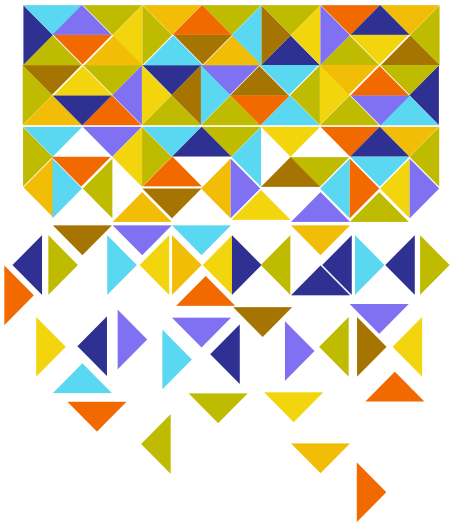
Final Report

2016



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Paris 22-27 may

Protecting animals, preserving our future • **World Organisation for Animal Health**

84th General Session • Paris, 22–27 May 2016

Final Report 2016

CONTENTS

Page

RECOMMENDATIONS

29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 14 to 18 September 2015

Page

13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
Kaslik, Lebanon, 10 to 14 November 2015

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HELD DURING THE GENERAL SESSION

List of abbreviations

AU-IBAR	:	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAC	:	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CARICOM	:	Caribbean Community
CBD	:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
CITES	:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CIWF	:	Compassion in World Farming
CMS	:	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
EAHS	:	Emirates Arabian Horse Society
EEAS	:	European External Action Service
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
EU	:	European Union
EuFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI	:	International Equine Federation
FEI/IHSC	:	Federation Equestre Internationale/International Horse Sport Confederation
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GARC	:	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
GF-TADs	:	OIE/FAO Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Diseases
GHSA	:	Global Health Security Agenda
GLEWS	:	Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses
HHP	:	High Health, High Performance
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Animal Welfare
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IETS	:	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFHA	:	International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IHSC	:	International Horse Sports Confederation
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
INSCA	:	International Natural Sausage Casing Association
IPC	:	International Poultry Council
IPPC	:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	:	International Organization for Standadization

IVSA	:	International Veterinary Students' Association
IZS	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale, Italy
IZSAM	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
IZSLER	:	Instituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell"Emilia Romagna
OECD	:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFFLU	:	OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza
OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health)
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization
PPR	:	Peste des petits ruminants
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
Quads	:	Quadrilateral (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America)
RSPCA	:	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SCBD	:	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Programme
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHIS	:	World Animal Health Information System
WAP	:	World Animal Protection
WCO	:	World Customs Organization
WFO	:	World Farmers' Organisation
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WTO	:	World Trade Organization
WVA	:	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

INTRODUCTION

1. The 84th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates[1] of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 22 to 26 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 27 May 2016 at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the Assembly. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item 1 and Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item 2.

2. Delegations from 144 Member Countries participated in the General Session.

3. Observers from three non-member countries or territories and representatives of 41 international and regional organisations having an agreement with the OIE also attended the General Session.

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

5. Dr Jonathan Rushton (United Kingdom) and Dr Jean-Pierre Orand (France) 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 Amadou Samba Sidibe and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Immediate Past President of the OIE, and Dr Bernard Vallat, former Director General of the OIE, participated in the General Session.

8. Ms Evelyn Nguleka, President of the WFO[2], Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Union Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, as well as 25 Ministers and Members of Government from Member Countries also participated in the Opening Session.

SUNDAY 22 MAY 2016

Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the 84th General Session, a musical group was invited to enliven the Opening Session.

10. President Modisane then welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Mr César Cocarico Yana (Minister of Rural Development and Lands of Bolivia), Mr Patrick Ralotsia (Minister of Agriculture of Botswana), Ms Hannah Bissiw (Minister of Agriculture in charge of Livestock of Ghana), Mr Mohamed Tall (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Guinea), Mr Akef Al-Zoubi (Minister of Agriculture of Jordan), Mrs Nar Devi Pun Magar (Deputy Minister for Livestock Development of Nepal), Mr Sikandar Hayat Khan (Minister of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan), Mr Alexander Nikolayevich Tkachyov (Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation), Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (Minister of Livestock and Animal Productions of Senegal), Mr Musa Tibin Musa (Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Rangelands of Sudan), Mr Nursachat Sapardurdyev (Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan), Mr Kangzhen Yu (Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China), Mr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang (Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos), Ms Anna Shiweda (Deputy Minister of

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1 Hereafter "the Assembly"

2 WFO : World Farmers' Organisation

Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Namibia), Mr Esteban Giron (Vice-Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama), Mr Andrew K. Tuimur (Principal Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Kenya), Mr Namsrai Ariunbold (State Secretary for Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia), Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis (European Union Commissioner for Health and Food Safety), Ms Judica E. Nagunwa (Ministre plenipotentiaire, Embassy of Tanzania in France), Mr Bruce Archibald (President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency), Mr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Chief Veterinary Officer for Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus), Mr Patrick Dehaumont (Director General of Food at the Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry of France), Mr Yona Sinkala (Chief Veterinary Officer for Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of Zambia), H.H. Sharifa Zein Al Sharaf Bint Nasser (Chairperson of the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia), Ms Evelyn Nguleka (President of the World Farmers' Organisation) and Mrs Maris Llorens (President of the Maris Llorens Foundation and OIE Goodwill Ambassador).

11. In his address, the President expressed his support for the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE and encouraged the Delegates to participate in the debates and in the elaboration of standards. After thanking the international organisations present, he highlighted the constantly growing role of the OIE and its contribution as a public good. He paid tribute to Dr Vallat, the former Presidents of the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions. He called for a minute's silence to be observed in memory of all those colleagues who had passed away in recent months.

12. Following his address, the President handed the floor to Mr Patrick Dehaumont, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry of France, the host country, and then to Mr Cocarico Yana, Mr Ralotsia, Mr Al-Zoubi, Mr Hayat Khan, Mr Tkachyov, Mr Yu, Ms Shiweda, Mr Andriukaitis, Mr Archibald and Ms Nguleka.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

13. Dr Modisane reminded the participants that in 1985 the Assembly had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2016 to receive the awards: Dr Alejandro Thiermann (United States of America) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Donald Lightner (United States of America), Prof. Martin Wierup (Sweden) and Dr Oldrich Matouch (Czech Republic) for the Meritorious Service Award.

14. Dr Modisane commended Dr Thiermann and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and to the veterinary world, and in particular in his capacity as Vice-President and then President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission for a number of years. He presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Lightner, Prof. Wierup and Dr Matouch and presented them each with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.

15. The Jamaican Veterinary Association was announced as the recipient of the 2016 World Veterinary Day prize by the President of the World Veterinary Association, Dr René Carlson, and the OIE President, Dr Modisane. The President of the Jamaican Veterinary Association, Mr Kevin Walker, expressed his thanks.

16. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony. The winners of the 2016 OIE photo competition on the theme of animal welfare from each of the five regions of the OIE and from the network of veterinary students in each of the three regions that took part, were presented with their awards by the President.

17. After inviting Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, to present the aims of the OIE Knowledge Olympics for the Americas, a competition organised in the Americas Region for veterinarians and veterinary students, Dr Modisane announced and congratulated the winners in the two categories: practising veterinarians and students.

18. Following the ceremony, Dr Modisane declared open the 84th General Session of the Assembly.

■ MONDAY 23 MAY 2016 ■

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

19. 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
(Docs 84 SG/7 and 84 SG/8)

20. The President asked whether the participants had any comments on the agenda.

21. 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 85th and 86th General Sessions

22. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 85th and 86th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati (Oman) and Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

23. The Assembly appointed Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia) and Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), 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.

24. 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 arrears of statutory contributions due to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and 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 2015
(Doc. 84 SG/1)

25. Dr Eloit presented the most important points of the report on activities in 2015 contained in the summary of document 84 SG/1, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2015 being presented in the said report and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme was carried out, under the authority of Dr Vallat, within the framework of the Fifth Strategic Plan and in application of the 3-year work programme of the Director General adopted by the Assembly in 2010.

26. The 83rd OIE General Session held in May 2015, was a resounding success with elections being held for the statutory bodies.

27. Three Conferences of Regional Commissions (Africa; Asia, the Far East and Oceania; and the Middle East), generously hosted by Morocco, Mongolia and Lebanon, were successfully held in 2015.

28. At the end of 2015, the OIE had 180 Member Countries and 13 regional and sub-regional offices around the world. Since 2014, all the administrative procedures with a view to the opening of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia) had been completed. By decision of the Council, the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, established in Sofia (Bulgaria), would be progressively closed down in 2016.

29. In 2015, a single agreement was signed, with the CITES[3] Secretariat. The revised agreements with the WVA[4], the WCO[5] and AU-IBAR[6] were also signed.

30. With regard to administrative and financial activities, details of which would be presented during the administrative session, the OIE had passed the European Union's '6 pillar' assessment, which included validation of the OIE's internal auditing and accounting systems, the mechanisms for independent external audit, grants and sub-delegation and its procurement procedures.

31. The OIE also maintained its active participation in various world programmes, namely:

– The GF-TADs[7] Agreement with FAO[8], and the GLEWs[9] Agreement with FAO and WHO[10] continued to be implemented.

– The work of the OIE/FAO Secretariat and the coordination of OFFLU[11] continued at a sustained pace in 2015. A major accomplishment was the annual meeting of the Swine Influenza Virus Group, held in December 2015, and data sharing aimed at developing an instantaneous view of the influenza situation in the swine population throughout the world. The experts proposed a set of criteria for a standardised scientific nomenclature of swine influenza viruses. WHO and OFFLU continued to maintain fruitful relations, with WHO continuing to make use of information emanating from the animal health sector when selecting and updating the virus strains that could be included in the composition of vaccines for use in humans.

– To implement the Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control Strategy, the OIE participated in the meetings of the FAO/OIE GF-TADs Working Group on FMD, several regional meetings and the work of the EuFMD[12].

– After several months of preparatory work, the OIE co-organised an International Conference with FAO on the control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants, which was held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) from 31 March to 2 April 2015, at the end of which the Ministers and other high-level participants officially approved the FAO/OIE Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR[13] and its three components. Thereafter, negotiations with FAO resulted in the creation of a Joint Global Secretariat (hosted by FAO). Sub-regional seminars were organised, in collaboration with the relevant regional and sub-regional organisations, to present the strategy in greater detail with a view to more effective implementation. Expert meetings were also organised to refine cost estimates of the Global Strategy, including the cost-benefit ratio for the Veterinary Services of their complying with the OIE's standards of quality.

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3 CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
4 WVA: World Veterinary Association
5 WCO: World Customs Organization
6 AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
7 GF-TADs: OIE/FAO Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Diseases
8 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
9 GLEWS: Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses
10 WHO: World Health Organization
11 OFFLU: OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza
12 EuFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
13 PPR: peste des petits ruminants

– Throughout 2015, the OIE continued to promote international standards relating to rabies and support Member Countries' efforts to sustainably control and eliminate rabies at its source in animals. The OIE regional vaccine bank proved itself a valuable tool, enabling various Member Countries to be efficiently supplied with high quality rabies vaccine for dogs. The high point of the year was the Conference entitled 'Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies: The time is now!', which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 December. The conference was co-organised by the OIE and WHO with the collaboration of FAO and the support of GARC[14]; it provided the opportunity to present the strategic vision for eliminating rabies transmitted by dogs.

– Within the framework of its commitment to collaborate on reducing the risk of infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystems interface ('One Health' approach), the OIE actively participated in the GHSA[15] to support national action plans for prevention, detection and response, placing the emphasis on antimicrobial resistance, zoonoses, biosecurity and biosafety and disease surveillance. The OIE would continue its involvement while endeavouring to ensure greater visibility for certain of its activities.

– Following on from the activities carried out in recent years with a view to strengthening global security, the OIE organised the Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, held in Paris, (30 June–2 July 2015), aimed at the inclusion of biological threat reduction in the programme of activities of the Veterinary Services and strengthening of links between the Services and relevant partners, in particular the administrations responsible for security.

– As a follow-up to the recognition of a world free from rinderpest by the World Assemblies of the OIE and FAO in 2011 and in application of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011, the OIE and FAO set up a Joint Advisory Committee to oversee the rinderpest post-eradication phase and a joint secretariat to support this Committee. The Committee met twice in 2015. It examined three proposals for research projects aimed at sequencing the last remaining stocks of rinderpest virus prior to their destruction, thereby allowing important scientific information to be saved, as well as two projects relating to diagnostic tests. In 2015, the World Assembly of Delegates designated the first five facilities approved for holding rinderpest virus-containing material, situated in four countries. A computerised tool for declaring remaining stocks to the OIE was also developed.

– In the field of animal welfare, and thanks to the support of the Department of Agriculture of Australia, an ambitious programme to promote animal welfare was successfully launched in 2012, and it continued until June 2015 with the organisation of 'training of trainers' sessions in the field of handling and slaughter of animals (especially cattle) for an extended group of countries in Asia and the Middle East. At the end of these training sessions and with the educational material that had been compiled, a DVD was produced on welfare of cattle in pre-slaughter and slaughter (with or without stunning) and a copy was given to trainers and OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare.

– Lastly, within the framework of its policy of public–private partnerships, the OIE established a Brainstorming Group on the Safe International Movement of Competition Horses. The Group met for the last time in March 2015 to examine the activities carried out in 2014 and discuss the finalisation of all the documents pending, in particular the Model HHP[16] Veterinary Certificate and the HHP biosecurity guidelines. These documents are available on the web page devoted to the HHP concept on the OIE website. OIE Member Countries and the competition horse sector are now encouraged to use these guidelines during the practical application of this concept.

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14 GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control

15 GHSA: Global Health Security Agenda

16 HHP: High Health, High Performance

32. Within the field of the OIE's scientific activities, the Director General referred to the conferences organised or co-organised in 2015 and to the work of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups. The conferences enabled the participants to adopt recommendations that will be progressively implemented by the OIE and relevant partners.

33. The OIE continued its activities in the field of veterinary medicinal products and in particular with regard to antimicrobial use. In application of Resolution No. 26 "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals", adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 83rd General Session in May 2015, the OIE, in the last quarter of 2015, introduced a procedure designed to collect data annually from OIE Member Countries on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

34. Furthermore, this topic being one of the priorities of FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite collaboration, the OIE participated in the activities of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and contributed to the development of the WHO Global Action Plan. The OIE was also very active during the World Antibiotic Awareness Week, organised from 16 to 22 November 2015, including the dissemination of a number of infographics aimed at specific target groups (policy makers, veterinarians, animal producers and owners).

35. Close relations were also maintained with the existing 49 OIE Collaborating Centres and 252 Reference Laboratories and several new applications were examined and processed in accordance with the current procedure.

36. In 2015, the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) received new funding.

37. All the actions that received financial support from the OIE World Fund were implemented by the various Departments at the OIE Headquarters and by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, notably for their functioning and for the organisation of 30 PVS[17] missions and 13 training workshops for Focal Points.

38. In 2015, OIE vaccine banks, with the support of donors, enabled the delivery of 4 010 000 doses of rabies vaccine in Asia and Africa (vaccination of dogs), 900 000 doses of FMD vaccine in Asia, and the funding of 14 million doses of PPR vaccine in Africa. The WHO ordered 7 850 000 doses of rabies vaccine (for vaccination of dogs) through the OIE vaccine bank. Furthermore, several Member Countries were able to purchase vaccines (rabies and PPR) directly, through OIE vaccine banks, partly with World Bank financial support in certain cases (PPR vaccines in Africa).

39. In the field of animal health information, the Director General placed particular emphasis on the continued work of improving and consolidating WAHIS[18] and on training the relevant national Focal Points of all Member Countries, through the organisation of two regional workshops for advanced training. An application for smartphones and tablets was also developed. In 2015, 1351 notifications relating to 58 diseases from 101 countries were recorded.

40. Furthermore, the new, digital version of the publication *World Animal Health* (WAH) was launched on 1 June 2015 and is now available on the OIE website (http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/wah/health_v7_en.php).

41. In 2015, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department began a collaborative venture with Iowa State University, United States of America, to develop a new e-learning platform by converting to an interactive web-based format the existing training materials for national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE.

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17 PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

18 WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

42. Lastly, the OIE maintained its policy of issuing publications in both hard copy and electronic format.

43. In conclusion, Dr Eloit thanked all the staff of the OIE and the experts for their commitment to the successful achievement of OIE activities.

44. The Delegate of Australia thanked the OIE for the PVS Pathway mission carried out in Australia in 2015 and paid tribute to the OIE PVS evaluation team.

45. The Delegate of Senegal congratulated the Director General on her election and welcomed the OIE's commitment, alongside WHO and FAO with regard to the eradication of rabies and FAO with regard to the control of PPR. He expressed the wish for more funding to be allocated to the vaccine banks via the World Fund.

46. The Delegate of India, after thanking the Director General for the quality of her presentation, noted that despite the 465 million vaccine doses used in 2015, some regions were still affected by FMD. He asked Dr Eloit whether it would be appropriate for India to collaborate with the OIE so that India could eventually to be considered free from FMD.

    In response to the Delegate of India, the Director General indicated that the two most important points to be taken into consideration were the quality of the vaccines used and the control of animal movements. The OIE's Reference Laboratories could provide support to help India improve its strategy in this respect.

47. The Delegate of Costa Rica, after thanking the Director General for the quality of her activity report, noted that in 2015 his country had benefited from a very useful PVS Pathway evaluation and a One Health workshop organised by the OIE, WHO and PAHO[19]. He encouraged institutions working in the animal health and public health fields to work more closely together.

48. The Delegate of Haiti emphasised the OIE's efforts against rabies through the vaccine banks. He indicated that Haiti was lagging somewhat behind in terms of vaccines and was having to contend with administrative problems; he wished to be able to take advantage of OIE vaccine banks.

    In response, Dr Eloit pointed out that these vaccine banks were funded through the World Fund and were used as indicated by the donor. Nonetheless, she confirmed that the OIE had funds available for Haiti and would be able to provide it with vaccines.

49. The Delegate of Malaysia paid tribute to the OIE for the 50 000 vaccine doses that the vaccine bank had provided to control an outbreak of rabies in Malaysia.

50. The Delegate of Iceland thanked the OIE for the PVS Pathway mission carried out and indicated that Iceland was working to be able to provide its comments on the draft report shortly.

51. The Delegate of Canada, after having congratulated the Director General on her excellent report, indicated that the OIE was working in an exemplary manner within the framework of the GHSA initiative. She encouraged the Director General to ensure the OIE's visibility within this initiative.

    In response, the Director General indicated that the external country evaluations carried out within the framework of the GHSA took into account some animal health aspects, but these evaluations were different from the PVS Pathway, which was a wider and more comprehensive tool. She emphasised that the OIE would take steps to ensure an active partnership with the GHSA, while maintaining the OIE's activities within the framework of implementing the PVS Pathway.

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19 PAHO: Pan American Health Organization

52. The Delegates of Kenya and Canada expressed themselves in favour of Resolution No. 1 approving the report of the Director General. No country disagreed.

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

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2015

54. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Implementation of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan

55. Dr Eloit reminded Delegates that at the previous General Session the Assembly had adopted the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2020, which would serve as the basis for her commitment during her term of office as Director General. Consequently, she highlighted the main objectives and priorities of the Sixth Strategic Plan, which would form the framework within which the OIE's programme of activities would be carried out in the coming years. The core targets of the programme would therefore be the strengthening of actions to promote greater transparency, the development of animal health and welfare actions through suitably adapted risk management founded on the scientific excellence of the expertise, and support programmes for Member Countries. Matters relating to the functioning and governance of the Organisation would also be taken into account.

56. On this platform, the Director General presented the major topics that would be considered during her term of office and would be regularly reported on to the Council and the Assembly.

57. First and foremost, Dr Eloit referred to the OIE's mission with regard to the establishment of sanitary and animal health standards, and in particular the need to review the procedures for preparing the elections for the members of the four Specialist Commissions and nominating experts for *ad hoc* Groups, to ensure and demonstrate the scientific quality of the expertise underpinning the preparation of standards submitted to the Assembly for approval. Furthermore, she indicated that the operating procedures of these Commissions and groups of experts needed to be revised, with the accent on harmonisation, consistency and applicability, and emphasised that transparency during the different stages of the procedures for developing standards and examining applications for official recognition of disease status with respect to specific diseases was now a precondition for the credibility of the OIE.

58. The second point of the Director General's intervention concerned transparency and Dr Eloit presented the concrete proposals that had been engaged and would continue to be developed in the months ahead. She placed particular emphasis on the major work that had begun on the renovation of WAHIS and her desire to encourage greater exploitation of the data collected and used: epidemiological analyses, scientific publications, and partnerships with organisations or university teams engaged in similar activities.

59. Given the link between transparency and the communication tools, Dr Eloit provided information on projects in this field, including with regard to communication on the work of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups through publications on the OIE's public website.

60. In the third part of her presentation, Dr Eloit raised the subject of scientific expertise and announced her intention to increase the visibility of this aspect of the Organisation, notably by revising the OIE's organisational chart and the constitution of a "Science and New Technology" department, with redefined terms of reference: coordination of the network of OIE Reference Centres, development of new partnerships with universities or international scientific platforms, anticipation on topical issues (climate change, alternatives to antibiotics, economic sciences, etc.) as well as the OIE's scientific publications will be the major themes for this renovated department.

61. The fourth area of OIE commitment concerned the support programmes for Member Countries. Dr Eloit began with a reminder of one of the commitments she gave at the time of her election: greater proximity with the regional statutory bodies, namely the Regional Commissions, and in particular with the Bureaux of these Commissions. This commitment would notably involve giving fresh impetus to the biennial Conferences of the said Commissions.

62. She then stated that the PVS Pathway continued to lie at the heart of activities on behalf of Member Countries, and that this tool needed to be preserved as the successes recorded in recent years were a testimony to its relevance. Nevertheless, with the experience gained and in view of the emergence other initiatives (e.g. GHSA and the external evaluation missions undertaken by WHO), it would be appropriate to open the debate on possible changes or adaptations of the tool to take into account new challenges. In this respect, Dr Eloit stated that the partnership with WHO, which was taking steps to improve the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), would continue to be favoured, as an intersectoral approach to health issues had already proved efficient in numerous countries.

63. To conclude this part of her presentation, Dr Eloit reminded the Assembly of all the other programmes in place to support the activities of the national Veterinary Services, such as twinning programmes, training workshops for Focal Points and vaccine banks operating in support of major control strategies for specific animal diseases (FMD, rabies and PPR).

64. Finally, the Director General dealt with the changes underway at the OIE with regard to internal governance of the organisation. She referred to the policy of partnerships, the objectives of the new Financial Directorate, which included the World Fund Coordination Unit, and the newly initiated human resources policy. She encouraged Member Countries to second staff to the OIE and to identify the type of candidates who would reconcile the wishes of the Member Country concerned and the requirements of the OIE. A list of priority posts aimed at promoting candidatures would be prepared before the end of the year. Lastly, she informed Delegates of the creation of an internal performance management component.

65. The President thanked the Director General for her presentation and invited Delegates to ask for any further clarifications that would help to keep the Assembly fully informed.

66. The Delegate of Panama, after congratulating the Director General on the work carried out so far, emphasised the importance of the social networks for improving the visibility of the OIE and encouraged the OIE Communication Unit to make use of them.

    In response, the Director General indicated that this would be taken into account and she confirmed her full commitment to the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan. She would be available to discuss the matter with Member Countries.

67. A video prepared by Thailand was screened as a reminder of the objectives of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education to be held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 June 2016.

Composition of the Working Groups

68. The Director General presented the composition of the three OIE Working Groups, validated by the Council, for the period May 2016 – May 2017:

- **Working Group on Wildlife**
  - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
  - Dr Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis (Switzerland)
  - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
  - Dr John Fischer (United States of America)
  - Prof. Ted Leighton (Canada)
  - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
  - Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)

- **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**
  - Dr Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
  - Dr Sarah Cahill (FAO)
  - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
  - Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)
  - Prof. Steve Hathaway (New Zealand)
  - Dr Jessey Alice Kamwi (Namibia)
  - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (WHO)
  - Dr Alexander Panin (Russia)
  - Dr Koen Van Dyck (European Commission)
  - Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Working Group on Animal Welfare**
  - Dr Abdul Rahman Sira (India) (Chairman)
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr Maria Ferrara (European Commission)
  - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
  - Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
  - An Expert proposed by World Animal Protection
  - An Expert proposed by the IDF[20]
  - An Expert proposed by the IEC[21] (observer)
  - An Expert proposed by the IMS[22] (observer)

69. The Delegate of Brazil expressed the wish that an expert could be presented to take better account of the particularities of Latin America in the fields of wildlife and animal welfare.

70. The President noted this request.

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

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20 IDF: International Dairy Federation

21 IEC: International Egg Commission

22 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

TECHNICAL ITEM 1

The Economics of Animal Health: Direct and Indirect Costs of Animal Disease Outbreaks
(Doc. 84 SG/9)

72. Dr Schwabenbauer, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Jonathan Rushton, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

73. Dr Rushton presented his report, which included an analysis of the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them.

74. In introducing the Technical Item 1, Dr Rushton stated that animal disease outbreaks have been shown to cause major economic losses over the centuries and are the reason for the existence of significant investments in animal health services across the world. Data are required on both production losses and the costs of interventions in cases of disease presence or risk in order to allow economics to guide resource prioritisation and allocation to improve the health and welfare of animals under the care of people. He presented data available on the impacts of disease outbreaks across the world through a survey of national Veterinary Services of Member Countries of the OIE.

75. Overall the survey and the descriptive analysis demonstrate the interest of the Member Countries on the use of economics in animal health, yet there is a paucity of data on direct and indirect costs of animal diseases. This needs to be addressed so that economic analysis can bring greater value to animal health decision making in terms of: (1) justification of existing and requested resources for animal health; (2) identification of global imbalances of resources for animal health; (3) prioritisation of resources between animal diseases; and (4) improved allocation of resources within specific disease control programmes.

76. In order to achieve these outcomes from the economic analysis of animal disease, it is recommended that three practical actions be initiated. First, education in the use of the economics of animal health by veterinary undergraduates, postgraduates and current professionals be improved through better curricula and materials. Secondly, a programme be established that will begin to generate a dataset on the global burden of animal diseases, which would include production losses, control costs and impacts on trade and wider economic impacts. Thirdly, a programme be initiated that regularly captures investments in animal health education, research, infrastructure and critical coordination activities. Point 1 will give the profession confidence to engage in discussions on resource use and allocations. Points 2 and 3 will generate datasets that will allow real-time prioritisation of diseases and the ability to assess the productivity of Veterinary Services at a geographical, species and policy level.

Discussion on Technical Item 1

77. Dr Schwabenbauer thanked Dr Rushton and congratulated him on the excellent presentation. She highlighted the quality of the analysis, which had been done despite the data limitations encountered, and the insightful recommendations provided to stimulate discussion and guide future actions on the part of Member Countries and the OIE.

78. The Delegate of New Zealand congratulated Dr Rushton on an excellent presentation and strongly endorsed the recommendation for interdisciplinary approaches. He stated that in New Zealand, relations and interactions between the Veterinary Services and other Departments, including the Treasury and Economic Development, universities and the private sector had improved the quality and coherence of animal health and welfare investments. The ability to connect epidemiological information with supply chain dynamics to inform economic models had provided positive benefits and he encouraged other countries to consider a similar approach. He further urged the OIE not to replicate expertise that may already exist elsewhere and to continue to strengthen its relations with

the OECD[23] and other agencies in order to provide information on the impacts of investments in animal health to a broader audience.

79. The Delegate of the United Arab Emirates congratulated the Rapporteur and seconded the comments made by New Zealand. He asked the presenter if the data used to demonstrate whether or not zoonotic diseases occurred in humans could be sufficient to influence resource allocation. He further asked whether the data collected would lend itself to the development of a dashboard tool or foresight model that could be used to inform decision makers.

80. The Delegate of Lesotho, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, expressed appreciation to the speaker and his co-workers for the research undertaken to provide such a well-informed presentation to this General Session. It was acknowledged that several problems encountered in most African countries had been highlighted by the Rapporteur – especially with respect to the lack of expertise within the Veterinary Services to measure the economic impacts of disease outbreaks as well as the costs and benefits of disease control programmes, and with respect to the availability of data. She indicated that Africa encouraged Member Countries to allocate more resources to the economics of animal health, and in particular suggested that the emphasis should be put on capacity building in this area and on data collection.

81. The Delegate of India congratulated Dr Rushton and made reference to the launching of a programme in India entitled 'Healthy Animals, Wealthy Farmers'. The key take-away message he gleaned from the presentation concerned the challenges that countries encountered in providing relevant data. To this end, he proposed that this should perhaps be a continuing activity and not a one-off project. He then suggested that the experience gained might support the highlighting of best practices, leading to the production of guidance or standard operating procedures to inform other Countries. In conclusion, he indicated that India would be open to lending its support for such actions at the regional level in Asia.

82. The Delegate of Uruguay thanked Dr Rushton and indicated that having such economic analyses would make a major contribution to strengthening of Veterinary Services. Uruguay agreed with the proposal to adopt practical measures with the support of the OIE and the establishment of a cooperation mechanism to assist those countries that were not able to complete the questionnaire in full.

83. The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China congratulated the speaker for his analysis. He acknowledged the significant economic impact related to animal disease events and suggested that the OIE consider convening an *ad hoc* Group to further develop guidance on animal health economics. In addition, he proposed that a summary be prepared of the successful application of economic analyses in animal health for consideration by Member Countries and called for the establishment of twinning programmes in this area. Finally, he advocated that such competencies should be incorporated into the veterinary teaching curriculum and subsequently applied to national disease prevention and control programmes.

84. The Delegate of Bhutan expressed his appreciation for the presentation and indicated that cost–benefit analysis should be an important component of disease control programmes. In order to better appreciate the level of investment needed on a per livestock unit basis he asked for clarification on how to establish equivalent definitions for species other than bovines, such as for swine and poultry, or if a conversion model was available.

