease, Pirbright, United Kingdom.

Non OIE-listed diseases affecting wild animals

376. **White-nose syndrome in bats**

White-nose syndrome, so called because of visible rings of white fungus on the face of affected bats, is a disease affecting hibernating bats. The cause of the syndrome is under investigation but has been associated with a psychrophilic fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, discovered in 2006 in North America.

The disease has killed more than a million bats in the north-eastern States of the **United States of America**. The fungus grows on bats while they hibernated in caves. It seems to irritate them and cause them to wake up, resulting in the faster depletion of their winter fat stores. They leave hibernation sites and fly around outside, often in the daytime, even though it is still winter and there are no food sources available. Bats are a unique and important part of biodiversity. They also play a vital role in pest control, eating thousands of insects at night. The United States of America reported the clinical presence of the disease in 14 States affecting bats of the Vespertillionidae family.

From the information gathered through the wildlife disease questionnaire for 2010, **Canada** reported seven outbreaks with 59 cases. The species affected belonged to two families: Myotinae (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Vespertilionidae (*Nyctophilus arnhemensis*).

In Europe, in 2010, **France** and **Slovakia** reported that the presence of the disease was suspected in bats; **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Hungary** reported the disease absent; **Switzerland** reported the disease present even if no mass mortality was registered.

377. **Canine distemper**

Canine distemper is one of the most significant and highly contagious viral diseases of dogs and wild carnivores. It is caused by a virus of the Morbillivirus genus of the Paramyxoviridae virus family, a type of virus that causes measles in humans and rinderpest in hoofed animals. Canine distemper affects dogs but wild carnivores are also susceptible to the canine distemper virus. Domestic canine populations and receptive wild species seem to act as reservoirs for each other.

In the questionnaires for 2009 and 2010, canine distemper virus was reported present in 14 countries, including countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania and Europe. Members of six families of the order Carnivora were reported as being susceptible to the distemper virus (i.e. Canidae, Felidae, Mephitidae, Mustelidae, Procyonidae and Ursidae). In 2010, quantitative data were provided only from America and Europe.

In total, 365 cases were recorded: 151 in 2009 and 213 in 2010.

Canine distemper is a transboundary disease and can seriously affect the survival of wild, sometimes endangered species.

378. **Elephant herpesvirus**

Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV), which causes a serious disease of elephants, was discovered in 1995. The virus mostly affects young Asian elephants and produces a haemorrhagic disease that can have a high mortality rate. According to the International Elephant Foundation's EEHV progress report 3-2009, "over 50 cases have been confirmed in captive animals in North America and Europe, with a fatality rate of more than 80%".

From the information gathered through the wildlife disease questionnaire for 2010, **Nepal** reported one case in an Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*: family Elephantidae) during the second half of 2010. A total of 20 susceptible animals were present in the outbreak.

Tanzania reported, for the second semester 2010, one suspected case in an African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in the Tarangire National Park.

South Africa reported the disease present but without providing quantitative data.

Notification of the presence of the disease by **Tanzania** and **South Africa** showed that EEHV, as reported in Asian elephants in Asia and in some captive animals outside Asia, had also been identified in Africa.

Dr Ben Jebara spoke about diseases of unknown cause notified in the questionnaire by Members.

379. **Diseases of unknown cause**

Any observation of high morbidity or mortality in wild species should be looked at carefully to determine its origin. This is an important component of the early warning system of countries, especially to try to identify any new emerging disease. With this in mind, the OIE encouraged the improvement of capacity for rapid identification of the cause of any high morbidity or mortality observed in the wild. Diagnostic investigations should be carried out to identify the cause. Countries were encouraged to enlist the help of OIE Reference Laboratories in such situations.

The OIE asked Members to notify specific diseases in wildlife, including diseases of unknown or unidentified origin, in the Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases.

In 2010, **Ethiopia, Nepal**, **South Africa**, **Sweden** and **Tanzania** notified the presence of diseases of unknown cause. **Guatemala** reported the suspected presence of diseases of unknown origin.

Ethiopia notified thirteen cases of an unknown disease affecting 12 marabou storks (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) and one African sacred ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) at Ziway Lake.

Nepal notified three cases of an unknown disease affecting sambar (*Cervus unicolor*); the diagnosis was made on the basis of clinical and post-mortem signs.

Tanzania notified the presence of two diseases of unknown cause in giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*). One disease, with 248 cases in Iringa District, was described as affecting the ears (pinna necrotising disease) and the other, with 126 cases in Mikumi District, was reported to affect the skin (dermatophylosis).

Congo (**Dem. Rep. of)** described clinical signs of diseases affecting wild animals.

380. Dr Ben Jebara concluded by reminding the Assembly that the information compiled in the report was made available thanks to the information contained in the completed Questionnaire on Wildlife Diseases provided by OIE Members and through the efforts of the Delegates concerned, aided by their nominated Focal Point for Wildlife and Focal Point for Disease Notification. He said that the quantity and quality of the information provided on wildlife diseases was improving year after year. The OIE firmly believed that all its Members should continue their efforts to establish or improve their national surveillance systems so that they include surveillance and monitoring of the wild animals present in their territory. The OIE would maintain its commitment to capacity building for Delegates and their nominated national Focal Points for Wildlife to help them to achieve these

objectives. In their questionnaires, many countries indicated their willingness to start implementing surveillance and monitoring of their wildlife populations in the near future.

381. The WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild online notification systems would become fully integrated from the beginning of 2012, enabling data on wildlife species for 2011 onwards to be collected more easily and more effectively.

382. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation and opened the floor for discussions.

383. The Delegate of Bangladesh thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his interesting presentation. FMD, peste des petits ruminants and avian influenza had been the diseases of greatest concern in Bangladesh during the past four years. The national HPAI control policy, consisting of not vaccinating but applying stamping out, had been aimed at improving biosecurity. The Delegate drew the Assembly's attention to the need for harmonisation of HPAI control policies worldwide.

384. The Delegate of Sudan congratulated Dr Ben Jebara and all his team on the excellent presentation. He emphasised that WAHIS enabled information to be shared more effectively with the various partners and thanked the OIE for having set it up. He highlighted the spread of peste des petits ruminants in Africa and elsewhere in the world and considered that the disease could become a worldwide concern. He mentioned the possibility of setting up control programmes at a global and regional level and proposed that the disease could become the next candidate for global eradication, as in the case of rinderpest. Lastly, he queried the difference between the number of rabies cases and the number of deaths in humans presented in the report.

385. Dr Ben Jebara corroborated the points made by the Delegate of Sudan, stating that peste des petits ruminants had affected several historically free regions, such as North Africa. Southern Africa, which had never been affected by the disease, needed to remain vigilant to prevent its introduction. He stressed the importance of protecting farms with small ruminants since these were often the main source of income for small-scale producers and ensured their food security. He also explained the difference between the number of human cases of rabies and the number of deaths reported to the OIE, stating that this was due partly to the declaration of humans who had received anti-rabies treatment after having been bitten by a dog and partly by the fact that in cases where the dog in question had been kept under observation and had proved to be rabid, the person who had received sero-vaccinal treatment had survived thanks to the treatment. He pointed out the difficulty of determining persons treated after being bitten by a stray dog and of confirming whether or not the dog in question was infected with rabies and whether or not the person treated was actually infected. He emphasised the importance of understanding the nature of the information to be provided when notifying rabies through the WAHIS system to make it as homogeneous as possible between countries.

386. Regarding the intervention by the Delegate of Bangladesh on HPAI control strategies, namely stamping out or vaccination, Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that, since the beginning of the epizootic, FAO and the OIE had established guidelines on the control of avian influenza but that it was up to individual countries to choose the most appropriate strategy for their epidemiological and financial situation. He added that it was important for countries to give themselves the necessary means to implement the strategy rigorously since there were several examples where one or other of these strategies had helped countries to fight the disease.

387. The Delegate of Uruguay pointed out that, among the reasons for notifying major epidemiological events mentioned in the report, in the case of Q fever it was an increase in incidence and there was no specific information on this disease in the report. Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that there had been no regional or global exceptional events justifying a specific analysis on this disease in the report as only one country had notified it in an immediate notification, available on WAHID.

388. The Delegate of Mexico asked why the OIE had corrected the Mexican report which indicated the presence of equine encephalomyelitis in wildlife despite the absence of wild equids in his country. This question had already been raised at the meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas at the beginning of the week. It was pointed out that this disease had already been notified as present in wildlife by Mexico itself in a previous report and that in this case it was necessary to provide information that corresponded as closely as possible to the situation in the country, notably by indicating the presence of the disease solely in horses and its absence in wild equids.

389. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Ben Jebara and his team for the excellent presentation. He indicated that the OIE should be the preeminent source of information on animal health in the world. He believed that this goal was slipping away as WAHIS continued to seek even more information on a wide range of diseases. He believed that the focus should be more on the quality of data rather than on the quantity. In the case of wildlife, Australia would prefer to see a smaller amount of accurate and meaningful information on OIE-listed diseases where wildlife played a significant epidemiological role. He referred to the comment raised during the previous General Session relating to the inclusion of inaccurate information in WAHIS. He requested that WAHIS be revised so that a disease could be reported as never having occurred in wildlife. Finally he believed that further consultation with OIE Members was needed on both WAHIS and WAHIS-*Wild*.

390. Dr Ben Jebara referred to the previous year's discussions and acknowledged that the quality of the information in WAHIS was not perfect and reflected the situation in OIE Members. However, a considerable improvement in the quality of information had been made in recent years. He believed that the training seminars for Focal Points organised by the OIE had contributed to this improvement. He also highlighted the differences that existed between OIE Members and how this was reflected in the data communicated to the OIE. He explained that in 2009 the OIE had started to differentiate the disease occurrence codes between domestic animals and wildlife, so as to improve the accessibility of animal health information while maintaining the historical data already reported to the OIE. For this reason the occurrence code "never reported" was kept, as it meant that the disease had never been reported in a country regardless of the susceptible species. He clarified that the OIE had deliberately adopted this conservatory approach from the very beginning because the historical data could not be ignored and there was a risk of jeopardising the quality of the information. Referring to the Australian request of the previous year to report the historical absence of a disease in wildlife, Dr Ben Jebara explained that this had been placed on the agenda of the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Disease and Pathogenic Agent, which was convened in June 2010. The *ad hoc* Group indicated that the best way to address this question was to include a note in WAHIS, taking into account the request from the Delegate of Australia, to clarify these rare situations that could occur in only a few countries. Dr Ben Jebara concluded by indicating that the OIE invested significant resources to promote the quality of WAHIS data, both through verifications and through tracking activities in cooperation with national Delegates. WAHIS-*Wild* would also contribute to improving the efficiency of reporting by Members, and in the future provide a single report on the disease situation worldwide.

391. The Delegate of the United States of America thanked Dr Ben Jebara and his team for the excellent report. He supported the comments made by Australia, indicating that this issue concerned several Members. He further stated that it had become burdensome to report all the diseases foreseen in the wildlife questionnaire and he advised focusing on some specific priority diseases. Finally, he asked the OIE to listen to its Delegates and help them to resolve this issue.

392. The President stated that the OIE would take into account the comments raised.

393. The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the comments made by Australia and the United States of America. He was very appreciative of the efforts made by Dr Ben Jebara and his team to obtain good quality information for diseases affecting domestic and wildlife species. He stated that reporting diseases affecting domestic and wild species was a demanding task which could be fulfilled if the list of diseases were shorter. Therefore he advised defining epidemiologically significant strategies to identify the most relevant diseases.

394. The President of the Assembly recognised the importance of this issue and indicated that the Council would include this item on the agenda for its next meeting in September. This work would be done with the support of the Head of the Animal Health Information Department. It was in the common interest to accommodate OIE Members' needs.

395. The Director General assured the Assembly that the issue would be presented to the Council. He identified two main aspects related to this issue: first, he indicated that a revision of the OIE list of diseases had already started by specifically identifying the pathogens to be included in the list of diseases itself. This implied that all susceptible species would have to be identified (for both domestic and wild species). He was of the opinion that a solution acceptable to all Members would be found. He stressed that the final goal was to improve transparency throughout the world and that the OIE and its Members were already progressing in this direction. He stressed that the quality of information submitted to the OIE was improving but the OIE and the Delegates needed to work together to establish priorities because it was hardly feasible to track down every single pathogen everywhere in the world. Secondly, the Director General indicated that transparency and its consequences for trade were important factors to take into account in the work of the OIE. The OIE should find a way not to penalise the exporting capacities of Members that were more transparent than others in terms of disease notification.

396. The representative of FAO informed the Delegates of the existence of a Working Group on Wildlife within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He suggested that this Working Group could take on board all the wildlife diseases that would not be of interest to OIE Delegates.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2010 and the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the Beginning of 2011

397. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. 1 concerning the adoption by the Assembly of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2010 and the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the Beginning of 2011. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Contribution of veterinary activities to global food security

398. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 27. The text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Veterinary Education

399. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 34 on Veterinary Education.

400. The Delegate of Austria made several comments on the draft Resolution and recommended some modifications to the text, as follows. In the first paragraph of the resolutions, all text following "and private components" should be deleted, as the paragraph was too detailed; in paragraph 3, text should be added calling on the OIE to clarify the framework within which the work on veterinary education was being pursued. Text to this effect should be added as the first sentence of paragraph 3. The Delegate also asked for clarification on the linkages to universities of the OIE veterinary education work programme.

401. The Delegate of Japan supported the comments of the Delegate of Austria. He stated that he appreciated the OIE's efforts in this field, notably the development of guidance tools to support capacity building. He considered that the OIE recommendations should be maintained as guidelines and that more consultation should be undertaken with Members.

402. The Delegate of the United Kingdom supported the comments of the Delegate of Austria. He suggested that the following text be added to paragraph 2 of the resolution, after "Member Countries": ", their Veterinary Statutory Bodies and veterinary education establishment leaders", then the remainder of the text from "and Regional and Global organisations".

403. The Delegate of Russia supported the comments of the Delegate of the United Kingdom. He called for care in the use of terminology relevant to veterinary education institutions and their heads, as the terminology varied from country to country.

404. The President agreed that Draft Resolution No. 34 should be modified to address these concerns, and a revised version provided.

405. The President presented the revised Draft Resolution No. 34 in the afternoon, for Delegates' consideration.

406. The Delegate of Austria, supported by the Delegate of Norway, recommended that the OIE's work on veterinary education be approached in two steps and accordingly proposed an additional modification to the text as follows: add "then make" after "framework and" in paragraph 3.

407. The Delegate of the United Kingdom supported the proposal of the Delegate of Austria and recommended an additional modification, i.e. replace "including" with "taking into account" in paragraph 3.

408. The Delegate of Niger, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members of the OIE, and supported by the Delegates of Ethiopia, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Lebanon and Argentina, supported the text as presented by the President.

409. The Delegate of Norway recommended further modification of the text in the English version as follows: in paragraph 2, replace "and harmonised" with "and to harmonise"; and delete the reference to veterinary statutory bodies in the last sentence of this paragraph. Dr Vallat agreed that the first modification proposed by the Delegate of Norway was appropriate, but did not propose to accept her second proposal, on the grounds that the first point dealt with consultation while the second called for the active participation of the veterinary statutory body to achieve the desired objectives. He proposed a compromise to the Delegates of the Austria, Japan and the United Kingdom

410. The revised Resolution No. 34, on the basis of the aforementioned compromise, was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions

(Docs 79 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

411. Dr Mahamadou Saley (Niger), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 79 SG/11B AF).

412. He also presented the recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 14 to 18 February 2011.

413. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Kigali.

Regional Commission for the Americas

414. Dr Miguel Angel Azañón Robles (Guatemala), Secretary General of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 79 SG/11B AM).

415. He also presented the recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010.

416. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Montevideo.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

417. Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 79 SG/11B AS).

418. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

419. Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 79 SG/11B EU).

420. He also presented the recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 20 to 24 September 2010.

421. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Astana.

422. The Assembly applauded Dr Belev at some length for his services to the OIE.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

423. On behalf of the President of the Commission, the OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, Dr Ghazi Yehia, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 79 SG/11B ME).

424. The Assembly noted the report.

Dates of the 80th General Session (May 2012)

425. The Assembly decided that the 80th General Session of the Assembly would be held from Sunday 20 to Friday 25 May 2012. The Director General stated that the 80th General Session would also be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 80th General Session (May 2012)

426. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Council:

– National and international experiences and roles in previous and future developments in the 'One World, One Health' approach.

A questionnaire will be sent to the Members concerning this item.

427. Further to a decision of the Council, there will not be a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2012, due to the elections to be held for the Council, the Specialist Commissions and the Regional Commissions.

Technical Items for the 81st General Session (May 2013)

428. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item chosen from those proposed by the Regional Commissions and examined by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and the Council:

– Modern approaches and use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security.

429. Further to a previous decision of the Council, the second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) will be determined by the Council at its meeting in February prior to the 81st General Session, so that the latest developments can be taken into account.

Distribution of animal health status certificates (foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and bovine spongiform encephalopathy)

430. The OIE Members listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was now recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), Denmark, Panama and Philippines.

FRIDAY 27 MAY 2011

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2010

(Doc. 79 SG/3)

431. Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, management, human resources and regional actions, reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE and the elections that were due to be held during the Administrative Session.

432. She went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE Headquarters premises.

433. She reiterated the main facts relating to the financing of the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony and provided information on the current results of the subscription launched among Members in application of Resolution No. XI of May 2008.

434. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

Adoption of the Work Programme for 2011–2013

435. Dr Correa Messuti and Dr Vallat reviewed the main lines of action and the objectives of the Fifth Strategic Plan adopted by the Assembly in 2010. The Work Programme for 2011–2013 was prepared by the Council and the Headquarters (Doc. 79 SG/20), and taking into account available resources.

436. The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, drew the attention of the OIE to activities relating to the animal health information system WAHIS, to ensure that close consultation with all the Members of the OIE could help to avoid potential difficulties for the notifying countries. He also expressed the wish for a clearer distinction between standards and guidelines. He asked the OIE to present to the Assembly an annual report on any trade disputes of which the OIE was aware concerning the implementation of OIE standards.

437. The Delegate of Norway pointed out that expertise relating to climate change fell within the remit of a Collaborating Centre rather than a Reference Laboratory.

438. The Assembly adopted the draft Work Programme for 2011–2013.

439. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 84th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2010)

(Doc. 79 SG/4)

440. **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

441.

442.

443.

444.

445.

446.

447.

Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor and adoption of the Financial Report for the 84th Financial Year

(Docs 79 SG/15 and 79 SG/16)

448. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Nasser Eddin Al-Hawamdeh (Jordan).

449. The Assembly noted the reports of the External Auditor.

450. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 84th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Members and Intergovernmental Organisations that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings

451. The Director General conveyed his warmest thanks:

1. To the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Syria, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America;

   And to intergovernmental organisations: the European Union, WHO and FAO;

   for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2010;

2. To the Governments of Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Belarus, Botswana, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2010.

452. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 4. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

453. The Director General also conveyed his warmest thanks to France for its voluntary contribution, and to Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and also to the Latin-American Poultry Association, for their exceptional contributions in 2009 and 2010, designed to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. He informed the Assembly that several other Member Countries has also indicated their intention to contribute. The subscription remained open with a view to purchasing the part of the building not yet placed on sale and to early repayment of the bank loan currently being repaid partially from rental income.

454. Draft Resolution No. 12 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor

(Doc. 79 SG/17)

455. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as the External Auditor of the OIE for a period of one year.

456. Draft Resolution No. 8 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 8 at the end of this report.

2011 Budget

(Doc. 79 SG/5)

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

457.

458.

459.

Proposed 2012 Contributions Scale and 2012 Budget Estimates

(Doc. 79 SG/6)

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

460.

461.

462.

463.

464.

465.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2012

466. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2012.

467. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

468. **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

469.

470.

471.

472.

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Council

473. The President commented on document 79 SG/18, which summarised the activities of the Council between May 2010 and May 2011, and he explained the statutory provisions relating to the Council. He emphasised that the work carried out during the year had been in large part devoted to the revision of the Basic Texts, and in particular with regard to the network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and to the functioning of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups.

He also informed the Assembly of topics that would be examined by the Council at its forthcoming meeting in September 2011, which would be held with financial support from Canada.

474. The Delegate of Bangladesh called for a sustained commitment by the OIE to the issues of emerging and re-emerging diseases in his region.

475. The Assembly adopted document 79 SG/18.

Election of the Vice-President of the Assembly

476. In accordance with the Statutes, the President verified the number of participants. One hundred and twenty-seven Delegates were eligible to vote. A quorum having been reached, voting took place in the presence of the Legal Counsel, Mr Gaudemet. Dr Bougedour was designated as scrutineer.

477. The President of the Regional Commission for Europe indicated that the majority of countries in the region supported the candidature of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer for the vacant position of member of the Council.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Yes	:	104 votes
No	:	9 votes

478. The President informed the Assembly of the candidatures of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) and Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia) for the vacant position of Vice-President of the Assembly.

The results of the secret ballot were as follows:

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer	:	87 votes
Dr Nikolay Vlasov	:	37 votes
Blank votes	:	2
Spoiled votes	:	1

The President declared that Dr Karin Schwabenbauer had been elected Vice-President of the Assembly.

Renewal of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa

479. The President of the Assembly asked the President of the Regional Commission for Africa to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant positions of President and Vice-President of the Commission.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the renewal of the Bureau as follows:

President: Dr Mahamadou Saley (Niger)
First Vice-President: Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz (Sudan)
Second Vice-President: Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
Secretary General: Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad)

Election of the President and the second Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Americas

480. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Americas to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant position of President of the Commission.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

President: Dr John Clifford (United States of America)

Second Vice-President: Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga (Paraguay)

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Regional Commission for Europe

481. The President of the Assembly asked the President of the Regional Commission for Europe to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant positions of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

First Vice-President: Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine)

Second Vice-President: Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia)

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

482. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant position of Vice-President of the Commission.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Abdul Ghaniy Y.M. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia)

Modernisation of the Basic Texts

483. Dr Correa Messuti presented the draft revised version of the Basic Texts and the two options proposed to the Member Countries (Doc. 79SG/19a, - 79SG/19b and 79SG/19c). He proposed that the discussion begin on the proposed alternative.

484. Dr Vallat reminded the Assembly of the background to the preparation of this dossier and the different stages of consultation. He pointed out that many texts dated back to 1924 and required modernisation. He also explained the majority rules for the adoption of amendments to these texts. He stated that some Members had submitted comments, which were noted by the Council.

485. The President invited the Delegates to indicate their intention with regard to option 1, which affected the Organic Rules, the General Rules and the other texts, and therefore required unanimity for adoption. The Delegates of Burkina Faso, Chinese Taipei Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Paraguay, Swaziland and United States of America indicated their opposition to the proposed text.

486. Consequently, the President proposed to the Assembly the adoption of option 2, which affected the General Rules and the other texts and only required a two-thirds majority.

487. Draft Resolution No. 10 was adopted with amendments (one abstention, Japan). The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

488. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), approved by the Council.

489. Draft Resolution No. 28 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

490. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Arab Maghreb Union, approved by the Council.

491. Draft Resolution No. 29 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

492. The Director General presented the Agreement with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), approved by the Council.

493. Draft Resolution No. 30 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)

494. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), approved by the Council.

495. Draft Resolution No. 31 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

496. The Director General presented the Agreement with the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), approved by the Council.

497. Draft Resolution No. 32 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

498. The Director General presented the Agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), approved by the Council.

499. Draft Resolution No. 33 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

500. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report was now printed in two stages (the Technical Sessions, then the Administrative Sessions), to save time during its examination by the Delegates.

501. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.

502. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the Draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2011** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to have been adopted in its final form.

Closing Session

503. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters, the translators and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 79th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.

504. He invited the Delegates to return for the 80th General Session in May 2012.

———————

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE during its 79th General Session

22 – 27 May 2011

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

No. 23 Adoption of a draft chapter for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

No. 24 Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE

No. 25 Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

No. 26 Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

No. 27 Contribution of veterinary activities to global food security

No. 28 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

No. 29 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

No. 30 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

No. 31 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the "Global Food Safety Initiative" (GFSI)

No. 32 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

No. 33 Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE (OIE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

No. 34 Veterinary education

RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2010 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the beginning of 2011

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2010 (79 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2010 and the beginning of 2011 (79 SG/2).

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 2

Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2010

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE during the 83rd Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2010) (79 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 3

Approval of the Financial Report for the 84th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2010)

In application of Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Financial Report for the 84th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2010) (79 SG/4).

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 4

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2009 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2010,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cambodia, China (People's Rep of), Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Italia, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Singapore, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America;

   To intergovernmental organisations: the European Union (European Commission), the FAO, the WHO,

   for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2010.

2. The Governments of Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Rep of), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Serbia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2010.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 5

2011 Budget modification
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 6

OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 86th Financial Year
(1st January to 31 December 2012)
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2012
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 8

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of her mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of one year the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Work Programme for 2012

CONSIDERING

The Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2011-2015 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

   To approve the 2012 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Appendix I of document 79 SG/6).

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

   Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the general budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other subsidies to support the OIE activities.

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No.10

Modernisation of the Basic Texts

CONSIDERING

1. The objectives of the Fifth Strategic Plan for the period 2011–2015, in particular the chapter on the modernisation of the Basic Texts of the OIE,

2. Article 2 of the Organic Rules, and in particular paragraph 5 concerning the procedure for modifying the General Rules,

3. Resolution No. XVI of 23 May 2003 concerning the use of a common name for the Office International des Epizooties, adopted unanimously,

4. Resolution No. 13 of 29 May 2009 concerning the name of the International Committee, adopted unanimously,

5. Resolution No. 33 of 29 May 2009 concerning the name of the Administrative Commission and the Central Bureau, adopted unanimously,

6. Resolution No. XVIII of 26 May 2006 concerning the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions, as well the need to modernise certain aspects of this text,

7. Resolution No. XVII of 22 May 2003 concerning new Terms of Reference for the OIE Specialist Commissions, but noting that certain modifications are required so as to establish common Internal Rules for these bodies, harmonise certain aspects of their terms of reference, and define the qualifications of the members,

8. Resolution No. XIX of 19 May 1995 concerning the Mandates and Rules for OIE Regional Representations and Resolution No. XIX of 25 May 2007 concerning the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Regional Representations of the OIE, and desirous of combining, simplifying and modernising the contents of these Resolutions and confirming that these mandates, rules and terms of reference should be included in the Basic Texts of the OIE,

9. Resolution No. XVII of 28 May 2004 concerning the creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, and desirous of modernising the rules governing the function of this Fund as contained in the Appendix to the said Resolution and confirming that these rules should be included in the Basic Texts of the OIE,

AND CONSIDERING

10. That certain modifications are required to the General Rules as part of the modernisation process,

11. That certain modifications are required to the mandates and internal rules of organs of the OIE to ensure consistency of operating procedures and rules,

12. That it is desirable to protect the OIE from possible conflicts of interest between the activities undertaken by experts, reference laboratories and collaborating centres on behalf of the Organisation and their other activities,

13. That the OIE has entered into a number of Agreements with the Governments of countries hosting an OIE Regional or Sub-Regional Representation,

14. That no new financial charges will result from the proposed modifications,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON A PROPOSAL BY THE COUNCIL

DECIDES

1. To adopt the Revised General Rules and other texts as contained in document 79 SG/19c.

2. To make the following amendment to Article 1 "Qualifications of the Members" of Chapter 2, entitled "Mandate and qualifications of the Members" applied to the OIE Scientific Commission:

   Instead of reading:

   "The members of the Commission shall be veterinarians internationally recognized in a field relevant to the control of infectious diseases of animals and shall have appropriate experience in animal disease control."

   It should read:

   "The members of the Commission shall be specialists internationally recognised in a field relevant to the control of infectious diseases of animals and shall have appropriate experience in animal disease control."

3. To amend Article 3 of Chapter 4 "Internal Rules" of the section entitled "Mandate and internal rules of the OIE Reference Centres" as follows:

   Instead of reading:

   "However, in principle, no more than one Reference Laboratory shall be designated for the same pathogen or disease in the same country and no more than one Collaborating Centre shall be designated for the same category of specialty in the same region or sub-region."

   It should read:

   "However, in principle, no more than one Reference Laboratory shall be designated for the same pathogen or disease in the same country and no more than one Collaborating Centre shall be designated for the same category of specialty in the same region or, exceptionally, in a sub-region."

This Resolution shall come into effect on 28 May 2011.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 11

Programme of Work 2011-2013

CONSIDERING

The Resolution N°11 of 27 May 2011 adopted by the Assembly during the 78th General Session,

The document 79 SG/20 that introduces the Programme of Work of the Director General of the OIE, established for the 2011-2013 period, made under the Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE adopted by the Assembly in May 2011

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the Programme of Work of the Director General of the OIE established for the 2011-2013 period.

REQUESTS

The Director General to prepare annual work programmes based on the objectives of this Programme of Work, with the corresponding budgets.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 12

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries that helped the OIE, in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

CONSIDERING

The Resolution N° XI of 30 May 2008 giving the Director General a mandate for the acquisition of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony,

Having noted the voluntary contributions received by the OIE within the framework of the subscription launched with Member Countries or other donors to contribute to this acquisition,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

– The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom for their voluntary contributions to support the extension of the Headquarters so that it corresponds to the development of the objectives of the Organisation,

– And the Latin American Poultry Association

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains opened until new order for other Member Countries or potential donors to finalize the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed to the total or partial reimbursement of the bank loan granted in 2009 to acquire for the first part of the building

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Adoption of two draft chapters for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (*Aquatic Manual*), like the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,

2. A revised edition of the printed version of the *Aquatic Manual* is published approximately every three years. It is the intention of the OIE, represented by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the World Assembly of the OIE, the Web version of the *Aquatic Manual* will be updated on an annual basis,

3. Members are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,

4. All revised chapters have been sent to Members for comment,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annex 16 of Document 79 SG/12/CS4 B in English.

   Chapter 2.1.2. Infection with ranavirus, title 1. Scope, be amended as follows:

   For the purpose of this chapter, ranavirus disease is considered to be systemic clinical or subclinical infection, <u>in the major families of Anura and Caudata,</u> with a member of the genus *Ranavirus*.

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee, and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases,

4. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

5. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Headquarters subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code:*

Albania	Germany	New Caledonia
Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Guatemala	Nicaragua
Belarus	Guyana	Norway
Belgium	Haiti	Panama
Belize	Honduras	Poland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Portugal
Brunei	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Indonesia	San Marino
Chile	Ireland	Serbia[1]
Costa Rica	Italy	Singapore
Croatia	Japan	Slovakia
Cuba	Latvia	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lesotho	Spain
Czech Rep.	Lithuania	Swaziland
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Dominican Republic	Madagascar	Switzerland
El Salvador	Malta	Ukraine
Estonia	Mauritius	United Kingdom
Finland	Mexico	United States of America
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Montenegro	Vanuatu
France	Netherlands	

2. The Director General publish the following Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following list of Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*[2]:

Argentina: zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

Botswana: one zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2010;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department),

one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andres and Providencia);

Malaysia: zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

---

1 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

2 For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

Moldova: zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;

Peru: one zone consisting of two merged zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in two documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004 and in January 2007;

Philippines: one zone consisting of the Mindanao Islands,

one zone consisting of the Islands of Visayas and the provinces of Palawan and Masbate, as designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2000 and December 2001,

three separate zones that cover the whole Island of Luzon as designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2009 and November 2010;

4. The Director General publish the following list of Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and in August 2010;

Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and March 2007,

zone located in the western part of the Department of Oruro in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2005,

zone adjacent to the east of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010;

Brazil: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General as follows:

zone covering the territory of the State Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997),

zone consisting of State of Rondônia (documentation of December 2002), State Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of Amazonas State (documentation of March 2004 and an extension of this zone into the territory of the State of Amazonas (December 2010),

zone consisting of the middle southern part of the State Parà (documentation of February 2007), the States of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, parts of Tocantins, parts of Bahia,Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo (documentation of May 2008) and the zone in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of July 2008),

zone in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of August 2010),

zone located in the States of Bahia and Tocantins (documentation of December 2010);

Colombia: one merged zone consisting of originally five zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, December 2004 (two zones), January 2007 and January 2009;

Paraguay: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and August 2010;

Turkey: zone designated by the Delegate of Turkey in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2009 and in March 2010.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Recognition of the Rinderpest Disease Status of Members and Non-Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from rinderpest according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code),

2. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status, excluding rinderpest because participation in the cost of rinderpest disease status evaluation could be obtained, from sources other than direct payment by Members,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease free status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Headquarters subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from rinderpest infection,

5. During the 75th General Session the International Committee adopted the proposed update in the "OIE rinderpest pathway" of the Terrestrial Code. In view of the progress in global rinderpest eradication, the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the Terrestrial Code 2007 were restricted to the sole recognition of rinderpest free status representing a country-wide infection free status. Therefore new applications from Members for zones free from rinderpest or "rinderpest disease free" status were no longer applicable or listed,

6. The International Committee and relevant organisations having an official agreement with the OIE accepted that the OIE assess and publish in a separate list the rinderpest status of non-OIE Members in accordance with the provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. However, to be recognised as free from rinderpest, specific conditions applied to the obligations of the Veterinary Services of countries or territories not yet Members of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the complete list of Members, now all recognised as free from rinderpest, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China (People's Rep. of)
Chinese Taipei
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Rep.
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Rep.
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea (Dem. People's Rep.)
Korea (Rep. of)
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated)
Moldova
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Sao Tomé and Principe
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia[41]
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Timor Leste
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The Director General publish the following list of all non-OIE Members which have rinderpest susceptible livestock and which are now all recognised as free from rinderpest according to the provisions of Chapter 8.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Antigua and Barbuda
Cook Islands
Dominica
Grenada
Kiribati
Kosovo
Liberia
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Palestinian Auton. Territories
Samoa
Solomon Islands
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vatican

41 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

3. In accordance with the current provisions on rinderpest in the *Terrestrial Code* that shall remain applicable until the adoption of future revisions thereto in the context of global eradication of rinderpest, each Member maintains its recognised rinderpest free status.

AND

4. The Delegates of Members and competent authorities of non-OIE Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if rinderpest or a suspicion thereof occurs in their countries.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 16

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 76th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Headquarters subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1 The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 11.9. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia	India	Switzerland
Botswana	Portugal	United States of America
China (People's Republic of)		

AND

2. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session the OIE World Assembly of Delegates established a procedure for annually updating a list of Members, categorised by their Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 76th General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of a BSE risk status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of a Member disease status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Headquarters, subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Iceland	Paraguay
Australia	India	Peru
Chile	New Zealand	Singapore
Denmark	Norway	Sweden
Finland	Panama	Uruguay

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Austria	Greece	Mexico
Belgium	Hungary	Netherlands
Brazil	Ireland	Poland
Canada	Italy	Portugal
Chinese Taipei	Japan	Slovak Republic
Colombia	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Cyprus	Latvia	Spain
Czech Republic	Lichtenstein	Switzerland
Estonia	Lithuania	United Kingdom
France	Luxembourg	United States of America
Germany	Malta	

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 18

Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made by Members, non-Members, OIE, FAO, IAEA, other international organisations, regional organisations, the veterinary profession, the scientific community, donors and other partners to eradicate rinderpest;

CONSIDERING the contributions made by OIE and FAO towards global freedom from rinderpest;

NOTING the conclusions of the Final Report of the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication that rinderpest virus has ceased to circulate in animals;

REITERATING the importance of reducing the number of existing rinderpest virus stocks through the destruction of virus in a safe manner and/or the transfer of virus stocks to internationally recognised reference institutions; and

MINDFUL of the need for the international community and the responsibility of national authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the world remains free from rinderpest,

THE ASSEMBLY

1. DECLARES solemnly that the world has achieved freedom from rinderpest in its natural setting, one of the most dreadful animal diseases with severe impacts on livelihoods.

2. EXPRESSES its deep gratitude to all nations, organisations and individuals who contributed to the fight against rinderpest and the successful eradication of the disease.

3. UNDERTAKES to reduce, around the world, the number of institutions holding rinderpest virus-containing material other than attenuated vaccines, under approved conditions and according to relevant guidelines.

4. URGES the membership:

   – To maintain, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, appropriate surveillance systems for rinderpest and immediately notify the OIE of suspect or confirmed cases of rinderpest;

   – To collaborate with OIE and FAO in managing confirmed or suspected outbreaks of rinderpest, through the provision of information, support and facilitation;

   – To put in place and update national contingency plans consistent with international guidance from OIE and FAO;

– To destroy, under the supervision of the Veterinary Authority, rinderpest virus-containing materials or assure the storage or use of these materials in a biosecure facility in their country or, where applicable, assure the safe transfer to an approved laboratory in another country in agreement with the Veterinary Authority of the receiving country and complying with the standards of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and the Guidelines elaborated by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication (Appendix);

– To take effective measures to forbid synthesis of rinderpest full-length infectious clones unless approved by the relevant authorities, OIE and FAO;

– To use rinderpest vaccines solely for the emergency management of confirmed rinderpest outbreaks under the authority of the Veterinary Services following international and regional guidelines and not to use rinderpest vaccines to protect animal populations from other morbillivirus infections;

– To ensure that rinderpest occupies an appropriate place in veterinary education curricula and training programmes to maintain professional knowledge and adequate diagnostic capabilities at national levels.