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[23] OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

85. The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), thanked the speaker and the OIE for dealing with the topic. He said that the EU recognised that the paucity of existing data on direct and indirect costs was regrettable and supported the recommendation on the development of data sets that would enable the economic burden of animal diseases to be determined. This needed to begin at the national level and then move to the global level. Such information would be instrumental for the justification of future programmes. The collection of data on the cost of national Veterinary Services would help to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and perhaps a pilot project in line with the approach adopted by the OECD would be a good starting point. The EU expressed its continued support for the OIE's efforts to improve veterinary education worldwide. Finally, it was pointed out that the economic impacts on trade were often the result of measures that were not justified based on the provisions of the OIE's standards, and therefore more capacity-building efforts were required to permit the application and recognition of zoning and other such concepts. In some cases such indirect costs exceeded the direct costs of the disease control interventions.

86. The Delegate of Costa Rica thanked Dr Rushton and indicated that it was difficult to prove the importance of prevention and demonstrate the benefits of animal health measures in the absence of information. These deficiencies were recognised and it would be helpful to include indicators in animal health programmes that might be of interest to economists. It was therefore proposed that the OIE develop partnerships with other organisations for the conducting of economic analyses.

87. The Delegate of Australia expressed his appreciation for the presentation and the efforts of Dr Rushton in formulating relevant recommendations. He strongly supported the intervention made by New Zealand concerning partnerships and the comments offered by Austria on behalf of the EU Member States concerning the impacts on world trade. He further noted the complementarity with information generated through the PVS Pathway. In recognising that many countries were not able to contribute the data requested, and that therefore the results were skewed, it would be meaningful to repeat the study in the future. He endorsed the recommendations provided in the report and in the presentation and urged the OIE to continue to work in this area.

88. The Delegate of El Salvador congratulated the Rapporteur. He indicated it was not only necessary to assess what had been done but to also ensure there was a change in mind set to ensure that production and profitability are not achieved at the expense of animal well-being. He added that strong economic returns should directly and positively contribute to good animal welfare outcomes.

89. Dr Rushton took the opportunity to respond to a number of the interventions. He referred to collaborations already underway with the OECD involving several experts and expertise from outside the traditional animal health context. In response to the Delegate of the United Arab Emirates, he affirmed that zoonotic impacts did indeed influence resource allocations as human health was valued very highly by society. He regretted, however, that there was currently no economic model or tool available for decision making in this regard.

With respect to capacity-building efforts in Africa, he recalled that meetings had been convened several years ago and invited the representative to engage with him further to discuss this matter.

He indicted that he fully agreed with the Delegates who had promoted the publication of best practices and the development of guidance and standard operating procedures to allow for comparability of data.

In responding to the Delegate of Bhutan on livestock unit estimates, he acknowledged that these had been crudely estimated on the basis of '1' for cattle, '0.3' for pigs and '0.001' for poultry. He recommended that estimates based on slaughter weight would be more appropriate and indicated that he would be pleased to share further information with the Delegate on request.

In conclusion, he expressed his agreement with El Salvador that one should not focus solely on monetary values and that the inclusion of welfare measures was legitimate.

90. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Rushton on his presentation and she invited the Delegates of New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Lesotho, India, Uruguay, the People's Republic of China, El Salvador, Australia and herself (on behalf of the Member States of the EU) to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

■ TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016 ■

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Biological Standards Commission

91. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met from 1 to 3 September 2015 and from 2 to 5 February 2016, were presented by Dr Beverly Schmitt, President of the Commission (Docs 84 SG/12/CS2 A and B). She thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Franck Berthe, First Vice-President, Dr Hualan Chen, Second Vice-President, Dr Peter Daniels, Dr Mehdi El Harrak and Dr Anthony Fooks. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions by the other regular participant, Prof. Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, (*Terrestrial Manual*) as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, have been unstinting in their support.

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

At its meeting in February 2016, the Commission had an extensive review of the structure and content of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The conclusions can be found in agenda item 2.1 of the report (Doc 84 SG/12/CS2 B).

The Commission agreed to disband the Enlarged Bureau Group, which had been formed to review the draft chapters and propose them to the Commission for circulation or further revision. This task is a fundamental responsibility of and should be undertaken by the Commission.

In March 2016, 22 chapters that had been reviewed and approved by the Commission for circulation to Member Countries were made available on the Delegates' site for consultation as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption.

The batch of draft chapters included two new chapters: Chapter 1.1.8 *Minimum requirements for the organisation and management of a vaccine manufacturing facility*, and Chapter 1.1.9 *Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines*. The Commission agreed that these two chapters should be added to Part 3 of the *Terrestrial Manual*, newly entitled *General Recommendations*, that the summaries of both chapters should be expanded and include cross references to Chapter 1.1.0 *Management of veterinary*

laboratories and Chapter 1.1.6 *Principles of veterinary vaccine production*, and that the Appendix 1.1.9.1 *Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines: aseptic production* should be removed from chapter 1.1.9 and added to Part 3 of the *Terrestrial Manual* as a stand-alone chapter. These three chapters would be preceded by an introductory note, *Recommendation for the manufacture of vaccines*, similar to the note that precedes the validation chapters (formerly guidelines).

For sections of chapters that are currently marked as "under study" (e.g. vaccine section of chapter 2.1.7 *Japanese encephalitis* or the diagnostic techniques section of chapter 2.1.15 *Rinderpest*), the Commission agreed it would be clearer to state "This section was adopted in YEAR, and is currently being considered for revision".

Regarding chapter 2.1.15 *Rinderpest*, one Member Country had asked whether it was appropriate to retain a full chapter on this disease in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission agreed that it was important to maintain the chapter and would ask the Reference Laboratory experts to review the section of the chapter on diagnostic tests. The Commission considered that for maintenance of freedom, it is important to have a standard protocol for rapid molecular testing for this pathogen.

These revised chapters were presented to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE website.

Member Countries had continued to comment that the disease names used in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* texts (*Terrestrial Code*) follow the format "Infection with [pathogen name]" while the *Terrestrial Manual* does not follow this format. The discrepancy arises from the fact that the *Terrestrial Manual* covers diseases rather than infections. The Commission agreed to maintain the titles of disease chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* and to add the *Terrestrial Code* title in brackets when relevant, e.g. Chapter 2.2.2 American foulbrood (Infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae*).

93. **OIE Reference Centres**

At its meeting in February 2016, the Commission had an extensive review of the procedures for approving and maintaining Reference Centre status (see agenda item 3.1 of the report [Doc 84 SG/12/CS2 B]).

Clear criteria and procedures for designation and de-listing of OIE Reference Laboratories are needed. The Commission set a deadline of 45 days before each scheduled meeting to receive new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status. This deadline would need to be strictly observed to allow sufficient time for the OIE to screen, translate when necessary, and process the dossiers, and for the members of the Commission to fully evaluate the applications prior to its meeting. Applications received after the deadline would be examined in the next meeting of the Commission.

Regarding how to evaluate and react to under-performing Reference Laboratories, the Commission had previously identified two critical points for initial evaluation of a laboratory's performance. These critical points were: i) lack of submission of an annual report and ii) no progress or explanation provided on achievement of accreditation to the ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system in their diagnostic laboratories. Any OIE Reference Laboratory scoring negatively when measured against either or both of these points could be deemed to be failing to fulfil the Terms of Reference and could progress down the pathway towards potential de-listing.

The Commission further modified the *Guidelines for applicants for OIE Reference Laboratory status* based on the current Terms of Reference and taking into consideration feedback received from the Council in February 2015. The Commission decided to include a paragraph on the timeline to receive applications: 45 days before the date scheduled for its meetings. The Commission also amended the guideline to improve clarity.

Following review of the dossiers, the Commission recommended acceptance of eleven new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status.

Three OIE Reference Laboratories and one OIE Collaborating Centre had requested that they be removed from the list: for echinococcosis/hydatidosis (Japan); for paratuberculosis (Australia); for theileriosis (Belgium); and for Research and Training in Population Animal Health Diagnosis and Surveillance Systems (Denmark).

A number of Delegates had notified changes in the designated expert at OIE Reference Laboratories in their countries. In each case the Commission reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names of the thirteen new experts are available in the reports of the meetings. These experts had been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Over 35 OIE laboratory twinning projects are currently underway and 28 have been completed. Demand and interest in OIE Laboratory Twinning remained high.

Annual reports were received from 200 out of 209 Reference Laboratories and from 44 out of 46 Collaborating Centres all working in the field of diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission. Annual reports would be made available on line in the near future.

With reference to the recommendation approved at the 3rd Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, that: *"OIE Reference Centres achieve or maintain accreditation to the ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system in their diagnostic laboratories"* (a 3-year deadline to achieve this standard was given for existing OIE Reference Laboratories, i.e. by end December 2017), the Commission is aware that the deadline is approaching and that it needs to develop a procedure to review and react to Reference Laboratories that do not meet the requirement on time.

94. **Past *ad hoc* Group meetings**

The outcomes of the following *ad hoc* Groups were summarised for the Assembly. Details are found in the Reports of the Commission's meetings and their annexes.

a) *ad hoc* Group on Vaccine Banks (see Annex 3 of Doc. 84 SG/12/CS2 A)

b) *ad hoc* Group on Replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin (see Annex 5 of Doc. 84 SG/12/CS2 B).

c) *ad hoc* Group on High Throughput Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG) (see Annex 6 of Doc. 84 SG/12/CS2 B).

95. **Proposed *ad hoc* Groups**

The *ad hoc* Group on HTS-BCG could be reconvened to follow up the implementation of the OIE Platform project for the collection and management of genomic sequences in animal health.

The Commission agreed that an *ad hoc* Group on the Virtual Biobank could usefully meet, and proposed Terms of Reference for such an *ad hoc* Group.

96. **International standardisation/harmonisation**

a) Standardisation programme – progress on developing guidelines for antigen standards

The project to draft guidelines for the preparation and validation of antigen standards is progressing. The Commission agreed that guidelines for the preparation and validation of reagents for molecular tests would be useful, and identified an OIE Reference Laboratory expert who will be approached to assist with their preparation.

b) Standardisation programme – project to establish a virtual OIE Biobank: next steps

A questionnaire sent to those OIE Reference Centres that had indicated previously that they have a biobank and aimed at collecting information on the their IT (information technology) systems, and to collect any datasheets the Centres have for their biological resources, revealed that around 50% do not have a computerised system for managing biological resources. Another known difficulty in the establishment of a biobank is the variation in national laws and local practices regarding processing and storage of biological samples, and in the specific information that should be provided with samples. Based on this information, the Commission recommended that an *ad hoc* Group be convened and proposed the principal Terms of Reference.

The Commission is aware of other existing projects, such as EVAg (European Virus Archive goes Global), and of the various problems of maintaining and sustaining operable biobanks. OIE Reference Laboratories are mandated to develop reference materials, so it would be an expectation of the OIE that the Reference Laboratories provide information on the reagents they produce that could be included in the OIE biobank.

c) OIE Register of diagnostic tests

The Assembly was informed that that evaluation of the dossier on "Pourquier® IIF *Taylorella equigenitalis*" had been completed. Based on the final report from the expert evaluation panel, the Commission provided a favourable opinion for the inclusion in the OIE register of this diagnostic kit with the following purposes:

Pourquier® IIF *Taylorella equigenitalis* is fit for the detection of *T. equigenitalis* bacterial bodies from the swabs of the reproductive tract of stallions and mares for the following purposes:

1. Certify freedom from infection or agent in individual animals or products for trade or movement purposes;
2. Estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys, herd health schemes or disease control);
3. Control of infection in stallions and mares at the start of the breeding season.

The Assembly was also informed that that evaluation of the dossier on "BIONOTE® Rapid MERS-CoV Ag test kit", for the qualitative detection of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) antigens from nasal swab in dromedary camel, had been completed. Based on the final report from the expert evaluation panel, the Commission provided a favourable opinion for the inclusion in the OIE register of this diagnostic kit with the following purposes:

1. Detection of MERS CoV infected herds (herd test) with acutely infected animals with high virus loads;

2. When used as a supplemental test, to estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis, e.g. surveys, herd health schemes and disease control programmes.

Finally the Assembly was informed that according to the OIE procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. The Check&Trace *Salmonella* kit, added to the OIE Register in 2011, was reaching the end of the 5-year term in 2016. In accordance with protocol, the kit manufacturer had been contacted to indicate whether it wished to maintain the same purposes for which its kit had been certified as validated or to add new purposes. The OIE experts for the pathogens targeted by the kit had also been contacted and asked their opinion on the need for a new evaluation of the purposes for which the kit had been certified as validated. Based on this information, the Commission proposed to renew the registration of the Check&Trace *Salmonella* kit in the OIE register for the same purposes and for 5 additional years.

97. **Liaison with other Commissions**

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission). Furthermore, the Code Commission agreed to inform the Biological Standards Commission which *Terrestrial Code* chapters had been identified by the Assembly for update, and of any other priorities. Both Commissions would share their meeting agendas and any other information of importance.

98. **Update on OFFLU – the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza**

Routine OFFLU activities have continued during the reporting period, including participation in the WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings (VCM) process, and meetings of the Swine Influenza Technical Activity and the Influenza in Wildlife Technical Activity Groups.

It has been noted that although, through OFFLU, the animal health sector undertakes to report to the WHO on zoonotic influenza viruses being currently transmitted in livestock populations, that in fact the number of isolates and associated genetic sequences reported by the animal health sector to the public health sector is quite small. The data being made available from the animal health sector in support of pandemic preparedness may be considered to inadequately represent relevant influenza infections in animals. OFFLU must continue to advocate greater data and isolate "sharing" among its members, and request the formal assistance of the OFFLU parent organisations, the FAO and the OIE, to support these matters.

99. The President of the OIE thanked Dr Schmitt for her comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

100. The Delegate of New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads[24] countries, congratulated the Commission for the progress made in the demanding work programme. The Quads is following with interest the review of the OIE Reference Laboratories, given the critical role these centres play in the OIE system for animal health status reporting and confirmatory diagnosis during outbreaks, and therefore the implications of any under-performance. He urged the Commission to continue to promote the commitment to quality systems appropriate to diagnostic reference laboratories, specifically through ISO 17025 accreditation and participation in inter-laboratory proficiency testing programmes. The Quads strongly supports these aspects being defined as essential elements of attainment and maintenance of status as an OIE Reference Laboratory. The Quads commended the Biological Standards Commission for the proposed updates to the *Guidelines for applicants for OIE Reference Laboratories status* provided as Annex 4 to the report of the February

[24] Quads: Quadrilateral (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America)

2016 meeting, which has incorporated both these elements. The Quads strongly supported the ongoing development of audit and assurance system for OIE Reference Laboratories, which will give OIE Member Countries the confidence and the OIE the continued credibility that these expert diagnostic services are fit for purpose.

101. A representative of the Delegation of Japan noted some additional errors in the chapters on bovine spongiform encephalopathy, rinderpest, American foulbrood of honey bees and European foulbrood of honey bees. He would submit his comments in writing for the consideration of the Commission.

102. The Delegate of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, thanked the Commission for the work it had accomplished in the past year. He highlighted the need to pursue work on the development of validated and reliable diagnostic tools for glanders. Currently there are discrepancies between the results obtained in laboratories in different countries, even when applying the procedures described in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The OIE objective of harmonising diagnostic methods is therefore, not yet being met, and this situation could hamper the international movement of horses, including high health high performance (HHP) horses.

103. The Delegate of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, thanked the President of the Biological Standards Commission for her presentation. He requested that special attention be given to promoting and encouraging the use of the PVS Pathway Laboratory Tool in Africa and asked for African experts to be included in the next round of training of PVS experts in this field.

104. The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), congratulated the Commission for its essential work and commended it for its continued effort to modernise and update the *Terrestrial Manual*. The EU would like to continue to provide the technical support needed by the Commission, including on *ad hoc* Groups, for the work on the *Terrestrial Manual*. The EU supported adoption of the 22 new or revised chapters and appreciated that most of their comments had been taken into account by Commission during the consultation phase. The EU particularly welcomed the adoption of the revised chapters on BSE and scrapie, which will allow future amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* such as differentiating recommendations applicable to atypical and classical BSE cases. The EU encouraged the Commission to revise the chapter on bovine tuberculosis in line with the ongoing work on the new *Terrestrial Code* chapter on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, which currently covers bovids, cervids and goats and might be expanded to include New World camelids, for which reliable diagnostic tests are needed. In addition the EU looks forward to future work on the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bluetongue as regards the exclusion of non-pathogenic seroptypes from the case definition. The EU supported the conclusion drawn by the Commission regarding the extensive review of the structure and the content of the *Terrestrial Manual* including the new approach for the title of disease chapters. The EU proposed retaining the list of prescribed tests for international trade in the *Terrestrial Manual* for the time being, even if it is deleted from the *Terrestrial Code* because not all disease-specific *Terrestrial Manual* chapters have been updated to include the table of tests available and their purpose.

105. The Delegate of Canada, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, congratulated the President for her report. She welcomed and supported the proposed chapters covering the guidance on the organisation and management, production and quality control, and aseptic manufacturing for veterinary vaccine manufacturing facilities. She mentioned that in the future, the OIE guidance documents for veterinary vaccines published in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* could be incorporated easily for reference into pertinent national regulations, policies, technical standards or guidelines of Member Countries, where applicable. She agreed with the Commission's initiative on updating or developing procedures for the approval and maintenance of Reference Laboratory status through the development of clear designation and delisting criteria. Finally she conveyed the commitment of Canada to the continued improvement of the OIE standard-setting process.

106. The Delegate of Panama, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, stated that Brazil has many years of experience in the diagnosis of glanders and would support a future OIE Reference Laboratory application from Brazil for this disease.

107. The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China congratulated the Commission on its achievements in the past year. He particularly appreciated the Commission's commitment to develop a transparent mechanism for listing and delisting OIE Reference Laboratories. The Delegated suggested that the Commission consider providing detailed description of the procedure for revising *Terrestrial Manual* chapters as it is very important that disease experts know how Standards are developed.

108. The Delegate of Chinese Taipei thanked the Commission for its work and asked whether an institute could apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status for a disease that is not listed by the OIE.

109. The Delegate of Germany thanked the President for her presentation. Regarding the request to share avian influenza genetic sequences with the OFFLU network with the aim of contributing to WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings, she reminded the Assembly that Germany hosts an international platform named GISAID (Global Initiative on sharing all influenza data http://www.platform.gisaid.org/), a publicly available database where influenza genetic sequences are available. She invited the OFFLU network and the OIE Member Countries to use this platform.

110. The President of the Commission acknowledged the comments made. In reply to the question concerning the prescribed tests for international trade, the President informed the Assembly that authors of the chapters (mainly OIE Reference Laboratory experts) had been asked to include a table listing the purposes for which the recommended diagnostic tests described in the chapter can be used. One of these purposes is individual animal freedom from infection prior to movement, which is the equivalent of the prescribed test for international trade. The Commission would consider removing the label "prescribed tests" from a *Terrestrial Manual* chapter once this table of tests and their purposes has been included in it. In reply to the question from the Delegate of Chinese Taipei, she confirmed that Reference Laboratories can be designated for a disease that is not listed by the OIE provided the disease of importance for public or animal health.

111. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 13
Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

112. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 13 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

113. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption.

114. The Delegate of Senegal provided minor comments on the spelling in the French version of the Resolution, which were taken into account.

115. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE

116. 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.

TECHNICAL ITEM 2

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health" Approach: Actions and OIE Strategy
(Doc. 84 SG/10)

117. Dr Kauta, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Jean-Pierre Orand, Rapporteur for this Technical Item 2.

118. In introducing the Technical Item 2, Dr Orand stated that antimicrobial resistance poses a threat to disease control throughout the world and is today a primary concern for human and animal health. This issue needs a whole-of-society engagement through a One-Health approach.

119. The OIE plays an active part in discussions on this subject in conjunction with other international organisations working in this field, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the tripartite agreement.

120. The responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in both people and animals is crucial, not only in the interests of human health but also for animal health and animal welfare.

121. In this context the Global Action Plan developed by WHO, in collaboration with FAO and OIE, is primordial and Member Countries of the three organisations committed to develop National Action Plans accordingly.

122. The OIE works on antimicrobial resistance through different actions:

- Development and harmonisation of standards for legislation, prudent use and surveillance of antimicrobial agents;
- Training and education of animal health professionals;
- Surveillance of the resistance and data collection on the use of antimicrobial agents;
- Availability of good quality antimicrobials for veterinary medicinal products;
- Awareness and communication;
- And good governance and capacity building.

123. The OIE will pursue, develop and reinforce these actions through an OIE strategy for combating antimicrobial resistance that is in line with the implementation of the Global Action Plan.

Discussion on Technical Item 2

124. Dr Kauta thanked Dr Orand and congratulated him on the quality and comprehensiveness of the presentation.

125. The Delegate of Argentina thanked Dr Orand for an excellent and clear presentation. He also thanked the OIE for the important work carried out in the area of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and for the important support to Member Countries by keeping them involved in the work on this issue. The Delegate stated that AMR is of international importance and that it is fundamental to coordinate the initiatives from the various sectors concerned. With regard to the OIE antimicrobial use database, he encouraged Member Countries to share information and experiences potentially of value to the Veterinary Services. The Delegate informed the Assembly of the establishment of an integrated surveillance programme, based on the OIE international standards. This programme,

developed jointly by the Ministers of Health and Agro-industries, included a capacity-building component and would enable them to share their experience with this initiative with the rest of the Americas. He inquired whether WHO had developed a similar system for the public health sector, and asked how future data on antimicrobial use and the results of AMR surveillance could be compared to better characterise the emergence of resistance and to promote rational use of antimicrobial agents.

126. The Delegate of Barbados, speaking on behalf of the 29 Member Countries of the Americas, thanked Dr Orand for his excellent presentation and acknowledged the efforts made by the OIE in collaboration with WHO and FAO. He requested that the OIE continue these joint efforts at the international level, but also requested that the OIE further promote intersectoral cooperation, coordination and interaction at regional and national levels.

127. The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, stated that AMR was high on the global agenda because of the acknowledged significance of antimicrobial resistant organisms, which posed a significant health risk to both animals and humans. He recognised the need for prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents as part of the animal health agenda and congratulated the OIE for its efforts in guiding Member Countries through the development of AMR strategies and the implementation of prudent and responsible use guidelines. He further congratulated the OIE for its commitment to strong collaboration with its international partners.

128. The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked Dr. Orand for his presentation on this important topic and made four suggestions: 1) that the OIE should coordinate with WHO the development of harmonised surveillance systems on AMR, 2) that the veterinary and public health sectors should coordinate on all technical aspects related to the control of AMR, including risk assessment, vaccines and rapid test development, 3) that Member Countries should focus on research on the mechanisms of the transmission and spread of AMR determinants and take common measures to reduce its spread, and 4) that Member Countries should raise the awareness of animal and public health professionals on the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents to contribute to the fight against AMR.

129. The Delegate of New Zealand recognised the importance of AMR as a risk of global concern and the leadership that the OIE was showing in response to that risk. He fully supported the OIE's promotion of a systems-based approach to managing the risk of AMR, promoting appropriate controls on authorisation, education on prudent use, and surveillance for residues and antimicrobial resistant organisms. He expressed concern regarding the potential for approaches focused on individual hazards, i.e., antimicrobial resistant organisms, to create further non-tariff barriers to trade that are difficult to overcome. He urged Member Countries to think carefully about where such approaches could lead, and urged the OIE to continue its work with the CAC[25] to promote a systems-based approach to AMR risk management.

130. The Delegate of Sudan congratulated Dr Orand on his comprehensive work and stated that Sudan adhered to the One Health concept. He further stated that while AMR presented a danger to animal and human health, the question of residues in meat and other food of animal origin should be considered as another important aspect.

131. The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member Countries of the EU[26], congratulated Dr Orand for his excellent presentation and acknowledged the importance of AMR at the global level, fully supporting the One Health approach. She recognised and welcomed the active involvement and leadership role of the OIE in combating AMR in the veterinary field. She supported the tripartite collaboration of WHO, FAO and the OIE on AMR within the spirit of One Health and encouraged the OIE to

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25 CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission
26 EU: European Union

continue contributing to the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR adopted in May 2015. She also supported the development of an OIE strategy for combating AMR in the veterinary field in line with the WHO Global Action Plan, stating that a major focus of the OIE should continue to be on the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents in animals. In line with the third objective of the WHO Global Action Plan against AMR, she also emphasized the importance of education and implementation of good management practices and sufficient biosecurity measures to prevent infection and consequently reduce the need to use antimicrobials. She then stated that the EU is fully committed to contributing to global efforts to tackle the threat of AMR in collaboration with all international partners, within the framework of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR and in view of the high-level discussion on AMR at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. Given its experience in this matter, the EU proposed continuing technical assistance to the OIE in further developing its database to collect harmonised quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals as well as to its Member Countries in the field of prudent use of antimicrobial agents in the veterinary field.

132. The Delegate of Malaysia fully supported the OIE's actions and suggested that it maintain a wide perspective of AMR, as antimicrobial use is both a human and animal health problem. He said that AMR in the human population was often due to improper consumption and over prescribing, while the contribution to the development of resistance resulting from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals needed to be better explored. He urged the OIE to continue to work closely with the WHO within the framework of the Global Action Plan to ensure that measures are taken in both sectors.

133. The Delegate of the United States of America (USA) thanked Dr Orand for his excellent presentation. He supported the comments of the Delegates of Barbados, New Zealand and the Netherlands, and especially the tripartite approach taken by the OIE, WHO and FAO in this important area. He extended the technical assistance of the USA in the continued development of the antimicrobial usage database and for the promotion of prudent use of antimicrobial agents. Finally, he requested the USA's participation in the working group on the draft Resolution.

134. The Delegate of Australia asked two questions: 1) to what extent will individual Member Country data on antimicrobial use remain confidential? and 2) what role will the OIE play in awareness raising and communication targeted to the general public? He further enquired if there were plans to do this in the future, given that to date the raising of awareness and communication had been primarily directed at health professionals and the scientific community. He also requested Australia's participation in the working group on the draft Resolution.

135. The Delegate of the United Kingdom echoed the comments of the Delegate of the Netherlands and of the 28 Member Countries of the EU and welcomed the work of the OIE to combat the global threat of AMR. He elaborated on the importance of capacity building to support surveillance of bacterial resistance and collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. He stated that the United Kingdom had set up the Fleming Fund in 2015, aiming for an investment of USD 380 million, to support AMR-related integrated surveillance and laboratory capacity in low- and middle-income countries, taking a One Health approach. He further mentioned that while the Fleming Fund had already funded work undertaken by the FAO, the United Kingdom was looking forward to working with the OIE and the tripartite partners to support Member Countries with implementing national action plans.

136. The Delegate of Canada remarked that it was encouraging to have results within only a year of OIE Resolution No. 26 to implement data collection on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. She also congratulated the OIE for its leadership in the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite AMR Action Plan. Stressing that the success of a global programme required a high degree of cooperation among many different stakeholders, she noted that the Tripartite AMR Action Plan formed an excellent foundation for a coordinated multi-sectoral approach. In 2015, a Canadian Federal Framework for Action clearly outlined parameters for surveillance, stewardship and innovation in both the animal and public health sectors. The Delegate affirmed the commitment of Canada to the innovation pillar of this action framework, particularly recognising the importance of immunisation of animals, the prevention of infection, and the genomics research initiative to gain a better understanding of AMR transmission from the animal food chain to humans. She indicated that Canada would continue to support the technical and scientific efforts of the OIE in its AMR strategy.

137. A representative of the Delegation of Japan congratulated Dr Orand for his presentation and stated that Japan has been fully committed to implementing the WHO's Global Action Plan on AMR, adopted last year. A representative of the Delegation informed the Assembly that at the G7 agriculture ministers' meeting held in Japan in April 2016, the G7 member countries agreed to cooperate in tackling AMR. He noted that Japan's national action plan, released this April, clearly describes that Japan continues to implement risk management measures based on the risk analysis principle in line with Codex Alimentarius standards. He indicated that Japan decided to implement several new countermeasures, including integrating AMR monitoring systems in the animal health and human health sectors, and starting monitoring for companion animals in addition to livestock and aquatic animals. He further mentioned that Japan would promote international cooperation by sharing its amassed knowledge in collaboration with international organisations including the OIE.

138. The Delegate of France echoed the sentiments of the EU in praising OIE leadership in its actions against AMR. Considering that it is now urgent to act decidedly, he stressed the importance of developing policies aimed at eliminating antimicrobial agents as growth promoters. He further added that antimicrobials should only be issued under veterinary prescription.

139. The Delegate of Denmark congratulated Dr Orand for his presentation on this important subject and highlighted that the OIE is a key player in combatting AMR. He acknowledged the positive results shown in today's presentation on the considerable number of countries that have phased out growth promoters since 2012, but advised that concerns remain from Denmark's perspective. He pointed out that 110 Member Countries do not have complete legislation regarding the importation of veterinary products, and urged the OIE to emphasise the importance of legislation in the fight against AMR.

140. The Delegate of Indonesia expressed his appreciation and congratulated the OIE on its work using a One Health approach. He commented on the perception that tropical countries may have a relatively high demand for antimicrobial agents. In order to convince animal producers to adopt more prudent use of antimicrobial agents, he proposed that further information relating to growth promotion and production losses be communicated.

141. The Delegate of Germany informed the Assembly that Germany had prepared an intersectoral strategy on AMR and a brochure had been distributed both at the OIE General Session and at the WHO World Health Assembly as a model for consideration for national plans.

142. Dr Orand thanked the Member Countries for their questions and recognised the importance of cooperation between relevant organisations.