5. REQUESTS the Director General:

– To approve, jointly with FAO, facilities in which rinderpest virus-containing material can be held, and conduct regular site visits to those facilities to verify whether their biosafety/biosecurity conditions are adequate;

– To maintain and regularly update, jointly with FAO, an inventory of facilities holding rinderpest virus-containing material;

– To establish, jointly with FAO, an advisory body that assists both Organisations in (i) the approval of facilities for holding rinderpest virus-containing material and of facilities that produce and/or hold rinderpest vaccines, (ii) the approval of requests for research and other manipulations of the rinderpest virus, (iii) reviewing the plans and results of regular site visits of virus repositories, and (iv) planning and implementing other rinderpest-related activities as required;

– To develop and update, in collaboration with FAO, a plan of action for the post-eradication activities at the international level;

– To facilitate and make sustainable, in collaboration with FAO, the provision of technical assistance to OIE Members in the maintenance of adequate surveillance systems and national preparedness, and to facilitate their access to diagnostic reagents or facilities and relevant rinderpest vaccines;

– To ensure that OIE Members are informed of the status of rinderpest virus sequestration and research involving rinderpest virus.

6. REQUESTS the relevant Specialist Commissions to complete the necessary revisions to the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* as soon as possible.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2011)

Appendix

Global Rinderpest Eradication:
Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration

Endorsed with amendments on 28 January 2010
by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE

Endorsed with amendments on 14 April 2010
by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication

Introduction

The global eradication of rinderpest creates a duty for the international community to prevent the re-emergence of the disease through release of virus from laboratory sources. To this end FAO and OIE shall establish the principle of international oversight and regulation of facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material. The objective of the present guidelines is to ensure secure handling and sequestration of rinderpest virus in the post-eradication era. FAO and OIE and Member states undertake to reduce the number of virus repositories in order to minimise the risk of accidental release.

FAO and OIE, in collaboration with Member states, will put in place global contingency plans and will ensure approval of a minimum number of repositories and Reference Centres/Reference Laboratories necessary to maintain preparedness against releases of the virus into the environment. These plans will include, amongst others, vaccine production, vaccine banks and deployment of vaccines in case of emergency. Vaccines should be available to countries for immediate dissemination in case of emergency. The following guidelines deal with biosafety and bio-containment measures to be observed in laboratories and other facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material.

Definitions

For the purpose of these guidelines the following definitions apply:

An *approved BSL3 facility* means a facility that is jointly approved by FAO and OIE and subject to joint regular inspection. The facility meets BSL3 standards as defined in chapter 1.1.2 of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, is certified by the *Veterinary Authority*, and in addition has mandatory shower out for staff and either an exclusion zone or a restricted movement zone for rinderpest-susceptible species around the facility. Staff are subject to restriction on contact with susceptible species (e.g. on farms, in zoos)[1].

Rinderpest virus-containing material means field and laboratory strains of rinderpest virus; vaccine strains of rinderpest virus including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other clinical material from infected or suspect animals; and diagnostic material containing or encoding live virus. Recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or non-segmented) containing unique rinderpest virus nucleic acid or amino acid sequences are considered to be rinderpest virus. Full length genomic material including virus RNA and cDNA copies of virus RNA is considered to be *rinderpest virus-containing material*. Sub-genomic fragments of morbillivirus nucleic acid that are not capable of being incorporated in a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered as *rinderpest virus-containing material.*

[1] A detailed protocol on the approval and inspection process for BSL3 facility will be jointly developed by FAO and OIE.

Veterinary Authority means the Governmental Authority of an OIE/FAO Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

Guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration

1. All manipulation of *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine production, shall be forbidden unless approved the *Veterinary Authority* and by FAO and OIE. An advisory body, jointly established by FAO and OIE, shall be tasked to approve in advance and monitor any activities involving the use of *rinderpest virus-containing material*.

2. All countries shall either destroy or transparently audit and manage all remaining *rinderpest virus-containing material* under biologically secure conditions. The *Veterinary Authority* shall be kept aware of and be held responsible for any activity involving *rinderpest virus-containing material*.

3. *Rinderpest virus-containing material*, with the exception of stocks of packaged, manufactured vaccines, must only be kept, and can only be manipulated, in an *approved BSL3 facility*.

4. Master seed stocks must be maintained in, and tested by, the *approved BSL3 facilities* designated by FAO and OIE. Stocks of packaged, manufactured vaccines, as covered under *rinderpest virus-containing material,* shall only be kept in FAO and OIE approved facilities which are subject to joint regular inspection. Any expired vaccine stocks shall be destroyed by a validated process.

5. *Rinderpest virus-containing material* that is not in an *approved BSL3 facility* shall be destroyed by a validated process or transferred to an *approved BSL3 facility*. Its relocation or destruction shall be supervised and documented by the *Veterinary Authority* and be notified to FAO and OIE.

6. Transfers of *rinderpest virus-containing material* to an *approved BSL3 facility* located in another country must be notified to FAO and OIE; such material may remain the property of the country of origin.

7. Transport (intra and inter-country) arrangements for *rinderpest virus-containing material* shall be agreed by the relevant *Veterinary Authorities* in advance and in accordance with chapter 1.1.1 of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*.

8. FAO and OIE shall establish and maintain a single global inventory on all existing *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine stocks and the facilities holding such stocks and any movement of such materials. The global database shall be kept up-to-date on a permanent basis.

9. FAO and OIE shall develop a mechanism to facilitate and standardise reporting of *rinderpest virus-containing material* by *Veterinary Authorities* to update the global database.

10 FAO and OIE shall widely publicise the availability of internationally accessible rinderpest vaccine stocks to assist in convincing national authorities that they do not need to continue holding *rinderpest virus-containing material*.

11. FAO and OIE shall develop a set of guidelines and standard operating procedures to govern the maintenance of rinderpest vaccine stocks and their use for emergency purposes.

12. FAO and OIE, through their Reference Centres and Reference Laboratories, (including the laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA division) shall advise regional, national and international partners on laboratory-related issues having to do with rinderpest virus, including virus sequestration, destruction and disinfection protocols and diagnostic quality control.

13. FAO and OIE shall oversee the development of diagnostic kits that do not require the use of live virus within the kit itself or during the manufacture of the kit.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Towards Global Control and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The '*OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease: The way towards global control*' held from 24 to 26 June 2009 in Asunción, Paraguay, summarised the key findings on the global FMD situation and adopted a set of recommendations supporting a coordinated approach to achieve control and eradication of FMD at the worldwide level;

2. The strong commitment of all countries at the highest political level is key to harmonisation of global, regional and national policies for the control and eventual eradication of FMD;

3. Global control and eradication of FMD can only be achieved if the international community recognises that the control of FMD is a global public good that will benefit all populations and future generations;

4. The OIE and FAO, through the GF-TADs coordinating mechanism, Reference Laboratories, Collaborating and Reference Centres, provide policy and technical support to Members to ensure elaboration and implementation of sustainable FMD control programmes, taking into account regional specificities;

5. The FAO and OIE, in support of non-FMD free countries and regions that need implementing FMD control activities and programmes, have developed a tool called the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD Control to assist Members to monitor their achievements in their national FMD control programmes before reaching an FMD free status officially recognised by the OIE;

6. The OIE and FAO are currently developing a global strategy for FMD control, the overall objective of which is the gradual reduction in the incidence of FMD through maintenance of the officially recognised status in FMD free countries and zones without vaccination, the progressive cessation of vaccination in FMD free countries or zones practising it so as to move, where appropriate, towards the status of FMD free without vaccination, and the gradual improvement of FMD control in infected countries with the eventual aim of achieving an official OIE recognised status;

7. The following requirements are essential to the development of a global strategy for FMD control:

   – Compliance with OIE standards of quality of Veterinary Services supported, if requested, by the use of the PVS Pathway;

   – Application of OIE guidelines for FMD surveillance and control;

   – Control of movements of FMD susceptible animals and their products;

   – Production and use of vaccines that comply with the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*);

- Regional programmes for the progressive, long term control of FMD that address the principal virus pools, using successful experiences having accumulated knowledge to be incorporated in the global strategy;

- Regional Agreements between countries having common epidemiological ecosystems, using when necessary the concept of protection zones;

- Strong public–private partnerships involving in particular farmers and private veterinarians;

- Support from national and reference laboratories, preferably working in networks, that build scientific capacity to support national and regional programmes and which contribute to and are advised by the global OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network;

- Relevant training and communication activities.

8. OIE official recognition of FMD free status and OIE endorsement of official control programmes for FMD, with the potential aim of obtaining country or zonal freedom from FMD, are important elements in the drive towards the global control of FMD and the safe trade in animals and animal products.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE, together with Members, FAO and other international, regional and national role players and stakeholders, confirm and communicate the economic and social justification for recognising the global control and eventual eradication of FMD as a global public good.

2. A global strategy for FMD control and eradication be defined and managed jointly by the OIE and FAO using the GF-TADs platform, in consultation with the relevant international, regional and national stakeholders and experts and the donor community.

3. The joint FAO-OIE PCP tool for FMD be used to monitor and assess the achievements of the global strategy implementation as often as appropriate at national and regional levels on the basis of a voluntary participation of countries.

4. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO, continue to support FMD control programmes at national and regional levels, using the results of specific successful regional strategies and programmes.

5. The OIE develop its capacities for disease status recognition to adequately support the expected increase in the number of countries and zones requesting official recognition of disease status or endorsement of official FMD control programmes, following the implementation of a global strategy for the FMD control.

6. The OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), during the evaluation of evidence provided by a Member for the endorsement of an official FMD control programme, could, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, as is currently done for any disease status recognition, request, if needed, a mission of experts to the applicant Member to verify compliance by that Member with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

7. The OIE Members give a full consideration to the essential requirements enumerated above (in the preamble paragraph No. 7) for the global strategy for FMD control.

8. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and the international donor community, consider the establishment of FMD vaccine banks in strategic locations and in support of regional FMD control programmes.

9. The OIE continue to update its existing standards for FMD, encouraging worldwide use of diagnostic tests and vaccines that are compliant with the standards of the *Terrestrial Manual* and official certification of FMD diagnostic tests for inclusion into the OIE Register of Diagnostic Tests.

10. The OIE, in addition to its collaboration with FAO in this area, further enhance the establishment of and access to diagnostic laboratories for the rapid and accurate detection of FMD through initiatives such as the OIE laboratory twinning programme.

11. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and other relevant sources of expertise, support strategies of epidemiological networks and strengthen cooperation for national, regional and global surveillance systems for FMD, while Members continue to increase transparency and timely disease reporting to OIE to protect FMD free countries and zones and to enable better monitoring of the progress of FMD control in endemic areas.

12. The OIE, jointly with FAO, organise an international pledging conference, with FMD free and infected countries, and relevant organisations and donors, to support the goal of global FMD control.

AND DECIDES THAT

1. The Working Group preparing the global strategy will include renowned and recognised experts of the five OIE Regions.

2. The OIE Scientific Commission be given a mandate to evaluate and endorse national programmes for the control of FMD and to annually present for adoption by the World Assembly a proposed list of Members with an '*OIE-endorsed official FMD control programme*'.

3. The Scientific Commission should, in making their evaluation of national programmes, take into account the epidemiological and virological situation in the neighbouring areas e.g. through adopting border protection measures.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 20

Amendment to Resolution No. XXIII of 28 May 2008
"Update on the cost to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition or reinstatement of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*"

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly has adopted Resolutions Nos. 19 and 26 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognising the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member Country, namely the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, and inviting Delegates wishing to have their national official control programme for FMD evaluated to submit a formal application to the Director General of the OIE for consideration by the Scientific Commission.

2. Initiation of a procedure for OIE-endorsement of an official control programme for FMD will be voluntary, as is the case for recognition of an official disease status, and any costs, such as examination of documentation by experts and the organisation of meetings (*ad hoc* Groups), shall be partly covered by the country concerned.

3. These costs do not include additional expenses relating to any expert missions to be sent to an applicant country, on a proposal by the said experts and by decision of the Director General of the OIE. These additional expenses will be charged separately to the country concerned.

4. Member Countries applying for an evaluation must submit with their application payment of the appropriate standard costs. The amount paid will not be refunded, even if the application is rejected, the grounds for which will in all cases be indicated by the OIE.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. The standard contribution relating to the procedure described in paragraph No. 1 of the preamble is two thousand Euros. This amount does not include the cost of any field missions described in paragraph No. 3 of the preamble.

2. The standard amount referred to above will only be charged in full the first time a Member Country submits an application.

3. For any subsequent applications submitted, in the event of the OIE having withdrawn its endorsement due to non-compliance with commitments relating to the initial recognition of the programme, only half of the initial amount will be charged.

4. For all applications submitted by Member Countries listed among the least developed countries, only half the amounts mentioned above need to be submitted, with the exception of costs relating to any field mission by OIE experts. In considering this, the eligibility of Members authorised to pay at the reduced rate is based on the official United Nations list of least developed countries.

5. The amount transferred at the time of any application to the OIE will not be refunded, even in the case of applications that for any reason are rejected or not endorsed. In the event of the resubmission of an application by a Member Country whose previous application was rejected, only a quarter of the amounts referred to above will be payable.

6. The present Resolution No. 20 complements Resolution No. XXIII, adopted during the 76th General Session, which remains in force.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 21

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its tenth meeting in November 2010 and drafted a work programme for 2011.

2. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by both organisations are consistent and take a 'whole food chain' approach to food safety.

3. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation between the OIE and the FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, zoonotic diseases and related issues.

4. That the Director General asked the Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal production food safety according to established terms of reference.

5. That the OIE is regularly organising seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.

2. The participation of high level FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be maintained, to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The 2011 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, with provision of the resources needed to address the identified priorities.

4. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national focal points.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 22

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of animal health and welfare worldwide;

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and trade policy dimensions;

3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme;

4. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004 and 2008 and confirmed the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare;

5. Animal welfare standards (eight chapters to date) were adopted starting at the 2005 and subsequent General Assemblies and are regularly updated (this part only mentions the terrestrial chapters);

6. An expansion of the mandate of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission to cover, inter alia, aquatic animal welfare, has been adopted by OIE Members;

7. A new standard on animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems has been proposed for adoption by OIE Members;

8. More work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards concerning animal welfare in livestock production systems, with animal welfare and beef cattle production systems already under development and dairy cattle to be developed;

9. An OIE Resolution providing in principle support for the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare was adopted at the 2007 General Session;

10. The Director General confirmed OIE policy on the establishment of "twinning" relationships between OIE Collaborating Centres in a letter sent to delegates on 16 March 2009;

11. The active involvement of all OIE Members is essential to the successful global implementation of the OIE animal welfare mandate;

12. Animal welfare is included in the *OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services* and OIE Veterinary Legislation initiative;

13. The Director General asked the Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal welfare according to established terms of reference;

14. The OIE regularly organises seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services;

15. Regional animal welfare strategies, and associated implementation plans, make a major contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Animal Welfare Working Group to advise him, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions, concerning OIE priorities and proposed activities in the field of animal welfare.

2. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2011/2012 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.

3. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated as soon as possible and participate in regional training programmes.

4. Within the framework of an agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.

5. Veterinary Services of each Member continue to take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, the possible need to strengthen the regulatory framework for animal welfare.

6. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to play an active role in raising awareness of the OIE animal welfare role, with active involvement of OIE Working Group members from their respective regions.

7. The OIE Headquarters and the Animal Welfare Working Group continue to give priority to effective and transparent consultation in implementing the OIE animal welfare work programme.

8. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE's International Leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.

9. OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be encouraged to identify "twinning" opportunities in accordance with OIE policy.

10. Further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.

11. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that animal welfare criteria are included in the *OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services*.

12. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.

13. The Director General organise a third global conference on animal welfare in 2012.

14. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national focal points.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 23

Adoption of a draft chapter for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*), like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards of terrestrial animals and animal products,

2. A revised edition of the printed version of the *Terrestrial Manual* is published approximately every four years. It is the intention of the OIE, represented by the Biological Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the World Assembly of the OIE, the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* will be updated on an annual basis,

3. Members are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it is finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

4. All revised chapters have been sent to Members for comment,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To adopt the updated chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 24

Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays (test methods) for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,

2. The Resolution has established that 'fitness for purpose' should be used as a criterion for validation,

3. The aim of the procedure for diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised assays for OIE Members and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,

4. OIE Members need assays that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of assays, to ensure that the test can be used to correctly establish animal disease status and to enhance confidence in assays,

5. The OIE register of recognised assays provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that produce validated and certified tests in kit format, and

6. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General add the following to the register of diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	**Name of the Manufacturer**	**Fitness for purpose**
Premi® Test Salmonella	DSM Premitest	Fit for rapid (molecular) confirmation and serotyping of presumptive *Salmonella* spp. of the following 22 serotypes: Agona, Anatum, Bredeney, Derby, Dublin, Enteritidis, Hadar, Heidelberg, Indiana, Infantis, Kottbus, Mbandaka, Montevideo, Newport, Paratyphi B, Paratyphi B v Java, Saintpaul, Senftenberg, Tennessee, Typhimurium (and its monophasic variant 4,12:i:) and Virchow.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 25

Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE during previous OIE General Sessions,

2. That the Director General asked the Delegates to nominate national focal points for aquatic animals according to established terms of reference.

3. That the OIE is regularly organising seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services.

4. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the February 2011 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices 3 to 15 of Document 79 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14 of Document 79 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 6, 10, 13 and 15 of Document 79 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

   2.1. In Annex 3 (Glossary)

      a) retain the definition for 'feed' as per the 2010 OIE *Aquatic Code*.

   2.2. In Annex 6 (Chapter 6.3.)

      a) In Article 6.3.3.

         insert "aquatic" before the word "animals" in the definition for "Pharmacovigilance of antimicrobial agents".

      b) In Article 6.3.5.

         paragraph 1: in the English version only replace the word 'effectiveness' with 'efficacy'.

c) In Article 6.3.7.

paragraph 2: insert 'authorised to prescribe veterinary medicines' after 'aquatic animal health professionals' and delete 'or recommend'.

paragraph 3: replace 'recommending' with 'prescribing'.

paragraph 4: insert 'authorised to prescribe veterinary medicines' after 'aquatic animal health professional'.

paragraph 6: insert 'authorised to prescribe veterinary medicines' after 'aquatic animal professionals'.

paragraph 7: delete the sentence 'For products destined for export, the requirements of importing countries should be considered'.

paragraph 8: in the English version only replace the word 'effectiveness' with 'efficacy'.

d) In Article 6.3.8.:

paragraph 2: insert 'authorised to prescribe veterinary medicines' after 'aquatic animal health professional' and delete 'or recommendation'.

2.3. In Annex 10 (Chapter 6.1.)

a) In Article 6.1.1.

paragraph 2: delete 'are also important references' and insert 'may be relevant sources of guidance'.

2.4. In Annex 13 (Chapter 7.3.)

a) In Article 7.3.5. g)

remove the parentheses around the words "e.g. to clear the gut or to reduce undesirable organoleptic properties".

2.5. In Annex 15 (Chapter 10.3.)

a) In Article 10.3.3., amend points g) and h) as follows:

g) chilled eviscerated fish that have been harvested from seawater with a salinity of at least 25 ppt.

h) chilled fish fillets or steaks derived from fish that have been harvested from seawater with a salinity of at least 25 ppt.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 26

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous General Sessions;

2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2011 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 79 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 6,9,10,11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of Document 79 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 22 of Document 79 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

   2.1. In Annex 2 (Glossary)

      a) add the definition of "Wildlife" as follows:

         "Wildlife means feral animals, captive wild animals and wild animals"

   2.2. In Annex 3 (Chapter 1.2.)

      a) In Article 1.2.3.

         in French version only, remove the last indent "Rhinopneumonie équine (Equine rhinopneumonitis)" of point 4.

   2.3. In Annex 4 (Chapter 3.2.)

      a) In Article 3.2.14.

         In French version only, delete "médecine" in the title of point 2. vi.

      b) In Article 3.2.14.

         replace "by the OIE" in the third indent of point 2.vi. with "in the relevant chapter(s) of the *Terrestrial Code*"

2.4. In Annex 5 (Chapter 3.4.)

a) In Article 3.4.1.

replace “audiences” in the first paragraph with “groups”

b) In Article 3.4.4.

replace “unit” in point 4.a) with “personnel”

2.5. In Annex 7 (Chapter 4.3.)

a) In Article 4.3.2.

In English version only, replace the last “and” in the second paragraph with “as well as”

2.6. In Annex 8 (Chapter 4.7.)

a) In Article 4.7.14.

revert to the 2010 version of the *Terrestrial Code*

2.7. In Annex 12 (Chapters 6.4 and 6.5.)

a) In Article 6.4.1.

insert [under study] at the end of the first paragraph.

b) In Article 6.5.5.

replace “antimicrobials” with “*antimicrobial agents*”

c) In Article 6.5.6.

Insert “as such” at the end of the first sentence of point 3.

d) In Article 6.5.6.

In French version only, insert point 3.

2.8. In Annex 13 (Chapters 7.3., 7.7. and 7.8.)

a) In Article 7.3.5.

add “[under study]” after “under tropical and sub-tropical conditions” in the last sentence in point 6.e)

b) In Article 7.7.2.

delete the words “for successful reproduction” in point 3. of the definition of stray dog

c) In Article 7.7.2.

French version only, replace “naturel” with “sauvage” in point 3. of the definition of stray dog

d) In Article 7.8.4.

delete “minimum” in point 1 c)

e) In Article 7.8.7.

replace “generally” in the first paragraph of point 1. with “strongly”

2.9. In Annex 22 (Chapter 10.13.)

a) in Spanish version only, replace “manada(s)” in the entire chapter with “parvada(s)”

3. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed as follows:

3.1. In Chapter 8.12.

a) In Article 8.12.2.

delete “Retention on the list requires that the information in points 2a), 2b) and 2c) above be submitted annually and” and replace the following “changes” with “Changes”

4. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the Terrestrial Code with appropriate numbering and formatting.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Contribution of veterinary activities to global food security

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Millennium Development Goals include halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the population living on less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

2. In the context of the fight against poverty, undernutrition and malnutrition, agriculture is now facing the challenge of feeding 9 billion people by the year 2050 while at the same time preserving natural resources,

3. The continuing growth in demand for food products, especially those of animal origin, in a context of globalisation of trade and climate change, requires a major transformation of agricultural and livestock production practices, with the focus on responsible intensification, rather than purely on productivity, and on reducing post-harvest waste of food,

4. Animal production makes a significant year-round contribution to a balanced diet worldwide as a source of energy, protein with a high nutritional value and micronutrients, to the production of fertiliser and to agricultural work through the use of draught animals, as well as contributing to the income of smallholder mixed farmers and other livestock sector operators, both nationally and internationally, and ultimately to countries' GDP,

5. Sanitary problems, including biosecurity problems, whether they occur at the production stage or during the processing or marketing of animal products, have major consequences for food security and food safety both directly at the consumption stage and indirectly via their wide-ranging impact on the economy of animal production sectors,

6. Veterinary activities complying with international standards contribute to safeguarding the quality of animal products and help to ensure not only food security, but also public health and the sanitary safety of trade,

7. Sanitary and economic optimisation of the livestock production chain 'from farm to fork', which requires a wide range of competencies and activities, especially in the veterinary field, must be achieved in a framework that is both operational and regulatory, involving public-private partnerships, based on appropriate legislation and coordination implemented by Veterinary Services organised for this purpose,

8. Access to veterinary services varies across vulnerable stakeholder groups from the perspective of socio-economic status and gender,

9. The globalisation of trade in animals and animal products, combined with the mobility of human populations and movement of animals, greatly increases the risk of the rapid and wide-ranging spread of pathogens and contaminants, requiring national Veterinary Services that are open to the world for timely reporting, transparency and cooperation with others,

10. The core activities of the OIE are developing international sanitary standards and helping Veterinary Services (1) to improve their quality and performance, (2) to promote the prevention and control of animal diseases, including zoonoses, and (3) to improve the safety of trade in animals and animal products.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS

1. That the OIE continue to develop international standards, notification systems and guidelines, including on disease control methods, supporting national Veterinary Services to help them meet their obligations,

2. That the OIE, while addressing its core activities, consider the possible impact on food security,

3. That the OIE continue to implement the PVS Pathway in order to strengthen the capacity of Member Countries to exercise good veterinary governance and consolidate activities aimed at ensuring the sanitary quality and safety of animal products and safe trade in animals and animal products at a national and international level, including in aquatic animals,

4. That the OIE support the development of regional animal health and veterinary public health networks jointly with OIE Regional Representations, OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centres where they exist and other regional bodies concerned, in order to address matters relating to existing or emerging sanitary risks with an impact on food security,

5. That the OIE work with its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and engage with other relevant partners at global and regional levels, to ensure the continuation of studies and research on the determinants of disease dynamics (environmental change, animal movements, etc.) and integrated control methods for animal diseases, and to ensure that new knowledge is disseminated and used to enhance international sanitary standards,

6. That the OIE continue to promote the 'One Health' concept, by demonstrating the important role played by independent Veterinary Services – and veterinary activities in general – in the field of public health, through the control of zoonoses and contaminants, and in the field of environmental protection, by contributing to a move towards more appropriate agricultural practices, and also by participating in the supervision and facilitation of terrestrial and aquatic animal production with the aim of guaranteeing an adequate supply of safe and nutritional food for all,

7. That the OIE promote the active participation of the Veterinary Services in national and international surveys to establish the characteristics of and quantified indicators for food security, in order to ensure that animal production and animal products are appropriately represented in the collected data and subsequent assessments,

8. That the OIE envisage the creation of one or more Collaborating Centres in Animal Health Economics to carry out economic analyses of animal health programmes and quantify their impact, especially in terms of their contribution to food security.

9. That the G20 Members take into account in their current work on food security the importance of strengthening international and regional networks, international standard-setting, information and surveillance systems, good governance in public health, terrestrial and aquatic animal health, and plant health systems, as well as encouraging international organisations, especially FAO, WHO and the OIE to continue their efforts towards reinforcement of their cooperation to ensure global biological security.

———————

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

———————

RESOLUTION No. 28

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC),

The Agreement between the OIE and the CIC approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/21),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU),

The Agreement between the OIE and the AMU approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/22),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO),

The Agreement between the OIE and the ISO approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/23),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 31

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the « Global Food Safety Initiative » (GFSI)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the « Global Food Safety Initiative » (GFSI),

The Agreement between the OIE and the GFSI approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/24),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 32

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA),

The Agreement between the OIE and the WSAVA approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/25),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION No. 33

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

The Agreement between the OIE and the UNESCO approved following the deliberations of the Council on 20 May 2011 (79 SG/26),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2011)

RESOLUTION N° 34

Veterinary Education

CONSIDERING

1. The obligations of the veterinary profession, whatever they may include, regarding the animal kingdom and society in its largest sense;

2. The need to strengthen the capacities of countries globally to create or maintain national animal health and veterinary public health systems that cover the whole national territory and that can provide for efficiency in the surveillance, early detection and rapid response to outbreaks of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases, including zoonoses, whether these arise through natural or intentional events;

3. That the mandate of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as an intergovernmental organisation with 178 Members (as of April 2011) is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to ensure sanitary safety of world trade of animals and animal products, while consolidating the place of animals in the world;

4. That the OIE provides to Members the global PVS Pathway for Efficient Veterinary Services under its mandate to strengthen capacities relevant to the veterinary domain, including for animal health and welfare, veterinary legislation, veterinary education and regulation of the veterinary profession by the Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB);

5. That, following the 1st Global Conference on Veterinary Education (October 2009), the OIE convened an *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, which recommended a set of minimum competencies required of 'Day 1' veterinary graduates (in the public and private sector) to enable Members to meet the OIE standards for efficient veterinary services;

6. The Declaration of the OIE Conference on the Role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (Bamako [Mali], 14−15 April 2011), published on the internet site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa; and

7. The Resolutions of the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education (Lyon [France], 13−14 May 2011).

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE, with support from relevant international organisations, should continue to progress the PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services (including relevant public and private components).

2. The OIE should continue to work closely with Member Countries, their veterinary statutory bodies (VSB) and veterinary education establishment leaders, and Regional and Global Organisations to support efforts to improve the quality of (initial and ongoing) training of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, and to harmonise approaches to recognition of qualifications, notably with the support of VSB.

3. The OIE should in future present a framework and recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates on the Day 1 minimum competencies required by veterinarians for countries to meet the OIE quality standards for Veterinary Services (both public and private components), taking into account existing input prepared by the ad hoc Group on Veterinary Education and relevant Specialist Commission.

4. In the framework of the PVS Pathway, the OIE should consider the creation or strengthening of mechanisms to support the evaluation of the quality of national Veterinary Services personnel on the basis of their initial and continuing education, particularly where recognised evaluation systems currently do not apply;

5. The OIE should use the principles established under the successful Laboratories Twinning Programme to prepare guidelines for pilot twinning projects between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and between VSB and convince potential donors to make financial contributions to such projects;

6. Members should note the Bamako Declaration and the Resolutions of the Lyon conference and should promote all OIE activities described above, in order to improve animal health and veterinary public health worldwide.

_____

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

Recommendations

of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2010

endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 26 May 2011

24th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Astana, Kazakhstan, 20-24 September 2010

Recommendation No. 1: The dependence of the effective border controls on appropriate resources deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange.

Recommendation No. 2: Early detection and contingency plans for African swine fever.

Recommendation No. 1

The dependence of the effective border controls on appropriate resources deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Member Countries should have the necessary legal framework in place to apply the OIE standards and guidelines regarding border control;

2. Member Countries should have an adequate administrative veterinary and judicial capacity and capability in place at central and border post level;

3. Member Countries should provide the necessary infrastructure, human, and financial resources to carry out veterinary border checks on relevant commercial consignments efficiently and effectively;

4. Member Countries, in accordance with the OIE standards and guidelines, should invest in infrastructure for the veterinary border checks on commercial cargo at their national frontiers;

5. Member Countries should pay more attention to establish a system for the veterinary border checks on non commercial cargo, travelling pet animals and food waste from international means of transport to avoid particularly the introduction of disease agents or other biological risks into their territories;

6. Smuggling of live animals, animal product, veterinary biological, as well as pathogens is still an on-going threat to animal health, public health and consumer confidence in all countries;

7. For the purpose of this recommendation "border post" means first point of entry of goods or people in a national territory.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments, ensure that their legal framework fully take into account the relevant OIE standards and guidelines concerning import, transit and export covering all items of veterinary concern;

2. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments ensure that they have an adequate administrative veterinary and judicial capacity and capability in place at central and border post levels to carry out the necessary veterinary checks and controls on both commercial and non-commercial consignments;

3. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments, ensure that there is a legal base for providing close cooperation and exchange of information between the competent authorities involved in border controls, in particular Customs administration;

4. Member Countries efforts be directed to provide the necessary infrastructure, human, and financial resources to carry out veterinary border checks on commercial consignments efficiently and effectively, including fast lane procedures for consignments of live animals;

5. Member Countries give emphasis on the investment in infrastructure to enforce veterinary border checks at their frontiers;

6. When Customs' Unions between Member Countries are planned or established, it should also apply to the outer border of the new Union of the Member Countries concerned instead of being at the frontier of the individual members. This also requires a harmonised outer border control system prior to the establishment of the Union;

7. Member Countries apply a strong system for veterinary checks on non-commercial cargo, travelling pet animals, and especially on the control and safe disposal of waste presenting a sanitary risk from international means of transport;

8. Member Countries be encouraged to ensure political commitment, effective legal base and coordination of activities among various government departments, other relevant agencies, industry, transport companies, private practitioners and potential "end-users" to effectively address smuggling;

9. The OIE review its current Codes chapters covering import, transit and export in order to expand them, in particular to include rules on veterinary border checks in areas excluded from customs inspections (such as free zones, free ports, free warehouses, customs warehouses and ship chandlers/caterers with a similar customs status) and on non commercial cargo (such as products in travellers' bags or sent by mail, travelling pet animals and waste from international means of transport presenting a sanitary risk);

10. The OIE, in order to enhance the international cooperation and strengthen the transparency on veterinary border checks and procedures as regards the ever increasing world wide trade in commodities of veterinary concern, study the possibility to provide additional guidance to Member Countries on the whole scope of veterinary border checks and controls.

    Guidance by the OIE should address:

    - Models of appropriate legislation,
    - required infrastructure, human and technical resources including equipment for carrying out the checks and operating the border post and certain facilities out with the border post and importation premises,
    - the details on the procedures and actions prior to the arrival of consignment and its presentation at the border inspection posts and possible actions necessary following the decisions made at the border inspection posts,
    - required equipment for communication, data processing and documentation and,
    - establishment of veterinary systems on checks of items of veterinary concern in areas excluded from customs inspections and non commercial cargo.

11. The OIE endeavour to find additional resources in order to enhance the cooperation and transparency between the European Region Member Countries by collecting and disseminating information via its Regional website on certain key information on border posts, contact details, import conditions, certificates and code lists for the identification of commodities of veterinary concern;

12. The OIE try to provide continued assistance by organising training courses and provision of expertise on veterinary checks and controls, in particular to those countries which appear to be lacking an adequate veterinary border control system;

13. The OIE develop more provisions in the PVS criteria addressing border controls, including quarantine and resting premises, and veterinary capacities of Member Countries for import and transit controls in general;

14. The OIE collaborate more with the World Customs Organisation in order to provide a harmonised list of items of veterinary concern.

_____

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 24 September 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

Recommendation No. 2

Early detection and contingency plans for African swine fever

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Since the latest infection was notified in Georgia in June 2007, the African swine fever virus has spread through the European Region, currently affecting a number of countries in the Caucasus and Russia;

2. African swine fever is a highly contagious disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs of all ages and, even though it is not a zoonotic disease, it causes major economic losses and threaten food security owing to its ability to spread constantly and to the lack of available vaccines for its control;

3. African Swine Fever has no pathognomonic signs and lesions. The signs observed during acute and peracute infection depend on the virus isolate, the viral dose, the route of infection and these can be confused with other swine diseases presenting haemorrhagic lesions;

4. Early detection as well as accurate laboratory diagnosis are vital for controlling the spread of the virus;

5. The virus enter free zones mainly as a result of illegal movements of live pigs and pig products, and that infection occur either through direct contacts between pigs or by feeding pigs with non-heat-treated food waste prepared by using products from infected pigs;

6. Once the infection has become established in a specific zone, the disease is spread by the movement of carrier animals, contaminated transport vehicles and feeding healthy pigs with contaminated products. Ticks and wild boars can also be involved in the epidemiology of the disease;

7. In the absence of an effective treatment or vaccine, the strategy for preventing the entry of the virus at farm level should be based on good biosecurity practices such as, avoiding contact of domestic pigs with wild boars, banning non proper use of biological waste and feeding pigs with non-heat-treated pig products and tick control.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries support information and education programme for veterinarians (private and official) and livestock producers that warns of the risk of infection in the zone and describes the direct and indirect consequences of introducing the disease and that provides the main characteristics of the disease (routes of infection, clinical course, lesions, etc.) and basic biosecurity methods;

2. Member Countries conduct quick refresher training courses to review the clinical forms of the disease, the principal biosecurity measures for preventing the introduction of African swine fever, the biocontainment measures to be adopted in the event of a suspicion or infection, and the various laboratory diagnostic techniques available;

3. Member Countries implement an epidemiological surveillance plan specific to each country in the zone in which targeted samples should be selected on the basis of each zone's risk;

4. Member Countries reinforce movement controls in the affected zones to prevent the illegal movement of pigs or pig products and at risk materials;

5. Member countries better enforce their certification processes related to the movement of susceptible animals and products to avoid the movement of animals and products at risk;

6. Member Countries impose, at least, the ban of the use of non-heat-treated food wastes for feeding pigs and provide livestock producers with more information on the importance of not feeding their pigs with non-heat-treated food waste;

7. Member Countries ensure they have the reagents and appropriate virological and serological methods to conduct a proper diagnosis of the disease, as well as appropriate relation with OIE Reference Laboratories;

8. Member Countries have an up to date contingency plan and a practical manual of procedures describing the various actions to be taken during a suspected or confirmed outbreak in both commercial and backyard farming. As part of the contingency plan, the Member Countries should provide a contact telephone number that is available around the clock, every day of the year, for reporting any suspicion;

9. Member Countries work collaboratively on the improvement of the knowledge regarding the distribution of wild boar and of soft ticks of the Ornithodorus genus, and their epidemiological role in the disease;

10. In order to ensure optimal cooperation with farmers for disease control purposes, Member Countries ensure they have proper contingency funds created by relevant legislation for compensating, on time and at the right value, producers whose pigs are culled as part of a stamping-out policy using culling methods based on OIE relevant standards;

11. Member Countries to notify their epidemiological situation regarding African Swine Fever to the OIE and maintain permanent relations with their neighbouring countries in order to ensure proper actions are taken by all parties;

12. Member Countries ensure that their Veterinary Services encourage establishment of an integrated emergency response structure that takes into account all stakeholders;

13. Member Countries take into consideration the recommendations of the Technical Item 1 of this Conference on border controls;

14. Member Countries support regional workshops on African Swine Fever to help in the implementation of these recommendations.

———————

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 24 September 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

20th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Montevideo, Uruguay, 16-19 November 2010

Recommendation No. 1: Climate change and its link with animal diseases and animal production.

Recommendation No. 2: OIE strategy for the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease at regional and global levels.