143. In response to the question from the Delegate of Argentina, Dr Orand stated that, to his knowledge, WHO did not currently have a database on the use of antimicrobial agents in humans but that work was probably ongoing. The OIE should be recognised for its leadership in the collection of data related to the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

144. In response to the questions from the Delegate of Australia, Dr Orand stated that all individual country data collected within the framework of the antimicrobial use database would remain confidential, as the objective was to better understand global trends. He further explained that the raising of awareness targeted at the general public was very important and was included in the OIE communication strategy against AMR. He stated that for the first World Antibiotic Awareness Week, common tripartite communication materials had been developed, in addition to communication tools directed at animal health stakeholders. This reinforced the message that AMR is a problem shared by human health and companion and production animal health.

145. In response to the question from the Delegate of Sudan, Dr. Orand stated that transmission of antimicrobial residues in food of animal origin had been considered by the CAC, and that this was important for a better understanding of the role of bacterial flora in the contamination of food and its possible role in the transmission of AMR.

146. The Director General of the OIE thanked the Delegates for their encouraging comments and support. She noted that the consistently high level of collaboration with WHO, FAO and the CAC had indeed worked well, and that it was important to replicate this excellent inter-organisational collaboration at regional and national levels. The current challenge was to work together to transform the AMR Global Action Plan into national action plans. The OIE therefore needed to be in a position to help Member Countries to draft legislation and implement their national action plans. Education would be critical to their success, and in particular the training of National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, who assist Delegates with the development of appropriate and sustainable plans. Referring to the OIE's collection of data from Member Countries on antimicrobial use in animals, the Director General pointed out that analysis of this data was very important, as it provided very useful information for elaborating national and global strategies. She also recognised the crucial role of donors. She particularly commended the request of the Fleming Fund to finance tripartite proposals. Reiterating the OIE's commitment to combat AMR, the Director General pledged to continue to work with international partners to increase awareness and take positive, sustainable actions. The OIE would continue to respond to the requests of Member Countries, within the limit of available resources.

147. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Orand for his presentation and invited the Delegates of Argentina, the United States of America, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Indonesia to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution to be presented to the Assembly for adoption.

Presentations by World Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE

148. The President reminded the Assembly that presentations at a Plenary Session are made only by international organisations, which can address the Assembly every 3 years; an exception to the 3-year rule is made for the WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO, the World Bank and the WTO, which can make their presentations every year if they so desire. Regional organisations can, in principle, make their presentations every other year within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

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

World Health Organization

150. Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, representing the WHO, communicated the sincere greetings of Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, to the Assembly. He stressed the importance of multisectoral collaboration, especially between the human health and animal health sectors, to achieve public health goals. He noted with satisfaction that the collaboration between the three global technical agencies, WHO, OIE and FAO is working well in a number of areas.

151. He highlighted recent developments in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, rabies, regulatory frameworks and risk communication.

152. In regard to the International Health Regulations (IHR), he highlighted the success of IHR-PVS bridging workshops to review gaps and potentialities at the animal–human interface. He indicated that WHO would be modifying its assessment of the implementation of the IHR at the national level, which had been based on country self-diagnosis of its capacity to implement the IHR. He explained that a Joint External Evaluation Tool would be used in joint country missions to evaluate the implementation of the IHR.

153. He expressed his hope that the collaboration between WHO, OIE and FAO be strengthened over the coming years, building on the mutual trust and major achievements in the past.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

154. Dr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division of the FAO, stated that the OIE remained the FAO's most important global partner in the animal health arena and that the OIE and the FAO use common tools to advance animal health, public health, opportunities for economic development and safe trade.

155. Dr Tekola highlighted joint accomplishments, namely the FMD and PPR working groups, the PPR joint FAO/OIE secretariat and the adoption of resolutions relating to AMR. He mentioned that the FAO hoped to contribute to the OIE database on antimicrobial resistance. He noted that the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool has been tailored to address the AMR laboratories, which will advance the PVS gap identification and required investments.

156. He stressed that joint efforts in view of ensuring that the world remains free from rinderpest are on schedule and that four national institutes had been assessed and found to have the adequate facilities to safeguard rinderpest virus or vaccines for emergency use.

157. Dr Tekola reminded the Assembly that the focus for 2016/2017 of the FAO, the OIE and the WHO will be on making sure that the One Health approach is truly adhered to.

158. He stressed that during the high-level discussions held in April 2016 in Niigata (Japan), the Ministers of Agriculture of G7 countries had applauded the activities that led to the eradication of rinderpest under the leadership of the OIE and the FAO. Furthermore, the ministers encouraged OIE and FAO efforts to eradicate major diseases such as the PPR and combating AMR.

159. Finally, he expressed his hope that the G7 declarations will lead to similar commitments from the G20, the G77 and the 180 Member Countries of the OIE.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

160. Dr Ochieng Pernet, Chairperson of the CAC, reminded the Assembly that one of the goals of the CAC, as iterated in the Codex Strategic Plan 2014–2019, was to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standard-setting organisations so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to optimise opportunities. In that regard, she underlined the history of excellent collaboration with the OIE and the IPPC[27] to promote collaboration in the development of standards covering the farm to fork continuum.

161. Dr Ochieng Pernet noted the adoption at the 37th Session of the CAC in July 2014 of the "Guidance on Codex-OIE Cooperation" and thanked the OIE for its substantive contributions to this important Codex initiative. She emphasised the need, as stated in the document, for cooperation, collaboration and dialogue amongst key standard-setting organisations for a strong multi-national approach at the national and international levels so as to ensure the development of food safety legislation and regulations. On that issue, she underlined the importance of promoting dialogue between the Codex Contact Points and the OIE Focal Points.

162. Building on the active participation of the OIE in Codex Committee and Commission Sessions, Dr Ochieng Pernet invited the OIE Regional Commissions to be represented at the Codex Regional Coordination Committee sessions taking place every 2 years, to enhance interaction amongst food safety and animal health experts at the regional level for closer collaboration at national levels.

163. Dr Ochieng Pernet announced that the CAC would examine the issue of AMR at its forthcoming 39th Session, for which collaboration with the OIE has been recognised as being important in order to ensure consistency with OIE texts. She highlighted that recommendations that will be examined should include i) a proposal to start the revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance, ii) the development of Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, iii) the establishment of a dedicated Task Force on AMR and the identification of a host country/countries, iv) requests to FAO and WHO to provide scientific advice on AMR in collaboration with the OIE and v) requests to FAO and WHO to develop a capacity development programme to respond to the identified needs.

164. Dr Ochieng Pernet concluded by thanking the OIE for the excellent collaboration that enables the CAC to fulfil its mandate of developing relevant food standards, including those on foods of animal origin, in order to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the international food trade.

World Trade Organization

165. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor in the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the WTO, presented the activities of the Committee of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the WTO.

166. She reminded the Assembly of the relevant provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement relating to international standards that encourage collaboration, such as the recognition of the OIE as the competent international organisation for the development of international standards

[27] IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

relating to animal health and zoonoses. She also stressed that harmonisation of standards, scientific justification and transparency were at the heart of the SPS Agreement.

167. Ms Fall noted that a significant portion of the Member Countries are using these international standards or have at least identified them. She drew attention to the collaboration with the OIE, a permanent observer since 1995, within the framework of the SPS Committee, in the areas of international standards, dispute settlement and technical assistance. She noted that the OIE, together with the sister organisations (CAC and IPPC), was required to provide scientific and technical advice and could be requested to examine specific matters relating to a particular standard, guideline or recommendation, in an effort to increase the use of international standards by Member Countries.

168. Mrs Fall provided a brief overview of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a global partnership established by several founding organisations including the WTO in order to support developing countries in implementing international standards.

169. Finally, she mentioned several recent or ongoing projects of the STDF, including the upcoming seminar on Electronic SPS Certification, which will be held at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland).

The World Bank

170. Dr Caroline Planté, Livestock Specialist at the World Bank, reminded the Assembly that, with 80% of the world's poor living in rural areas and depending on livestock, the agricultural sector was instrumental in fulfilling the World Bank's two main goals, namely eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity.

171. She highlighted the increasing demand by country clients and regions on livestock investments, as shown by the number of large standalone livestock projects recently or in the process of being approved. In this regard, the World Bank's priorities are on projects that embrace global public goods aspects, contribute to improved systems, but also use existing reference tools such as the OIE standards.

172. With respect to animal health and welfare, she noted that these issues could be addressed from different perspectives; however, Dr Planté stressed the need to foster a common approach to support health systems while addressing specific needs. As such, the World Bank encouraged the use of OIE tools, as they had proven valuable in enhancing dialogue between countries, to justify investments in Veterinary Services and help develop projects with a baseline and target.

173. Dr Planté further highlighted the different ways through which the World Bank contributed to the implementation of OIE standards, especially through the involvement of the OIE in different lines of work, such as knowledge and policy development or preparation and implementation of operations; training of the World Bank's livestock team to increase its knowledge of OIE tools and standards; and the partnership developed through the Livestock Global Alliance to leverage the strengths and networks of its five partner organisations.

174. Dr Planté concluded her presentation by thanking the OIE for its valued collaboration with the World Bank.

Discussion

175. Dr Schipp, after thanking the speakers for their presentations, requested the representatives of WHO and the CAC to talk about the relationships between their respective organisations and the animal health sector, and in particular with respect to normative work relating to the control of antimicrobial resistance.

176. Dr Miyagishima stated that in 2015, WHO had endorsed a global action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance and he indicated that the CAC had also developed three relevant texts. The question of risk analysis applied to the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters was still under discussion and the upcoming work should therefore be monitored to avoid any inconsistences.

177. In response, Dr Ochieng Pernet indicated that the texts referred to had been elaborated by different technical groups and that on the subject of antimicrobial resistance the CAC had set up an *ad hoc* group that had met four years running to examine the issue. The CAC had thus been studying these questions for several years but needed to adapt to the rapid advances in science.

178. Dr Schipp emphasised the mediatised aspect of the antimicrobial resistance issue and asked the representative of the WTO for her views on the potential impact of the absence of standards on international trade. Ms Marième Fall, speaking on behalf of the WTO Secretariat, emphasised that the overriding consideration in the SPS Committee was the scientific justification for the trade measures taken by countries, either with reference to the international standards in force or following a risk evaluation. She emphasised that the absence of standards could therefore be detrimental to international trade and encouraged the development of standards on antimicrobial resistance.

179. Dr Schipp, after having referred to the presentation by Prof. Rushton, invited the representative of the World Bank to give her views on cost modelling and the representative of FAO to give his views on the sustainable development objectives referred to by the partner organisations.

180. Dr Planté pointed out that the objectives of sustainable development were at the heart of the World Bank's activities. She stressed the lack of available data on costs relating to animal diseases, despite the input provided by Gap Analyses within the OIE PVS Pathway. She encouraged the collection of more data on animal health economics to justify the investments needed in the veterinary sector.

181. Dr Tekola emphasised the central role of FAO, at the interface of many problems also covered by the partner organisations present on the panel. He pointed out that many rural populations derived their income from their livestock and were therefore dependent on animal health. As a result, sustainable production systems were at the heart of global priorities, especially those of the Livestock Global Alliance. He also pointed out that the problem of antimicrobial resistance was intrinsically linked to food safety and should therefore be a core concern of the animal health sector.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

182. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in September 2015 (Doc. 84 SG/12/CS3 A) and February 2016 (Doc. 84 SG/12/CS3 B). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the

Scientific Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Groups for the evaluation of Member Countries status for foot and mouth disease (FMD); bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); African horse sickness (AHS), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF); the *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport; the a*d hoc* Group on prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in animals; the a*d hoc* Group on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS); the a*d hoc* Group on equine trypanosomosis; the a*d hoc* Group on biosecurity for the HHP (high health, high performance) concept; the a*d hoc* Group on vaccination; the a*d hoc* Group on lumpy skin disease (caused by group III virus, type Neethling), and the Working Group on Wildlife.

A total of 16 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group were convened during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. Most of these meetings were also attended by a representative from the Scientific Commission. During the September 2015 and February 2016 meetings of the Scientific Commission, joint meetings were convened between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission to promote harmonisation of approaches, facilitate work integration and sequencing, and the sharing of information between the two Commissions.

183. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the Scientific Commission, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Director General, Dr Vallat and his successor Dr Eloit, the Deputy Director General, Dr Brian Evans and the staff at the Scientific and Technical Department at the OIE Headquarters. He noted especially the efforts of the Director General and Deputy Director General to ensure continual support to the Scientific Commission especially as it relates to the work of country status evaluations. It was also noted with appreciation the intention of the Director General to provide further assistance to harmonise and strengthen the activities of the Specialist Commissions. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Scientific Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife for their valuable contributions, sharing of expertise and supporting roles.

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

During its meetings in September 2015 and February 2016, the Scientific Commission reviewed the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife and the *ad hoc* Groups for the 2015–2016 period in support of the annual work programme of the Director General, the provisions of the Fifth and Sixth Strategic Plans and the priorities of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 83rd General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included: the revision of several chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and Member Country comments on chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* namely the Glossary, ASF, FMD, lumpy skin disease, CBPP, PRRS, tuberculosis, vaccination, glanders, bluetongue, high health status horse subpopulations, and the ongoing revision and updating of the chapters relevant to antimicrobial resistance. An *ad hoc* Group, convened under the joint auspices of the Scientific, Code and Biological Standards Commissions, to develop standards for the practical application of vaccination strategies met twice; the draft text the Group developed will be circulated to Member Countries after the September 2016 meetings of the Commissions.

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

a) Review of chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*

The President of the Scientific Commission reminded Delegates that following the adoption of the amended chapter on FMD during the 83rd General Session, and in response to Member Country interventions, both Commissions recognised that there are issues that still need to be addressed in future reviews of the chapter. During joint discussions between the Scientific and Code Commissions, several aspects for possible

review were identified. One of these, namely the possibility to introduce an article to provide for the establishment of compartments with vaccination, was already addressed and the draft text has been send by the Code Commission for comment by Member Countries for consideration during the September 2016 meetings of both Commissions.

An *ad hoc* Group on FMD charged with further refining the *Terrestrial Code* chapter is scheduled to meet in June 2016.

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

The Scientific Commission was updated on the progress made by the GF-TADs FMD Working Group on the implementation of the Global Strategy for FMD control. A Roadmap meeting was conducted for the Middle East Region in December 2015 in Doha (Qatar). This meeting was organised back to back with the PPR Roadmap meeting and was attended by 60 participants from nine different countries. The FMD Roadmap meeting for West Eurasia also took place in Kyrgyzstan in April 2016 and was attended by representatives from 12 countries.

The Commission was also informed that the OIE/FAO FMD post-vaccination monitoring guide was in the final stage of the publication process. The development of socio-economic guidelines related to FMD was also work in progress.

c) Expert missions to Member Countries

Members of the Scientific Commission undertook expert missions in September 2015 to a Member Country to assist it to move forward to the eventual endorsement of its FMD control programme and, in December 2015, to Namibia to assess the maintenance of its already endorsed control programme following outbreaks of FMD in the northern territory of Namibia. During April 2016 missions were also undertaken to Mexico in relation to the maintenance of status for CSF, and to Bolivia and Paraguay to assess their procedures for maintenance of status for FMD.

Technical expert missions to selected Member Countries have now been undertaken for several years and have proven to be valuable to Member Countries in helping them to move towards status recognition and also to better understand the application of OIE standards for the control of recognised diseases and maintenance of status.

d) OIE/FAO network of FMD Reference Laboratories

Dr Brückner acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network from the Pirbright Institute and reported briefly on the evolution and current FMD situation worldwide. Concerns were raised about the continued increased activity of multiple lineages of FMD viruses in East Asia, the increased activity of serotypes Asia 1 in the Middle East and serotype O in North Africa, the introduction of serotype A/Asia/genotype VII in Iran, Turkey and Armenia and the remaining threat of East–West transboundary movements of FMDV. Member Countries should remain aware that multiple FMDV lineages may have different epidemiological features. Of concern is that FMDV A/Asia/genotype VII appears to have a poor *in-vitro* match to many of the commercial vaccines taking into consideration the current pattern of viruses circulating in North Africa, the Middle East, West Eurasia and East Asia.

The Commission acknowledged the importance of sharing FMDV information and commended the FMD Laboratories Network for their efforts in supporting the Global FMD Control Strategy. The Commission urged Member Countries to remain vigilant to the dynamics of FMDV strains considered exotic in their regions and to adjust their vaccination strategies to ensure appropriate protection against newly emerging FMD viruses.

186. **OIE/FAO initiative for a Global Peste des Petits Ruminants Control and Eradication Strategy**

The Scientific Commission had been regularly updated on the progress made by the GF-TADs PPR Working Group. An update was provided on the development of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy that had been endorsed at the International Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in April 2015 at which 76 countries participated. Since the endorsement of the Global Strategy in Abidjan, three PPR regional Roadmap meetings were conducted for the regions of Central Africa, East Africa, the Middle East and SAARC[28] while other regional meetings would follow in 2016. The GF-TADs PPR Working Group had been replaced by a Joint FAO/OIE PPR Secretariat that was established at the FAO headquarters in March 2016. Its main task would be to implement a PPR control and eradication programme on the basis of the Global Strategy. The Commission was also informed of a possible future pledging conference on PPR with the aim of engaging donors in funding the Global Control and Eradication Programme.

187. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**

Following the adoption of the amended chapter during the 83rd General Session to exclude atypical BSE for the purpose of country risk status recognition, it was agreed between the Scientific and the Code Commissions that a joint *ad hoc* Group will be established to further review the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* to address issues related to atypical BSE where necessary.

188. **Classical swine fever (CSF)**

Following the review of the chapter on ASF and suggestions made by the *ad hoc* Group on ASF, an *ad hoc* Group is scheduled to meet during July 2016 to review the chapter on CSF to ensure consistency of terminology and approach with the ASF chapter and following requests by Member Countries to review specific articles and requirements of the current chapter.

189. **Antimicrobial resistance**

Dr Brückner noted with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and progress made regarding the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals in OIE Member Countries. The presentation of the results of the data gathered in the first phase of the project was included in Technical Item 2 presented during this 84th General Session.

The suggestions made by the *ad hoc* Group to ensure appropriate data collection and reporting to the OIE were fully supported by the Scientific Commission.

The Commission also reviewed the modification made to Chapter 6.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* for defining the criteria for the selection of animal bacterial pathogens for antimicrobial resistance surveillance and for the provision of examples of target animal species and animal bacterial pathogens.

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28 SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

The Commission was also informed of the work done by the OIE on upcoming activities on antimicrobial resistance in the framework of the Tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) agreement and also on the upcoming regional seminars for OIE National Focal Points on Veterinary Products.

190. **Lumpy skin disease (LSD)**

An *ad hoc* Group had reviewed the exisiting LSD chapter *in toto*. The Commission concurred with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group on the difficulties to substantiate absence of infection with LSD virus in a vaccinated population using the existing tools for disease diagnosis and control.

The Commission discussed the application of the compartmentalisation concept to LSD and, considering the role that vectors play in the transmission of the disease, concluded that it should not be recommended. However, Member Countries could use the provision of Chapters 4.3. and 4.4. to establish a containment zone in the event of limited outbreaks of LSD within an otherwise free country or zone for the purpose of minimising the impact on the entire country or zone.

191. **Prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in animals**

The Commission considered the report of the *ad hoc* Group that was convened to explore and provide direction to policy makers on how to improve the utilisation of available vaccines and to invest in research to develop new vaccines with the overall objective of reducing the need for antimicrobial use in animals.

The Commission commended the *ad hoc* Group on the scientific quality of its deliberations and strongly recommended that the OIE disseminate the results of the Group's discussions among Member Countries, industry and other stakeholders. It was also recommended that the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group should be considered along with the recommendations of the conference organised by the OIE in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2004 on the control of infectious diseases by vaccination. The Commission not only highlighted the importance of developing new vaccines but also how to improve the accessibility and use of existing vaccines to reduce the use of antimicrobials in animals.

The Commission encouraged the OIE to consider commissioning a publication on this topic for the OIE *Scientific Review* and to publish an article summarising the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group in the OIE *Bulletin*.

192. **Development of a draft chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on equine trypanosomosis including Surra**

The Commission considered the report of the *ad hoc* Group that was convened to assess the progress made on the development of differential diagnosis for surra and dourine and treatment options for dourine. The *ad hoc* Group was also requested to provide an expert opinion on the need to have a specific *Terrestrial Code* chapter on surra and to update the existing chapter on dourine.

The Commission extensively discussed the report and the unfinished draft chapters. Based on the information provided, the Commission decided not to endorse the report and to request the Director General to convene a new *ad hoc* Group to finalise the task. The Commission agreed to also propose experts to the Director General not only with technical knowledge of the two diseases but also with experience in drafting OIE *Terrestrial Code* chapters. The Commission also suggested that a Commission member should attend the meeting to guide the experts on their Terms of Reference.

193. **International horse movement for equestrian sport**

After a thorough review of all the Member Country comments, the Scientific Commission, in agreement with the Code Commission, decided not to include the HHP certificate in the *Terrestrial Code* but rather to add it to the section related to certification in the *Handbook for the Management of High Health, High Performance Horses* (the *Handbook*) as at this stage, although the concept as such is complete, the certificate is not yet ready to be proposed for adoption as a *Terrestrial Code* chapter. Further work, such as alignment with existing *Terrestrial Code* chapters and testing of the concept in the field, is required. Both Specialist Commissions agreed that the Model HHP Certificate could, in the interim, be considered as an integral part of the concept and could be implemented by those Member Countries wishing to apply the concept. The implementation of the model certificate for HHP horses would thus first be on a trial basis and once it has proven to fully meet the intended needs, it could be considered for inclusion in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* as a model health certificate on request by Member Countries.

At its meeting in February 2016, the Commission extensively discussed the way forward to improve the *Handbook* in accordance with feedback received from Member Countries since its publication in the OIE website after the Commission meeting in September 2015. The Commission acknowledged the request of Member Countries to have more detailed biosecurity guidelines. It was confirmed that it was not the mandate of the OIE to provide such guidelines but that it was the responsibility of the horse industry (FEI[29] and IFHA[30]) to develop detailed operational biosecurity manuals to be implemented in the context of the HHP concept.The Commission reiterated that the HHP certificate was a key element for the implementation of the concept. The inclusion of the certificate in the *Handbook* would encourage Member Countries to use it and to provide their feedback to the OIE based on their own experience. The certificate would be regularly amended and improved to ensure its fit for purpose.

The *Handbook*, including the certificate, is available on the OIE website and Member Countries are invited to contact the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE to provide feedback and to contribute to the continual improvement of the document in support of the implementation of the HHP concept.

194. **Rinderpest**

Dr Brückner updated the Delegates on the positive progress made and the important contributions on the part of several Member Countries towards reducing the risk of the re-emergence of rinderpest following the declaration of its global eradication in 2011. This year one more Member Country reported having rinderpest virus containing material (RVCM) bringing the total number of Member Countries reporting having RVCM to 25. Three Member Countries informed the OIE that they had destroyed their rinderpest virus materials, one had transferred RVCM to one of the OIE/FAO approved facilities, and another one had requested information on how to transfer its RVCM. Dr Brückner commended the leadership demonstrated by Botswana for the transfer of its entire inventory of RVCM to one of the approved international holding facilities and by Japan for the transfer of materials from non-approved facilities and their subsequent destruction at one of its approved facilities. He further highlighted the stewardship of Australia, Brazil and Switzerland for their destruction of all RVCM found in their countries while applauding the efforts of three additional countries for their vigilance in identifying additional stocks of material previously not detected.

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29 IFHA : International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
30 FEI : International Equine Federation

The OIE and FAO are gratified by the interest shown by several other countries to do their part to reduce the risk associated with holding risk materials through inquiries received for advice on the transfer or destruction of their materials.

Five research projects were recommended for approval at the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC); three for the sequencing and destruction of the virus and two for the development of diagnostic methods based on RT-PCR for rinderpest diagnosis. The Commission emphasised that the institutions responsible for the project on sequencing should make a formal commitment for the destruction of the virus after the end of the research project. To date there are five FAO/OIE approved holding facilities. A sixth candidate facility is finalising preparations to receive an on-site inspection as part of the approval process. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the on-site inspection and emphasised that the approved facilities should be available for inspection at any time.

The Commission was also informed that several Member Countries had expressed their intention to submit an application to have recognised rinderpest holding facilities, and some others were querying the protocol for transferring the RVCM. The Commission advised maintaining regular contact with the latter Member Countries to ensure appropriate virus sequestration.

Finally the President of the Scientific Commission reminded the Delegates of their obligations unanimously agreed in previously adopted resolutions. This includes annual reporting of the presence of RVCM in their country. The response rate for the 2015 annual report was 93% (compared with 98% for 2014 and 100% for 2013). As of April 2016, 12 countries had failed to submit their information despite numerous inquiries. In addition, countries are obliged to submit all proposals for any manipulation of rinderpest virus to the OIE and FAO for approval.

195. **Working Group on Wildlife**

Following a request from the Working Group, the Commission recommended that the notification of infection with Newcastle disease virus in wild birds and of infection with equine influenza viruses in wild equidae should be included in reporting through WAHIS-*Wild*.

The Commission, in evaluating recent outbreaks of FMD in southern Africa, noted that several of the outbreak areas were in close proximity to the Kavango–Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) and requested further information on a possible change in the migratory patterns of the buffalo population and movement patterns in the KAZA TFCA. The Working Group's opinion was that there was a low probability that the change in the FMD situation around the KAZA TFCA was due to the establishment of the TFCA. The Commission took note of this opinion but maintained that it could not be excluded as a possible cause of the recent outbreaks of FMD in the region.

The Working Group was requested to provide support for the future development of OIE standards applicable to reptiles. The Working Group strongly supported OIE's involvement in reptile health, welfare and food safety, and would contribute to OIE's efforts as requested. The Group recommended that animal welfare for reptiles could be addressed either by updating the current *Terrestrial Code* chapters (especially 7.5. on "Slaughter of animals") or by developing a new chapter.

The Working Group liaises on behalf of the OIE with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), of which the OIE is a member. The CPW was created in late 2012 and comprises 14 international organisations, with a Secretariat hosted by FAO. The Working Group provided technical guidance and comments on the factsheets on animal health and on human–wildlife conflict.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the future work programme suggested by the Working Group.

196. The President of the Commission then invited the Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, to highlight additional areas of interest for the Group.

197. Dr Karesh informed the Assembly of the interest of the Working Group in raising potential issues anticipated in advance of their potential occurrence, using the example of previous efforts concerning chronic wasting disease in wildlife as an example which may need to be revisited with the recent detection in Europe.

He further highlighted the impact of climate change and severe weather events on animal populations such as the domino effect of El Niño on fish stocks and subsequently on bird populations.

Dr Karesh reported on the devastating impact of the saiga antelope die-off reported in Kazakhstan in 2015, which resulted in an estimated 50 percent reduction of the remaining global population and the loss of an entire calf crop. This situation also served to profile the challenge in the shipping of samples from endangered species in a timely manner, and he encourage the OIE to actively pursue addressing this issue in its relationship with CITES.

In concluding, Dr Karesh provided projections on the possible scenarios forecast for Nipah virus expression, taking into account the continued convergence of factors for disease expression by the year 2050.

198. **Work of *ad hoc* Groups still in progress**

Ad hoc Groups convened under the auspices of the Scientific Commission to review and amend current chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* with still work in progress include:

– Classical swine fever, glanders, theileriosis, trypanosomosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot and mouth disease and questionnaires for disease status recognition.

199. **Evaluation of Member Country applications for official recognition of disease status**

The evaluation of applications by Member Countries constituted a major part of the activities of the Scientific Commission during this year. A total of 32 applications were assessed while expert missions to six Member Countries were undertaken to verify applications and to assess the measures in place to maintain their status. The Commission also reviewed and endorsed the text with some revisions provided by the OIE Scientific and Technical Department on the criteria to be considered when intending an expert mission for official disease status recognition or the maintenance of disease status.

The President of the Scientific Commission re-iterated that Member Countries that were granted disease status recognition must provide annual evidence of continued compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of their status. He also reminded the Assembly that Member Countries applying for the endorsement or reconfirmation of their official control programmes should state their objectives for progressing toward eradication and identify clear indicators and timelines to assist in evaluating annual reports.

The Commission commended the development of the online system that became fully functional for the annual reconfirmations this year. As of March 2016, it had been used by almost 70% of reporting Member Countries. In addition, the number of countries having submitted the annual reconfirmation in November and December 2015 increased by 20%

compared with 2014. The Commission also noticed with appreciation the progress made by the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to strengthen and further formalise the procedures for annual reconfirmation that were also considered by the OIE Council during its September/October meeting.

The Scientific Commission is in the process of revising all questionnaires related to disease status with the aim of harmonising and simplifying some of the generic questions in all the questionnaires. The Scientific Commission is also in discussions with the Code Commission on the correct placement of these questionnaires in the *Terrestrial Code,* i.e. whether they should remain separate in a dedicated chapter or be added to the disease-specific chapters.

a) Evaluation of Member Country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated five dossiers. Of these two applications were for disease status recognition; and three applications for endorsement of official control programmes for FMD.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group that met twice to evaluate Member Country applications for FMD status recognition, the endorsement of official control programmes and to address the comments received from Member Countries after the adoption of the amended Chapter 8.8. on FMD during the 83rd General Session.

- ***Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for recognition of an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised***

  The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the zone in Russia described by the Delegate of Russia in their application for a zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the endorsement of their official control programme for FMD***

  The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications of Member Countries for the endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD. The Commission recommended that the Assembly endorse the official control programmes for FMD of Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Thailand.

  These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos. 16 and 17 respectively.

b) Evaluation of Member Country status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Member Countries for the recognition of CBPP status that was also tasked with the revision of Chapter 11.7. and the CBPP questionnaires of Chapter 1.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Mexico, New Caledonia and Swaziland as CBPP free countries. The Commission also recommended the recognition of a zone in Namibia, south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, as described by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2015, as a CBPP free zone.

The Commission reviewed and further amended the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 11.7. on CBPP.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution Nos. 18 and 19 respectively.

c) Evaluation of Member Country status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from eight Member Countries for the recognition of their BSE risk status. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the following Member Countries as having a negligible BSE risk: Costa Rica, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia and Spain.