Recommendation No. 1

Climate change and its link with animal diseases and animal production

CONSIDERING THAT

1. According to the OIE experts and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate and environmental change could be associated with many emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses;

2. Long term climate changes make it difficult to predict the exact distribution and scale of the emergence and re-emergence of many animal diseases in the Region, or the precise impact on terrestrial and aquatic animal production, and public health;

3. The general trend towards the intensification and industrialization of animal production will continue and could increase the likelihood of emerging and re-emerging diseases occurring, including zoonoses;

4. Further scientific information and research are needed urgently in order to assess the real impact of climate change on terrestrial and aquatic animal disease incidence and production and consequently on public health;

5. Other factors, such as globalization, increase the risk of the emergence and re-emergence of diseases;

6. OIE Members are concerned about the likely impact of climate change on emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;

7. One of the OIE's objectives is to contribute to food security for a growing world population;

8. Veterinary Services are responsible for ensuring the early detection and rapid response to emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and must be strengthened entirely to be able to face the new challenges related to globalisation, climate and environmental changes and necessity to increase livestock and aquatic animals production in order to satisfy the worldwide demand in animal proteins;

9. The projection for 2030 indicates that demand for animal proteins (milk, eggs, meat) will increase by 50%. However, the negative public perception of the impact of animal production on climate change could undermine the consumption of animal products.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue its support for building the technical management and good governance capacity of Veterinary Services in conjunction with the private sector, in order to help to guarantee that demand for animal protein is met while minimising the negative environmental impact;

2. The countries of the Region be encouraged to share best practices and adopt the concept of building institutional adaptability in order to tackle the new challenges of climate change more effectively;

3. The OIE continue its work in supporting Members by means of programmes such as the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool) for, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions, in order to ensure the early-detection and rapid-response of Veterinary Services for the control of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases;

4. The OIE, in collaboration with other international organisations, particularly those having expertise in the subject, help veterinary authorities to develop surveillance, modelling, and other decision-making frameworks that take into account new information on the evolving possible association between climate change and emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, and that this approach recognise the need for appropriate policy responses;

5. The Director General of the OIE contact the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to promote the inclusion of the potential effects of climate change on animal health and animal production in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report for 2015, considering that the 2007 report made no specific reference to the issue;

6. The OIE support member countries by creating opportunities for training Veterinary Services, emphasising the need to share information and experiences among countries of the Region for the implementation of preventive and adaptation measures against climate change-related emerging diseases;

7. The countries of the Region be encouraged to coordinate and intensify the research on the impact of climate change on emerging and re-emerging diseases and on animal production and public health;

8. The OIE conduct communication and related activities on climate changes aimed at ensuring a balance in the public understanding of the positive and negative impact of livestock production as a basis for its sustainable development, while addressing the demand for animal protein;

9. The development and improvement of linkages between human and animal health and the environment sectors be fostered in a coordinated and consistent manner in the framework of the FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite concept note.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

Recommendation No. 2

OIE strategy for the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease at regional and global levels

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) has for centuries been known as a serious threat to the health and welfare of the domestic and wild animal ruminant and swine population of the world, with negative impacts on the livelihoods of animal keepers, rural and national economies;

2. Countries infected with FMD are more prone to food insecurity and rural poverty as a result of the impact of FMD at household level and through reduced access to local, national and international markets;

3. The control and eventual eradication of FMD in a country, region or worldwide could only be achieved if the international community recognizes that the control of FMD is a global public good that will benefit all populations and future generations;

4. Sixty six countries in the world and sixteen zones within countries are already officially recognized by the OIE as free from FMD with or without vaccination while more than 100 countries are still either considered as non-officially free and/or are endemically or sporadically infected with the disease;

5. There is a need for a strong commitment of all countries at a high political level to harmonise global, regional and national policies for FMD control;

6. The FMD virus serotypes and strains are distributed into several major virus ecological setting or reservoirs, each containing distinct regional viral strains from which new variants may emerge, which creates a demand for advanced laboratory services and technical advice to select appropriate vaccines;

7. Unprecedented globalization of trade and movement of people and animals opens the door for any virus strain to infect any part of the world;

8. It will be necessary, in a long term approach, to strengthen the efforts and establish regional agreements to address the threats of FMD viruses and animal reservoirs or environmental persistence;

9. There is an OIE proposal for the official recognition of the strategic plans and their continuing implementation by countries to control and eradicate FMD with the eventual aim of obtaining zonal and country freedom from FMD that is an important element in the drive towards the global control of FMD. However, some countries expressed their concern on that respect;

10. Many developing and in transition countries are in need of assistance as they lack the necessary resources and effective veterinary services to initiate, implement or sustain a national disease control program for FMD;

11. Initiating an FMD control program with limited financial resources requires targeted technical support and guidance to optimize the strategy and actions to achieve rapid gains on the investment, that could stimulate further cost effective public and private expenditures;

12. Realising an ideal of global control of FMD will be a costly and long-term process relying heavily on the sustainable availability of sufficient public and private financial resources from Governments, producers and market chain actors, and the international donor community;

13. Good veterinary governance is an essential pre-requisite to ensure the efficient implementation of national programs and to encourage the establishment of sustainable public-private partnerships and international support for the control of FMD on a national, regional and global level;

14. There is an urgent need for research in vaccines that will improve the access of countries to good quality vaccines that are fit for purpose against the prevailing field strains of the FMD virus in each virus reservoir, in each relevant species, and which can be cost effective and used in challenging environmental conditions;

15. Good examples of successful regionally co-ordinated approaches that have delivered freedom from FMD in part or whole of the areas involved are seen in the European region, in South-East Asia and South America. These long term regional programs can provide important templates for formulating co-ordinated regional and national FMD control strategies in the other affected regions of the world;

16. Due to the concerted efforts of the countries participating with the help of the private sector in the Hemispheric Foot-and-Mouth Disease Plan (PHEFA), 85% of the 350 million head of bovine and buffaloes are now living in zones free with and without vaccination in South America thereby contributing to the major share of beef and pork from these countries in the global market, also these achievements being due to the huge contribution of national Veterinary services as well as to global and regional organisations, particularly the PANAFTOSA center, donors, and strategic alliances with the private sector;

17. Following the Agreement between the CVP and the OIE to establish a regional control program for FMD on the mutual borders between Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, successive control measures were instituted and implemented with no recorded outbreaks of the FMD in that zone since the signing of the Agreement in 2007;

18. There is a need for all countries currently affected by FMD to be able to enter into a regional co-ordinated program against FMD through a progressive control pathway towards FMD freedom with or without vaccination as endorsed by the OIE to progressively advance towards official recognition of FMD freedom of zones and countries;

19. Countries and zones already free of the disease and able to support global control of FMD can contribute to a win-win situation resulting in reduced poverty in infected countries and a reduced the risk to their own territory from virus reintroductions;

20. International standards of the OIE for good veterinary governance, the control methods for FMD, the production and use of vaccines, the trade in and movement of animals and animal products and the diagnosis of the disease are integral in formulating a strategy for the global control of FMD;

21. The OIE and FAO through the GF-TADs coordinating mechanism, reference laboratories, collaborating and reference centers, will provide an important support mechanism to ensure a sustainable global control program for FMD.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE and FAO together with the world political fora (G8 and G20, etc), the governments, producers and other international, regional and national role players and stakeholders must reaffirm and communicate the economic and social justification for recognizing officially the global control and eventual eradication of FMD as a global public good for the benefit of all populations and future generations;

2. A strategy for the global control of FMD should be regarded as an international priority and should be managed and coordinated jointly by the OIE and FAO under the GF-TADs platform, in consultation with the relevant international, regional and national stakeholders and donor community;

3. The global program for the control and eradication of FMD must take into account the interests of countries already FMD free and must propose training and surveillance programs aiming that objective;

4. The OIE, FAO and other international and regional organizations concerned with FMD control develop a strategic communication and advocacy plan to convince the high level policy makers in infected countries to consider FMD control as a priority to contribute to global food security and socio-economic prosperity;

5. The OIE with the support of its Members and FAO pursue and further intensify its efforts to establish the application of good veterinary governance in developing and in transition countries to pave the way for sustainable public-private partnerships and involvement of the international donor community in support of a global strategy for the control of FMD;

6. A strategy for the global control for FMD should incorporate and acknowledge existing and ongoing national and regional mechanisms that have already achieved progress in moving towards the regional control of FMD such as those of the Hemispheric FMD Eradication Plan (PHEFA), the technical and practical support brought by COSALFA, the technical support brought by PANAFTOSA to this plan, the border agreements between countries, the CVP/MERCOSUR, SEAFMD, European Union and the EUFMD;

7. The Hemispheric FMD Eradication Plan for South America be reviewed to focus specifically on the needs of the remaining endemic FMD countries and zones which pose a risk to those countries and zones already free from disease;

8. The CVP, within the framework of the agreement with the OIE, continue to maintain the vigilance in terms of disease control and disease surveillance to maintain the free status of FMD on the borders of the countries party to the Agreement;

9. OIE standards regarding quality of vaccines must be strictly respected by all countries worldwide, and mechanisms for quality assurance observed;

10. Further research on the development of effective and quality vaccines in compliance with OIE standards and the availability of vaccines at diminished cost for all prevailing field strains of the FMD virus for all susceptible domestic animals be encouraged and expedited with the emphasis on the availability, cost-effectiveness and safe use under challenging environmental conditions;

11. The OIE with the support of FAO and in collaboration with the international donor community, consider the establishment of vaccine banks for FMD vaccines in strategic locations and in support of regional FMD control programs and define the processes and strategies for its use;

12. The establishment of and access to diagnostic facilities for the quick and efficient diagnosis of FMD be further enhanced through initiatives such as the OIE laboratory twinning program, OIE focal points and the network of national laboratories in the region and the FAO laboratories network development program. Diagnostic tests must comply with standards of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and their inscription, when appropriate, into the OIE register of diagnostic tests is promoted;

13. The OIE continue to update existing international standards for FMD and encourage the official recognition of the countries and zones listed free from the disease as well as the official recognition of free countries or zones with or without vaccination;

14. That the recognition of the strategic plans of countries and their continuing implementation to control an eradicate FMD, as proposed by the OIE, be clarified with more details;

15. In the updating of international standards the OIE should encourage further research to allow the safe trade in animal products without unjustified barriers to trade while recognizing the needs of developing and in transition countries which are still progressing along the pathway towards the progressive control or eradication of foot and mouth disease;

16. The OIE strengthen its relations with the Andean Community (CAN) and the other countries from the Andean region in order to provide help in the control of FMD;

17. OIE and FAO organise a global pledging conference with free and infected countries, and relevant organisations and donors, to support a global control program.

———————

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

19th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Kigali, Rwanda, 14-18 February 2011

Recommendation No. 1**:** Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock diseases surveillance and control.

Recommendation No. 2: Main pathologies of camels, breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives

.

Recommendation No. 1

Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock diseases surveillance and control

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Obtaining accurate and updated livestock census data is a critical component of any disease surveillance and control programs;

2. A good knowledge of livestock production data, including livestock population, is important for assessing the status of national regional, and continental food security;

3. The OIE standards on "General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals" relate to the development of identification and traceability systems;

4. The OIE annual publication "World Animal Health" includes raw data on livestock from all OIE Member Countries;

5. The OIE is actively promoting the strengthening of Veterinary Services in Africa through the implementation of the PVS Pathway to address, among others, the capacity of veterinary services to comply with OIE standards;

6. Implementing appropriate livestock census legislation and methodologies facilitates the Veterinary Services and other competent authorities to carry out their mandates and responsibilities;

7. Public and private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals represent a significant proportion of the veterinary services, provide great support to farming systems in Africa, and are the main actors in livestock diseases surveillance and disease control;

8. Many countries in Africa are experiencing numerous cultural, logistical, infrastructural and resources limitations to effectively conduct livestock census and are in need of strong political commitment to establish good veterinary governance to move towards appropriate and regular livestock census; and

9. Efforts have already been carried out in collaboration with other international and regional organisations in supporting Members with the development of agricultural census guidelines and national livestock census activities.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to provide support to all its Members, and particularly African countries, in strengthening their Veterinary Services through the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway;

2. OIE Member Countries be encouraged to implement OIE guidelines on identification and traceability of live animals for the indirect or direct benefit of livestock census, diseases surveillance, prevention and control;

3. Member Countries dedicate more efforts to enact legislative and regulatory texts to support livestock census activities;

4. Animal population information be annually provided to OIE by its Member Countries using the WAHIS Annual Report and this information be disseminated in the annual OIE publication "World Animal Health";

5. Veterinary Services of Member Countries collaborate with their central statistics authorities to plan and execute national livestock census exercises;

6. OIE Member Countries be encouraged to use technical staff with knowledge on animal health and animal production in the development of livestock census programs;

7. In collaboration with FAO and AU-IBAR, the OIE promote the technical support of the Veterinary Services, the increased awareness of African Governments, and the advocacy for donors to support national livestock census and related activities;

8. OIE member countries ensure the planning and the conduct of livestock census, including camelids, and that the process be harmonised at national and at Regional Economic Community's levels;

9. The OIE Member Countries, in collaboration with the central statistics authorities be encouraged to promote the development of appropriate methods and tools for the census of livestock; and

10. The OIE develop guidelines related to the livestock census that include, among others, a definition of "census" and making this term explicit.

———————

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 18 February 2011
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

Recommendation No. 2

Main pathologies of camels, breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Camels have a significant positive socioeconomic impact on people living in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa as they provide important sources of incomes and proteins, and serve as beast of burden for traction and transport;

2. A thorough knowledge of domestic camelids populations would provide a better understanding of the realities, needs and constraints of this type of production;

3. The demand from many countries for live camels and camels products and by-products, especially milk and meat, is increasing;

4. An export industry is being developed in some areas leading to an evolution in camel production systems with an increase of camel movements;

5. The risk of transmission of transboundary diseases of camelids could be increased with the development of international exchanges;

6. The knowledge of camel diseases currently requires improvement and more scientific research and experience sharing are needed to elucidate the role of many pathogens involved in the pathogenesis and epidemiology of camel diseases; and

7. The number of specialized professionals with expertise in camelids has to be improved.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to support its Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Pathway in order to help them strengthen their expertise in diseases of camelids;

2. The OIE Member Countries rearing camelids develop their diagnostic and research capacities and submit, when appropriate, more applications for the designation of their national laboratories for camelid diseases as an OIE Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centre;

3. The OIE support Twinning projects between OIE Reference Laboratories and national laboratories from camelid-rearing countries with the objective of supporting the other national laboratories in their region;

4. The OIE encourage collaboration and networking between national laboratories from camelid-rearing countries with the aim of exchanging information, validating diagnostic tests currently used in other species, and developing specific diagnostic tests for camels;

5. The OIE Member Countries rearing camels facilitate the shipment of samples from their national laboratories to OIE Reference Laboratories for the validation of diagnostic assays, for surveillance programmes, or when outbreaks occur;

6. The OIE Member Countries rearing camelids ensure that existing vaccines and veterinary products used in camels be validated and if necessary new vaccines and veterinary products be developed;

7. The OIE Member Countries rearing camelids encourage epidemiological studies and disease surveillance systems by developing and harmonising surveillance procedures and by facilitating data collection and analysis related to diseases of camelids;

8. The OIE Member Countries rearing camelids promote applied research on camelid diseases by stimulating comprehensive knowledge of the clinical and pathological aspects of camel diseases;

9. The OIE Member Countries in collaboration with international and regional organisations, donors and other stakeholders, elaborate and finance regional research and development programmes based on priority diseases of camelids;

10. The OIE develop specific standards and guidelines for international trade of camelids and their products, with the support of its Members; and

11. Member Countries, in collaboration with the OIE, ensure that the veterinary education curriculum include relevant information related to the production systems and diseases of camelids.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 18 February 2011
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)

Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 79th General Session
in Paris, 23 May 2011

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

79 SG/11B/AF

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 110 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territories and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Observer countries/territories:	France, South Soudan, United Kingdom, United States of Americas.
International/regional organisations:	AU-IBAR[1], EU[2], ECOWAS[3], FAO[4], SADC[5], WAEMU[6], WB[7]

The meeting was chaired by Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher (Ethiopia), President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, welcomed all participants to the meeting, expressing a special welcome to Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The Secretary General attended the 79th OIE General Session in order to sign an agreement with the OIE.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, proposed some amendments to the agenda. The amendments were unanimously adopted, as follows:

- The Secretary General of AMU would be the first to address the Commission.

1 AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
2 EU: European Union
3 ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
4 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
5 SADC: Southern African Development Community
6 WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union
7 WB: World Bank

- The Item regarding Council update - OIE Basic Texts would be presented at the end in order to give Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, the opportunity to present the item.

- Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice-President of Vet 2011, would address the Commission regarding the development of the activities under the umbrella of Vet 2011.

- Dr Ofosu, representative from Ghana, would give an honorary certificate to Dr Bernard Vallat.

The Agenda, including the amendments, is included in the Appendix.

2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), started his speech thanking Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, for having invited AMU to attend the 79th OIE General Session and to address the Regional Commission for Africa.

Mr Ben Yahia explained that AMU countries are all subject to the same climatic conditions and are situated in the same epidemiological area. Economically speaking, animal resources are of special importance because of the key role they play in the economic and social life of Maghreb countries. That is why they have attracted special attention from the Maghreb authorities.

He pointed out that as soon as the organisation had set up its Specialised Ministerial Committee for Food Security in January 1990, it was entrusted with the task of overseeing the joint Maghreb effort for animal resource development and management. This institutional framework was strengthened by the establishment of a Maghreb Veterinary Committee whose task is to define, plan and coordinate the implementation of Maghreb action plans for animal health and trade in animals and animal products. The agreement on cooperation in the veterinary field, adopted in March 1991, provides the legal framework for joint Maghreb action in the field of animal health. The implementation of this agreement led to the adoption, in 2004, of the AMU Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), which includes several ongoing projects.

Mr Ben Yahia noted that the resurgence of transboundary diseases, including zoonotic ones, has prompted the competent Maghreb authorities to step up their cooperation to consolidate their surveillance and early-warning capacity.

In closing, he commented that the Maghreb transboundary disease surveillance network, which was set up in 2006 to improve the prevention and control of epizootics in the Maghreb region, provides the institutional framework for regional cooperation.

3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated in the previous 12 months.

He made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011, highlighting the fruitful discussions participants had during the Conference and the two recommendations adopted by the Commission. He also commented on the one day OIE-PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held back to back with the Regional Conference.

The other activities listed by Dr Gebreegziabher included: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba in December 2010, the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, held in Paris in February 2011, the Seminar for Animal Production Food Safety Focal Points, held in Tunisia, and the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Africa.

Finally, the President of the Commission commented on the meeting of Directors of Veterinary Services and Chief Veterinary Officers, held in Nairobi on early May. During this meeting the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, which were submitted for adoption at the 79th OIE General Session, were examined.

The report was approved.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region and the Regional Animal Health Centres

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, gave a summary of the activities carried out from 1 January to 1 May 2011 by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa. These included missions to support capacity-building activities for Delegates, National Focal Points and Presidents of Veterinary Statutory Bodies. These activities also covered the PVS pathway, the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) (advanced training) and food safety.