The Commission also confirmed the decision that was taken by electronic consultation to re-instate Romania as a country having a "negligible BSE risk status" as well as Ireland and France as countries having a "controlled BSE risk status".

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 20.

d) Evaluation of Member Country status for African horse sickness (AHS)

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Member Countries for the recognition of AHS free status.

The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Kazakhstan and the Philippines as AHS free countries.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 21.

e) Evaluation of the Member Country status for peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Member Countries for the recognition of PPR status.

The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Latvia as a PPR free country.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 22.

f) Evaluation of the Member Country status for classical swine fever (CSF)

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Member Countries for the recognition of CSF status.

The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Poland as CSF free countries.

The Commission also recommended the recognition of a zone of Brazil, as described by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015, as a CSF free zone. The Commission stressed that strict movement control between the free zone and the infected zone must remain in place and appropriately documented in the annual reconfirmation.

In addition, the Commission discussed the application from Colombia and provisionally concluded that the zone proposed by Colombia fulfilled the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. However, the Commission recommended to the Director General to mandate a mission to the country, before final decision, to verify compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of CSF. Unfortunately, Colombia had to cancel the mission initially planned in April 2016. As a consequence, the tentative decision of the Scientific Commission could not be confirmed before the 84th General Session and Colombia was not proposed for official recognition in May 2016. The application would remain pending until a mission is conducted and its outcome confirms the tentative decision of the Scientific Commission.

The Commission considered the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group with regard to an update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF and to align it with concepts already incorporated in the chapter on ASF. The Commission concluded that updating the chapter should be a priority for its working plan and requested the Director General to schedule a special meeting of the *ad hoc* Group for June 2016.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 23.

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

The President of the Scientific Commission presented to the Delegates the following issues identified by the Scientific Commission that would need to be attended to or finalised during the coming year:

– Review and development of chapters for the *Terrestrial Code* on theileriosis, trypanosomosis transmitted by tsetse flies and other vectors, CSF, BSE and FMD.

– Review of the questionnaires in the *Terrestrial Code* for disease status recognition.

– Consider in consultation with the Director General, the process for and monitoring of the annual disease status confirmation by Member Countries.

201. Following the presentation of the report of the Scientific Commission and the Working Group on Wildlife, the President opened the floor for discussion.

202. The Director General referred to the impact of climate change on the emergence of diseases. She highlighted the OIE's willingness to strengthen partnerships with some international organisations working on climate change and environment. She indicated that the World Meteorological Organization had been invited to participate in the Think Tank on WAHIS renovation. She also indicated that the OIE was considering organising an international conference on the impact of climate change and the relationship with changes in animal diseases.

203. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Karesh for his presentation and in particular for the information provided on the impact of climate and environment changes on emerging disease. He stated that Australia would host the International Eco Health/One Health Congress in Melbourne in December 2016. He asked whether aquatic wildlife fell within the remit of the Working Group on Wildlife.

204. The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep of the) expressed concerns regarding the presented predictions on the Nipah virus situation in 2050. He emphasised the need to take into consideration other drivers for disease emergence, such as political instability, that could prevail in Africa. With regard to climate change, he invited the Director General of the OIE to explore partnerships with other international organisations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP[31]. Finally, he made a remark on the destruction and/or sequestration of remaining stocks of rinderpest virus and pointed out the importance of the full implementation of Resolution No. 33 adopted by all the Member Countries during the 80th General Session in 2012.

205. The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep of the), speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, commended the work done by the Specialist Commissions to develop a draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on vaccination in collaboration with the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. The Member Countries of the Africa region offered their support to contribute to the further revision of the draft chapter.

206. The Delegate of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, expressed his sincere appreciation and support to the Scientific Commission for proposing the inclusion of an article in the *Terrestrial Code* with provisions for the creation of a compartment free from FMD where vaccination is practised. It would offer an alternative for trade to those countries facing difficulties in establishing a country or zone free from FMD.

207. The Delegate of Comoros, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, thanked the Scientific Commission for its efforts in evaluating Member Countries' applications for official disease status recognition and endorsement of disease control programmes. He particularly highlighted the endeavour made in the evaluation of PPR dossiers from Southern African Member Countries and stressed the importance of the proposed recognition of the first country in Africa with a negligible risk status for BSE.

208. A representative of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads, thanked Dr Brückner and the Scientific Commission for its excellent work in updating the FMD Chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* and encouraged them to continue revising this chapter. He specifically mentioned that further consideration should be given to incorporate the Quad countries' proposal for the modification of the concept of a containment zone in response to an outbreak. The Quads also strongly encouraged the Scientific Commission to examine previously submitted evidence that supports the time periods for regaining FMD free status, regardless of the fate of the vaccinated animals. This would minimise the uneccessary slaughter of healthy vaccinated animals for the purpose of regaining an FMD free status. Lastly, the Quads offered their technical expertise and indicated that they would submit the scientific rationale for each proposal.

209. The Delegate of El Salvador expressed concerns with regard to the different factors threatening disease status, in particular demographic pressures and land use. He stressed the need for enhancing surveillance in high-risk areas to minimise the international spread of diseases.

210. The Delegate of Norway emphasised that the concept of vector-free seasons continued to be relevant and applicable in some countries and urged the Scientific Commission to fully recognise the value of this concept in the *Terrestrial Code*.

211. The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, congratulated the Scientific Commission for its extensive contribution to the *Terrestrial Code* chapters. With reference to vector-borne diseases, the EU supported the

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[31] UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

intervention of Norway and emphasised that recognition of vector-free seasons was applicable in many countries and zones, despite climate change and global warming, and that this should be maintained in the *Terrestrial Code*. In addition, the EU suggested a revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bluetongue to consider exclusion of non-pathogenic serotypes from the case definition. In this context, the EU offered its technical support to the Scientific Commission and to the relevant *ad hoc* Groups.

212. The EU also acknowledged the considerable work done by the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Groups on the official recognition of disease status of Member Countries and the endorsement of official control programmes. The EU confirmed its full support for the scientific process established in the *Terrestrial Code* and announced its support to the recognition of disease official status and official control programmes of OIE Member Countries, as proposed for adoption by the Scientific Commission. With regard to the procedure for official recognition of BSE risk status, the EU suggested that the OIE consider the revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter to allow for an automatic reversion to a controlled BSE risk status in certain cases of suspension of negligible risk status. Finally, with regard to the draft definitions of 'OIE Standards' and 'OIE Guidelines' to be included in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*, the EU would accept that certain resolutions adopted by the World Assembly be considered as OIE Standards. Resolutions adopted in application of the OIE *Codes*, such as those recognising the official disease status of Member Countries and zones, should be recognised as OIE standards and therefore implemented by all OIE Member Countries in international trade.

213. The Delegate of Mexico commended the President of the Scientific Commission and the Chair of the Working Group of Wildlife for their presentations and stressed the importance for Member Countries to sustain their endeavours to maintain their disease status. He encouraged Member Countries to share their disease status dossiers as a sign of transparency. He also concurred with the President of the Scientific Commission about the relevance of conducting in-country missions to verify the correct implementation of the measures described in the disease status dossiers and to ensure maintenance of disease status. He expressed his appreciation to the OIE and the Scientific Commission for the mission that had recently been carried out in Mexico and the positive learning that resulted.

214. The Delegate of Paraguay supported the comment made by the Delegate of Mexico and emphasised that the outcomes of in-country missions also contribute to the improvement of national disease control programmes and increase the transparency and trust between Member Countries.

215. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the Delegates for their positive comments and stressed that the Commission members were elected to fulfil the needs raised by Member Countries. With reference to rinderpest virus sequestration, the President of the Scientific Commission agreed with the Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep of the) and called on all Member Countries for greater transparency and compliance with their commitments to destroy and/or sequester risk materials.

216. With regard to the comments from the Quads, the President of the Scientific Commission indicated that these topics were already on the agenda of the *ad hoc* Group on FMD scheduled for June 2016.

217. In response to the comments made by the Delegate of El Salvador, the President of the Scientific Commission agreed that the task of the Scientific Commission was to provide scientific grounds for the *Terrestrial Code*, but also to remain vigilant on new scientific and technological developments that could influence disease control strategies.

218. With regard to the comment raised by the Delegate of Norway and by the EU, the President agreed that the concept of vector-free season could be discussed again between the Scientific and Code Commissions. Should this concept be scientifically based, its maintenance in the *Terrestrial Code* would be considered. He further underlined the difficulty of defining non-pathogenic serotypes of bluetongue virus.

219. The President of the Scientific Commission pointed out that the recovery of BSE risk status was bound by Resolutions and by the OIE procedure for official recognition, mandating the Scientific Commission to re-instate an official status. The frequent use of electronic consulation had minimised the time for decisions to be taken and in parallel minimised the impact on trade. However, he agreed that revision and further improvement of the procedure could always be considered.

220. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the Delegates of Mexico and Paraguay for their positive feedback regarding the missions and reiterated their value in assisting Member Countries with the recognition and maintenance of official disease status.

221. In response to the Delegate of Australia, the Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife stated that the agenda of the meetings of the Working Group was drafted in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters and the Scientific Commission. He highlighted that the Working Group was ready to support any activities, including those linked to aquatic wildlife.

222. With regard to the suggestion put forward by the Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep of the), the President of the Working Group on Wildlife indicated that the OIE had already been working with different partners of UNEP, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. He stated that the majority of the last 200 emerging disease events were associated with land use changes and changes in agricultural production practices as well as international travel and trade. He recommended that the OIE strengthen the collaboration with international organisations, such as UNEP, to address emerging diseases concerns.

223. The Assembly noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

224. 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
Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries

225. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted, with one abstention by the Delegate of Colombia. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

226. The President 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries

227. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries

228. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries

229. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries

230. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 22 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries

231. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
New Member of the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in China and South-East Asia (SEACFMD)

232. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Conferences

Third OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: 'Riding the wave to the future', Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), 20-22 January 2015

233. Dr Brian Evans, Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, informed the Assembly that the third OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, had been successfully held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 20 to 22 January 2015. The Conference brought together over 250 key players in the aquaculture sector from nearly 100 countries, including representatives of national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, experts from OIE Reference Centres, representatives of national, regional and international organisations, private sector representatives, and representatives of other competent authorities. The conference served to build a greater awareness of the need for good governance of the Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, including their public and private sector components, and to encourage veterinarians, aquatic animal health professionals and other partners to play their part in ensuring effective animal and veterinary public health risk management throughout the aquaculture production chain. He also took the occasion to recognise Dr Gillian Mylrea for her extended efforts and the success of the Conference.

234. Dr Evans informed the Assembly that one of the key objectives of the conference was to recommend priorities for the future work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. He reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission have included in their work plan for 2015-2018 priority issues raised during the conference such as strengthening recommendations and guidance in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*, including biosecurity, surveillance, emergency preparedness and zoning and compartmentalisation.

235. Dr Evans also noted the importance placed by those who attended the conference on the PVS Pathway to support Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary and Aquatic Animal Health Services. He reported that since the conference in January 2015, the OIE had received 7 new requests from OIE Delegates for an evaluation of the aquatic animal sector bringing the total number of mission requests to 17 with 11 missions having

been completed. He also noted that one Aquatic GAP mission had also been undertaken. Dr Evans encouraged Delegates to consider requesting an OIE PVS aquatic evaluation with the objective of improving competencies and general compliance with OIE standards for aquatic animals.

236. Dr Evans further reported that the OIE has continued to conduct regional seminars for OIE National Focal Points in Aquatic Animals and continues to seek donor funding for future activities in support of good governance and adherence to the quality of Veterinary Services.

237. The OIE continues to strengthen its collaboration with international and regional organisations with which we have cooperative agreements, notably the FAO and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) with the participation of representatives in relevant activities.

238. Dr Evans reminded the Assembly that abstracts and PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference are all available on the OIE Website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AAHRWF2015/presentations.htm.

The final Recommendations are also available in the three official languages of the OIE at: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AAHRWF2015/recommandations.htm.

239. The Delegate of Nigeria spoke on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE regarding the OIE Global Conference 'Riding the Wave to the Future'. He stated that these countries welcomed the OIE initiative to develop and roll out an aquatic PVS Tool. It is believed that this tool can be instrumental in strengthening the governance of aquatic animal health services in Africa, as has been the case for the terrestrial PVS Tool. He reaffirmed these countries' commitment to apply the aquatic PVS Tool and requested the OIE to mobilise resources and expertise to respond to the demand of African countries. Furthermore, as the availability of qualified aquatic animal health professionals is one of the conditions for improving compliance with aquatic animal health standards, the lack of such availability in some African countries can be a very real constraint. Therefore, the Delegate of Nigeria said, we strongly encourage African and partner countries to strengthen twinning of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and international organisations to strengthen the technical assistance provided to countries in this critical area. He urged the OIE, in partnership with AU-IBAR and the regional economic communities, to train African experts on the application of the aquatic PVS Tool, to avoid the situation observed with the terrestrial PVS Tool, for which very few African experts are available.

FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 31 March – 2 April 2015

240. Dr Evans informed the Assembly that the International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Reuminants (PPR), co-organised by the OIE and the FAO, had been successfully held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 31 March – 2 April 2015. He also acknowledged the contribution on the part of Dr Joseph Domenech to the preparation of the Conference.

More than 300 participants, including Ministers, OIE Delegates, veterinary health officials, experts and donors declared the official and solemn launch of a commitment to the control and eradication of PPR by 2030 with a vision to make PPR the second animal diseases to be eliminated. They further declared endorsement of the OIE-FAO Global Control and

Eradication Strategy (GCES) and its three inter-related components of the control and eradication of PPR, the strenghthening of Veterinary Services and the parallel prevention and control of other major diseases of small ruminants.

241. He highlighted that within the endorsed Strategy and recommendations the key principles and lessons identified through the successful rinderpest eradication campaign to adapt national control programmes to community specific realities was deemed essential.

Other critical determinants for success included the use of vaccines compliant with OIE international standards; establishment of delivery systems aligned with local conditions and situations; strenghthening of quality assurance programs within national diagnostic laboratory systems; the promotion of public private partnerships and the establishment of robust data collection to effectively monitor and evaluate progress.

242. Dr Evans noted the progress made to date on the part of the OIE and the FAO with the conducting of the initial regional PPR roadmap meetings under the GF-TADs umbrella in six of nine identified regions (Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia) with the balance to follow. In addition, a meeting of experts to review the costing of the Strategy was held in October 2015 to lay the foundation for donor engagement and a joint OIE/FAO PPR Global Secretariat has been established and staffed at the FAO Headquarters in Rome effective 23 March 2016.

243. The abstracts and presentations given during the Conference are available on the OIE website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/ppr2015/presentation_web-oie.html.

The final Recommendations of the Conference are available on the OIE website at at: http://www.oie.int/eng/PPR2015/recommandation/FinalRecommendations-PPR2015-eng.pdf.

The Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) for PPR is also available on the OIE website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/PPR2015/doc/PPR-Global-Strategy-avecAnnexes_2015-03-28.pdf.

244. The Delegate of Sudan, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, welcomed the FAO/OIE initiative. He appreciated the three interrelated components of: (1) control and eradication of PPR; (2) strengthening of Veterinary Services; and (3) control of other priority small ruminant diseases. Africa was committed to eradicating PPR within the time limit given in the Global Strategy. He wished to take this opportunity to inform the Assembly that under the leadership of AU-IBAR and its technical partners a regional strategy had been developed which was aligned to the GCES. Furthermore, AU-IBAR was taking steps to support African countries in developing their national PPR control and eradication strategies.

245. The Director General pointed out that the GCES is not only a strategy to control and eradicate PPR but that it has three elements, which include the strengthening of Veterinary Services and controlling other priority small ruminant diseases, together with PPR.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

246. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 25 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

First Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction
Paris, France, 30 June – 2 July 2015

247. Acknowledging the important role that animal and public health services and health systems play in reducing biological threats by building resilience against animal diseases including zoonoses, the OIE, in close collaboration with WHO, hosted the Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction in Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2015.

The 3-day conference focused on enhancing collaboration and on building a consensus for action to strengthen the ability of public and animal health systems to prevent, detect and respond to all biological threats whether they are deliberate, accidental or natural, in particular at the animal source of zoonosis. The OIE Global Conference on Biothreat Reduction was the first of its kind and brought together the key players from the OIE, WHO, INTERPOL, United Nations of Disarmament Affairs, Biological Weapons Convention, FAO and national government representatives from health and security/defence communities from more than 80 Countries.

The final report of the Conference includes 18 Recommendations that were discussed and adopted by all participants. In brief, these Recommendations included:

- public and private sector animal and public health policies need to be aligned and supported at global level to reduce threats and consequences of infectious diseases that result from nature, laboratory accidents, and the malicious use of biological agents;

- at national level, animal health, public health and security sectors should engage with each other to discuss areas of mutual interest, to share resources where appropriate, and to ensure that biological threat reduction is a cross-cutting national agenda item;

- public and private sector partnerships (with farmers, private sector veterinarians, paraprofessionals, relevant stakeholders and local community leaders) are essential for effective prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning;

- public and private sector investments in animal and public health systems should be continued to advance scientific knowledge, technology and diagnostic methods which will improve rapid disease detection, confirmation and reporting, to reduce the magnitude, duration and consequences of disease occurrences;

- a call to the donor community to continue to support joint OIE-WHO PVS-IHR operational framework for good governance, twinning programmes for laboratories, veterinary statutory bodies and veterinary education establishments, as a means of building capacity, engaging next generation leaders, strengthening international scientific networks and reducing biological threats;

- as part of its mandate, the OIE should consider:

  – expanding its collaboration with other international organisations, with an emphasis on those agencies whose work in reducing risks from biological disasters is aligned with the mission of the OIE and the OIE's Biological Threat Reduction Strategy;

  – drafting standards to provide guidance to reduce risks from deliberate and accidental releases of pathogens from animal sources, and to develop specific methodologies to investigate the suspicion of such events;

  - providing guidance on the sustainable implementation of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity standards, including standards for the safe production, handling and rapid transport of biological material;

- the OIE and the FAO should continue to advocate the destruction of all rinderpest virus containing material or its transfer to a limited number of approved holding facilities before May 2018;

- in collaboration with the public health, security, and disaster risk reduction communities, should consider holding similar conferences in the future to build on the cooperation, insights and engagement arising from the Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction on a rotational basis.

248. The abstracts and PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference are available on the OIE Website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/BIOTHREAT2015/presentations.htm.

The final report and all 18 Recommendations are also available in the three official languages of the OIE at:
http://www.oie.int/eng/BIOTHREAT2015/recommendations/BTR_Conference_Final_report_7_8_2015.pdf.

249. Dr Evans presented the main conclusions from this global conference to the Assembly and referred Delegates to the full text available on the OIE website for future implementation.

250. He warmly thanked Dr Keith Hamilton and Dr Mariano Ramos, as well as their colleagues in the Biothreat Reduction Unit, for their efforts in the coordination and implementation of the conference.

251. He further highlighted that in response to one of the Conference recommendations, efforts were under way for the staging of a second Biological Threat Reduction conference in 2017, which is in the early planning stages. To this end, he encouraged Member Countries to provide their recommendations on the programme agenda based on their experiences and needs in the biological threat reduction domain.

252. The Delegate of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, thanked the OIE for forging partnerships with relevant international organisations on the issue of biological threats. Africa is highly concerned by the risk of spread or reccurrence of pathogens due to accidental or malicious release, and the potential disastrous consequences on public and animal health. The OIE was therefore encouraged to continue to draft standards and guidance for its members to reduce these risks. He also encouraged WHO/OIE collaboration on the intersectoral evaluation of their Member Countries using the PVS IHR framework, to promote the One Health approach, which is particularly encouraging collaboration with other relevant organisations in the fight against biological threats. Africa takes this opportunity to encourage OIE members to sequester or destroy rinderpest viral materials, and prudently monitor the existence of other relevant biological threats.

Global Conference on the Global Elimination of Dog-mediated human rabies: The Time is Now! Geneva, Switzerland, 10 – 11 December 2015

253. Dr Evans informed the Assembly of the main outcomes of the Global Conference on Global Elimination of Dog-mediated human rabies that was held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2015. The Conference was organised by the OIE and WHO in collaboration with FAO and supported by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). Dr Evans highlighted and thanked Dr Gregorio Torres for his contributions to the organisating of the Conference.

More than 300 participants, including veterinary and public health officials, experts and donors, validated the proof of concept demonstrating that the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies is feasible by mass vaccination of dogs, in conjunction with dog bite prevention, bite management, stray dog population control, raising public awareness and improved access to prompt post-exposure treatment.

In accordance with the consensus of the participants, a Global Framework for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies was agreed. The Global Framework is intended to harmonise actions and provide adaptable, achievable guidance for country and regional strategies with the vision of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies by 2030. The framework includes activities grouped into 5 main pillars, namely Socio-cultural, Technical, Organisation, Political and Resources. Some critical factors common to all success stories presented during the Global Conference were also identified and included as part of the Global Framework.

At the end of the Conference, six elements and statements that will drive the OIE contribution toward dog-mediated human rabies elimination were announced:

- The OIE and WHO, strongly supported by FAO and GARC, sustain their commitment to the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies as a priority in the public interest and continue their collective efforts to foster political will and facilitate capacity-building through existing and future programmes;

- The proof of concept of the combination of mass dog vaccination, to achieve 70% coverage of targeted populations, responsible dog ownership and dog population control in accordance with OIE intergovernmental standards, education for dog bite prevention and treatment and appropriate use of human post-exposure prophylaxis is recognised as the foundation for guidance to countries wishing to pursue elimination of dog-mediated human rabies;

- The OIE regional vaccine bank mechanism in collaboration with the WHO be promoted and supported to ensure the timely provision of quality vaccines to support the implementation of regional/national programs;

- National and regional strategies to be developed or refined and validated in order to allow individual countries to adapt their approaches and investments to their local circumstances, based on best practices in the establishment of national control programmes;

- Countries are encouraged to support the establishment of good governance frameworks, including appropriate legislation, Veterinary Services supervision, community engagement and the implementation of local initiatives to demonstrate early success in order to leverage broader support and scale up their efforts;

- All participants and other interested parties consider the Global Framework as refined and adopted at the conclusion of the Conference as the most effective means to achieve the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies for participating countries by 2030.

254. The Global Framework, the abstracts and the PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference are all available on the OIE website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/RABIES2015/index.html.

255. The Delegate of Mali, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, congratulated the OIE and WHO, who, in collaboration with FAO and GARC, brought all rabies stakeholders together, in the spirit of One Health, to commit to the global eradication of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030. She acknowledged that rabies disproportionally affects the poorest communities, especially in Africa and Asia. The Delegate of Mali applauded the decision to set up vaccine banks to make quality and affordable vaccines available to African countries and to support them in achieving the

vaccination target of 70% coverage of the dog population. She further stated that Africa was committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that the continent is achieving the global elimination of dog-mediated rabies.

256. The Delegate of Iran pointed out the need to take into consideration the different role that owned stray dogs and unowned stray dogs play in the epidemiology of rabies. He proposed that this fact be reflected in the title of the resolution.

257. Dr Evans thanked the Delegate of Iran for his insightful remark and referred to the proof of concept validated by a number of pilot projects presented by countries during the Global Rabies Conference. Dr Evans highlighted the fact that there is compelling scientific evidence to conclude that vaccination coverage of at least 70% in high risk areas, combined with other measures such as dog bite prevention and treatment, available, affordable and appropriate post exposure prophylaxis, responsible dog ownership, public awareness and stray dog management in accordance with OIE standards, would be effective in eliminating the burden of dog-mediated human rabies.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies

258. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

259. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), welcomed Delegates on behalf of all the Code Commission members and noted that he was looking forward to fruitful discussions during this General Session. Special reference was made to the condensed version of the Code Commission Report which had been tabled for the Delegates.

260. Dr Bonbon first stated that since the previous General Session two full Commission meetings had been held at the OIE Headquarters, from 31 August to 10 September 2015 and from 8 to 19 February 2016. He noted that the Code Commission's regular 8-day meeting duration had been extended to a 10-day period to accommodate its growing work programme, for which he expressed his thanks to the Director General.

261. Dr Bonbon also expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Code Commission (vice-presidents Prof S.C. MacDiarmid and Dr G. Funes, and members Prof S. Hammami and Drs E. Couacy-Hyman and M. Okita) for their expertise, dedication and commitment, including for their participation throughout the year, especially when invited as observers to *ad hoc* Groups. On behalf of the Code Commission, he commended the staff of the OIE Headquarters on their secretarial support for the Code Commission's work.

262. Dr Bonbon then informed Delegates that joint discussions had been organised between the Code Commission and other Specialist Commissions to improve cooperation with the Scientific Commission in the course of terrestrial standard development, as well as coordination and harmonisation between the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and between the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual*. Dr Bonbon reiterated the importance of

continuing close collaboration between the Code Commission and the other Specialist Commissions and he assured Delegates that the Code Commission would continue its efforts to strengthen partnerships, improve coordination, and ensure effective linkages with the help of the Headquarters. He also noted that the Code Commission would continue to try and participate in the *ad hoc* Group meetings to which it is invited as an observer.

263. Concerning the standard setting process, Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission is well aware that there are strong interests in keeping the principle of the two-year cycle of standard development from OIE Member Countries, and reaffirmed its commitment to respect and put into practice all the principles laid out in the OIE Rules and the Strategic Plan for developing standards. He further informed Delegates of the Code Commission's plan to identify future draft chapters to be proposed for adoption at the General Session in the report of the previous September Code Commission's meeting, which would allow Member Countries to be aware in a timely manner and have more time to formulate comments and suggestions.

264. Dr Bonbon then presented the Code Commission's work programme, and reiterated that the Code Commission would welcome Delegates' comments on this work programme and consider them at its next meeting in September 2016. Apart from the continuous work of revision and updating of disease-specific chapters, Dr Bonbon highlighted some key horizontal issues that needed to be addressed during the coming years:

– Revision of the Glossary, especially for consistency in the use of defined terms in the *Terrestrial Code*.

– Restructuring of Chapter 1.6. for better use of the disease status questionnaires.

– Restructuring of Section 4 of the *Terrestrial Code*, in parallel with the work begun by the Aquatic Animals Commission on the *Aquatic Code*. This will include the revision of some current chapters, such as Chapter 4.3. on zoning and compartmentalisation and Chapter 4.13. on disinfection, and the inclusion of new chapters, such as an introductory chapter and a chapter on vaccination.

– Continuing the work on Section 6 on Veterinary Public Health, by drafting a new introductory chapter and the revision of Chapters 6.1. and 6.2.

265. Regarding the Member Country comments received by the Code Commission, Dr Bonbon expressed appreciation for the large number that had been submitted in the past year by Member Countries and cooperating organisations, and presented a chart of the recent evolution of that number. The Code Commission continues to strongly encourage all OIE Member Countries to actively participate in the standard-setting work of the OIE by providing comments on its proposals along with a supporting scientific rationale for proposed amendments.

However, Dr Bonbon noted the heavy workload and difficulties facing the Code Commission and the OIE Headquarters to incorporate and review Member Countries' comments received after the deadline. Dr Bonbon advised Delegates that comments should be submitted by late July each year for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting and by the beginning of January each year for the February meeting. He advised in this respect that the Code Commission has a strong intention to strictly enforce the deadline for comments.

266. On the other hand Dr Bonbon thanked Delegates for their efforts to follow the established convention in recommending modification of text in the *Terrestrial Code*, i.e. propose new text shown as <u>double underline</u> and propose text deletions shown as ~~strike through~~ and the provision of a scientific justification for the amendments proposed. Dr Bonbon showed some examples of the best ways to present the comments so that they are better incorporated within the working documents of the Code Commission by the Headquarters.

267. Dr Bonbon then listed the 19 new or updated *Terrestrial Code* texts that would be discussed and possibly adopted in the course of the week, and informed the Delegates that 14 other new or revised texts had been provided in the Code Commission's report for Member Countries' comments, which will be considered at the Code Commission's next meeting.

268. **OIE Collaborating Centres**

Dr Bonbon informed the Delegates of the review and endorsement by the Code Commission of the applications for three new OIE Collaborating Centres. The first is a Collaborating Centre in the Region of the Americas for Distance Education Tools for OIE Day One Competencies and Continuing Education at Iowa State University in the United States of America. The second is a Collaborating Centre in Region of Asia, the Far East and Oceania at Chiangmai University in Thailand for Veterinary Services Capacity Building and the third, in the Region of Europe, is a Collaborating Centre for Infectious Reproductive Diseases in Europe at the National Laboratory for Health Controls in Breeding Stock in France.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

269. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

270. **Summary report on activities of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly of the fifteenth meeting of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (hereafter "the Working Group") held at the OIE Headquarters from 3–5 November 2015 and invited Dr Stuart Slorach, Chair of the Working Group, to highlight key points addressed at the meeting.

Dr Slorach first highlighted that the Working Group agreed there has been considerable development in the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians and Veterinary Services in food safety since the adoption of Chapter 6.1. 'The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety' in 2008 and undertook to review and revise the chapter to include all the food safety areas that veterinarians are involved in, as well as incorporating a farm-to-fork system approach to ensure food safety and suitability. The Working Group removed some text that is duplicated in Chapter 6.2. and ensured the inclusion of all relevant cross-references to other *Terrestrial Code* chapters related to veterinary public health and relevant Codex standards. In parallel, the Working Group developed a discussion paper on the approach taken to improve meat hygiene programmes around the world. This paper is expected to provide useful guidance for Member Countries.

Dr Slorach also indicated that the Working Group agreed to review and update Chapter 6.2. 'Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection', given that it had not been reviewed since its adoption in 2006, and proposed to undertake this work at their next meeting in November 2016.

He noted that the Working Group suggested an introductory chapter in Section 6. 'Veterinary Public Health' would be a useful addition and could provide an overview of the section, as well as outlining possible future chapters for this section.

Dr Slorach then informed the Delegates that the Working Group considered the OIE's ongoing work on new chapters on *Salmonella* in pigs and *Salmonella* in cattle in parallel with Codex's new work on *Salmonella* in beef and pork and noted that the on-farm recommendations are very complementary to the content of the draft guidelines being developed by Codex on 'Control of Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork meat'. In

general, the Working Group encouraged OIE Delegates to collaborate with their national delegations to Codex to ensure alignment and complementarity of *Salmonella* standards under development by the OIE and Codex. The Working Group in particular encouraged OIE Delegates to promote the role of their Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety, which includes taking into account Codex standards, where relevant, when commenting on OIE standards.

Dr Slorach finished his intervention noting that the Working Group had finalised the development of a document summarising its main activities and achievements to date, which has now been uploaded to the OIE website.

The Working Group should hold its next face-to-face meeting in November 2016.

271. Dr Bonbon complimented Dr Slorach on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the Group's achievements during the past year, and noted that the full report of the Working Group fifteenth meeting, including the work programme for 2016, which was endorsed by the Code Commission, was appended to the report of the Code Commission's February 2016 meeting and also published on the animal production food safety pages of the OIE website.

Dr Bonbon, on behalf of the Code Commission, specifically welcomed the substantial work undertaken by the Working Group to revise Chapter 6.1. 'Role of Veterinary Services in food safety'. Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Code Commission had reviewed the revised chapter and made some additional amendments prior to circulating it for Member Countries' comments in its February 2016 report. Given the importance of this chapter, he insisted on the necessity for Member Countries to consider closely the draft revised chapter and provide comments.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had endorsed the Working Group's proposal to review and revise Chapter 6.2 at their 2016 meeting. He also noted that the Code Commission agreed with the Working Group recommendation to include an introductory chapter in Section 6 and added this to its work programme.

Finally, Dr Bonbon endorsed the Working Group's comment regarding the importance of OIE and Codex collaboration and encouraged OIE Delegates to collaborate with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach to standards developed by the OIE and Codex.

272. The Delegate of Australia commended Dr Slorach on his report and commented that collaboration and coordination with the CAC is very important, especially in the context of antimicrobial resistance and electronic certification. The Delegate encouraged the OIE to commence further work on electronic certification and noted that there is scope for collaboration on this issue with the CAC.

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

Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Animal Production Food Safety

274. The President sought comments from the Assembly on the draft Resolution.

275. The Delegate of Australia recommended modification of point 6 of the recommendations, to take account of the fact that countries may have multiple focal points for INFOSAN.

276. The President agreed that the resolution would be amended as proposed. On this basis, the resolution was submitted for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

277. **Summary Report on activities of the Animal Welfare Working Group**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly of the fourteenth meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group (hereafter "the AWWG") held at the OIE Headquarters from 2–4 June 2015 and invited Dr Abdul Rahman, Chair of the AWWG, to highlight the key points addressed at the meeting.

Dr Rahman first noted that the Working Group, recognising the valuable contribution of Dr David Bayvel, observed a minute's silence at the beginning of its meeting as a tribute to the memory of Dr Bayvel, former Chair of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, who passed away in April 2015.

Dr Rahman informed the Delegates that the Working Group noted the outcomes of the OIE 83rd General Session on animal welfare, especially Member Countries' comments on the draft Chapter 7.X. on the Welfare of Working Equids, which were discussed. The AWWG also discussed Member Countries' comments on Article 7.5.7. on the electrical stunning of birds using a waterbath and developed terms of reference for an *ad hoc* group to be brought together to further revise this article. The Working Group also proposed that OIE conduct an electronic consultation on gas stunning methods to update point 4 of Article 7.5.7.

Dr Rahman then noted that the Working Group had discussed the proposal from a Member Country to develop animal welfare standards for reptiles, including a supporting document on slaughter methods, which was considered positively. However, it could not move forward on that subject before reptiles are included in the scope of the *Terrestrial Code*, and referred it to the Headquarters and the Code Commission.

Dr Rahman noted that the Working Group reviewed the final version of the guidelines for national veterinary services for disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health with the goal of strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services in Member Countries. The work is in line with the United Nations Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr Rahman informed the Delegates that the Working Group reviewed the implementation of the established Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS) and the Animal Welfare Platform for Europe. It was pleased to see continuing progress in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare chapters at regional level (due partly to the successful OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme of training of trainers), and highlighted again the need to raise awareness of animal welfare in the African Region, and continue encouraging the development of a RAWS for Africa. The Working Group supported the proposal from the Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to establish and maintain an OIE Animal Welfare Centre Network.

Dr Rahman finished his report noting that the Working Group discussed the draft Global Animal Welfare Strategy, and recommended to the OIE to include it in the framework of the next OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Guadalajara Mexico from 6 to 8 December 2016. The Working Group provided advice for consideration in the development of the conference programme, and especially highlighted that a presentation and discussion on the new draft Global Animal Welfare Strategy could make a valuable contribution to the success of this global conference. Dr Rahman acknowledged the contribution of Dr Andrea Gavinelli, who will leave the Working Group this year.

The Working Group will hold its next face-to-face meeting from 30 May to 1 June 2016.

278. Dr Bonbon complimented Dr Rahman on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the Group's achievements during the past year. He noted that the full report of the Working Group fourteenth meeting had been endorsed by the Code Commission and appended to the report of its September 2015 meeting, and that the Working Group's work programme for 2016 had been distributed to Delegates as an annex to the report of the Code Commission's February 2016 meeting. Both documents have been published on the OIE website.

Dr Bonbon, on behalf of the Code Commission, specifically welcomed the substantial work undertaken by the Working Group to review the draft new Chapter 7.X. on the Welfare of Working Equids, which was further amended by the Code Commission after taking into consideration multiple comments from Delegates, showing the importance of such a chapter for the OIE. The chapter is now proposed for adoption this week.

Dr Bonbon commended the work of the Working Group, and *ad hoc* Group on the electrical stunning of birds using a waterbath, highlighting the need for constructive comments of the Delegates on the draft modified Article 7.5.7., for review at the next Code Commission meeting and possible adoption next year. He also noted the proposal of the AWWG to conduct an electronic consultation on gas stunning methods and the addition of that point in the Code Commission work programme.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission proposed a revision of the glossary definition of animal to include reptiles as a first step towards the development of standards for these species, particularly on animal welfare where work has already begun.

279. The Delegate of Mexico commented on the importance of animal welfare in all countries. He noted that Mexico will host an OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Guadalajara from 6 to 8 December 2016 and that he looks forward to welcoming OIE Member Countries to this event.

280. The Delegate of Switzerland thanked Dr Bonbon for his presentation. He encouraged the Animal Welfare Working Group to develop recomendations on the killing of reptiles, to improve the welfare of these animals and reduce their suffering. This need has been recognised all along the value chain, including by companies selling -leather products derived from these animals. The resources needed for this work have been secured and a scientific basis for this work has been developed since 2013. Switzerland would like to reiterate its request for the Code Commission and the AWWG to prioritise this work in its work programme for 2016.

281. The Delegate of the Netherlands supported the comments of the Delegate of Switzerland regarding the need to develop recommendations on the killing of reptiles.

282. The Delegate of Sudan commented about the issue of standards for reptiles. In most countries, reptiles are dangerous to humans and animals and in some countries they are killed for skins and meat. He stated that there should not be a complete ban on killing reptiles.

283. The Delegate of Indonesia congratulated the OIE Working Group on Wildlife for its excellent work and highlighted two specific issues: the OIE proposal to develop standards for killing reptiles for the skin trade, and the OIE standard on animal pathogens and invasive alien species. Indonesia pays close attention to these issues when developing policies on wildlife conservation and sustainable use.

Instruments for the sustainable management of the reptile skin industry are established but the welfare of these animals is a relatively new topic, which was discussed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (the Convention on international trade in endangered species) in 2013. Parties were concerned about the welfare of reptiles during capture, slaughter and skinning. The Delegate proposed that the following issues be taken into consideration by the OIE as it proceeds with this work: welfare should be incorporated within the framework of control during harvesting and traceability, and developed in

relation to community-based programmes for wildlife conservation and diversity. The wildlife trade supports community livelihoods, and wildlife conservation programmes cannot be separated from community welfare.

Under the auspices of CITES, Indonesia is developing guidelines on the welfare of reptiles during capture, slaughter and skinning, which will be integrated with more sophisticated tracing systems to ensure sustainable wildlife use that takes into account animal welfare. Ensuring the welfare of local communities is of paramount importance in this process.

284. The Director General made two comments regarding animal welfare. First, she commented, that the OIE would make some minor modifications to the Spanish text of Resolution No. 28, for linguistic reasons. The Director General went on to comment on the collaboration between the OIE and the ISO with the goal of ensuring that the recommendations of the two organisations are fully consistent and that gaps and duplication are avoided. She reminded Delegates that the OIE had drawn the attention of its Member Countries to the plan to adopt a technical specification that ISO had prepared on this matter. These were the subject of a voting process in which most countries voted in favour of the adoption of this technical specification, which is a good example of cooperation between the public and private sector, represented by the OIE and the ISO, respectively.

285. The Assembly noted the report of the Animal Welfare Working Group.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Animal Welfare

286. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

287. **Report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

Dr Bonbon summarised the presentation on the *Terrestrial Code* by considering that the outcome of the past two Code Commission meetings had been very productive both from the perspectives of completing 19 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption and of addressing most of the comments received from Member Countries. He thanked again Member Countries, and especially those of the Americas, Asia and Oceania, AU-IBAR and the European Union, for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage further participation of Member Countries, especially from those who have never participated or only recently.

Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that the proposed modifications 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, and that the items and comments on texts that were not being submitted for adoption at this General Session or that could not be dealt with during the February 2016 meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2016, together with new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2016 meeting and comments received at this General Session.

288. The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, thanked the Code Commission for considering its previous comments on the work programme and stated that the EU supports the updated work programme, with its significantly improved ease of use and transparency. The EU has expectations on five issues, namely BSE: atypical BSE in comparison with classical BSE; scrapie (following the

revision of the *Terrestrial Manual*); bluetongue with respect to the exclusion of non-pathogenic serotypes from the case definition; new horizontal chapters on disease control including vaccination; and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex with particular consideration of New World camelids.

289. The Delegate of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, congratulated Dr Bonbon on his presentation. He recommended that all OIE Member Countries comment on standards and on the official recognition of country status. He stated that it is important to have clear definitions, especially in view of the role of OIE standards in the context of the WTO.

290. The Delegate of Mexico congratulated Dr Bonbon on his clear presentation on the important topic of recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*. Sometimes these are guidelines but that must be followed, and it is necessary to have a proper, documented basis for them. Some recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* are under discussion, notably the statistics used to determine BSE status. Therefore, it is proposed to revise the qualification system in countries with small livestock populations. The Delegate noted that it is important to work in all three official languages.

291. The Delegate of New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads, thanked Dr Bonbon for his report and the progress achieved. In particular, the review of Chapter 5.3 is very important as this chapter contains vital information guiding OIE Member Countries on how to fulfil their obligations under the SPS Agreement with respect to core OIE concepts of risk analysis, equivalence, zoning and compartmentalisation. The commodity-based standards in the *Terrestrial Code* provide an important framework for harmonisation. However, in the past 20 years the need for standards that go beyond prescriptive approaches to commodity–disease combinations have been addressed, by developing standards that recognise a transparent and science-based approach to risk management. Chapter 5.3. provides important guidance on equivalence and on the establishment of zones and compartments recognised for international trade in accordance with the outcome-based approach. The Quads countries have collectively agreed to move towards the implementation of these key concepts, specifically zoning, including during outbreaks. Too many countries respond to outbreaks with trade bans that are not based on a scientific analysis of the risk. The Delegate encouraged all countries to review Chapter 5.3 and to re-commit to its principles, and to explore mechanisms for implementation of the outcome-based risk management standards of the OIE to avoid unnecessary disruptions to trade that serve no scientific risk management purpose.

292. The Delegate of Chile, on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, congratulated the Code Commission on its work. He noted the importance of electronic certification and stated that Chile and a group of countries from all continents are implementing this on a bilateral basis, in accordance with the definitions in Article 5.2.4. The OIE has already achieved coordination with other organisations. The Delegate proposed that the Commission's work programme include discussions on this subject, including standards and procedures, and offered to supply experts to assist in this work.

293. A representative of the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of the 32 OIE Member Countries in the region of Asia, the Far East and Oceania, expressed his appreciation of the Specialist Commissions for their excellent work and made a specific comment on African swine fever (ASF). He stated that ASF is a major transboundary animal disease that poses a great threat to pig production and international trade. It is important that the OIE and Member

Countries make every effort to prevent spread from affected areas. As the disease is difficult to eradicate (due to its complex route of transmission including vector-borne and lack of vaccine, distinct from classical swine fever), Japan asked the Code Commission to give careful examination, taking all of our concerns and scientific evidence into account, to the revision of the chapter on ASF in September.

294. The Delegate of Panama, on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, congratulated Dr Bonbon and the Members of the Code Commission for their work and particularly the adoption last year of the gamma interferon kit for the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis. He pointed out that thanks to this kit, important results on the efforts to eradicate this disease have been achieved.

295. The Delegate of Uruguay expressed his thanks for the work of the Code Commission. Uruguay supports the work programme presented for the coming year. With Mexico, he agreed on the importance of guidance to Delegates on how to make comments and contributions. For years, the Spanish-speaking countries have been raising concerns about the time taken to receive the Spanish version of the report. Recently, especially last year, the Spanish version was received earlier, which assists the study and comment process. While he acknowledged the difficulty of the translation task, the Delegate asked the Director General to continue to improve the timing of the process each year.

296. The Delegate of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, stated that Africa appreciates that the listed diseases (Article 1.2.3.) are now included in a separate chapter, which will facilitate future additions or delisting to the existing list, and supports this initiative as a positive change.

297. In response, Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegates for their comments and support for the Code Commission. In reply to the Delegate of Sweden, he confirmed that revision of the chapters on BSE and scrapie as well as bluetongue is on the work programme. He advised that the Code Commission would work closely with the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission on these topics. The Code Commission will be happy to receive relevant scientific information. Similarly, in response to the Delegate of Mexico, Dr Bonbon confirmed that the Scientific Commission is working on the topic of BSE surveillance to address the concerns of Member Countries. In response to the comments on reptiles, Dr Bonbon advised that the first step is to modify the definition of animals in the Glossary to take account of reptiles. After this, other work can commence. He encouraged all Member Countries to provide scientific evidence as a basis for the development of standards. Dr Bonbon agreed with the Delegate of New Zealand, regarding the importance of Chapter 5.3. He confirmed that the Code Commission would review the User's Guide in light of the comments from the Delegate of Senegal. With respect to the comments of Chile on electronic certification, Dr Bonbon noted that Chapter 5.2 is not currently under review but certainly the matter is under discussion and more countries are using electronic systems. He undertook to discuss the Delegate of Chile's request with the Director General, as the implications of this work extend beyond the OIE to other international organisations. Dr Bonbon advised the Delegate of Japan that ASF together with tuberculosis will be priorities for attention of the Code Commission, in collaboration with the Scientific Commission, in September. Finally, on the issue of translation Dr Bonbon commented that members of the Code Commission include French, English and Spanish speakers and they try very hard to assure the quality of translations. This will continue to be a focus for the Commission.

TERRESTRIAL CODE

298. **User's Guide**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission amended text in point 1 of Part B to clarify that terms included in the Glossary are those for which the dictionary definition is inadequate for the purposes of the *Code*.

Dr Bonbon explained the use of 'bis' by the Code Commission and reiterated that chapter-numbering changes are implemented after adoption of revised or new chapters, e.g. the proposed Chapter 1.2bis will be renumbered to Chapter 1.3. once adopted.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission agreed to amend the text in Part C point 3 to clarify that zoning and compartmentalisation should be considered as tools, 'among others', to control diseases and to facilitate safe trade.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission inserted new point 2bis in Section C to clarify that Article 1.4.6. applies when there are no specific requirements in the disease-specific chapter. Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that the Code Commission will systematically consider the need for requirements for historical freedom in new chapters and revisions of existing chapters.

The Delegate of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, said that Africa reiterates the comment submitted previously to the Code Commission (Item 2 of the February 2016 report), i.e. the need to recognise that zoning and compartmentalisation are not the only tools to control diseases and facilitate trade. Dr Bonbon replied that the point raised by the Delegate had been discussed by the Code Commission and that the intended meaning is captured by the proposed wording. To ensure a better understanding of the text, Dr Bonbon proposed to add 'some of the' before 'tools', in line with the Delegate's proposal.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised User's Guide to the Assembly for adoption.

The User's Guide, as modified, was unanimously adopted.

299. **Glossary**

Dr Bonbon stated again that the Code Commission would continue its review of the Glossary, and had found some terms in the *Code* that had become obsolete or no longer meet the criteria to be included in the Glossary, i.e. dictionary definition inadequate and term present in more than one chapter. In this regard, the following terms were being proposed for deletion from the Glossary:

– 'Acceptable risk'

– 'Appropriate level of protection'

– 'Equivalence of sanitary measures'

Dr Bonbon also stated again that the Code Commission agreed to include reptiles in the definition of 'animal' in the Glossary.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission agreed to amend the definition of 'stamping-out policy' to clarify that animal products that do not present a disease transmission risk need not be destroyed.

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission, after having reviewed Member Countries' comments and advice from experts, had updated the definition of 'casing'.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked Dr Bonbon for his presentation. He stated that the EU supports the adoption of the modified glossary, with the exception of the modified definition of 'casings' which cannot be accepted as proposed. The oesophagus is significantly different from the intestine from an anatomical point of view. It contains more muscle tissue and this might not be scraped away thoroughly. Also, the oesophagus may not be subjected to the same salting treatment as casings made from intestines. With respect to animal pathogens, the oesophagus is not comparable with other parts of the intestinal tract that are commonly used for the production of casings. This approach means that a higher level of risk must be presumed for all casings, comparable with that from fresh meat or meat products.

The Delegate of Norway thanked the OIE for its good work and supported the intervention of the Delegate of Denmark.

The Delegate of Congo (Rep. of the), speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, supported the EU position.

Dr Bonbon replied that the definition of commodities on a global basis is a complex undertaking. The oesophagus is used by some Member Countries as a sausage casing. However, this is a minor part of the market. The aim of the *Terrestrial Code* is to define a commodity for safe trade. He therefore proposed to return to the definition proposed in the September 2015 report of the Code Commission. Once there is more information on the manufacture of casings from oesophagus and stomach tissues, this matter can be reconsidered. Based on the possibility of further discussion on this issue, he proposed to delete 'oesophagus' from the definition. Dr Bonbon noted that the Glossary definition of meat covers oesophagus and any other edible part.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt the Glossary as revised. The text was unanimously adopted.

300. **Notification of diseases, infections and infestations, and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had considered Member Countries' comments on the proposed definition of an 'event' and amendments proposed by the Aquatic Animals Commission to the equivalent chapter in the *Aquatic Code*, and made appropriate amendments.

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had replaced the reference to 'WAHID' with 'WAHIS' in Article 1.1.6. to align with the revised OIE description of its World Animal Health Information System.

Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission amended several points throughout the chapter to correct grammar, spelling and syntax and to harmonise with the *Aquatic Code*.

The Delegate of Poland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, advised that the EU supports the adoption of this modified chapter. In general, certain definitions in the Glossary should be reviewed further to the new convention of including 'infestations' along with 'diseases' and 'infections', whenever the latter two terms are used (e.g. in the definition of 'Notification').

Dr Bonbon agreed that this point could be addressed during the ongoing revision of the Glossary.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt the Chapter as revised. The text was adopted unanimously.

301. **Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed draft amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on notification of animal diseases and pathogens and further edited them to align with standard *Code* format and the *Aquatic Code*.

The Delegate of Greece, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, said that the EU supports adoption of the text and commented that an editorial modification had been sent to the Code Commission for consideration.

Dr Bonbon agreed that the editorial modification would be considered by the Code Commission at its meeting in September.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt Revised Chapter 1.2. The text was adopted unanimously.

302. **Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.2bis.)**

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had amended the title of this chapter in order to be consistent with the title of Chapter 1.2.

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had accepted Member Countries' suggestion to change the spelling of Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever to align with that used by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses and in the *Terrestrial Manual*, but that Member Countries' suggestion to hyphenate the spelling of 'foot and mouth disease' had been referred to the Biological Standards Commission to ensure that consistent hyphenation or not of this disease name is applied in all OIE documents.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission had accepted the recommendation of Member Countries to retain '(porcine cysticercosis)' after 'Infection with *Taenia solium*' in this chapter and Chapter 15.3., as a result of discussion with the Biological Standards Commission and to align with the recently adopted *Terrestrial Manual* chapter entitled 'Cysticercosis'.

Dr Bonbon clarified that in 'Infection with Influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds other than poultry including wild birds', 'wild birds' means all wild bird species according to the definition of 'wildlife' in the Glossary, and that the Code Commission proposed to italicise the word 'poultry' as the Glossary definition applies.

The Delegate of Australia, speaking on behalf of the Quads, supported the adoption of this new chapter but noted that there was potential for misinterpretation now that the listed diseases were separated from the listing criteria. He said that Australia will provide two paragraphs of proposed introductory text in written comments to be considered by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, said that the EU supports adoption of the text and commented that an editorial modification had been sent to the Code Commission for consideration.

Dr Bonbon agreed that the editorial modification would be considered by the Code Commission at its meeting in September.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt Revised Chapter 1.2bis. The text was adopted unanimously.

303. **Prescribed and alternative diagnostic tests for the OIE listed diseases (Chapter 1.3.)**

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had identified some problems arising from the retention of this chapter and had drawn these to the attention of Member Countries in the September 2015 Code Commission meeting report. The Code Commission proposed the deletion of the chapter because prescribed/alternative diagnostic tests are systematically referenced to the *Terrestrial Manual* in the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Manual* now provides a summary table of available test methods and their purpose, which make this *Terrestrial Code* chapter redundant. All but one of the Member Countries' comments received on this issue supported the proposed deletion of Chapter 1.3.

The President of the OIE presented the proposal for deletion of Chapter 1.3. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

304. **Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Article 3.2.14.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed Member Countries' recommendation to add a new clause to this article to include animal welfare inspections at the export and import of animals and proposed the amendment for adoption.

Dr Bonbon stated that the Code Commission had recognised Member Countries' comments and considered that the wording of the chapeau text of this article allows interpretation of the new clause to accommodate diverse situations among Member Countries.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission did not accept Member Countries' suggestions to amend currently adopted text in Article 3.2.14., for which comment was not sought, on the basis that the suggestions offered no significant improvement on the current text and were not justified by a rationale. He highlighted that this was the case for a number of other chapters proposed for adoption and that he would not repeat that fact in every case.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt amended Article 3.2.14. The text was adopted unanimously.

305. **Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals (Chapter 6.8.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed Member Countries' comments on the definition of 'therapeutic use' proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in Article 6.8.1. He noted that although the entire phrase 'therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents' is not present in the chapter, the Code Commission noted that the word 'therapeutic' is present as a 'type of use' and this is sufficient to define the term in the chapter.

Dr Bonbon stated that the Code Commission agreed to replace 'infectious diseases' with 'infections', but not to add 'preventing' in the definition. Indeed, the Code Commission noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission clearly differentiates '*Disease Treatment/Therapeutic Use*' from '*Disease Prevention/Prophylactic Use*' (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, advised that the EU does not support replacing 'infectious diseases' by the word 'infections' in the definition of 'therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents' in Article 6.8.1. The Delegate explained that the proposed new wording would imply that administering antimicrobial agents to animals that are infected but do not show clinical signs of disease would be regarded as 'therapeutic use' when it should be regarded as 'prophylactic use' as it would be used to prevent the occurrence of clinical signs. The terms 'therapeutic' and 'therapy' as commonly defined in dictionaries clearly refer to the treatment or healing of clinical diseases. Furthermore, preventing the spread of infectious diseases is already covered by the word 'controlling', which would correspond to a metaphylactic use of antimicrobial agents and which can be accepted by the EU for the purposes of this *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

The Delegate recommended that the text in the first paragraph of Article 6.8.1. revert to 'infectious diseases'. This would also be consistent with the wording adopted in the third paragraph of Article 6.6.1.

The Delegate of Congo (Rep. of the), speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, commended the OIE but stated that Africa agreed with the statement of the EU. He considered that the use of treatment in the absence of clinical signs is a preventive treatment and not therapeutic use.

The Delegate of Norway supported the intervention of the Delegate of the Netherlands.

Dr Bonbon replied that the Code Commission always tries to use the definitions in the Glossary. Given the points raised by Delegates, he agreed that the text could be modified to that recommended by the *ad hoc* Group, as presented in the September 2015 report of the Code Commission.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 6.8. The text was adopted unanimously.

306. **Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.16.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the OIE Headquarters to update cross references to the Codex text regarding the recently adopted Codex Guidelines for the control of *Trichinella* spp. in meat of Suidae (CAC/GL 86-2015) and made appropriate amendments.

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had also accepted to amend the number of designated species of *Trichinella* from eight to nine in Article 8.16.1. because this is in line with information published by the International Commission on Trichinellosis and an OIE expert.

Dr Bonbon noted on the other hand that the Code Commission did not accept to delete 'oocytes' from Article 8.16.2. as oocytes are rightly listed as safe commodities in other parasitic disease chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bonbon also noted that the Code Commission did not accept to add text in Articles 8.16.8. and 8.16.9. regarding a process to inactivate *Trichinella* larvae in the meat of equids as it was not aware of any studies that have been undertaken or planned to establish the parameters for such an inactivation.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 8.16.

The text was adopted unanimously.

307. **Infection with *Taenia solium* (Chapter 15.3.)**

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments and made relevant amendments. He noted that the Code Commission amended the list of safe commodities and reinstated 'oocytes' to ensure harmonisation among relevant chapters on parasitic diseases.

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had acknowledged Member Countries' concerns about the possible exposure of pigs to human faeces in an establishment. Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission was of the view that point 1e) of Article 15.3.3. is intended to provide for a specific toilet for people working in the pig establishment to prevent exposure of pigs and their environment to human faeces. Dr Bonbon added that the Code Commission, while noting that the definition of establishment is not limited to the exact building where pigs are reared, proposed to delete the word "rearing" to avoid any misunderstanding.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that several Member Countries had proposed extensive amendments to the structure and wording of Article 15.3.3., but the Code Commission considered that the changes proposed would not substantially improve the current text. Furthermore, he stressed that the last sentence of Article 15.3.3. is a stand-alone paragraph that relates to the entire Article 15.3.3., emphasising that the control of infection in humans is critical to the control of this pathogen in pigs.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission did not accept a suggestion to include reference to a preventive programme for detection and treatment of human tapeworm carriers in point 1 of Article 15.3.3. or to include reference to provision of human sanitation services in point 2 of Article 15.3.3., on the basis that recommendations for human health programmes are beyond the scope of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bonbon finally stated that the Code Commission did not accept to reinstate 80°C in place of 60°C in Article 15.3.6, noting that there is scientific evidence that heating to a temperature of 56°C inactivates cysticerci.

The Delegate of Togo, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, advised that Africa places importance on preventing the exposure of swine to human faecal matter. She recommended that the text be modified to reflect this.

The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) proposed an alternative wording for the French version of the text.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the chapter and also the comments made by the Representative from Togo.

Dr Bonbon proposed that the text be revised as follows: 'providing adequate toilet and sanitation facilities for people in areas and establishments where pigs are kept' before 'to prevent'. He discussed the appropriate French translation of this text with the Delegate of Congo (Rep. of the) and the Delegate of Togo.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 15.3, modified as proposed by Dr Bonbon.

The text was adopted unanimously.

308. **Animal welfare**

a) Stunning methods (Article 7.5.7.)

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments on Article 7.5.7. point 2 and made relevant amendments. He noted that the Code Commission had accepted the Animal Welfare Working Group's recommendation to delete figures and photos in Article 7.5.7., given that they are more appropriately included in a handbook than in the *Terrestrial Code*, and that there are a range of minor variations of these recommendations available in the literature, with no consensus on a single figure for the species included.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had also made several modifications to correct grammar and syntax throughout the article.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 OIE Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work. He indicated that the EU cannot support the adoption of Article 7.5.7. point 2, paragraphs 3 and 4. He stated that the EU had requested an editorial amendment to clarify that the destruction of the skull applies only in the case of poultry. The EU also had some other comments for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting.

Dr Bonbon agreed with the recommendation of the Delegate of Ireland and proposed that the revised text be amended in line with this suggestion.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt Article 7.5.7 with the revision proposed by Dr Bonbon. The text was adopted unanimously.

b) Killing of animals for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.6.)

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had made a number of amendments in this chapter in response to comments from Member Countries, the Animal Welfare Working Group and the *ad hoc* Group on the welfare of working equids.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had accepted the Animal Welfare Working Group's recommendation to delete 'figures 1-4' in Article 7.6.8. point 2f), "figure 5" in Article 7.6.10. and the pictures included at the end of Article 7.6.13., for the same reasons proposed for the deletion of figures from Chapter 7.5.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had reviewed a recommendation from the *ad hoc* Group on the welfare of working equids and added equids to the table in Article 7.6.5., and appropriate cross referencing to equids in Articles 7.6.6., 7.6.7. and 7.6.15. The Code Commission also amended the table entry for poultry to include penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolts as procedures for killing adult poultry.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that there was a question from a Member Country on the use of non-penetrating captive bolt and penetrating captive bolt in different species, and the Code Commission had decided to seek advice from the Animal Welfare Working Group on this subject.

Regarding a Member Country's comment on adding a reference to foam as a method for killing animals in this chapter, the Code Commission also referred this to the Animal Welfare Working Group for further consideration.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work. The EU can support the adoption of these modified articles but had submitted additional comments to the Commission for consideration.