The Regional Representative made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15 to 18 February 2011. Dr Samaké indicated that the Conference had been a success.

Furthermore, Dr Samaké made reference to the participation of the OIE Regional Representation in statutory meetings of GF-TADs and ALive.

The Regional Representative also commented on his participation in the Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The meeting recommended signing an agreement between ECOWAS and the Government of Mali regarding the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC). The meeting also recommended that the RAHC be turned into an ECOWAS specialised institution.

The Regional Representative briefly described some of the other meetings and events that had taken place in the African region from 1/01/2011 to 1/05/2011, as follows:

- The audience granted by the Rwandan Prime Minister to the OIE Director General;
- The appointment of the new OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- The ceremony, attended by the President of the Republic of Mali, to inaugurate the new headquarters of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa; and
- The audience granted by the President of the Republic of Mali to the OIE Director General.

Regarding the activities planned for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2011 the Representative summarised them as follows:

- Entry into office of the Deputy OIE Regional Representative for Africa;

- Capacity-building in the following areas: recently appointed Delegates, diseases of honey bees, veterinary products and aquatic animal diseases;

- Implementation of the OIE-PVS pathway and the programme for modernising veterinary legislation;

- Participation in the 79th OIE General Session, as well as in the annual meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations;

- Participation in the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes and;

- Participation in the Global Conference on Rabies Control.

6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented a concept note prepared by the OIE management team in Africa, based on the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, adopted in the course of the 78th OIE General Session in May 2010. The note aim at increasing the political, financial and technical visibility of the OIE in Africa, which is necessary for the smooth implementation of the African components of the 5th Strategic Plan.

The Regional Representative noted that the OIE, with its worldwide mandate, is sometimes seen, by African elites not directly concerned, as an institution that is ill-adapted to African needs. The OIE felt it important to have a policy strategy document to convince policy-makers at the national, regional and continental level of the importance of establishing strong cooperation with the OIE.

Dr Samaké explained that the note clearly demonstrates, in terms intentionally accessible to the non-specialist, the close agreement between the OIE's five-year Strategic Plan and three pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Millennium Development Goals.

The note demonstrates also that the OIE Regional Commission for Africa must be considered as a Regional Organisation.

The note has been endorsed by the meeting.

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

"Interventions to improve Veterinary Services capacity in aquatic and bee health"

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 20th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

"Promoting intra-Africa trade of animal and animal products"

9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 14 to 18 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké gave an account of the two recommendations adopted during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Regarding Recommendation N°1 "*Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock disease surveillance and control"*, Dr Samaké remarked that obtaining accurate livestock census data is a critical component of any disease control programme. He pointed out that there are OIE standards on identification and traceability of live animals and that useful data can be found in the annual OIE publication "World Animal Health". In Africa, there are numerous difficulties (i.e. cultural, logistical, infrastructural and resource difficulties) in conducting effective livestock censuses. Efforts are being made to resolve these difficulties, notably using the PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké indicated that the recommendation adopted by the Commission supports OIE Members in strengthening their Veterinary Services by enacting their legislative and regulatory texts to support livestock census activities and by promoting the use of WAHIS to transmit data. The recommendation states that the OIE, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and FAO, should promote awareness among African Governments and encourage donors to support livestock censuses (including censuses for camelids) and related activities. The OIE should develop guidelines on livestock censuses, including a definition of the term "census".

In reference to recommendation N° 2 "*Main pathologies of camels, breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives*", the Regional Representative explained that for people living in arid and semi-arid regions, camels provide an important source of income and dietary protein and are used as beasts of burden for traction and transport, and demand is increasing. The development of international trade could increase the risk of transmission of transboundary diseases of camels, yet the knowledge of camel diseases is currently insufficient and there is a need to improve the number of specialised professionals with expertise in camels.

The Regional Representative explained that recommendation N°2, adopted by the Regional Conference, proposes that the OIE should continue to support its Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services to develop their diagnostic and research capabilities. It states that the OIE should support twinning projects between laboratories, and OIE Member Countries should encourage the setting up of harmonised disease surveillance systems, and, in collaboration with donors, the implementation of regional research and development programmes. It also recommends that the OIE should develop standards and guidelines for international trade of camelids and their products.

10. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Deodass Meenowa, Delegate of Mauritius to the OIE, could not attend the Conference. He had proposed that his country host the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, but Dr Yacouba Samaké asked the Commission to look for a second option in case Mauritius are not be able to host the Conference.

Dr Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo to the OIE, proposed that his country host the next Regional Conference if Mauritius is not able to hold it in 2013.

The Commission approved the proposal.

Without official confirmation from Mauritius before end of June 2011, Togo will host the Conference.

11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary)

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe informed the Conference that, for personal reasons, he would be obliged to leave the post of President of the Commission. Therefore, an election was necessary.

Dr Samaké thanked and congratulated Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher for all the work done during his years of presidency. Dr Samaké explained the procedure for elections and asked the Commission to vote.

Dr Abdel Kader Diarra, Delegate of Mali to the OIE, proposed Dr Mahamadou Saley, Delegate of Niger and current Vice-President of the Commission, to take the place of President. The Delegate of Senegal supported this proposal, which was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Dr Yacoub Adam Hassan, Delegate of Chad to the OIE, nominated by the Delegate of Gabon and supported by the Delegate of Mali, was unanimously elected to join the secretariat of the Commission.

The new Members will exercise their functions until 2012, as elections for the entire bureau are scheduled for the next General Session.

The new Bureau of the Commission is composed as follows:

President:	Dr Mahamadou Saley (Niger)
Vice-President:	Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz (Sudan)
Vice-President:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
Secretary General:	Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad)

12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011, attended by 57 participants from 40 OIE Member Countries. The purpose of this Seminar was to improve the good governance of Veterinary Services. Good governance is essential if Veterinary Services are to fulfil their missions and continue to be regarded as a Global Public Good. The evaluation of Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards is a starting point for modernising Veterinary Services. The OIE proposes various other mechanisms for this purpose, all of which have been recognised by their technical and financial partners.

The main recommendations of the Seminar were related to the PVS Pathway which, it was concluded, should be considered by all stakeholders as a key component in strengthening Veterinary Services in Africa. OIE Member countries should consequently be committed to finding the funds necessary to improve any weaknesses that a PVS evaluation identifies and to implementing appropriate and effective animal health and welfare policies. In addition, the RECs and AU-IBAR should also use the PVS output to develop a regional approach to dealing with the identified gaps.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reminded the Commission that thanks to the programme of activities in Africa, financed jointly by the OIE and EU/DG-SANCO BTSF, the initial evaluations of the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE-PVS) have almost been completed, and about 20 countries have progressed along the OIE Pathway through the Gap Analyses, with support being provided in the form of round-table meetings to identify additional sources of funding to implement these strategic plans for the development of Veterinary Services.

Dr Bourzat stressed that the programme has continued to promote and support laboratory Twinning projects for priority diseases.

To conclude, Dr Bourzat informed the meeting that nine (9) workshops have been attended by more than 500 participants: Delegates, Focal Points and other animal health professionals in Africa. These workshops were all very favourably evaluated by the participants.

14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

Dr Bruce Mukanda, Representative of AU-IBAR, explained that ALive is a multi-stakeholder platform for the development of livestock in Africa that works to reposition the African livestock sector so that it features on the development agendas of national, regional and international policy-makers. It does this by emphasising its crucial impacts on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, and its overall contribution to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs).

Dr Mukanda informed the meeting that, at its 5th general assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2010, ALive adopted the strategy paper, the new operational guidelines and the concept for the 2010-2012 triennial action plan (TAP).

Dr Mukanda also spoke of the achievements in 2010 and summarised the activities that had been implemented in the first semester of 2011, mentioning the organisation of the 6th general assembly in Nairobi and the mobilisation of resources to implement some activities of the TAP, among others.

15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011

Dr Joseph Domenech reported on the activities planned all around the world to celebrate World Veterinary Year.

In Africa, 15 countries have organised special events for Vet 2011. There will be a total of 59 national events across the continent.

Dr Domenech invited countries to inform the OIE of any planned activities so that the information could be accessible through the Vet 2011 Website. He reminded the commission of the procedure to follow to obtain accreditation for any national event.

Finally, he referred to the different regional events organised by the OIE and FAO and invited all participants to be present and to actively participate at these important events.

16. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, informed Delegates from the region of the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. She also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the GF-TADs for Africa, which is currently restructuring to adapt to the internal reorganisation of FAO and to the new projects financed by the EU and managed by AU-IBAR.

Dr Bourzat explained to the Commission that there is a need to rebalance the role of the founding institutions and AU-IBAR while strictly complying with the respective institutional mandates.

Dr Bourzat considered that the principle of complementarity and shared competencies must take precedence over trying to secure leadership at any price. He remarked that the list of priority diseases must be established on the basis of scientific data and not on the views of some experts. Similarly, he stated that the control and/or eradication programmes for transboundary diseases must be defined, through a true partnership, based on recent scientific findings.

Dr Bourzat reported that the 6th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meeting took place in April in Nairobi (Kenya) and that the recommendations are available.

Dr Bourzat concluded that the GF-TADs for Africa must remain a platform for collaborative work between high-level experts recognised by their peers, or run the risk of failing in its mission.

18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Lea Knopf from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (11 in Africa) and Collaborating Centres (3 in Africa). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (these projections assumed that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly).

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (18 in Africa), along with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, and 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Knopf also commented on the "Reference Centre" which is a new term used to mean either "Reference Laboratory" or "Collaborating Centre". These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

19. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, highlighted the importance of WAHIS reports. He reminded Delegates that reporting is an obligation according to OIE international standards. The submission of WAHIS reports is a criteria for OIE official recognition for animal disease status and Performance of Veterinary Service evaluation.

Dr Berlingieri presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and urged those who had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports to submit them as soon as possible.

Finally, Dr Berlingieri emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

The meeting noted the agreement between OIE and AU IBAR to develop compatibility between WAHIS and the new IBAR information system ARIS.

20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communications Unit, addressed the meeting and commented that the OIE puts a great deal of effort into its communication actions at the international level to make policy-makers and civil society more aware of the economic and social utility of all the activities that Veterinary Services throughout the world are carrying out on a daily basis.

The Head of the Communication Unit noted that the last seminar on communication held in Africa, for French speaking countries, clearly identified the need for nominating OIE national focal points on communication and for countries to request financial and organisational support from their governments. It is important to establish a network of relevant communication experts within countries and, when relevant, within the region, or to communicate with already existing networks.

Ms Zampaglione informed the Commission that this year, a chapter on communication in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* will be proposed to Members for adoption: the full integration of communication into the Code will be an effective mechanism for creating the necessary incentive for countries and ministries to incorporate communication strategies within animal health policies.

21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

  Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director General of the AU-IBAR, informed the meeting that in 2010, AU-IBAR had adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2010-2014, which had been developed in close consultation with all the RECs, Member States and its main technical partners. This plan allows AU-IBAR to be more responsive to emerging challenges. It also expresses a comprehensive view on all aspects of animal resources within the framework of CAADP.

Prof. El-Sawalhy described the achievements of AU-IBAR in 2010, highlighting the completion and closure of two major programmes: SPINAP, which pioneered the "One Health" approach and initiated the process of setting up Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanisms for the prevention and control of TADs, and SERECU, the closure of which marked the end of 60 years of fighting against rinderpest and its final eradication from the continent.

In closing, Prof. El-Sawalhy pointed out that 2011 will be marked by the start of a new major panafrican programme entitled "Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa", which will be implemented in partnership with RECs, the OIE and FAO and will mainly address policy and legislation issues.

- **World Bank Presentation**

Dr François Le Gall addressed the Commission as representative of the World Bank on animal health issues and as President of the OIE World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare.

Dr Le Gall commented on the commitment of the World Bank to collaborate with countries in crisis throughout the world. He made special reference to its work during the avian influenza crisis.

Dr Le Gall stressed that, for the World Bank, Africa is a priority for capacity-building activities.

Dr Le Gall also commented on the work and commitment of the World Bank regarding livestock in Africa and gave the floor to Dr Stéphane Forman, the new livestock sector representative of the World Bank in Africa.

Dr Stéphane Forman re-emphasised the importance of the activities implemented by the OIE as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank's support for these activities. He recognised the crucial work carried out by the CVOs in this regard in their respective countries, in Africa and throughout the world. Finally, he described the World Bank's support for animal health activities and the sectors of close collaboration with the OIE in Africa at both regional and national levels.

The World Bank recognises the OIE PVS Pathway as the tool to guide investments to strengthen Veterinary Services. It is now regularly used to support the preparation of World Bank-funded projects in the agriculture and livestock sector in Africa and this was demonstrated through three examples at the country level in Burkina Faso, Namibia and Zambia. The World Bank commended the OIE for the progress made in this regard and advised the OIE Delegates to continue their efforts to make use of this important tool in the development of their national strategy for poverty reduction, food security and economic growth.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Juan Lubroth commented that FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of populations and contribute to economic growth. It does this by gathering and distributing information related to nutrition, food, and agriculture, and making recommendations for action with respect to scientific, technological, social and economic research and the adoption of international policies on agricultural commodities. Member Countries have assigned roles to FAO with regard to animal disease risk reduction (including zoonoses).

Dr Lubroth stated that the organisation is aiming for more sustainable livestock production by contributing to improvements in animal health. He explained that actions implemented by the ECTAD units in Bamako, Nairobi, Gaborone and Tunis focus on animal health emergencies or development programmes against TADs and major zoonoses.

Dr Lubroth stressed that FAO supports partnerships with OIE, AU-IBAR and WHO on priority TADs and trypanosomosis/zoonoses in order to reduce the impact on livelihoods and public health, ensuring regional and national programmes/projects conform to CAADP.

Finally, he indicated that between 2007 and 2010, about 12 national/regional projects had been implemented for countries in Africa.

22. Other matters

Morocco's proposal – made during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali last February – to host the 21st Regional Conference, was ratified by the Commission. The Delegate of Guinea reiterated his proposal to host an OIE Regional Conference in the future. He also supported the proposal of Morocco to host the 21st Regional Conference.

Dr Ofosu from Ghana gave an honorary certificate of registration to the Director General of the OIE in appreciation of the role he played in the 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference. Dr Yacouba Samaké received the certificate on behalf of Dr Vallat who, due to agenda constraints, was not able to attend the meeting.

Dr Yacouba Samaké invited all participants to attend the OIE Global Conference on "Aquatic Animal Health Programmes: their benefits for global food security" to be held in Panama from 28 to 30 June 2011.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 pm.

———————

…/Appendix

Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

_____

Programme

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)

2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)

5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and for the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region as well as the Regional Animal Health Centres (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE strategic plan (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda from 14 to 18 February 2011. (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

10. Confirmation date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary) (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 February 2011 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011

16. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General)

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)

18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

19. WAHIS/WAHID–Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)

20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)

21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
    - World Bank
    - Union du Maghreb
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

    N.B.: WAEMU and SADC will make a presentation in 2012

22. Other matters

79 SG/11B/AM

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 23 May 2011 at Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 83 participants, including Delegates and observers from 20 Members of the Commission and representatives from 14 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: ALA[1], CAN[2], Codex Alimentarius Commission, COPEG[3], CVP[4], European Union FAO, ICFAW, IFAH[5], IICA[6], OIRSA, PAHO-PANAFTOSA[7], WHO, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and seconded by Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Brian Evans, member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Canada, Dr John Clifford, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, Dr Emerio Serrano Ramirez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Cuba and Dr Miguel Ángel Azañon Robles, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Guatemala.

Dr Correa welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, as well as Panama's Minister for Agricultural Development, Emilio José Kieswetter.

Speaking on behalf of the President of Panama, Ricardo Alberto Martinelli Berrocal, Panama's Minister for Agricultural Development acknowledged the importance of the work undertaken by the participants of the 79th OIE General Session. The Minister also invited participants to attend the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes (Panama, on 28–30 June 2011) and the World Brahman Congress (Panama, on 2–7 July 2012).

1 ALA: Latin American Poultry Association
2 CAN: Andean Community of Nations
3 COPEG: Panama/United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm
4 CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
5 IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health
6 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
7 PAHO–PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Members' financial contributions to the OIE

Dr Correa reported on budgetary aspects in the region and commended the progress made on voluntary contributions to the World Fund. He expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the countries hosting the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He also welcomed the Government of Panama's financial support for the upcoming OIE Global Conference.

Dr Evans pointed out that Member Countries' voluntary contributions were used to support the activities of the Commission and regional ad hoc groups and called on Members to increase their contributions.

3. Council update – OIE Basic Texts

Dr Correa reviewed the nature of the OIE Basic Texts. He invited Dr Evans to describe the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. Dr Evans also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

4. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Cuba, presented a summary of the Regional Commission's activities.

Dr Serrano welcomed the new Delegates from the Region and acknowledged the work achieved by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, former Delegate of Brazil and member of the OIE Regional Commission. The audience unanimously supported this acknowledgment. Dr Serrano went on to highlight the activities of Dr Jose Joaquin Oreamuno as Sub-Regional Representative for the Caribbean and Central America, who is soon to step down from his position, and welcomed his successor, Dr Filiberto Frago Santamaria.

Dr Serrano reported that the Regional Commission held annual meetings to discuss the planning of activities, as well as to debate the most relevant subjects concerning Member Countries. He said that the Regional Commission agreed on the need to continue the training for Focal Points and new Delegates, as well as to organise meetings for discussing and updating OIE standards.

Dr Serrano also reported that the Regional Commission was in support of maintaining the Regional Committees' activities, as well as the links with other international and regional organisations. He reiterated the importance of continuing to encourage Member Countries to participate in the OIE PVS Pathway.

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including focal point seminars, update on GF-TADs mechanisms and Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and the Sub-Regional Representation (Panama). He stated that the OIE in the Americas would continue with its previous activities, focusing on strengthening the Veterinary Services and on supporting Members' participation in the OIE standard-setting process. He highlighted the need for meetings to be

held at regional level to discuss proposals for submission to the OIE General Session. Dr Barcos reiterated the value of the seminars for new Delegates and Focal Points and endorsed their active involvement in the region. He also pointed out that the OIE Regional Representations had been encouraging countries to participate in the OIE PVS Pathway, as well as cooperating and supporting Members' actions at regional level.

Dr Barcos reported that the OIE Regional Representations were working on the structure of the Laboratory Network of the Americas, with the aim of sharing information on the capacities of national laboratories. He added that the draft paper on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas was circulating and under discussion, suggesting its adoption at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. He said that efforts were continuing to ensure effective implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease and on interaction with other countries and regional and international organisations regarding this and other matters, via GF-TADs for the Americas.

Dr Barcos reported on the OIE Representatives' participation in regional meetings of ad hoc committees, adding that efforts would continue on coordinating and participating in various regional and national activities, strengthening relations with international organisations, producer organisations, industry, researchers, donors and universities. He added that the Regional Representation would continue to prioritise opportunities for publicising OIE activities.