The Delegate of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads, acknowledged the excellent work done by the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) and the Code Commission on the killing of animals for disease control purposes. She encouraged the Commission and the AWWG to give positive consideration to comments previously submitted by Canada.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegates for their comments and agreed that the Commission could address them at its September meeting.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 7.6. The text was adopted unanimously.

c) Animal welfare and broiler chicken production system (Article 7.10.4.)

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed many comments received from Member Countries on the chapter and made amendments where relevant.

Dr Bonbon reported that considering the adoption of the Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'animal health management', the Code Commission deleted the first sentence of points 1a) and 1b).

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission did not accept suggestions to amend already adopted text. However, Dr Bonbon noted that the Spanish and French translations of the recommendation on the choice of genetic strain will be reviewed to ensure they accurately reflect the adopted English text.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt Article 7.10.4. The text was adopted unanimously.

d) Animal welfare and dairy cattle production system (Chapter 7.11.)

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had reviewed many comments received from Member Countries and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) on the chapter and had amended the text as appropriate.

Dr Bonbon clarified that the Code Commission is of the view that in the animal welfare chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* the recommendations provided are directed first and foremost at animal welfare, thus the term 'animal welfare and health' should be used to emphasise this point.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission did not accept Member Countries' suggestions to amend the requirement of "at least one space per cow" where individual spaces are provided for cows to rest in Article 7.11.6. point 5, and drew the Assembly's attention to the supporting explanation provided in the report of the September 2015 Commission meeting. Dr Bonbon added that to further emphasise the outcome-based measure, the Code Commission included the 'use of lying areas' in the examples of outcome-based measurable for point 5 of Article 7.11.6.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had also amended the wording of Article 7.11.7. point 9 to underline that calves should receive sufficient colostrum to provide adequate passive immunity. The Code Commission had, however, decided not to include a specific recommendation on the optimal duration of colostrum feeding because of the absence of scientific consensus on this point.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work and for taking some EU comments into account. The EU can support the adoption of this modified chapter, but requests that the Commission address an outstanding comment sent to the OIE prior to the General Session in a future revision.

The Delegate of the United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, thanked the Code Commission for its work on this topic. The Delegate noted that the text is not for comment at the present time but considered that a modification of the chapter should be considered. The Delegate offered to provide a text modification that will help to avoid confusion.

The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China proposed a modification to the text of Articles 7.11.6 and 7.11.7 in relation to outcome-based measurables, i.e. to change 'morbidity rate' to 'morbidity' and 'mortality rate' to 'mortality', based on the dictionary definitions of the terms morbidity and mortality.

Dr Bonbon thanked Delegates for their comments. In response to the Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China, Dr Bonbon commented that several articles may need to be modified as mortality rate and morbidity rate are listed as measurables in several articles. He asked the Delegate to provide a written text with a scientific justification. In response to the comments of all Delegates, Dr Bonbon agreed that the Code Commission would address the points raised at its meeting in September.

The President of the OIE invited the Assembly to adopt revised Chapter 7.11. The text was adopted unanimously.

e) New chapter on the welfare of working equids (Chapter 7.X.)

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that this chapter had been under development for some time and had been through several rounds of comments by Member Countries. He noted that the Code Commission had been committed to developing appropriate welfare standards on working equids, with the assistance of the Animal Welfare Working Group, the *ad hoc* Group and international experts, taking into account the latest scientific information available. It appreciated the large number of Member Countries' comments and had made relevant amendments to the proposed new chapter in response to the comments received.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission had also made several modifications to remove unnecessary words, correct grammar and punctuation, and improve syntax throughout the draft chapter.

The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, thanked the OIE and the Code Commission for developing various chapters on animal welfare, in particular this chapter, and supported the adoption of Chapter 7.X because working equids play an important role in Africa, and often face welfare issues. This chapter will greatly help African Member Countries to address the issues. He highlighted the fact that many other classes of working animals,

such as camelids, cattle, buffaloes and dogs, are potentially affected by welfare issues, and recommended either the development of specific chapters for these species, or enlarging the scope of this chapter to include other working animals.

Africa also supported the changes made to Article 7.X.9, on handling and management practices, which is now less prescriptive and gives a certain latitude to the veterinary authority to consider if management practices are adequate or not, depending on the context and circumstances. Comments on the content of some articles will be forwarded to the OIE in writing for further analysis by the Code Commission.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work and supported the comments of the Delegate of Kenya. The EU supports adoption of the new chapter, but also asked the OIE to consider comments sent prior to the General Session.

The Delegate of the United States of America commended the OIE for its work on this important topic, but requested that the Code Commission put paragraph 2 and paragraph 4 of Article 7.X.12 under study, as the provisions were too prescriptive and did not take into account the individual circumstances of each country. He indicated that the United States of America would provide suggested text for consideration at the Code Commission's September meeting.

A member of the Australian delegation thanked the OIE for its work on this important chapter and commented that Article 7.X.3, which mentions multiple authorities and responsible agencies, should be clarified. Where multiple authorities are involved, there is a risk to animal welfare, not least due to unqualified persons making animal welfare interventions that do not improve animal welfare. Australia offered to submit written comments for consideration by the Code Commission.

Dr Bonbon thanked Delegates for their comments and for their general support for this new chapter. He confirmed that the Code Commission would address all comments received at its meeting in September.

The President of the OIE invited the Assembly to adopt the new chapter 7.X.

The text was adopted unanimously.

309. **Vector-borne diseases**

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had reviewed comments from Member Countries on its work related to harmonisation of vector-borne disease chapters.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission acknowledged Member Countries' comments supporting its work on these chapters and encouraging their adoption.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that there was a question from a Member Country on the validity of seasonal freedom in the vector-borne disease chapters, given the evidence of ongoing climate change. The Code Commission considered that the concept should remain so long as it remains relevant in at least some Member Countries.

Dr Bonbon then explained the changes proposed to the specific vector-borne disease chapters.

a) Infection with bluetongue virus (Chapter 8.3.)

Dr Bonbon noted that there had been questions from several Member Countries on the exclusion of non-pathogenic serotypes of bluetongue virus and live vaccine strains of bluetongue virus from the definition of bluetongue, and that the Code Commission had decided that this matter should be referred to the Biological Standards Commission for advice.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission agreed with the suggestion to consider that a zone could be an entire country, but it proposed no change to the text at this time, and proposed to review this point in a further revision of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had made several modifications for consistency between each of the vector-borne disease chapters and with the established *Terrestrial Code* format.

The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of this modified chapter. The Delegate noted that the Code Commission had forwarded its previous comments regarding the exclusion of infection with non-pathogenic serotypes of bluetongue virus from the case definition to the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission. The EU looks forward to revising this chapter further in the future in light of the advice received from these Commissions. The EU encourages the active continuation of work on this important chapter. The EU has begun a thorough study of existing legislation in the light of recent confirmed bluetongue outbreaks on the EU territory. A mandate has been given to the EFSA, which should deliver a scientific opinion by the end of this year. The EU will provide this opinion to the OIE and will continue to actively contribute to the changes in the chapter.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegate of France and confirmed that the additional scientific information to be sent to the OIE would be taken into consideration to assist with the improvement of this chapter.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 8.3. The text was adopted unanimously.

b) Infection with epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (Chapter 8.7.)

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission agreed with the suggestion to replace 'whole country' with 'entire country' throughout the chapter to be consistent with the other disease chapters.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Code Commission agreed with the suggestion to consider that a zone could be an entire country, but it proposed no change to the text at this time, and proposed to review this point in a further revision of the chapter, along the same lines as its response to the similar suggestion made with regard to the bluetongue chapter. Dr Bonbon clarified that the new convention for naming a disease is to use the wording 'infection with [pathogenic agent]'. Noting that if the vernacular disease name differs from this format, the Code Commission will decide whether to include the vernacular name in brackets in the title only, e.g. Infection with *Chlamydophila abortus* (Enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis). The Code Commission noted that this convention will be implemented with all new chapters and for existing chapters as they come up for review. Dr Bonbon advised that the Code Commission will continue to discuss this naming convention with the Biological Standards Commission to ensure appropriate harmonisation of disease chapter titles in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 8.7. The text was adopted unanimously.

c) Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.14.)

Dr Bonbon reported that to ensure harmonisation among the vector-borne disease chapters the Code Commission made some minor amendments to the chapter.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Chapter 8.14. The text was adopted unanimously.

310. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Article 14.7.21.)**

Dr Bonbon reported that the Code Commission had proposed only editorial modifications to correct a mistake in the English and Spanish text in the chapeau text of Article 14.7.21., which was noted by a Delegate.

The President of the OIE proposed that the Assembly adopt revised Article 14.7.21. The text was adopted unanimously.

311. **High Health, High Performance Horses**

Dr Bonbon recognised the high level of interest that continues to exist among many Delegates on the activities of the OIE related to high health, high performance horses (HHP concept). He reminded the Assembly of the decision previously taken to make the biosecurity and related guidelines for operationalising the principles for the HHP concept for the temporary importation of sport horses for competition purposes available to Member Countries through the publication on the OIE Website of the *Handbook* as a living document. A number of valuable comments have been received, considered and taken into account by the OIE Headquarters in revising the *Handbook* prior to the General Session. Comments have also been received and shared with the private sector for parallel development of guidance for their members. Finally revisions will be undertaken to the model certificate contained in the *Handbook* and presented to the Code Commission for review at their September meeting and an updated model certificate will subsequently be incorporated into the *Handbook*. The text of Chapter 4.16. will then be further reviewed and any required changes circulated for Member Countries' comment in accordance with established procedures.

312. The President of the OIE thanked Member Countries for providing their input to all OIE Specialist Commissions and noted the generally improved rate of participation, which helps the Commissions to satisfy the expectations of Member Countries.

313. Dr Bonbon commented on the future work that is planned on embryos and semen, which will be carried out in collaboration with the other OIE Specialist Commissions and the International Embryo Transfer Society.

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

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

315. The President informed the Assembly that the international organisations which were unable to make their presentations during the second plenary session were invited to address the Assembly during this plenary session.

International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)

316. Mrs Emma von Rooijen, Secretary General and Vice-President of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), presented the association to the Assembly. The IVSA, founded in 1953, is a volunteer-run and non-profit organization comprising 30 000 members in over 60 countries worldwide. She stressed that the goals of the IVSA are to benefit humans and animals of the world by promoting the exchange of knowledge, skills and experience among veterinary students globally.

317. She highlighted that one of the core missions of the association is to improve the overall standard of veterinary education internationally. To accomplish this, the IVSA offers educational resources through its Standing Committee on Veterinary Education in collaboration with its other committees that focus on One Health, Animal Welfare and Policies. She stressed that the IVSA also facilitates individual and group exchanges and organizes international congresses, conferences, workshops, webinars and symposia.

318. She further noted the IVSA's will to include all students worldwide thanks to the IVSA Development Fund, Scholarship Fund and Membership Fee Fund, which offer different forms of support for students and universities from developing countries.

319. She explained that the IVSA collaborates with different international veterinary associations, such as the OIE, WVA, FVE, AVMA and EAEVE, as well as with students from other professions such as medical, pharmaceutical and agricultural sciences. She concluded by stating that the IVSA strongly believes that students are open-minded, motivated, ambitious and welcoming, and that a voice regarding their own future should be given to them.

320. In conclusion, she presented the upcoming IVSA congresses in Austria, Turkey and Malaysia, highlighted the success of the current relationship with the OIE and encouraged further collaboration at regional level.

World Animal Protection (WAP)

321. Dr Michael Appleby, Chief Scientific Advisor at World Animal Protection, addressed the Assembly on behalf of the organisation's Chief Executive Officer, Steve McIvor.

322. He reminded the Assembly that World Animal Protection has supported the work of the OIE on animal welfare for 15 years, recognising the interdependence of animal welfare, animal health, human health and livelihoods, and environmental protection.

323. Dr Appleby underlined the participation of World Animal Protection in the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and the collaboration with OIE on education, humane slaughter, dog control and vaccination, disaster management, Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Focal Point Training. With regard to the latter, he suggested training on animal welfare in combination with other topics, such as disease control, as part of a common approach.

324. He stressed the active membership of World Animal Protection in the International Coalition for Animal Welfare, and the latter's recognition of the progress made by the Animal Welfare Working Group, the OIE as a whole and Member Countries in their implementation of OIE welfare standards and procedures.

325. He further welcomed the resolutions proposed this year for adoption by the Assembly, including explicit recognition of the involvement of non-governmental organisations, as well as the new chapter on working equids, and the work on the forthcoming chapters on pigs and laying hens.

326. Dr Appleby concluded by recognising the relevance of the OIE's slogan, "Protecting Animals, Preserving Our Future," in line with the spirit of "One World, One Health" and One Welfare, acknowledging the overlap between care for animals, for humans and for the environment, and their contribution to sustainability.

International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC)

327. Mr Louis Romanet, Chairman of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), and on behalf of Mr Ingmar De Vos, President of the International Equine Federation (FEI) presented the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) of which he is President.

328. He explained that the IHSC was created in 2015 under the leadership of HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein to represent the 134 national federations of the FEI and the 60 national jurisdictions of the IFHA in an effort to enhance cooperation between FEI and IFAH and simplify their collaboration with international organisations such as the OIE. The aims of the Confederation are more specifically to facilitate the international movement of horses for competitions, to implement a strong anti-doping policy with a worldwide programme of laboratoty certification, to ensure the quality and fairness of equestrian sports and to promote a strict welfare policy regarding horses.

329. He further stressed that the main objective of the IHSC for 2016 was the success of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, which will involve three disciplines of equestrian sports.

330. He announced that a Cooperation Agreement between IHSC and the OIE should be signed in the near future, covering a wide range of subjects relating to the international movement of horses. These include the development of the concept of High Health, High Performance Horses, the harmonization of customs regulations and procedures, the need for education worldwide and joint research projects on diseases impeding international movement of horses, such as African Horse Sickness, Glanders and Equine Influenza.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

331. Dr René Carlson, President, explained the relevance of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) to official veterinarians and, more generally, the global veterinary profession.

332. She reminded the Assembly that the WVA was created in 1863 and currently represents over 500 000 veterinarians through 85 member associations, working towards the common goal of ensuring and promoting animal health, welfare and public health globally.

333. Dr Carlson underlined five priority areas identified in 2015 by the WVA, namely zoonotic diseases with an emphasis on the eradication of dog-mediated human rabies, pharmaceutical stewardship, veterinary education, animal welfare, and organisational growth and partnerships.

334. She further described the first three priority areas and explained WVA's community-based rabies prevention and control project aimed at achieving successful and sustainable rabies programmes, thereby contributing to the OIE/WHO/GARC initiative to end rabies by 2030.

335. Dr Carlson also highlighted WVA's efforts to promote the responsible use of medicines by veterinarians, in line with the OIE's strategy relating to antimicrobial resistance. Finally, she provided details on WVA's contribution to continuing education through the development of the WVA Education Portal. She stressed that this portal's goal was to create the most comprehensive centralised pool of free online veterinary continuing education in the world, through an online global network. She insisted on the need for content to be provided, at both private and public level, to give the portal greater impact.

336. Dr Carlson concluded by announcing the upcoming World Veterinary Congress in August 2017 in Korea (Rep. of) and the second Interprofessional Global Conference on One Health in Japan in November 2016.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

337. Dr Junko Shimura, Program Officer on invasive alien species at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, presented the Convention to the Assembly. She stressed that the global agenda for sustainable development needed to address invasive alien species and described the CBD's global targets to be achieved by 2030 in view of controlling and eradicating invasive alien species, managing pathways to prevent their introduction, and reducing their impact on land and water ecosystems.

338. She further outlined the growing pet market and the increasing proportion of diverse pet populations, causing concern as a potential source of invasive alien species. She stressed the necessity for governments to control these populations and acknowledged the OIE guidelines for assessing the risk of non-native animals becoming invasive. She also described the guidance developed under the CBD process to implement measures to prevent risks of invasion associated with pets, aquarium and terrarium species, live bait and live food.

339. Dr Shimura concluded by emphasizing the responsibility of all stakeholders throughout the value chain in raising awareness of the risks associated with invasive alien species. She called for further collaboration with the OIE in developing supplementary guidance to cover the risk related to international trade in wildlife, biological control against invasive alien species, facilitating the application of OIE standards and capacity-building.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

340. Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the newly elected Commission held its first meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 5 to 9 October 2015. The Commission met again from 15 to 19 February 2016 to consider Member Countries' comments on the report of its October 2015 meeting and to progress its proposed 3-year work plan.

341. Dr Ernst expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Edmund Peeler (Vice-President), Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Maxwell Barson, Dr Joanne Constantine and Prof. Mohamed Shariff Bin Mohamed Din (Members) for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of the experts of the Commission's various *ad hoc* Groups, as well as the individual experts who provided scientific assistance. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Ernst gratefully acknowledged the support and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Commission by members of staff at the OIE Headquarters.

342. Dr Ernst emphasised that the production of aquatic animals is changing rapidly; production volumes are increasing, new species are being farmed, species are being farmed in new geographical areas, domestication and genetic improvements are being pursued, and new production technologies are being developed. He noted that the rate of change in aquaculture has significant implications for the management of aquatic animal health.

Dr Ernst commented that aquatic animal products from fisheries and aquaculture are a major international commodity, with more than one-third of the world's production traded internationally. Increasing demand for seafood will drive increased trade of aquatic animals and their products and expand an already significant pathway for the spread of aquatic animal diseases. Dr Ernst noted that the spread of aquatic animal diseases may have severe consequences because they are often not eradicable or there may be few treatment options to mitigate their impacts.

Dr Ernst stated that preventing the spread of aquatic animal diseases is essential given the growing importance of aquatic animal production for human nutrition and the severe production impacts of diseases. The standards in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (*Aquatic Code*) and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (*Aquatic Manual*) represent the primary and globally agreed approach for preventing the spread of transboundary aquatic animal diseases while facilitating safe trade. These standards must continue to evolve to ensure that they remain relevant to the changing characteristics of aquaculture and aquatic animal trade.

343. Dr Ernst thanked those Member Countries that had submitted comments for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and encouraged all Member Countries to contribute to this work.

344. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, he assured the Assembly that all Member Countries' comments were considered by the Commission. Dr Ernst encouraged Member Countries to refer to explanations provided in previous reports when preparing comments on long-standing issues. He also reminded Delegates that the reports of *ad hoc* Groups, provided as annexes to the Commission reports, included important information and he encouraged Member Countries to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.

345. Dr Ernst noted that the OIE would continue to provide the unofficial version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions (in English, French and Spanish) to be finalised and translated. Dr Ernst also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including annexes to the report, such as *ad hoc* Group reports endorsed by the Commission, on the OIE public website. This is an important communication channel to inform organisations and the general public of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and to communicate their contribution to that work. Dr Ernst also noted that Aquatic Animal Focal Points were notified when the unofficial and official versions of the meeting reports are uploaded, and encouraged Delegates to make provision for them to access these documents.

346. Dr Ernst noted that the Delegate bags contained a USB flash drive with the complete reports of the October 2015 and February 2016 meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission, including annexes with *ad hoc* Group reports. He noted that the folder distributed at the General Session contains only the introductory text and texts presented for adoption from the February 2016 report. Dr Ernst advised Delegates that detailed comments on proposed new and amended texts should be submitted by early August each year for consideration by the Commission at its September meeting, and by early January each year for its February meeting. He advised that the deadline for comments is always provided in each meeting report. He reminded Delegates that the Commission could not examine comments submitted in the period between the Commission's February meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February meeting during the discussion at this General Session. The Commission would address these comments at its September meeting.

347. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that for the first time the February meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission had overlapped to enable the Presidents to meet whilst each Commission was meeting. The Aquatic Animals Commission had agreed that this was a good initiative and should be continued in the future to facilitate the harmonisation of relevant chapters when under review by the respective Commissions.

348. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst emphasised that where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters to ensure alignment. He reminded the Assembly that modifications to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* will be detailed in Resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

349. Dr Ernst presented the following texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to the Assembly for adoption. He informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 3 to 9 of Doc. 84 SG/12/CS4 B.

350. The Delegate of Canada speaking on behalf of the Quads, thanked the President of the Aquatic Animals Commission for the Commission's excellent work and commitment to the continual improvement of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards. The Quads commended the recent meeting between the Presidents of the Code and Aquatic Commissions to facilitate the harmonisation of chapters and encouraged the continuation of this collaboration. The Quads wished to support the Commission's ambitious work plan, in particular the strengthening of recommendations on surveillance in the *Aquatic Code* and the provision of more flexible approaches to surveillance, especially as it pertains to supporting claims of disease freedom; the revision of the list of susceptible species and the review of *Aquatic Manual* chapters to enhance consistency and validity of case definitions. In light of the extraordinary amount of work to be done, the Quads noted that meeting these objectives will require considerable additional scientific support and dedicated resources. Accordingly, they suggested that the OIE prepare a strategy to increase the capacity of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

351. The Delegate of Norway expressed concerns about the limited resources dedicated to OIE work on aquatic animals. Referring to Dr Ernst's introductory remarks regarding the complexity of the global aquaculture industry, she noted the critical importance of international standards to protect aquatic animals. In order to fulfill the Commission's work on the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*, she also suggested that the OIE prepare a strategy to increase the capacity of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

352. The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked Dr Ernst and the Aquatic Animals Commission for their excellent work. He noted that at present there are a huge amount of aquatic samples being tested in routine work, but for many pathogens there are no methods for isolation and identification that can be used to confirm diagnosis. He hoped that the Aquatic Animals Commission could try to find a solution to this situation.

353. The Delegate of Australia asked Dr Ernst to clarify how the work to finalise the proposed definitions for 'OIE Standard' and 'OIE Guideline' would be coordinated between the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission.

354. The representative of the Chilean delegation congratulated the Aquatic Animals Commission for progress made in its work. She noted the importance of making progress in the fight against AMR in aquatic animals and informed the Assembly that Chile, in cooperation with Norway, is convening a conference on veterinary medicinal products and

the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in Chile in October 2016 and invites Member Countries to participate in this conference. She supported the interventions of Norway and Canada regarding permanent expert support to assist the Aquatic Animals Commission to achieve its ambitious work plan.

355. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas Region, requested that a new chapter on biosecurity be developed in order to prevent introduction and spread of pathogens.

356. The Delegate of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, also supported previous interventions made regarding the need for increasing resources allocated to the Aquatic Animals Commission.

357. The Delegate of Djibouti, speaking on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of the African Union and of the OIE, appreciated the work being done to align the two *Codes*, especially the chapters on notification.

358. The Delegate of Yemen thanked the President of Aquatic Animals Commission for his work and noted that aquaculture as a source of human food is important in the horn of Africa and the Gulf countries and requested that the OIE give more attention to this region.

359. The Delegate of Sudan asked the President of the Aquatic Animals Commission to explain what is the impact of the extensive domestication of aquatic animal species on human and aquatic animal health and what are the outcomes on food production and the burden on veterinary education.

360. Dr Ernst thanked Member Countries for their words of support and wished to assure them that the Aquatic Animals Commission's intent is always to provide useful guidance and recommendations to support Member Countries.

361. In response to the comment of Sudan, Dr Ernst noted that the impacts of domestication of aquatic animal species on human health are very positive because aquatic animals are an important source of human nutrition. Dr Ernst also noted that a lot of species have only been farmed for a short period of time and consequently there is poor understanding of some aspects of their basic biology and the diseases that may affect them.

362. In response to the comment from the Delegate of Australia, Dr Ernst stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission was committed to working with the Code Commission to ensure alignment between relevant texts. Regarding alignment of definitions for OIE Standards and OIE Guidelines, he informed the Assembly that these definitions were discussed by the two Commission Presidents at the February 2016 meeting and will be further reviewed at their September 2016 meetings in response to Member Countries' comments.

363. Dr Ernst thanked the Representative from Chile for her comments on antimicrobial resistance and for inviting the Assembly to attend the conference to be held in Chile on this important topic.

364. In response to the comment from the Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China, Dr Ernst stressed the importance of the lack of cell lines for viruses causing disease in molluscs and crustaceans, and hoped that research is being undertaken in this area to improve diagnostic capability in these species. He reminded the Assembly that the new *ad hoc* Group on the *Aquatic Manual* is also considering how this issue can be addressed in the case definitions in relevant chapters of the *Aquatic Manual*.

365. Dr Ernst expressed appreciation for the support of the Quads regarding the Aquatic Animals Commission's proposed work plan.

366. Dr Ernst responded to the question raised by the Delegate of the Dominican Republic and informed the Assembly that the development of a new chapter on biosecurity is a high priority in the proposed revision of Section 4 of the *Aquatic Code*.

367. The Director General, Dr Eloit, acknowledged that the question of resources for the OIE aquatic animal activities is not a new issue and that it will be discussed by the Delegates at the Administrative Session later this week under the topic of budget allocation within the OIE. She would also welcome additional voluntary contributions to support this work.

AQUATIC CODE

368. **Glossary**

Dr Ernst explained that given the extensive use of the term 'vector' in the *Aquatic Code*, the Commission had proposed a new definition for 'vector', taking into consideration the definition of vector used in the *Terrestrial Cod*e. The Commission had considered Member Countries' comments and replaced the word 'organism' with 'pathogenic agent' given this is a defined term.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had also proposed that in the definition for 'fallowing' that the word 'carrier' be replaced by 'vector' to align with the new proposed definition for vector.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, firstly thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its extensive work and then commented that the EU in general supports the adoption of this modified glossary. She noted that the EU agreed with the new definition of vector as proposed, and also supported the modification of the definition of fallowing. She suggested that the word "vector" appear in italics in the definition of fallowing once the term vector is adopted.

Dr Ernst noted that once this term vector is adopted it would be italicised where relevant throughout the *Aquatic Code*.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

369. **Proposed revisions to Articles 1.4.3, 1.5.2, 2.1.4, 4.2.3 and 4.6.3.**

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed some minor consequential amendments to Articles 1.5.2. and 4.2.3. to ensure that the use of 'vector' would be consistent with the proposed new definition of 'vector' throughout the *Aquatic Code*. In addition, the Commission proposed that the term 'carrier' be replaced by 'vector' in Articles 1.4.3, 2.1.4. and 4.6.3. given the new proposed definition for vector.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that, given the importance of standardisation of this chapter with the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code,* amendments proposed by the Aquatic Animals Commission during its October 2015 meeting had been provided to the Code Commission for its consideration at its February 2016 meeting. Dr Ernst reported that he had met with the President of the Code Commission on several occasions during the February 2016 meeting when both Commissions where meeting, to discuss harmonisation.

Dr Ernst noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the amendments being proposed by the Code Commission to the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* and considered these when amending Chapter 1.1. of the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed to make minor amendments in order to standardise text between the two *Code* chapters except where different terminology is necessary given differences in glossary definitions between the two *Codes*.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, commended the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work revising this chapter and aligning the wording with that of the relevant *Terrestrial Code* chapter, and fully supported the adoption of this modified chapter.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

371. **General recommendations on disinfection (Chapter 4.3.)**

Dr Ernst commented on the strong support of Member Countries for this draft chapter and noted that the majority of Member Countries' comments considered at the February 2016 meeting were not of a technical nature but rather provided to improve readability of the text. Dr Ernst indicated that many of these suggestions were accepted by the Commission.

Dr Ernst noted that some Member Countries commented that the draft chapter had an apparent bias towards finfish aquaculture; however, no specific text was provided to address this issue. He also commented that the Commission did not accept Member Countries' comments that were more related to biosecurity rather than disinfection, noting that biosecurity will be addressed in a new chapter as proposed by the Commission for the restructuring of Section 4: Disease prevention and control of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE and commented that the EU in general supports the adoption of this modified chapter. She also noted that further comments have been sent to the OIE, in writing, for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Norway thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for work on this important chapter and supported its adoption. However she wished to note some technical issues with the proposed chapter and requested that these be addressed at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission. The Delegate provided details of the suggested amendments in Article 4.3.9, point 4; cage nets and other fibrous materials, Article 4.3.9, points 5 and 8; and Article 4.3.10 – Personal equipment.

The Delegate of Thailand supported the improved text but noted a contradiction in point 5 of Article 4.3.9 regarding the use of corrosive compounds to disinfect vehicles.

Dr Ernst thanked the EU for their support of the chapter and welcomed the submission of further comments from Member Countries.

Dr Ernst noted the comment from Thailand on point 5 of Article 4.3.9. regarding a contradiction in use of corrosive compounds to disinfect vehicles. He proposed that this issue be addressed by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

372. **General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had agreed with Member Countries' comments to delete point 2 of Article 5.1.4. as it was repeated in the text of point 3. In addition, Dr Ernst noted that the Commission agreed to re-introduce text at the new point 2 that addresses the need for the Competent Authority of an exporting country to inform the importing country of the result of an investigation that was initiated following the detection of disease associated with importation of aquatic commodities.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Thailand thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for aligning texts in Article 5.1.4. with the corresponding text in the *Terrestrial Code*. However, he noted that this article needed further review to improve clarity and suggested that the two Commissions address the article jointly.

The representative from the Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 53 member countries of the African Union and of the OIE, suggested the insertion of the words "suspected to be" before "associated", to cater for situations where the link is not established with certainty. This issue had been covered in paragraph 2, which has been removed. Africa also suggested retaining the wording "within a reasonable period after importation", and to add "which shall not be longer than two incubation periods of that disease" to give guidance on what should be the reasonable period. The representative provided their proposed new wording.

Dr Ernst thanked the Delegate of Thailand for his comments and requested that he submit his comments to the OIE for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

Dr Ernst acknowledged that Article 5.1.4 may need revision to improve clarity and proposed that the Aquatic Animals Commission review this article at its next meeting. He noted that incubation periods are not used in the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Ernst recommended that the text as proposed be adopted and that the Aquatic Animals Commission consider ways of improving this text at its next meeting.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

373. **Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 (Chapter 9.2.)**

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the scope of Chapter 9.2. has not changed and includes only yellow head virus genotype 1 (YHV1), the pathogenic agent that causes yellow head disease. He explained that the proposed revision to the name of the disease, from yellow head disease to yellow head virus genotype 1, is intended to make this scope explicit and ensure consistency throughout the chapter.