Dr Barcos concluded by thanking the Government of Brazil for the invitation to the meeting of regional quarantine managers.

The report and work programme were approved.

6. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the programme of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the programme of the 81st General Session:

> "The use of new technology for animal disease prevention, control and eradication and its impact on international trade, public health and the environment"

7. Date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in November 2012, and proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Conference programme

The proposal of Barbados to host the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas was confirmed. The Conference will be held in Barbados in November 2012.

The organisation of a seminar for discussing OIE standards, to be held back to back with the conference, will be coordinated.

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted by the Regional Commission:

> "Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services"

8. Election of the President and second Vice-President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, nominated by Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, was unanimously elected as the new President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Delegate of Paraguay, nominated by Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez, Delegate of Bolivia, was unanimously elected as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

The term of office is until May 2012 as elections for the entire Bureau are scheduled for the next General Session.

9. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new procedure, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Kate Glynn, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories (65 in the Americas) and Collaborating Centres (14 in the Americas). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections on the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, on the assumption that the Assembly would adopt all the new proposals to be made during the current General Session.

The Commission was presented with an update on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (eight in the Americas) and an analysis of current trends. Three OIE Twinning projects have been completed, 29 are under way and six have been approved by the relevant Specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Glynn also commented on the new bridging term "Reference Centre", which is designed to refer to either "Reference Laboratory" or "Collaborating Centre". These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, in line with the streamlined procedure, support for the new designation will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

In addition, the proposal for establishing two Collaborating Centres was approved: one in Cuba (Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Emerging, Re-Emerging and Transboundary Diseases of Animals in the Caribbean and Central America) and two in the United States of America ("*Veterinary Drugs, Regulatory Programmes, Products*" and "*Research and Diagnosis of Emerging and Existing Pathogens of Wildlife*").

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Paula Caceres, from the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those that had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports, urging them to submit these as soon as possible. Dr Caceres concluded by stressing the importance of countries/territories submitting animal health information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, acknowledged the increased level of information being collected and submitted through the efforts of national disease reporting focal points, wildlife focal points and aquatic focal points. He stressed the importance of focusing on the quality and accuracy of data rather than increasing the scope of reporting. He further stressed the need for the Animal Health Information Department to inform and confirm with Delegates if any change is made to information officially submitted prior to posting.

Finally, he recommended that the Animal Health Information Department consult with national focal points as part of the continuous improvement of the WAHIS system to ensure smooth implementation.

11. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez presented the activities of the CVP, highlighting those relating to the MERCOSUR Free from Foot and Mouth Disease Action Program (PAMA), which had succeeded in having the status of the zone previously known as the 'High Surveillance Zone' restored to that of an FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised. He also reported on the training courses in risk analysis and geographic information systems, carried out under the agreement between the CVP and IICA, and the activities developed in cooperation with the OIE and other international organisations.

- **Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)**

Dr Abelardo de Gracia presented OIRSA activities, focusing on the various regional health and safety programmes currently being developed, as well as those on veterinary medicines and animal welfare. He highlighted the activities for building the capacity of Veterinary Services in the region and concluded by detailing the most important activities developed jointly with the OIE, other organisations and cooperation agencies.

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez, as *pro tempore* President, presented CAN activities in the field of animal health, describing CAN regulations with a direct impact on trade in livestock products and on disease reporting systems, as well as the application of risk analysis and the recognition of disease-free zones. He went on to describe the activities undertaken in connection with the eradication of foot and mouth disease. He concluded by mentioning CAN interaction with the OIE and other international organisations.

12. Other matters

- **Proposal for the inclusion of new diseases in the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza and African horse sickness)**

Dr Barcos said that, as Members stressed the importance of production and trade of poultry and pork products, as well as their impact on food security, higher priority should be given to issues relating to these species and their diseases. Dr Barcos reported that the Members had proposed the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza in the list of diseases for which the OIE gives official recognition of animal disease status, assigning higher priority to these diseases than to others such as African horse sickness.

- **Removal of leptospirosis from the OIE list of diseases**

Dr Barcos stated that the OIE Code was not only used for the purposes of international trade, but was highly useful in developing national legislation and setting up programmes and activities. He added that the countries of the Americas had called for leptospirosis not to be excluded from the OIE list, as this would leave Members without a legal basis and technical reference.

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, replied that, given the endemic nature of this disease worldwide, it was inappropriate to keep it in the Code. However, he said that the chapter on leptospirosis in the Manual would remain.

- **Definition of susceptible species**

  Dr Barcos reported that the Member Countries had agreed on the need for more specific definitions of susceptible animal species when reviewing chapters of both the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, as well as when developing new chapters. He also proposed that this review should consider the epidemiological relevance of various animal species in disease maintenance and transmission.

- **Apiary inspection**

  Dr Barcos reported that Members had reached agreement on Chapter 4.14 of the *Terrestrial Code* on hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries. He pointed out that the Article 4.14.3 originally proposed by the OIE referred to the need for apiaries to be inspected in the spring and autumn. However, as there is no clearly defined autumn season in the Central American region, it was proposed not to modify the Code in this respect but instead to specify "twice a year".

  Dr Alex Thiermann commended the great progress made by countries in the region in sending comments on apiculture, adding that work was needed to prepare updated practical recommendations.

- **Proposal for training on Animal Welfare**

  In response to concerns expressed by several Delegates about a proposal for an International Seminar on Animal Welfare offered to countries of the Americas by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG-SANCO) and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, Dr Barcos proposed that these activities should be coordinated with the OIE. His proposal was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal for amending the Code with respect to Animal Welfare of poultry and aquaculture**

  In relation to this matter, Dr Barcos referred to the draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, for which the deadline for comments was the end of August 2011, with a view to its submission for adoption by the 2012 Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in Barbados.

- **Focal Points – their importance to the OIE**

  Dr Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reviewed the responsibilities of the various National Focal Points. He placed special emphasis on their work in assisting Delegates, given their role as experts in specific areas, and to access to the training developed specially by the OIE.

  He concluded by stressing the importance of involving Focal Points in the preparation of Member Countries' technical positions and in issuing comments to the General Session, as well as the need for networks for linking these Focal Points at regional level.

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

_____

…/Appendix

Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

_____

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)

2. Members' financial contributions to the OIE (Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada and Member of the Council)

3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates)

4. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including focal point seminars, update on GF-TADs mechanisms and Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)

6. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2013 (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)

7. Date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2012 and Proposal of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the Conference (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)

8. Election of the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)

9. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dpt.)

11. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC)
    - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
    - Andean Community (CAN)

    N.B.: FAO, IICA and PANAFTOSA will make a presentation in 2012

12. Other matters:

    - Proposal for the inclusion of new diseases on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza and frican horse sickness)

    - Removal of leptospirosis from the list

    - Definition of susceptible species

    - Apiary Inspection

    - Proposal for training on Animal Welfare

    - Proposal for amending the Code with respect to Animal Welfare of poultry and aquaculture

13. Focal Points – their importance to the OIE (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates)

79 SG/11B/AS

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 101 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:	Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China (People Rep. of), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam
Observer countries/territories:	France, Hong Kong, Netherlands
International/regional organisations:	EU, FAO, IEC, SCP[1], WSPA[2]

Dr Toshiro Kawashima, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. On behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission, he congratulated Dr Barry O'Neil for the gold medal and Dr Yukol Limlathong for the meritorious medal received.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission highlighted that most Regional Commission Members respect their financial commitment to the OIE. However, he reported that contributions from a few countries were still missing and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

Dr Ebrahim Molayemi, Representative of the Iran Veterinary Organisation, explained that the budgetary calendar of Iran is not the same as that of the OIE. Therefore, he explained that the contribution of his country would always be late. He also expressed his concerns regarding the height level of contribution of his country.

---

1 SCP: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

2 WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

3. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded delegates of the background regarding modernising the OIE's basic texts and clarified the reasons for the two options that are being considered by delegates on Friday 27 May, and the different voting requirements. He reinforced the Council's preference for Option 1 as it best meets the needs of the OIE's 178 Members, and introduces the wider mandate while clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the World Assembly.

He stressed that if Option 1 was not adopted, the Council would need to continue to review the organic rules to ensure an appropriate legal basis for the organisation. The delegates would then be asked to vote on them in the future.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Toshiro Kawashima gave a presentation on the activities of the commission. He indicated that he has been invited to a number of key world conferences over the past year:

- OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation: Djerba, Tunisia, 7-9 December 2010. He noted that the OIE was currently working on veterinary legislation guidelines to be proposed for inclusion in the OIE Codes next year;

- OIE Global Conference on Animal Health and Biodiversity: Paris, 23-25 February 2011;

- World Conference on Veterinary Education: Lyons, France, 13-15 May 2011. He highlighted that an OIE ad hoc group has been set up to identify the minimum requirements for veterinary curricula worldwide.

Dr Kawashima presented a report on the Regional Strategic Plan of the Commission, which consists of the following objectives:

- To communicate timely accurate animal disease information;

- To propose adaptations of OIE standards and guidelines and encourage OIE Members to make appropriate use of them;

- To provide science-based recommendations on measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases;

- To ensure the scientific excellence and timeliness of information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other parties;

- To strengthen the capacity of the national Veterinary Services of Member Countries;

- To strengthen cooperation with partner agencies in the implementation of the "One Health" concept.

Dr Kawashima explained that the Commission will undertake the following specific activities to carry out the plan:

- Circulating comments on various OIE documents within the Region.

- Establishing an email network through which Members could share information about OIE matters. He presented the various topics on which Regional Commission Members could provide comments; they include legislation, rabies, and disease-listing criteria.

- Developing a list of experts that might be suitable for nomination to OIE Specialist Commissions, Working Groups or Ad hoc Groups in order to increase the participation of regional experts in OIE work.

He explained that it was still possible to send comments on the Regional Strategic Plan and encouraged Members to review this document before it is proposed for adoption at the upcoming Conference of the Commission.

5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including focal point seminars, and update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented a report on the regional activities implemented in order to strengthen Veterinary Services in compliance with international standards. Capacity-building activities in different areas (legislation, diagnosis and surveillance, disease notification, communication) have been organised to that effect. Regional workshops focusing on disease control and risk analysis of veterinary products have also been organised early in 2011.

He noted that more intensive efforts have been made for HPAI control in Asia through field surveillance activities in wild and domestic birds along the migratory flyways in Vietnam. All samples were sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory for HPAI in Japan.

He explained that the activities implemented to improve the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the Region in 2010-2011 were identified following the recommendations of the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in July 2010. This meeting was co-organised by the OIE and FAO with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Government of Thailand.

Dr Shimohira indicated that from May to December 2011, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific will organise several capacity-building activities, including the OIE National Focal Points Seminar for Animal Welfare, and various coordination meetings, including the Regional Workshop for FMD Control in East Asia.

6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asian countries, presented a report on the significant role played by the OIE SRR-SEA in the coordination of animal health activities and in the management of emerging infectious diseases at sub-regional level.

Dr Abila provided details of some of the activities / programmes implemented through the Sub-Regional Representation, as follows:

- The meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia and China (SEACFMD) was held in March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, with the participation of new members (Brunei, China and Singapore). The revised SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, taking into account the changes in the epidemiology of FMD and new developments in the political and economic landscape in the sub-region, was endorsed. It

also includes the new SEACFMD Vaccination Strategy. In the coming months, the SEACFMD will continue to organise various coordination and technical meetings, including capacity-building seminars on outbreak investigation and management, disease information and data analysis, laboratory diagnostics, and quality assurance. It will also conduct case studies on FMD outbreaks, animal movement patterns, vaccination trials and risk-based approaches to effectively control FMD. Finally, the SEACFMD will work to strengthen public-private partnerships and to engender support for the Campaign, particularly among traders and high-level decision-makers.

- The EU Highly Pathogenic and Emerging or Re-emerging Diseases (HPED) project supported the training of Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and Animal Disease notification to the OIE; funded PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis missions; supported the finalisation of the call for tenders for a FMD vaccine bank; and participated in the OIE/FAO/WHO tripartite meeting during the EU-HPED stakeholders networking event. In the coming months, the HPED programme will continue to support the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Member Countries; participate in the organisation of seminars for Focal Points for Veterinary Products and Animal Welfare; and help to finalise the procurements and activate the operation of the vaccine bank(s) by participating in / organising some workshops. Regarding the latter, Dr Abila noted that particular support will be provided to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar for FMD vaccine delivery mechanisms, in close collaboration with the SEACFMD campaign, and to Bhutan and Indonesia for rabies.

- Activities implemented in the framework of the IDENTIFY project included a stakeholders' meeting, a desktop mapping exercise and the development of a tool for disease prioritisation at country level. A two-year project has been updated and a dedicated SRR staff has been recruited. Dr Abila described the planned activities related to the assessment and improvement of laboratory capacity across the region.

- Dr Abila explained that the Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) will end in June 2011. One of the key activities conducted is the holding of a Sub-Regional Workshop on Veterinary Education held in Cebu, the Philippines, in February 2011. The Workshop recommended helping to strengthen the veterinary curriculum and possibly twinning veterinary schools. The next phase of PSVS will be renamed STRIVES (STRengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services). It has been designed to continue to support the implementation of the OIE PVS pathway and VS good governance training programme for future leaders in the sub-region.

- By 1 July, the SEACFMD and PSVS/STRIVES will be managed under an umbrella programme, funded by AusAID, called Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) in South-East Asia. A new component on One Health will also be included under STANDZ. Within the framework of the One Health initiative, the SRR will initiate the development of a sub-regional rabies strategy in coordination with ASEAN, FAO and WHO.

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The following technical items (including a questionnaire to Members) were proposed by the Delegates of New Zealand (Dr Barry O'Neil) and Bangladesh (Dr Musaddique Hossain) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

- "Modern approaches for eradicating and controlling diseases that minimise the need for animal slaughter"
- "Biological standard commission, seeds of vaccine"
- "Quality control for drugs and vaccine"
- "Identification of capacity and gaps in biosecurity and disease monitoring and surveillance"

The following technical item was chosen by 17 out of 20 delegates as the one to be proposed to the World Assembly:

"Modern approaches for eradicating and controlling diseases that minimise the need for animal slaughter"

Following a question from Dr Subhash Morzaria, representative from FAO, Dr Barry O'Neil explained that both zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases could be included in the proposed technical item, as long as the control strategy currently used involves slaughter of animals.

8. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Teheran, Iran, from 19-23 November 2011

Dr Ebrahim Molayemi provided the Commission with details about the organisation of the upcoming Regional Conference to be held in Teheran from 19 to 23 November 2011.

9. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Following proposals from the Members, the following technical items were adopted for the 27th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

With a questionnaire: "Active participation of Members in the development of the OIE Codes"

Without a questionnaire: "Epidemiological developments and control of FMD in Asia"

Experts have been suggested for both technical items.

10. Outcome of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7-11 March 2011, including the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap

Dr Ronello Abila presented a report on the outcomes of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China. He highlighted the endorsement of the revised SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, which provides direction and a strategic framework for achieving FMD-freedom in South-East Asia by the year 2020 and for maintaining the current status of FMD-free countries and zones. He explained that the revised roadmap refocuses its strategy to control FMD at the source, targeting possible

hotspots which probably serve as foci of infection and critical points along the animal movement pathways and which possibly act as amplification points of FMD transmission. The Meeting re-affirmed support for the vaccination policies in the 2020 Roadmap but noted that vaccination should be used appropriately as part of an overall national FMD-control programme, and that vaccine policies may be customised to suit national needs.

Dr Abila pointed out that the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap has evolved since the 2007 Roadmap was drawn up and that it now includes a range of strategies that take into account the addition of Brunei, China and Singapore as Members, the changing socio-economic circumstances of the Region, and learning experiences over the last 4 years.

During the course of the meeting, significant epidemiological changes in the global and regional status of FMD were reviewed, emphasising that 68% of samples tested were serotype O and that no serotype Asia 1, C and SAT 3 were detected; more outbreaks were reported in 2010 compared to 2009, even if some countries (Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand) reported lower numbers of outbreaks. This was attributed to the declining coverage of vaccination, which presumably was due to a lack of vaccine and resources.

The Meeting also endorsed the strains to be included in the call for tenders for a FMD regional vaccine bank, finalised in the framework of the EU-HPED programme.

The STANDZ concept and the development of constructive working partnerships, including in the area of zoonoses, were endorsed by the Meeting. The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific remains an umbrella body for all the activities related to the control of transboundary animal diseases, as is already the case for the EU-funded HPED programme.

Finally, the Sub-Regional Representative indicated that the 'One Health' session re-affirmed that there was no need to create another global or regional institution for 'One Health', as pertinent organisations and networks are already in place. This reflects the position taken by the Tripartite (OIE, FAO and WHO).

Dr Musaddique Hossain, Delegate of Bangladesh, requested additional information on the FMD activity reports of each country, including outbreak notification. Dr Abila explained that most of this information is available in the World Animal Health Information Database.

Mr Tenzin Dhendup, Delegate of Bhutan, questioned the coverage of programmes implemented in the region. Dr Abila explained that each programme had a defined list of eligible countries.

11. Update of the new Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South-East Asia

Dr Abila gave a report on the Stop Transboundary Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, which is to be managed by the SRR in Bangkok from 1 July 2011 till 31 December 2015. He explained that this initiative has four main objectives: to support animal health

and regional coordination in South-East Asia; to strengthen veterinary services capacities; to implement management strategies for priority diseases; and to strengthen the capacity of the SRR.

Dr Zayat Batsukh, Delegate of Mongolia raised a question about what mechanisms are in place to coordinate the programmes and activities implemented in the region. He agreed with the previous comment made by Mr Dhendup.

Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines and Vice-President of the Commission, reminded the meeting that Dr Joseph Domenech will give a presentation on the implementation of a global strategy for FMD control on Tuesday, 24 May.

Dr Gardner Murray, President of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia and China, reminded the meeting that a coordination mechanism was already in place in South-East Asia under the GF-TADs framework and that the next Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific would be held in Tokyo in July 2011. He supported the statement made earlier by Dr Abila regarding the list of eligible countries for each programme.

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Yong Joo Kim, representative of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented a report that gave an overview of the activities, current status and distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Asia: there are currently 41 Reference Laboratories and 7 Collaborating Centres spread across 8 countries. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (10 in Asia-Pacific), and provided with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed worldwide, 29 are underway, and 6 have been approved by the relevant Specialist Commission.

Dr Yong Joo Kim also commented on the "Reference Centre" which is a new term that is used to mean either "Reference Laboratory" or "Collaborating Centre". These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

Dr Sun Yan, representative of China, asked for more information on the procedure for applying for designation as a Collaborating Centre. This point was clarified by Dr Yong Joo Kim.