Dr Ernst noted that Member Countries' comments supported the proposed amendments to the list of susceptible species in Article 9.2.2. that had been made in line with recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group that had applied the criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection (described in Chapter 1.5.) with YHV1.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had sought advice from the *ad hoc* Group regarding a Member Country comment that red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) be included in Article 9.2.2. as a susceptible species for YHV1. Dr Ernst reported that the Commission agreed with the advice that red claw crayfish did not meet the criteria for susceptibility because there was insufficient evidence to indicate that that infection had occurred.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission agreed with Member Countries' comments to amend the title of Article 9.2.3. to align with the intended purpose of this article, i.e. the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with YHV1 status of the exporting country, zone or compartment. He added that the Commission proposed to make this amendment, once adopted, in Article X.X.3. of all disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission and commented that the EU in general supported the adoption of this modified chapter. However, she pointed out an editorial error in the last sentence of Article 9.2.8., which includes a reference to Article 9.2.3. on safe commodities. She requested that the words "aquatic animals" should be replaced by the words "commodities" in the last sentence of Article 9.2.8.

Dr Ernst agreed that there is an issue with this point in Article 9.2.8 and reminded the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission has developed a revised Article X.X.8. to address this and other issues in this article in all disease-specific chapters. The revised article X.X.8 has been circulated for comment in its February 2016 report.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

AQUATIC MANUAL

374. **Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 (Chapter 2.2.8.)**

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that, consistent with changes made in the *Aquatic Code*, the scope of Chapter 2.2.8. has not changed and includes only yellow head virus genotype 1 (YHV1), the pathogenic agent that causes yellow head disease. As previously noted, the proposed revisions to the name of the disease, from yellow head virus to yellow head virus genotype 1 are intended to make this scope explicit and ensure consistency throughout the chapter. Dr Ernst emphasised that these amendments were aligned with those being proposed in the corresponding chapter in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission agreed with advice of the *ad hoc* Group that red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) be included in Section 2.2.2. (Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility) of this chapter given that it met the relevant criteria in Chapter 1.5. for inclusion in this section of the *Aquatic Manual* chapter.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had sought the advice of the Reference Laboratory expert for yellow head virus on a number of comments of a technical nature and had amended the text accordingly.

Dr Ernst noted that the case definition could be improved and that the Commission had requested that the new *ad hoc* Group on the *Aquatic Manual*, which met in April 2016, address this issue.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia noted that the abbreviation "YHD" has been removed from the scope of the chapter, but it is used undefined in Section 2.1.1. *Aetiological agents, agent strains*.

The Delegate of Thailand noted that red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) was recommended by the Aquatic Animals Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on susceptibility of crustacean species to infection with OIE listed diseases, to be included in Section 2.2.2. *Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility*, but that the species had not been included in this section.

The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE and commented that the EU in general supported the adoption of this modified chapter. However, she suggested clarification as to what is meant by "in conjunction with" in Section 7.2. *Definition of a confirmed case*. Further comments have been sent to the OIE for consideration at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

In response to the Delegate of Australia, Dr Ernst agreed to correct the text to include the words "yellow head disease" instead of the abbreviation "YHD" in Section 2.1.1. *Aetiological agents, agent strains*.

In response to the Delegate of Thailand, Dr Ernst agreed to add red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) to Section 2.2.2. *Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility*.

He confirmed that "in conjunction" means together or jointly. He acknowledged that this text needs improving, and noted that this section will be reviewed by the *ad hoc* Group on the *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Ernst proposed that the amended text be revised in accordance with the proposals made by the Delegate of Australia and Thailand. The revised text with amendments was adopted unanimously.

375. **Texts circulated for Member Countries' comments**

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the following texts have been revised and circulated to Member Countries for their comments in the Commission's February 2016 meeting report and that all comments received will be considered by the Commission at its September 2016 meeting.

For the *Aquatic Code*: Glossary definitions, Criteria for the inclusion of diseases in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.), Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.), new draft chapter for Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND), Revised Article X.X.8, Recommendations for surface disinfection of salmonid eggs (Chapter 4.4.) and amendments to Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) (Chapter 9.1.), Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 9.3.), Infectious myonecrosis (Chapter 9.4.), Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Chapter 9.5.), Taura syndrome (Chapter 9.6.) and White tail disease (Chapter 9.8.).

For the *Aquatic Manual*: Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) (Chapter 2.2.1.), Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 2.2.2.), Infectious myonecrosis (Chapter 2.2.3.), Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Chapter 2.2.4.), Taura syndrome (Chapter 2.2.5.), White tail disease (Chapter 2.2.7.) and the new draft chapter for Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (Chapter 2.2.X.).

Dr Ernst noted that details regarding the rationale for these revised texts can be found in the February 2016 report of the Aquatic Animals Commission, which is available on the OIE website. Dr Ernst encouraged Delegates to increase their participation in the OIE standard-setting process through the provision of written comments to the OIE.

376. **Reference Centres**

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had recommended acceptance of the following application for OIE Reference Centre status:

– OIE Reference Laboratory for infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis): Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, United States of America. Designated Reference Expert: Dr Kathy Tang-Nelson.

The Commission noted that there are currently no OIE Reference Laboratories for Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease and Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists for this crustacean and amphibian disease.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had noted the request from the OIE Reference Laboratory for infection with abalone herpesvirus at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Chinese Taipei be removed from the list following the retirement of the designated expert Dr Pen Heng Chang. Dr Ernst thanked Dr Chang for his valuable contribution to the OIE over the past 8 years.

Dr Ernst, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his on-going appreciation for the support and expert advice provided to the OIE by the Reference Centres. The Commission welcomed the increasing number of OIE Reference Laboratories with internationally recognised quality management systems in place. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the deadline for Reference Laboratories to have ISO 17025 or an equivalent quality management system in their diagnostic laboratories is the end of December 2017. Dr Ernst advised that the Commission is developing a procedure outlining how to review and manage Reference Laboratories that do not meet this requirement by the deadline.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had agreed with the Biological Standards Commission's proposal that the procedures for applications to become an OIE Reference Laboratory be received by the OIE a minimum of 45 days prior to a scheduled Aquatic Animals Commission meeting to allow sufficient time for processing dossiers, and for the members of the Commission to fully evaluate the applications prior to the meeting.

Dr Ernst emphasised that the Commission had noted the importance of cooperation with the Biological Standards Commission on issues of mutual interest and agreed to strengthen the working relationship between the two Commissions. The Commission requested that the OIE Headquarters organise a tele-conference call between the Presidents of the two Commissions prior to their next meetings to discuss relevant agenda items.

377. **Future work**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the work plan of the Commission has been reviewed and updated, taking into account Member Countries' comments, Headquarters' comments, and completed work. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work plan provides them with an overview of current and upcoming activities and includes significant new activities including prioritised activities for the restructuring of section 4 of the *Aquatic Code* on disease prevention and control.

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

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30
Designation of an OIE Reference Laboratory for Aquatic Animal Diseases

379. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption.

380. The Delegate of Senegal requested that an editorial error in point 3 be corrected in the French version. The President agreed to make this amendment and proposed the amended resolution for adoption.

381. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends
(Doc. 84 SG/2)

382. Dr Paula Cáceres, Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department stated that she would begin presenting the global situation regarding four OIE-listed diseases and infections that are currently of major interest, namely: "infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds", "bluetongue", "lumpy skin disease" and "infection with peste des petits ruminants virus", followed by a summary of the global situation relating to diseases of aquatic animals.

She would then present the global situation regarding two non-OIE-listed diseases affecting wildlife (infection with low pathogenic avian influenza viruses" and "infection with *Sarcoptes scabiei)*. She would continue with an evaluation of the sensitivity of WAHIS, based on the results of the active search activity for non-official animal health information, to conclude with the results of the recent survey entitled "*Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch*".

383. **Global situation regarding four terrestrial OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest**

Dr Cáceres presented the percentage of Member Countries that had submitted their six-monthly report on terrestrial animal diseases for 2015, and encouraged Member Countries to continue their efforts to submit information in a timely fashion. She exposed in the first phase of her presentation, the global situation regarding four terrestrial OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest.

384. **Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds**

To begin Dr Cáceres stressed that the Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (HPAI) was a disease of global interest due to the continued increase in the number of affected countries and of the circulating subtypes. She presented the distribution of HPAI and she indicated that more than 20% of the countries/territories reported the disease as present. She added that the most common was subtype H5N1, followed by H5N8, H5N2, H5N6, H7N7, H5N3, H5N9, H7N3 and H7N8.

She commented that considering the recombination and mutation capacity of influenza A viruses and the high variability that occured in some countries, there was a foreseeable risk of occurrence of new avian influenza subtypes, with possible changes in the dynamics of disease and a further spread of HPAI. She outlined that for these reasons, sustained efforts to monitor avian influenza should be seen as a primary objective, in both domestic and wild birds.

Then Dr Cáceres presented the percentage of the reporting countries between 2006 and 2015 that notified HPAI present. She showed that the trend followed a quadratic regression model, indicating that the disease had spread in the past few years.

She emphasised the importance of describing the dynamics of the virus to increase capacities for managing avian influenza epidemic events at national level. She explained that the analysis was performed using data from 6,546 outbreaks notified through immediate notifications and follow-up reports for HPAI, between 2005 and 2015.

Dr Cáceres described the spread and speed characteristics of the virus. She explained that for each event at national level, the outbreak reported with the earliest date of start was considered to be the starting point. She added that within the event, the distance of each outbreak from the starting point (index outbreak) was calculated using the Haversine formula and that this measure was used to estimate the spread of viruses.

She informed the Assembly that the highest spread values were observed in the biggest countries and especially those with the capacity to track the evolution of the disease within their national boundaries, and showed the results.

She stated that even if the data obtained was of great interest in trying to understand the virus' capacities, it should be interpreted with caution because of possible confounding factors in data collection. She pointed out that in particular, the starting point used as a reference to calculate speed and spread might not have been the index outbreak of the event; moreover, there might be considerable differences in the capacity of countries to carry out surveillance and early detection (and so to observe, or not, the event from its real starting point). She indicated that it was necessary to take into consideration the possibility that some of the outbreaks reported by countries in the same event might not be epidemiologically related.

She explained, while presenting the results, that the speed was determined by calculating the ratio between 'distance from starting point' and 'days after the start of the event', as reported by the country.

Following this, Dr Cáceres described the differences between outbreaks in domestic and wild birds, and showed the comparison of spread and speed for the two categories. She underlined a significant difference between spread in domestic birds (median value of 131 km) and in wild birds (median value of 223 km). She added that a significant difference was also found for speed values in domestic birds (median value of 1.7 km/day) in comparison with wild birds (median value of 11.7 km/day).

She mentioned the geographical disparities in speed and spread, explaining that a kernel density estimator (KDE) was applied to the 6,546 geographic locations of the outbreaks. She pointed out that the application of this function allowed highlighting the distribution of the critical areas affected by HPAI. She showed the twenty-eight areas identified by the KDE, of which seven had a median spread higher than 1,000 km, while five areas had a median spread lower than 100 km. She presented that regarding the speed, four areas had values higher than 40 km/day, while the lowest values were less than 2 km/day.

She commented that spatial differences in speed and spread could be explained by several factors, such as: i) the type of poultry industry of each country (commercial vs. non-commercial) and its distribution within the country, ii) the involvement of wildlife, iii) country preparedness and iv) the virus subtype involved.

Dr Cáceres presented the trend of median duration of HPAI outbreaks in domestic birds, from 2005 to 2013. She explained that the outbreaks that started in 2014 or 2015 were excluded from the analysis, to avoid bias due to outbreaks still open. She emphasised that the results showed a significant decrease of the duration suggesting that the development of better technical capabilities during these nine years and a better preparedness of the Veterinary Services had strongly influenced the capacity of countries/territories to control HPAI events.

She concluded this first part indicating that the analysis carried out had provided interesting information for countries experiencing HPAI events, since they could now compare the evolution of the disease in their country with the data collected at global level. She added that a better evaluation of the speed and spread potentiality of the virus could help to refine specific control strategies for early management of outbreaks. She also indicated that considering the huge differences in speed and spread values found at event level, the analysis might provide interesting information to explore further, as a second

step, the factors influencing the dynamics of HPAI viruses. She specified that other possible factors worth evaluating for their potential influence on disease dynamic were as follows: preparedness of the country, type of farming system involved (commercial vs. backyard), subtype of the virus, climatic conditions (temperature, humidity, precipitation), bird population density (domestic and wild birds), wild bird community composition, migratory routes, human population density, environmental integrity, and landscape structure.

Finally, she pointed out that the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE had envisaged making better use of the animal disease information available in WAHIS, notably by making epidemiological analyses widely available and the analysis presented in this first part was an example of the usefulness of information derived from data collected through WAHIS. She informed the Assembly in this respect, that the OIE was willing to increase data analysis and collaboration with research institutions to help OIE Member Countries to achieve better global preparedness and control.

385. **Bluetongue**

Dr Cáceres recalled that vector-borne diseases had received considerable attention following several recent dramatic emergence events around the world. She commented that in late 2015, a negative phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation Index was observed, which was related in Eastern Africa to an increase in Rift Valley fever occurrence. She added that in early 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreaks of Zika occurring in the Americas a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

She highlighted that climate changes could significantly modify and broaden the distribution of vector-borne diseases over time. She declared that bluetongue was currently a disease of global interest, since competent vectors were present in numerous areas in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. She presented the recent distribution of bluetongue. She mentioned that the presence or suspicious was declared by around 25% of Countries. She added that the most common was serotype 4, followed by serotype 1, serotypes 2, 3 and 13 and serotypes 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22 and 24.

Then Dr Cáceres presented the percentage trend of the reporting countries between 2005 and 2015 that notified the presence of bluetongue. She indicated that the trend followed a cubic polynomial regression, declaring that the percentage increased between 2005 and 2008, decreased between 2009 and the first semester of 2013 and finally increased again in 2014 and 2015.

She indicated that the countries significantly improved the quality of information they provided for bluetongue between 2005 and 2015, as far as the percentage of countries that reported the serotype was concerned, and she showed the results. She commented that WAHIS was now a useful tool to monitor the diversity of circulating bluetongue serotypes.

Afterwards she commented that the spatiotemporal distribution of bluetongue was known to be strongly influenced by climate and she explained that the first part of the analysis was aimed at evaluating the presence of bluetongue viruses according to latitude. She said that for each country the percentage of semesters, for which bluetongue was reported present, was assessed based on WAHIS data and that in addition, the latitude of the centroid of each country was measured.

She presented the results and commented that the percentage of semesters for which bluetongue was reported present showed a significant decrease in correlation with the increase of latitude. She emphasised that the traditional range of bluetongue was between 35°S and 40°N before 1998, and that the extension of the disease outside this range was recent. She pointed out that therefore, it was not surprising to find a lower percentage of positive semesters in higher latitudes.

Dr Cáceres explained that the second part of the study was aimed at analysing the seasonal trends of bluetongue, according to the different world zones and climates. She indicated that the monthly disease outbreak incidence, as reported through WAHIS, was calculated for all countries that reported at least one occurrence of the disease since 2005. She emphasised that, due to the low number of countries that provided complete information on monthly incidence during the period of analysis, the results cannot be considered representative of the affected regions.

She explained that the dominant main climate in each country was defined according to the Köppen–Geiger climate classification indicating that only two climatic zones included a sufficient number of reporting countries to perform the analysis. She specified that separately for these two groups, time series data of monthly disease outbreak incidence were decomposed into yearly seasonal trend and long-term trend (over the 10 years of the analysis) using a seasonal-trend decomposition procedure based on loess (STL) and she presented the results showing the seasonal peaks in the two climatic zones. She stressed that, considering the influence of climatic conditions on vector activity patterns and consequently on risk of disease occurrence, it would be interesting in the future to link WAHIS data to that of other databases (e.g. meteorological data), in order to predict the probability of (re)occurrence of vector-borne diseases.

She concluded saying that the peak of activity of the vector depends on climatic condition and was directly related to the likelihood of animals becoming infected. She added that the seasonal trend analyses, such as the one presented in this second part, could be of great interest for countries wishing to identify the periods of the year most at risk, given that the extent of the period of exposure varies according to climatic factors. Then she said that the analysis of the long-term occurrence of the disease was also important in order to evaluate and predict the risk of reoccurrence of the disease from year to year. She invited countries to provide detailed information of good quality, to enable OIE to develop such analyses at regional and global levels with the aim of better preparedness. She recommended that countries detailed information in WAHIS by month, especially for diseases with a seasonal pattern. She ended indicating that the future integration of good quality WAHIS data with other sources of information, such as climatic series, environmental data and vector distribution maps, will allow the development of better epidemiological analyses and will help countries with early disease detection and control.

386. **Lumpy skin disease**

Thirdly, Dr Cáceres presented the recent geographical distribution of lumpy skin disease (LSD). She indicated that in 2015 and beginning of 2016 about 25% of the countries reported the presence of the disease. She highlighted that year 2015 was marked by the spread of the disease into Europe.

Then she presented the percentage trend of the reporting countries between 2005 and 2015 that notified the presence of LSD. This trend followed a linear regression with a statistically significant increase over the semesters.

She explained that LSD, traditionally endemic in Africa, had in recent decades been moving faster northwards, spreading into the Middle East Region and Europe and posing the threat of further spread. She pointed out that in the last four years (2012-2015), out of 14 countries/territories that reported LSD through an immediate notification, 10 (71%) selected "first occurrence in the country" as the reason for notification. She presented that the correlation between latitude of the outbreaks and the reporting year (period 2006 – 2016) reveals a significant increase in their average latitude. She commented that most of the spread was northwards, into a temperate region.

Dr Cáceres said that these results were in accordance with recent studies on global vector distribution, which indicated that the dispersion of vectors was constantly increasing due to climate changes.

She stressed that the changes in occurrence of vector-borne diseases were mainly due to, among other factors, the changing climatic and environmental conditions that allow better survival of the competent vectors. She pointed out that adaptation of the vectors to new geographic areas presented a risk of maintenance of the disease in these newly infected areas and further spread of the disease.

She stressed that the environmental/climatic conditions could serve to predict the potential spread of these diseases. She encouraged Member Countries to provide the OIE with information of the highest possible quality, to help the OIE to fulfil its mission to improve animal health worldwide, through a better understanding of the relationship between climate change and ecosystem health, biodiversity loss and the spread of diseases that impact on animal health and welfare.

387. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus**

Dr Cáceres recalled that the infection with peste de petits ruminants (PPR) is one of the priority diseases indicated in the FAO–OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and that the Global Strategy for the eradication of PPR was planned for 2030.

She commented that since 2007, the disease has spread further in Asia, Africa and Europe after several years where the situation had remained stable. She emphasised that the infection crossed the Sahara barrier, reaching Morocco (2008), Algeria (2011) and Tunisia (2011). It spread in South-East Asia, reaching China (People's Rep. of) (2007) and Bhutan (2010), in Central Asia reaching Tajikistan (2013) and it finally appeared in Europe at the beginning of 2016 (Georgia).

She presented the recent distribution of bluetongue in 2015 and early 2016, indicating that more than 25% of the countries reported present or suspected of the disease. She also showed the map of OIE Member Countries' official status 2015 for PPR.

She explained that the aim of the analysis was to describe the temporal and spatial dynamics of PPR at global level, following the further spread of the disease in Africa, Asia and Europe, in order to evaluate regional specificities in PPR dynamics for better implementation of the Global Strategy for control and eradication.

She indicated that the epidemiology of the disease from January 2005 to early 2016 was analysed considering the occurrence trend (percentage of countries/territories reporting the disease present or suspected) and the spatial trend (spread of the disease from the stable areas to new areas). She specified that a geostatistical approach was used to evaluate the spatial trend of the disease and that the distance of each outbreak reported through immediate notifications or follow-up reports during the period from 2007 to 2016 was calculated using as spatial reference the "stable areas". She said that the "stable areas" were considered to be the ones that had regularly reported the disease in the past 11 years (presence of PPR during more than 50% of the reporting semesters).

Regarding the results, Dr Cáceres said that the percentage of reporting countries affected by the disease had gradually and significantly increased during the last 11 years. Regarding the *spatial trend*, she mentioned that a clear spread of the disease was observed beyond its traditional range (stable areas), providing the spread values. She stressed that even if the general trend for the spread of the disease showed a deterioration of the situation, huge regional differences could be observed. She stated that in Africa, even if there was a huge spread of the disease the situation now seemed to be stable, while in South-East Asia (newly infected area) the control efforts did not seem to have been effective and the risk of further spread remained very high. Moreover, she indicated that in Europe and the Middle East, the spread of the disease to new areas was for the time being very limited but, considering that the new outbreaks were very close to countries where PPR had never been reported, the situation needed to be carefully monitored.

She concluded that the global spread of PPR during the last 11 years was quite alarming as shown by the clear spread of the disease beyond its traditional range. She highlighted that the results of the epidemiological analysis were extremely useful as they indicated the global epidemiological picture at T0 (reference condition for the Global Strategy for the control and eradication of PPR), namely the situation from which the eradication programmes would have to start in order to fulfil the objectives of the Global Strategy for the eradication of PPR by 2030. Dr Cáceres indicated that the analysis revealed big regional differences, and the need for different regional approaches for the eradication programme. She emphasised that this analysis supported the recognition of the regional dynamics and the approach taken by the OIE and FAO when developing the Global Strategy for the eradication of PPR by 2030.

388. **Global situation regarding diseases of aquatic animals**

In the second part of her presentation, Dr Cáceres showed the global situation regarding diseases of aquatic animals. She presented the percentage of Member Countries that had submitted their six-monthly report for 2015 and encouraged countries to continue their efforts for timely submission of information related to aquatic animal diseases.

She declared that out of 27 OIE-listed diseases of aquatic animals, 2 were not reported present or suspected in 2015 and showed the percentage of countries having reported the presence or suspicious of the other 25 diseases.

She explained that the analysis evaluated global trends in the presence of OIE-listed diseases in aquaculture animals and in capture animals from 2009 to 2015. She specified that it focused on countries with a substantial annual production or capture tonnage (more than 50,000 tonnes) and on the 24 diseases that remained listed throughout the period under study.

She showed the percentage of countries, having reported at least one OIE-listed disease present or suspected in aquaculture animals, per semester and per category of animals, from 2009 to 2015. She indicated that for aquaculture, the average percentage of affected countries in each semester during the period was more than 40% for crustacean diseases, more than 35% for fish diseases, more than 25% for mollusc diseases and less than 5% for amphibian diseases. In comparison, she said that the average percentage of affected countries during the period for OIE-listed diseases in capture animals was more than 15% for amphibian and for mollusc diseases, more than 10% for crustacean and fish diseases.

She presented the trends of the percentage of affected countries and highlighted that recent increases had been observed for aquaculture amphibian and molluscs. Concerning capture animals, she mentioned that no significant positive trend was observed but important variations were detected during the period under study. She highlighted that the magnitude of the variance for capture animals was about 10 times higher than for aquaculture animals.

She concluded saying that these analyses showed significant changes in the presence of aquatic animal diseases over the past seven years. She encouraged countries to continue their efforts to improve the sharing of information with the OIE and with other countries, in particular by nominating National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and providing them with access to WAHIS. She highlighted that this part also showed that, even though amphibians represented less than 1% of global annual aquaculture production in terms of quantity, monitoring their diseases should not be neglected, as they affected a significant percentage of countries in the world, with an increasing trend. Finally, she stated that WAHIS provides a useful tool to share information and monitor the evolution of listed diseases in the world.

389. **Global situation regarding two non OIE-listed diseases affecting wild animals**

In the third part of her presentation, Dr Cáceres presented the global situation regarding two non OIE-listed diseases affecting wild animals. She clarified that the 'wild annual report for non OIE-listed diseases' referred only to wildlife diseases that were not OIE-listed and that should not have any impact on international trade of animals and their products. She explained that the analyses presented in this part were intended to illustrate the importance of these diseases, in line with a recommendation by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases to sensitise Members on wildlife diseases with a view to improving surveillance and reporting.

She mentioned that the analyses focused on the period between 2008 and early 2016, since the wild annual reports on non OIE-listed diseases were first digitalised in 2008. She added that during this period, 119 countries submitted, on a voluntary basis, at least one wild annual report.

390. **Infection with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses**

Dr Cáceres stated that infection with LPAI viruses in wild birds was of high interest, first and foremost because of its importance to human health, livelihoods and well-being, and its importance in relation to domestic animal health. She stated that since 2008, more than 45 countries had been highly impacted by avian influenza viruses, either through their zoonotic impact or through their impact on domestic animals.

She highlighted that the 'wild annual report for non OIE-listed diseases' was neither very sensitive nor very specific and did not provide consistency for the information received, possibly due to its being submitted on a voluntary basis. However she indicated that this tool could be of high interest for sharing information on monitoring and surveillance results for LPAI viruses in wild birds and therefore for minimising the impact of these viruses on public health or domestic animals.

She stated that among the 119 countries/territories that had been using this tool since 2008, 33% (39/119) reported the presence of infection with LPAI viruses in wild birds at least once during the period, thus indicating the implementation of surveillance or monitoring activities for the detection of the infection in wildlife. She emphasised that the majority of these 39 countries/territories had, during the past eight years, experienced the impact of infection with avian influenza viruses in humans or HPAI in poultry. She commented that this association first confirmed the overlapping of areas where LPAI viruses circulated in wild birds and those where the viruses had jumped to humans or had mutated to become highly pathogenic in poultry. She said that it also suggested that countries having experienced infection with avian influenza viruses in humans or HPAI in poultry during the past eight years had put more effort than others into detection and sharing of information on LPAI in wild birds.

Dr Cáceres emphasised that LPAI in wild birds might have a much broader distribution than the avian influenza A viruses in poultry that were notifiable to the OIE. She indicated that 22 countries detected and reported the presence of LPAI viruses in areas where neither infection with avian influenza viruses was reported in humans nor HPAI viruses were reported in poultry during the past eight years. She added that in 68% (15/22) of these countries, H5 or H7 LPAI viruses were not even reported in poultry. She indicated that it might even be assumed that influenza viruses were distributed globally, wherever competent host species are present, and that are widely disseminated through wild bird migration.

She pointed out that among the countries having reported LPAI present in wild birds, 49% (19/39) provided information on the circulating subtypes, and that all these countries reported, among other subtypes, H5, H7 or H9, which were the ones with a potential zoonotic impact. She presented the map of the countries that reported LPAI in wild birds at least once between 2008 and 2015, and subtypes identified.

She concluded that the investigation of wild bird infection might provide an early warning sign of potential novel avian influenza viruses circulating in the nearby poultry industry and even in human society. Therefore, she said that sharing this information through a global tool such as the wild annual report for non OIE-listed diseases in WAHIS might be of high interest to OIE Members for their preparedness.

391. **Infection with *Sarcoptes scabiei***

Dr Cáceres continued her presentation with Infection with *Sarcoptes scabiei* (mange). She recalled the importance of the disease that can cause a huge and dramatic decrease of wild populations. She emphasised that, in remnant or fragmented populations of CITES listed, IUCN listed, threatened or endangered species, the effect of a mange epizootic could have more concerning consequences. She said that the sanitary management of threatened wild animals was therefore of great interest for their long-term conservation, providing the example of the endangered cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) population. She specified that infection with *S. scabiei* was one of the diseases selected by the OIE Working Group on Wildlife to be monitored because of its importance to environmental integrity and ecological sustainability.

Afterwards she presented the distribution of infection with *S. scabiei*, indicating that 34% (40/119) reported at least once the presence of *S. scabiei* in their territory and 26% (31/119) submitted quantitative data regarding the infection. She added that 35 wildlife species were reported to have been infected with *S. scabiei*, of which 17% are considered as species with a critical conservation status by the IUCN and 37% appeared in the Appendix (I, II, III) of the CITES list. She illustrated the situation by a case study concerning the population of cheetahs, species classified as vulnerable by IUCN. She indicated that in the study presented, out of 20 countries and 29 subpopulations, only one country reported the presence of *Sarcoptes scabiei* in cheetahs in two subpopulations.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that a good knowledge of the sanitary status of a wildlife population was very important for its conservation management, in particular for endangered species that have a declining population trend and present a fragmented areal characterized by metapopulation dynamics. She explained that in such a situation, movement between subpopulations usually had a positive effect on the long-term survival of the species, and for this reason many conservationists had favoured measures such as construction of corridors or active translocation of individuals. However, she emphasised that the presence of infectious diseases could represent a serious extinction risk to threatened species, and migration between metapopulations could then have a negative impact, as the spread of a disease had the capacity to cause populations to crash suddenly, as well as slowing their recovery from perturbations.

She added that the translocation of endangered species, aiming to reintroduce them into a part of the historical range from which they have been extinguished, was an important wildlife conservation technique. She explained that the success of wildlife translocation projects relied on several factors, including the evaluation of the suitability of the animals and the chosen release site, the ability of the translocated animals to colonise the area, as well as the animal health aspects of reintroduction. She emphasised that an inadequate disease risk assessment could result in the introduction of pathogens into naïve resident wildlife populations.

She commented that the analyses provided in this part are interesting examples of the usefulness of the information provided through the wild annual report for non OIE-listed diseases in wildlife, and its public interface *WAHIS-Wild*. She added that this system provided a useful tool for countries to share on a voluntary basis and access information that might be of interest to them.

She explained that, to date, the usefulness of this tool was limited due to the variable quality of data reported through the wild annual report for non OIE-listed diseases. She concluded that to make this unique tool more efficient, countries were encouraged to provide the OIE with good quality data on a voluntary and regular basis. She stated that in the future, such a tool could become a reference for preparedness and conservation management in terms of animal health and that it could contribute to the strengthening of epidemiological knowledge of these diseases. She added that, with a mandate to improve animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide, the OIE, along with other international organisations and Member Countries, had a key role to play in protecting biodiversity.