Dr Barry O'Neil presented a twinning application proposal between the Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis in Australia and New Zealand and Putra University in Malaysia. This proposal was supported by the Commission.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, representative of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, provided information on the six-monthly and annual reports received in 2010 from countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted their reports (or parts of their reports) and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Finally, Dr Weber-Vintzel emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Dr Zayat Batsukh proposed that additional information (e.g. vaccine strain) be included in the WAHIS notification form. Dr Weber-Vintzel indicated that this was already the case for immediate notification. Dr Batsukh further suggested that the notification of this information be made compulsory.

14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

Dr Abila presented the outcomes of the first meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (RAWS CG) which was held in Bangkok in April 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to improve understanding of OIE policies and priorities, review the RAWS Implementation Plan, make recommendations on future priority actions, and provide advice on the modus operandi of the RAWS CG and Secretariat. He explained that, during the first meeting of the RAWS CG, a series of recommendations were agreed upon in the areas of RAWS Implementation, Operational and Strategic Policy Issues, including items for the attention of OIE Headquarters and the Animal Welfare Working Group.

The Regional Commission endorsed the RAWS CG Recommendations.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Subhash Morzaria presented the support provided by FAO to control priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that continue to have a negative impact on food security, food safety, public health and the livelihoods of farmers in the Asia and Pacific Region. In addressing these diseases, FAO collaborates with member countries and regional organisations (OIE, WHO, SAARC, ASEAN), and a number of bilateral and multi-lateral donor partners. Dr Morzaria explained that FAO provides support to the region principally in the area of improving early warning and response capacity for the prevention and control of diseases, with a particular focus on HPAI, FMD, CSF and hvPRRS. This is achieved through strengthening laboratory and surveillance networks; developing broad surveillance capacity through training community animal health workers and providing field epidemiology training for veterinarians; improving national and regional disease information systems; understanding livestock sector value chains and strengthening regional cooperation. The implementation of activities is through the FAO core budget, funding for which comes from a number of donors, including USAID, JICA, AusAID, ADB, EU and WB.

Dr Musaddique Hossain asked if there was a shared vision between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal regarding animal disease control. Dr Morzaria explained that a common document had been developed and endorsed by SAARC regarding PPR, FMD and brucellosis.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

  Dr Ken Cokanasiga, from the Animal Health and Production Section of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), gave a presentation on activities that help fulfil the objectives of the strategic plan of the SPC's Land Resources Division. In line with its capacity building role, the Animal Health and Production Section of SPC has been organising several training programmes aiming at establishing competencies in early warning surveillance, disease investigations, routine surveillance, and emergency disease response. They also provided training for laboratory technicians and veterinary para-professionals. He also noted that SPC would continue to encourage its members, both OIE Members and non-Members, to report to WAHIS and attend WAHIS training workshops.

16. Other matters

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice-President of the Vet2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, promoted the Vet2011 Initiative.

Dr Marie Edan, representative of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the list of countries for which information regarding the activities implemented in the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway was missing.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 pm.

_____

…/Appendix

Appendix

MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

_____

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)

3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts (Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates)

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)

5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including focal point seminars, and update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

8. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Teheran, Iran from 19-23 November 2011 (Dr Seyed Mohsen Dastoor, Delegate of Iran)

9. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

10. Outcome of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Bali, Indonesia from, 7-11 March 2011 including the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)

11. Update of the new Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South East Asia (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)

14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- European Commission (EC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

N.B.: SEAFDEC, ASEAN and SAARC will make a presentation in 2012

16. Other matters

79 SG/11B/EU

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 46 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:	Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan
Observer countries/territories:	Kosovo, United States of America
International/regional organisations:	EU, FAO, FESASS[1], EuFMD[2], IFAH, Codex Alimentarius

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Nihat Padkil (Turkey), Secretary General.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

---

1 FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

2 EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

3. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, informed Delegates from the region of the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. She also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

The Delegate of Russia, in his capacity as a Member of the Council, and then Dr Monique Eloit, provided additional clarifications.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, including focal point seminars

The President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative informed the meeting that, on 1 January 2011, Dr Nadège Leboucq had been appointed Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels and that there were no other changes in the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia.

Prof. Belev informed Delegates that the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe had supported and participated in the opening ceremony of World Veterinary Year 2011, in Versailles, France.

Prof. Belev gave a summary of the different meetings and visits he had attended during the "Grüne Woche" International Fair in Berlin between 26 and 31 January, as follows:

- Ms Ilse Aigner, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, together with Dr K. Schwabenbauer in regard to hosting and organisation of the next 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Germany;

- Prof. Martin Groschup, Head of the Institute for Novel and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Isle of Riems, and colleagues;

- Dr Gerhard Greif, President of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation.

Prof. Belev commented that a meeting was held on 22 February between the OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Mr Bernard Lozé. The meeting aimed to strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations. Prof. Belev also stated that he had attended the 58th General Assembly of the CIC in St Petersburg, Russia, 11-16 May 2011.

The President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe said that on 4 March he had attended, and welcomed participants to, a commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the "All-Russian Research Institute for the Control, Standardisation, and Certification of Veterinary Preparations" (VGNKI) in Moscow (an OIE Collaborating Centre) and that Dr Vallat had greeted them via teleconference from Paris.

Prof. Belev indicated that the Training Workshop on the Surveillance and Control of Brucellosis for countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held from 14 to 16 March 2011 in Teramo, Italy, as part of a joint project with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZS).

Finally, he summarised the participation of the OIE Regional Representation in different FAO expert and coordinating meetings.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

The new OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, Dr Nadège Leboucq, stated that the Sub-Regional Representation (SRR) work programme for 2011 follows the previous programmes, with two main areas of intervention:

- Implementation of OIE regional activities in Europe, in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe. During the first semester of 2011, this activity consisted mainly of participating in regional meetings (13 meetings); the SRR organised 7 meetings, all within the framework of the ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) project, which has now entered the development phase. In the second semester of 2011, the focus will be on capacity-building activities in the region, with three workshops being organised for OIE Focal Points for: Disease Notification (June), Communication (September) and Food Safety (November).

- The work of interfacing with European institutions/organisations based in Brussels (Belgium) on dossiers that are essentially European but may also have a more global dimension. Within this framework, the SRR follows the activities of the European Commission (in particular, the process of developing the new Animal Health Law) through multi-stakeholder meetings (Animal Health Advisory Committee) or bilateral meetings (two working meetings with the Directorates General DG SANCO and DG TRADE) and is also involved in mobilising funds. In the second semester of 2011, the SRR will be on the steering committee for the CALLISTO project (FVE) and the Control Post project (EC / DG SANCO).

Dr Leboucq indicated that the SRR in Brussels also provides the secretariat for GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe and will provide support for the organisation of the 4th meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe, planned for the third quarter of 2011.

Lastly, Dr Leboucq indicated that the SRR participates in the work of the GF-TADs Working Group on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) which, in 2011, is tasked with developing the global FMD strategy, organising the Global Conference on FMD (Thailand, June 2012), and finalising the FMD-PCP (Progressive Control Pathway) tool and its implementation within the framework of the regional FMD roadmaps.

6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

"To review the value of the official meat controls in monitoring/assuring outcomes other than meat hygiene, such as animal disease surveillance and control, animal welfare, and in support of international trade"

7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2012

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 25th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

"The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases"

8. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010.

Dr Leboucq reminded the Commission that the two technical items chosen for the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held from 20 to 24 September 2010 in Astana (Kazakhstan), were: (i) the dependence of effective border controls on appropriate resource deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange and (ii) early detection and contingency plans for African swine fever. Each resulted in a recommendation.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels stressed the importance of turning these recommendations into concrete national actions and, in so doing: (i) using the arsenal of capacity-building tools that the OIE makes available to countries as part of the PVS pathway (OIE PVS evaluation mission, PVS gap analysis mission, veterinary legislation support mission, laboratory twinning programmes and seminars of OIE National Focal Points) and (ii) working within the regional intervention framework provided by GF-TADs Europe, which ensures consistency, synergy and complementarity among the activities of the various stakeholders in the region – particularly FAO and the European Commission. Dr Leboucq indicated that the aim of the forthcoming GF-TADs for Europe four-year action plan, which will be submitted for discussion during the fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe in Autumn 2011 (date to be confirmed), is to address the main recommendations arising from regional and sub-regional meetings in the past two years, by proposing concrete actions such as drawing up standard emergency plans and a model compensation scheme and holding regional/sub-regional meetings on priority diseases and issues for the region.

Dr Nigel Gibbens, Delegate of the United Kingdom to the OIE, expressed his concern about the lack of resources delivered to border controls. He highlighted the importance of having an appropriate framework for trade in animal and animal products, and of having good communication among countries through, for example, an integrated information system, as has been suggested before by the Delegate of Russia to the OIE, Dr Nikolai Vlasov.

Regarding the recommendation on African swine fever, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany to the OIE, recommended that the OIE post technical information about the disease on the OIE Regional website.

9. Date and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2012

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany, confirmed the offer of her country to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Fleesensee from 17 to 21 September 2012.

10. Election of two Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and a proposal of the Vice-President of the Council

Dr Patrick J. Rogan, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, informed the meeting about his retirement in June 2011, and about the departure from the Bureau of Dr Kasimiras Lukauskas. He requested that the Commission elect the new Vice-Presidents. Dr Lukauskas expressed his thanks to Dr Vallat, Prof. Belev, the other Members of the Bureau, and the Regional Commission for their support during his Vice-Presidency.

Dr Ivan Bisiuk, Delegate of Ukraine to the OIE, was unanimously elected as one of the new Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

Following the suggestion of Dr Rogan, Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia to the OIE, was unanimously elected as the second new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

The Regional Commission agreed to propose, to the General Assembly of Delegates, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany to the OIE, as the candidate for Vice-President of the Council.

Prof. Belev announced that he will be no more candidate next year for the Presidency of the Regional Commission.

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (105 in Europe) and Collaborating Centres (15 in Europe). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (4 in Europe), and provided with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel also commented on the “Reference Centre”, which is a new term that is used to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought as before, from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Simona Forcella, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted their reports (or parts of their reports) and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. A list of countries that have submitted their report but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation was also provided. Finally, Dr Forcella emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

13. Communication issues

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the Communication Unit, stressed that, in order to be effective, an animal health policy must include transparent and continuous communication between Veterinary Services and the public.

Crises such as those involving avian influenza, FMD, bluetongue or other emerging or re-emerging diseases arouse increasing concern and there is a growing demand for information on the part of the general public, the media and also decision-makers. Communication with the public must demonstrate that effective animal health systems protect countries from diseases, promote public health and help to reduce poverty, while allowing fair trade in animals and animal products.

The Head of the Communication Unit stated that the OIE puts a great deal of effort into its communication actions at the international level to make policy-makers and civil society more aware of the economic and social utility of all the activities that Veterinary Services throughout the world are carrying out on a daily basis.

14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC) presentation (including the GF-TADs mechanisms)**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers, highlighted the main activities of the EC linked with the OIE. One of the activities he mentioned was the joint EC / OIE "Vets in your daily life" communication campaign for World Veterinary Year 2011, which includes six video clips with accompanying leaflets highlighting the diverse role of veterinarians in society, stands at the Berlin and Paris agriculture fairs, and an international photographic competition, the overall winner of which having been announced during this year's OIE General Session. The other activities he mentioned were the EU Veterinary Week (this year's topic "Crisis management in the Food Chain" having been one of the six themes of the "Vets in your daily life" campaign), the financial support given to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, the BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) programme for Africa, the regular support to various OIE activities (around 3 million euro per year in total) and the involvement of EC experts in regular OIE work.

Dr Van Goethem, who is chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe, stated that the Governance Mechanisms, adopted during the 3rd Regional Steering Committee, had been validated by the Global Steering Committee in September 2010, and he summarised the GF-TADs activities in Europe as regards the priority diseases in the region (namely foot-and-mouth disease [FMD], African swine fever [ASF], classical swine fever [CSF], rabies, highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI] and peste des petits ruminants [PPR]). Dr Van Goethem mentioned the four year regional action plan that is currently being developed, taking into account the outcomes of the various meetings on priority transboundary animal diseases held since the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, that will be presented at the 4th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe, scheduled to be held hopefully during the second half of 2011.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The FAO Representative, Dr Keith Sumption, indicated that FAO's animal health programme in the European region is based on overall priorities set by the FAO governance procedures and on mechanisms to address requests of member countries for emergency response and capacity development. FAO is a partner with OIE in GF-TADs

and the European actions are organised in concert. Dialogue on new actions has increased as a result of the crises of ASF and FMD in eastern European countries, and in the first four months of 2011, with six meetings organised by FAO/EuFMD under GF-TADs.

Dr Sumption stated that FAO staff, from Rome, Budapest, Ankara and other offices, have assisted numerous countries in conducting national and regional risk assessments and evaluating management options for transboundary animal diseases (TADs). Assistance has been specifically provided to some countries for OIE accreditation of rinderpest freedom and for the development of revised national programmes for other TADs/zoonoses such as FMD, HPAI, PPR, rabies and brucellosis.

The FAO Representative stated that FAO hosts the EuFMD Commission, which is a semi-autonomous body working closely with EC/DG-SANCO and recognised under GF-TADs as a Regional Specialized Organization. The Global Early Warning System and Response for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses (GLEWS) provides support to the region through early warning messages and forecasting analyses. TADinfo was deployed in several countries of the region for better animal disease information management at national level.

The meeting officially ended at 6:00 pm.

_____

…/Appendix

Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

_____

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)

3. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit and Dr Nikolay Vlasov, OIE Delegate for Russia and Member of the Council)

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe including focal point seminars (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)

6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)

7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2012 (Dr Nikola T. Belev)

8. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010. (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)

9. Date and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2012 (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany)

10. Election of one Vice President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and one Member of the Council (Dr Nikola T. Belev)

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)

13. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)

14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

    - European Commission (EC) including the GF-TADs mechanisms.
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

_____

79 SG/11B/ME

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 36 participants including Delegates and observers from 15 Members of the Commission and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Iraq and Cyprus.

Observer countries/territories: None

International/regional organisations: FAO, IFAH, ICFAW, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ali Al Sahmi (Oman), Vice-President.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Before adopting the agenda, Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, promoted the Vet 2011 initiative. The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was then unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any. The president added that member countries should also contribute, on a voluntary basis, in supporting the budget of the regional office in Beirut in order to ensure the expansion of the programme of activities.

3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Nasser Eddin Al-Hawamdeh, Member of the Council and Delegate of Jordan, informed Delegates of the region on the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. He also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (RC-ME) reminded the principal objectives of the OIE Regional Commission, emphasizing mainly on issues concerning animal health situation in the region and on the importance of the improvement of the quality of veterinary services in accordance with the OIE standards.

Dr Al Qahtani highlighted the efficient and proactive cooperation between the Commission and the OIE Regional Representation in Beirut, mostly oriented at implementing programmes for the reinforcement of capacities of veterinary services and for the control and management of animal diseases, mainly of trans-boundary nature.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including focal point seminars and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the main objectives of the activities implemented by the Regional Representation during the last year.

Dr Yehia reminded that since 2006 the Regional Representation holds the secretariat of the OIE/FAO GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee as well as of the new established OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC). In this regard, Dr Yehia remarked that due to funding issues, the activities of this RAHC were suspended during the present year.

The Regional Representative emphasized the importance of strengthening the collaboration with other organisations such as the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO/MZCP) and AU-IBAR, AOAD.

Dr Yehia reported on the main relevant outcomes of the OIE national Focal Points seminars organised during the year and on the assistance given to countries requesting Twinning projects with OIE Reference Laboratories. The Regional Representative reminded the importance of capacity building activities among the core tasks of the OIE Regional Representation.

Dr Yehia informed on the forthcoming activities to be implemented in 2011 such as the 11th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held Kuwait, from 3 to 7 October 2011. The Regional Representative expressed the possibility that, on request from Kuwait, the event currently scheduled to take place in Kuwait be held in another country.

6. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

"Detection of residues in food of animal origin including aquatic animals"

7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Kuwait in October 2011

The following technical items were adopted for the 11th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

With a questionnaire: "Preparation of veterinary strategic plan and cost and benefits analysis"

Without questionnaire: "Extension programs dedicated to the activities of the Veterinary Services"

It was also suggested that the Conference address the efficacy of drugs for bee diseases and the situation of glanders in the region.

8. Organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Kuwait in October 2011

Dr Nabeela Al Khaleel, Delegate of Kuwait, was absent and Dr Yehia informed the Commission that according to recent information received from Kuwait, some difficulties may impede the organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in that country. Dr Yehia informed that, should it be needed, Lebanon could hold this conference on the same dates in October 2011. The Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon has informally accepted, he reported.

9. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission

Dr Abdulghani Al-Fadhl, Delegate of Saudi Arabia to the OIE, nominated by the Delegate of Jordan and seconded by the Delegate of Qatar, was unanimously elected as the new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

10. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, informed the Commission about the next GF-TADs Steering Committee meeting, planned for January 2012, jointly with the regional conference on glanders. These meetings still need to be confirmed officially after consultation with the proposed host countries, Bahrain and Oman.

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications

Dr Keith Hamilton, OFFLU Coordinator at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (3 in Middle East) and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (5 in Middle East), along with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Hamilton also commented on the "Reference Centre" which is a new bridging term to mean either "Reference Laboratory" or "Collaborating Centre". These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, the support for new designation will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

After this presentation, questions regarding details of the Twinning programme, from representatives of Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, were answered by Dr Hamilton and Dr Yehia.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara , Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

  Dr Ahmed El Idrissi, from FAO, informed that FAO animal health programme in the Middle East provides a framework for the coordination and harmonization of prevention and control strategies on priority TADs/zoonoses using a concerted approach. Among the main activities, the FAO Representative mentioned the assistance given to countries to conduct national and regional TADs risk assessments and the support through the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS).

  Dr El Idrissi also highlighted that FAO has revised the HPAI Strategy for Egypt, and that the "One Health" agenda, which vowed for a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to prevention and control of emerging diseases at the human-animal-ecosystem interface, is a key point for the animal health strategy developed for Middle East countries, as does the GF-TADs.

14. Other matters

Dr David Wilkins, from the WSPA proposed to include, as an item on the agenda of the upcoming Conference of the Commission, the establishment of a regional strategy for animal welfare. The Commission accepted.

Before closing the session, Dr Yehia reminded the upcoming OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes, to be held in Panama on 28-30 June 2011, and invited the Delegates to register online through the OIE website.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

_____

…/Appendix

Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

_____

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)

3. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, and Dr Nasser al Hawamdah, Delegate of Jordan and Member of the Council)

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including focal point seminars and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)

6. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)

7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Kuwait in October 2011(Dr G. Yehia)

8. Organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Kuwait in October 2011 (Dr Nabeela Al Khaleel, Delegate of Kuwait)

9. Election of one Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission (Dr G. Yehia).

10. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region. (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
    - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

14. Other matters

_____

Organisation Mondiale de la santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

12 rue de Prony 75017 Paris France tel.: 33(0)1 44 15 18 88 fax: 33(0)1 42 67 09 87 www.oie.int oie@oie.int