392. **Evaluation of the sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system**

In the fourth part of her presentation, Dr Cáceres presented an evaluation of the sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system. She explained that the sensitivity of the OIE surveillance system (WAHIS) was partly ensured by the legal obligation of Member Countries to report OIE-listed diseases and emerging diseases, as indicated in the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*. She commented that in 2002, the OIE introduced an active search activity for non-official information and rumours relating to animal health and public health. She added that this activity reinforces WAHIS, which is divided into two main components: the early warning system (for immediate notifications and follow-up reports) and the monitoring system (for six-monthly reports).

She stated that in this analysis, the results of the active search activity were used to evaluate the sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system and that the analysis focused on OIE Member Countries, which have a statutory obligation to report disease events to WAHIS.

Before presenting the results of the evaluation of the sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system, Dr Cáceres showed the recent geographical coverage of rumours tracked by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department. She indicated that more than 3,000 rumours were tracked out of a total of 20,000 items of information verified in eight languages and that more than half of the rumours (1,700) tracked related to the Americas and Europe. She commented that the results of this active search activity could therefore be considered sufficiently reliable to be used in the evaluation of WAHIS sensitivity.

Among the potential exceptional events detected in Member Countries in 2015, she gave the percentage of those that were confirmed, denied and the ones for which the Member Countries never answered the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department to confirm or deny the rumours (rumours never confirmed).

She explained that since the "rumours never confirmed" negatively affected the evaluation of sensitivity, a range (lowest and highest values) was estimated including or not them in the following formula:

– Sensitivity lowest value= immediate notifications sent spontaneously / (immediate notifications sent spontaneously + confirmed rumours+ rumours never confirmed).

– Sensitivity highest value= immediate notifications sent spontaneously / (immediate notifications sent spontaneously + confirmed rumours).

She indicated that the overall annual sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system for the year 2015 could be estimated as 87-92% and that this percentage showed that Member Countries mostly understood and applied the requirements for disease notification.

She added that the influence of the geographical area was evaluated by calculating the sensitivity at regional level and the highest sensitivity was observed in Europe, followed by the Americas, Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Africa and the Middle East. She also commented the effect of the disease on sensitivity, showing that high variations were observed for the different diseases reported.

She informed the Assembly that the next improvement of the active search activity would be the implementation of real time monitoring of its performance through the creation of indexes and that the evolution of the system's sensitivity would be monitored on a monthly basis.

She concluded that the analysis showed an overall good sensitivity of the WAHIS early warning system, and that in some regions it was necessary to increase the geographical coverage and sources of unofficial information. Dr Cáceres encouraged Member Countries to answer these requests and to report OIE-listed diseases events in accordance with the requirement stipulated in Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*.

393. **Results of the recent survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch"**

In the last part of her presentation, Dr Cáceres exposed the results of the survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch". She indicated that in December 2015, the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department launched an online survey to gather information from Veterinary Authorities regarding their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. She informed the Assembly that a total of 206 respondents participated in the survey from 168 Member Countries/territories.

She stated that the first part of the questionnaire covered issues relating to data entry, such as ease of access to the system, intuitiveness of the system and data processing among others. She commented that respondents from more than three quarters of the countries considered that WAHIS was intuitive and that respondents from more than two-thirds of the countries considered that the deadlines for report submission recommended by the OIE were adequate. She highlighted that some specific areas that needed improvements were mentioned, such as the speediness of data processing, simplifying the access specifications to the WAHIS platform, the compatibility between WAHIS and national databases.

She then indicated that the second part of the questionnaire covered issues relating to the type of information required in WAHIS reports. She commented that for all types of WAHIS reports, more than two-thirds of the countries/territories considered that the general qualitative and quantitative data required by the OIE was satisfactory. Regarding the suggestions on areas of improvements the need to add more epidemiological information in WAHIS reports to improve the clarity of the occurrence codes and the simplification of WAHIS reports was highlighted.

She added that the third part of the questionnaire covered issues relating to data display in WAHIS interface. She indicated that the participants highlighted the need to improve: the possibility of data extraction, the finding of information, the combination of other types of information with WAHIS data on its interface, the completeness of information displayed on WAHIS Interface and the facilitation of the interpretation of WAHIS data. She recalled that in 2015, the OIE had developed an online version of World Animal Health, aimed at presenting and offering data extraction possibilities for an annual synthesis of the animal health situation worldwide. However, she stated that there was still a need to simplify the WAHIS interface information display and improve the ability to extract data.

Finally, she stated that the fourth part of the questionnaire covered issues relating to the relationship between focal points and OIE support staff for the aspect related to WAHIS. She stressed that the 82% of the respondents were satisfied with the support and feedback received from the World Animal Health and Analysis Department team.

She concluded by thanking the countries/territories who answered this survey and emphasised that this high participation rate clearly demonstrated the great involvement of Delegates and Focal Points in the use of WAHIS. She recalled that reinforcing trust through transparency and communication was one of the pillars of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. Dr Cáceres stated that although the countries/territories using WAHIS were generally satisfied with the system, they expressed new needs and requested tools to be implemented. She declared that this feedback would be taken into account during further improvements and in the future renovation process of WAHIS as envisioned in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. She informed the Assembly that this work was implemented in 2016, in order to better comply with the expectations of Member Countries and better fulfil the OIE's mandate for transparency.

Dr Caceres ended her presentation by thanking her staff for their contribution to the preparation of the report and for their daily commitment to processing of notifications of Member Countries. She also made special mention to the exceptional work carried out by the Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification as well as the National Veterinary Services who go to great lengths to ensure good quality information is available in WAHIS at all times.

394. Dr Modisane, President of the OIE, thanked Dr Cáceres for her informative presentation and the Member Countries for having submitted their reports to the OIE. He recalled that "WAHIS is the Member Countries and WAHIS is for the Members Countries". The President encouraged Member Countries to submit outstanding reports to enable OIE to present in the future, information as the Assembly had just received. He said that the report raised concerns such as the spread of PPR beyond its known boundaries and said even though there was a strategy for the control of PPR, the Member Countries needed to reinforce disease control.

The President thanked the countries that had submitted voluntarily their annual report on wildlife as it contributes to the protection of threatened species. He then asked the Assembly to begin their comments on the presentation.

395. The Delegate of Uruguay thanked Dr Cáceres for her excellent presentation and for the comprehensive information with which the global presentation had improved year on year, including trends and issues of great interest. He noted that the presentation was an extremely important item for the Assembly and expressed surprise that 119 countries had submitted an annual report on wildlife whereas previously only 50–60 countries would send such information. He said that this had helped WAHIS to achieve 90% sensitivity, which made the system very robust. He said that he had been pleasantly surprised to learn that 168 of the 180 Member Countries had answered the WAHIS questionnaire. The Delegate added that he had learnt from the Director General's comments that work was under way to overhaul WAHIS and concluded by saying that he wished to know whether a deadline had been set for finalising the new version of WAHIS.

396. The Delegate of India congratulated Dr Cáceres on her excellent presentation. He emphasised that this report was one of the highlights of the General Session. First, he recalled that there was a great challenge for the OIE in helping countries to gather information. He added that until and unless there was stakeholder ownership for this information, this challenge will remain. He suggested that the OIE should analyse how the diseases have been controlled by countries. In addition, he proposed that these analyses on control of diseases and the best practices should be shared with the countries for their benefit. Secondly, he asked if there was the possibility for the OIE to integrate the national disease notification systems within WAHIS to create a world network that would enable faster and more timely exchange of information. Thirdly, he suggested establishing ways of incentivising information gathering by recognition e.g. certificates of those countries making efforts and providing the information on animal diseases as a way of encouragement.

397. The Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked Dr Cáceres and her colleagues for the excellent work and the informative report. He indicated that his epidemiological staff stated that they lacked the skills to access WAHIS data and he expressed his hope that the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department of the OIE could help them to solve this problem. He specified that, regarding the data inputs, the Chinese experts were willing to provide more epidemiological information related to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

398. The Delegate of Chile congratulated Dr Cáceres on the first-rate information and analysis in her presentation. He also commended the efficacy of staff at the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department in verifying the disease reports sent to the OIE, as well as the Department's rapid response. He added that Dr Caceres' report presented not only disturbing information but also positive information, including a reduction in the time taken to bring outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza under control because of better biosecurity and outbreak management. He explained that Chile had improved biosecurity and had implemented compartmentalisation programmes. He concluded by saying that it would be useful to present such reports regularly and to make them available to Member Countries.

399. The Delegate of Argentina commended the excellent work and said that his colleagues in the Argentine Delegation had seen a steady improvement in the quality of information provided by WAHIS in recent years. He said that the contribution to knowledge and the management of information provided by countries through WAHIS for analysis were much appreciated, and went on to invite Member Countries to continue providing data and constructive criticism to further improve the system. He concluded by saying, on behalf of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), that he shared the view that Department staff had done an excellent job.

400. The Delegate of Senegal congratulated Dr Cáceres on her presentation and noted that the analysis of the situation and the global trend in PPR showed the relevance of the global strategy for its eradication. He also reported that an outbreak of Marek's disease had occurred in Senegal between the end of 2015 and March 2016, resulting in the death of 9 848 laying hens out of a total of 21 400. He stated that this information had been communicated to the OIE following confirmation of the diagnosis, although Marek's disease had not been listed by the OIE. He explained that the event could have been caused by defective vaccine in hatcheries or by biosecurity failures on farms. Finally, he stressed the scale of economic losses from Marek's disease and recommended its inclusion in the OIE list.

401. The Delegate of Panama congratulated Dr Cáceres, on behalf of the 29 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, for her presentation and for the persistent efforts of her team in gathering of disease information. He added that Panama was a critical point of convergence for the counting of migratory birds along the Mississippi to the South American migratory pathways and that there had been a decrease in migration compared with the previous year, pointing out that it was important to take into account migratory flyways, not only for

avian influenza but also for encephalitis. He concluded by saying that Panama offered to share available data from migratory bird counts and invited other countries to provide information in order to improve preparedness for disease occurrences.

402. The Delegate of New Zealand congratulated Dr Cáceres and her Department on the excellent report. He indicated that the Department was taking the analyses of WAHIS data from descriptive to explanatory to predictive along the typical progression that was expected of epidemiological analysis. He stated that New Zealand had two questions. The first question related to whether there has been any analysis on the extent to which WAHIS data were being used by Member Countries, by Collaborating Centres, by universities or private institutions, for instance how WAHIS was being cited in publications, and what type of analyses were being performed in such publications. The second question was how the analysis on trends, particularly on disease spread, was being used. He suggested that the OIE might inform Member Countries that might be at risk from trends in spread of the need to improve biosecurity and surveillance. He then added that such trends could be used to target OIE activities, for instance the need for missions to verify official recognition status in countries at risk from the trends that WAHIS data have elucidated.

403. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Cáceres for her interesting presentation on the global animal health situation. He sought clarification from the OIE Director General on the significance of the adoption of the resolution seeking approval of the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends, by the Assembly. He indicated that there was certain information that may be incomplete in the report, such as numbers of circulating serotypes of bluetongue in Oceania. He stressed as well that the information on infection with *Sarcoptes scabiei* in the report was incomplete.

404. The Delegate of Sudan thanked Dr Cáceres for her excellent presentation. He highlighted that diseases such as PPR, LSD, bluetongue and FMD started in developing countries in Africa and spread widely globally inflicting heavy losses. He pointed out that countries in Africa often lacked enough resources to combat diseases. He said that developed countries should assist developing countries to get rid of diseases, such as occurred during the rinderpest eradication campaign, which was controlled and eradicated successfully.

405. Dr Modisane, President of the OIE, suggested that Dr Cáceres answer the first round of questions prior to continuing with additional interventions.

406. Dr Cáceres thanked the Delegates for their messages of congratulations. She started with answering the intervention of the Delegate of Uruguay. She informed the Assembly that more detailed information on the modernisation of WAHIS would be presented by the Director General during the Administrative Session on Friday morning.

407. In response to the intervention of the Delegate of India, Dr Cáceres thanked him for the proposals and explained that the OIE early warning system enabled sharing of information on control measures taken, which were captured in the immediate notifications and follow-up reports sent by the countries. She emphasised that not all countries used the advantage of the epidemiological comments that gave them the opportunity to explain further the reported animal health event. In response to the question related to the integration of national databases with WAHIS, she pointed out that the OIE received many similar requests and that it would be taken into consideration for the future improvements of the system. Answering the proposal on issuing certificates to recognise the efforts of countries in disease reporting, she indicated that currently most of the countries report the information to the OIE, therefore this kind of strategy should be further analysed.

408. In response to the Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China, Dr Cáceres stated that the country could contact the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department to request the extraction of information. In addition, she thanked the Delegate for offering expertise and his willingness to share additional information on HPAI from China.

409. Answering the question from the Delegate of Chile, Dr Cáceres highlighted that the analysis on HPAI was a good example of how biosecurity measures were improved following the experiences from previous outbreaks. She added that the sharing of animal disease information through WAHIS and the OIE website and other avenues were foreseen in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

410. Dr Cáceres thanked the Delegate of Argentina on behalf of herself and her team.

411. In response to the comment of the Delegate of Senegal, Dr Cáceres reiterated that, for all OIE-listed diseases, the criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations on the OIE list were prescribed in the Chapter 1.2. of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes.

412. Dr Cáceres thanked the Delegate of Panama for his offer to share information on migratory bird counts along the major flyways, considering that this information could give a different perspective to the analysis performed for avian influenza.

413. Answering questions from the Delegate of New Zealand, Dr Cáceres agreed that it would be very interesting to evaluate the impact of WAHIS and how WAHIS data were used within the publications. She gave an example of publications of WAHIS data within the ProMED posts. Furthermore, she noted that there were many agreements signed with universities following their requests for data extraction. She stated that she did not have the statistics on the number of articles that cited WAHIS data. However, she estimated that based on the requests received by the Department, approximately 30 scientific publications were published using WAHIS data per year. In regard to the comment on sharing of information on potential risks with Member Countries, she outlined that this process was already in place to a certain degree with the early warning system of the OIE through alert messages. She also highlighted that the OIE is continuing its efforts to make the information more accessible and for that reason, the smartphone application available on Android, iOS and Windows operating systems was launched.

414. Relating to the comments of the Delegate of Australia, Dr Cáceres said she would address the part related to bluetongue serotypes. She recalled that the presented analysis on bluetongue was based on the information provided in 2015.

415. In response to the Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Eloit, Director General of the OIE, said that the next steps, deadlines and stages for the WAHIS overhaul, as well as the required budget, would be presented at the meeting on Friday 27 May 2016.

416. Dr Eloit answered the Delegate of Australia by saying that, under Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE, the annual report of the Director General on the management, activities and administrative work, as well as the scientific and technical activities of the OIE must be approved. She added that Article 43 of the General Rules states that the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends is to be included in the agenda of the annual General Session of the Assembly, without the need for formal approval, and she concluded by suggesting that this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

417. Dr Modisane, President of the OIE, said that if there were inaccuracies in the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends, Delegates could request that any inconsistencies be rectified before adopting the report.

418. The representative of the Brazilian Delegation congratulated Dr Cáceres and her staff on a presentation that provided new perspectives and insights into world animal health. He added that, as many of the analyses presented could be implemented at the national level, he suggested sharing with Member Countries the techniques used in the analyses.

419. The Delegate of Namibia joined the previous Delegates in congratulating Dr Cáceres and her team for always presenting interesting topics to the Assembly. He raised two questions. The first question related to the estimated 20 000 rumours that were identified and the follow-ups that had been done. He understood the sensitivity of rumours and the way it had been approached. However, his concern was with those rumours that were not responded to. He pointed out that third countries or countries that might have a remote interest in these rumours because they trade with countries where such rumours circulated, should be alerted. He added that efforts should be made to try to assist countries that were unaware of the presence of such rumours. The Delegate then stated that although it was the responsibility of the countries within their own regions to deal with diseases, if the diseases such as ASF and LSD had spread beyond the region to new areas, there had to be another approach to controlling them. He emphasised that there was a need to have a global response to the problem and it should not be left to countries or regions to deal with these issues.

420. A member of the Delegation of China (People's Rep. of) highlighted the interest of presenting the situation of two non-listed diseases and suggested that the OIE should encourage Member Countries to report non-listed diseases that could have a significant impact on trade.

421. The Delegate of Eritrea congratulated Dr Cáceres and her team on the presentation and commented that she had only presented general information concerning the diseases of aquatic animals, without differentiating between the diseases affecting aquaculture animals and those affecting caught species.

422. The Delegate of Zimbabwe congratulated Dr Caceres on her presentation. She referred to the discussion of the two previous days on the subject of interaction of ecosystems health and animal health. In particular, she requested to know what progress was being made with respect to reporting of bee diseases, noting that this information was important in decision for trade of apiculture products.

423. The Delegate of Germany noted that remarkable progress had been made in the presentation of the current animal health situation worldwide. She commented that these improvements responded to requests tht Member Countries had made in previous years. She also pointed out that Germany was prepared to provide support to the OIE in analysing WAHIS data.

424. The Delegate of Argentina referred to the comment made by the Delegate of Australia, adding that the Assembly should adopt the resolution on the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends. He said that its adoption might entail some necessary adjustments according to the views expressed by a number of delegations. He stated that the report reflected the disease-reporting capabilities of Member Countries. He added that, if the report and resolution were not adopted, it would remain only a technical report from Headquarters and would not be owned by the Assembly, so he urged Member Countries to adopt the resolution.

425. The Delegate of Mexico thanked Dr Cáceres for her splendid presentation and pointed out that the report reflected the OIE's key role in establishing international standards and recommendations. He concluded by stressing that the Assembly was the OIE's decision-making body and agreed with the Delegate of Argentina that the resolution on the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends should be adopted.

426. The Delegate of Paraguay thanked Dr Cáceres for her presentation and endorsed the comments previously made by the Delegates of Argentina and Mexico concerning the interest of adopting the resolution approving the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide, analysis of events and trends.

427. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic thanked Dr Cáceres on behalf of all countries of the Americas. She expressed particular thanks for the active search for non-official information undertaken by the OIE. She reminded the Assembly of the dangers of non-verified information circulating on the internet. She cited as an example a reported increase in mortality of unknown cause among pigs in the Dominican Republic relayed by the media. She explained that the OIE had tried to identify the cause of this event by contacting the Veterinary Services directly, by email and by telephone. She pointed out that this procedure had enabled the country to announce that it was an outbreak of Teschen disease, which is not included in the OIE list, and that clarification had been broadcast by local media.

428. The Delegate of Canada noted a marked improvement in the quality of WAHIS data analysis compared with previous years. She proposed regular publication of a bulletin containing the results of analyses of all data submitted by Member Countries. She stressed that this information was of great importance to all Member Countries for the implementation of vigilance and risk reduction measures, especially for avian influenza. She suggested incorporating the production of monthly or six-monthly reports containing more data analyses into the WAHIS updating process. She drew attention to the fact that rapid feedback of information was important for Member Countries. Finally, she indicated that, as offered by Germany, Canada was prepared to provide support to the OIE with WAHIS data analysis.

429. The Delegate of Colombia congratulated Dr Cáceres and her staff for their excellent work and efficient support to Member Countries. She said that the analysis of the information and data received was very important. She pointed out that, as forecasts on climate change and bird migration existed, it was important to analyse diseases in terms of trend, cyclicality and seasonality, after which forecasts of occurrence could be issued that might, at some point, lead to maintaining or changing the guidelines on the control of one or more diseases. She pointed out that, if the information presented globally were broken down by region, it might show where the disease control guidelines and strategies could be changed substantively or retained. She concluded by saying that it was important to adopt the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends.

430. The President of the OIE thanked the Delegates and handed the floor to Dr Cáceres.

431. Dr Cáceres told the Assembly that she was well aware of the need to simplify access to the results of WAHIS analyses, as mentioned by several speakers.

432. In response to the member of the Brazilian Delegation, she confirmed that the analysis techniques presented would be applicable to Member Countries at national level and that they were detailed in the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends.

433. In reply to the Delegate of Namibia, she began by explaining that of the 20 000 rumours mentioned in her presentation, only those deemed reliable were investigated by the OIE. She stated that when a rumour was detected, a series of steps to analyse the information were implemented before contacting the country concerned. She added that certain rumours were denied by the countries and others did not fall within the scope of OIE notification, such as the example previously cited by the Delegate of the Dominican Republic. She stressed that very few countries did not reply to requests for clarification made by the OIE as part of its active search for information: only five countries in 2015. Finally, she was in agreement with the Delegate of Namibia concerning the need to coordinate efforts at regional and global level to control transboundary diseases such as

African swine fever. She pointed out that there were regional and international initiatives to support the control of such diseases.

434. In her answer to the Accredited Delegate of the People's Republic of China, she explained that the non-listed diseases presented had been reported in the annual report on wildlife for information only. Despite the fact that there was no obligation, she strongly encouraged Member Countries to submit this information. She added that Member Countries could propose non-listed diseases for inclusion in the OIE list. Finally, she stated that non-listed diseases could be reported as emerging diseases if they satisfied the criteria mentioned in Article 1.1.4 of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code*.

435. In reply to the Delegate of Eritrea, she pointed out that the data available for aquatic animals did not permit the identification of significant global trends for a given disease and that the analysis conducted had therefore been global. She explained that the results had been presented separately for aquaculture and caught species, and that the data could be reported in this way in six-monthly reports.

436. In her response to the Delegate of Zimbabwe, she stated that the results of the analyses presented, although in this case focusing on specific diseases such as avian influenza, were indicative of a general trend demonstrating an improvement in the reporting of animal diseases by the Member Countries and the overall performance of Veterinary Services worldwide. She added that it would be worth pursuing further analysis of the interaction between ecosystems health and animal diseases.

437. Dr Cáceres thanked the Delegates of Germany and Canada for their comments, for the continued support of both countries and, in particular, for the offer to work with the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department on epidemiological analysis.

438. Dr Cáceres welcomed the comments of the Delegate of the Dominican Republic and pointed out that maintaining constant communication between the OIE and Member Countries was of utmost importance for verifying and clarifying rumours. She gave assurances that the OIE never published or commented on rumours without first having confirmed the information with the Delegates of the Member Countries concerned.

439. In answer to the comments of the Delegate of Colombia, Dr Cáceres agreed that information and data needed to be shared more easily, adding that a way would be sought to facilitate access to such data. She concluded by saying that all the techniques used in the report's analyses could be replicated by Member Countries.

440. Finally, the President of the OIE asked the Assembly if there were any other comments on the report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31
Approval of the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends

441. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. 31. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

442. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

443. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 33. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Amendments to the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

444. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 34. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 35
The economics of animal health: direct and indirect costs of animal disease outbreaks

445. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 35 with the proposed modifications. The Resolution was adopted with one abstention by the Delegate of Costa Rica. The text appears under Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

Discussion and adoption of Draft Resolution No. 36
Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health" Approach: Actions and OIE Strategy

446. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 36 with the proposed modifications. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs. 84 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

447. Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 84 SG/11B AF).

448. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Americas

449. Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 84 SG/11B AM).

450. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

451. Dr Keshav Prasad Premy (Nepal), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 84 SG/11B AS).

452. He also presented the recommendations of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015.

453. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Ulaanbaatar.

Regional Commission for Europe

454. Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia), Secretary General of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 84 SG/11B EU).

455. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

456. Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 84 SG/11B ME).

457. He also presented the recommendations of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Kaslik, Lebanon, from 10 to 14 November 2015.

458. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Kaslik.

Dates of the 85th General Session (May 2017)

459. The Assembly decided that the 85th General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 21 to Friday 26 May 2017. The Director General stated that the 85th General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 85th General Session (May 2017)

460. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen the previous year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Council:

– Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance: progress and opportunities for future activities under the 'One Health' initiative

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

461. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2017 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2017 prior to the 85th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Technical Items for the 86th General Session (May 2018)

462. The Assembly confirmed the Technical Item, with questionnaire, which had been chosen from among the topics proposed by the Regional Commissions and examined by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and was presented by Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico):

– Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries – state of play and specific capacity-building needs.

463. Further to a previous decision of the Council, there will not be a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2018 on account of the elections to be held for the Council, the Specialist Commissions and Regional Commissions.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health status

464. In the preamble to the presentation of certificates for disease status recognition, Dr Evans, Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, paid tribute to the sustained efforts made by the countries. He indicated that today was one of celebration and reminded that the countries are now challenged to maintain their hard-earned recognition and respect their obligations to annually submit the required information. He also asked the Assembly to recognise the efforts of the OIE status recognition team composed of Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Dr Min Kyung Park, Dr Simona Forcella, Dr Kazutoshi Matsuo, Dr Maria Luisa Danzetta and Dr Morgane Dominguez.

465. The OIE Member Countries listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised by the OIE as having a disease free status or a BSE risk status: Brazil, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Spain, and Swaziland.

Endorsement of an official national control programme

466. Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Thailand were awarded an OIE certificate endorsing their official national FMD control programme.

467. Prior to concluding the seventh plenary session, the President, Dr Modisane, took the opportunity to formally recognise Dr Daniel Chaisemartin for his exemplary commitment to the successful management of the annual OIE General Session for the past fourteen years. He invited the former Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, to provide remarks concerning the career contributions of Dr Chaisemartin with the OIE and to present him with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Organisation and the Member Countries.

FRIDAY 27 MAY 2016

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2015

(Doc. 84 SG/3)

468. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, in charge of institutional affairs and regional actions, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2015 and the distribution of Member Countries by contribution category.

469. He went on to present the main points regarding administrative activities and the distribution of the Organisation's human resources between the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

470. Lastly, he presented a breakdown of staff according to their source of funding, namely the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the secondment of staff by Member Countries.

471. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2015. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 89th Financial Year
(1 January – 31 December 2015)
(Doc. 84 SG/4)

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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Regular Budget and Regional and Sub-regional Representations

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 89th Financial Year
(Docs 84 SG/15 and 84 SG/16)

502. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors, Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan) and Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), and the report of the External Auditor, Mr Didier Selles, appointed by the OIE. Dr Kawashima strongly encouraged Delegates to consider increasing contributions by changing category or, if necessary, to raise awareness among the authorities of the need to pay any arrears due.

503. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor and his recommendations, including control of staff costs and the importance of continuing to replenish the Reserve Fund.

504. The Delegate of New Zealand stated that he fully supported the direction of the OIE to reduce risks linked to cash payments but queried whether the OIE had considered the impact of this decision on experts providing expertise to the OIE who would now incur charges on transaction and for foreign exchanges. The Director of Finance replied that the OIE always covers the bank fees related to bank transfers made to experts (i.e. without reducing the amounts due to the experts).

505. The Delegate of Uruguay agreed with the statement made by the Delegate of New Zealand.

506. The External Auditor reminded the Assembly that the application of his recommendation to limit the cash operations undertaken by the OIE could take into consideration specific constraints faced by certain experts. Nonetheless, it is important that the OIE is rigorous in the distribution of cash, and takes into consideration the risks faced by OIE staff handling cash.

507. The Delegate of Bhutan shared his experience and stated that he prefers receiving per diems in cash.

508. The Director of Finance took note of the comments made and reminded the Assembly that the OIE pays its experts rapidly. Dr Dehove clarified that advance payments can be made for certain missions.

509. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 89th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to Member Countries and partners that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings

510. The Director General conveyed her warmest thanks to the partners:

– To Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America;

– To the World Bank and the European Union (European Commission);

– To the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the Maris Llorens Foundation;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2015;

– To Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Djibouti, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam;

for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2015;

– To Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of) and United States of America;

for providing staff remunerated directly by their country to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2015.

511. Draft Resolution No. 4 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

512. The Director General also conveyed her warmest thanks to France for its voluntary contribution, and to Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom, as well as to the Fédération Equestre Internationale and the Latin-American Poultry Association, for their exceptional contributions in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. The previous Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, had already informed the Assembly in 2015 that several other Member Countries had indicated their intention to participate in the subscription. She also said that the subscription period remained open with a view to modernising the buildings, purchasing the part of the building not yet placed on sale and proceeding with early repayment of the bank loan currently being repaid partially from rental income.

513. Draft Resolution No. 10 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor

514. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of the accounts of the OIE for a further year.

515. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

2016 Budget
(Doc. 84 SG/5)

Regular Budget

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RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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Presentation of the programme of activities 2016–2017

528. The Director General added to the presentation she had made to the Plenary Session of the Assembly on Monday with a more detailed description of activities to implement the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE.

She indicated that a progress report on this implementation would be presented annually.

529. The Delegates of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Thailand and Uruguay congratulated the Director General and her team for the quality of the presentations and the work carried out. They emphasised the ambitious nature of the work programme presented for the coming years. Several of them called on the Member Countries to support the organisation with additional contributions whether financial or in kind. In addition:

- the Delegate of France pointed out there was a paradox in adopting disease statuses within the framework of the OIE while not acknowledging their validity within the framework of bilateral negotiations. He called for additional OIE investment in this field to be conditional on Member Countries' effective recognition of these statuses.
- the Delegate of Brazil drew attention to the system for designating experts, especially those from the private sector, and considered that guarantees for their level of competence should be required and that national authorities be informed accordingly.
- the Delegate of Canada encouraged Member Countries to lend support to the development of WAHIS.
- the Delegate of India invited the OIE to strengthen its capacities in terms of expertise and develop relationships with its existing networks.

Proposed 2017 Contributions Scale and 2017 Budget Estimates

(Doc. 84 SG/6)

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

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SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Council

(Doc. 84 SG/18)

540. The President presented document 84 SG/18 summarising the activities of the Council between May 2014 and May 2015. Matters relating to operating procedures, transparency of decisions, the performance and evaluation of the Specialist Commissions and also the budgetary and accounting management of the Organisation were regularly examined.

541. At its meeting in 2016 the Council also examined and approved the report of the Director General on the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020.

542. The Council was also kept informed of relations with international partners, reviewed the agreements signed with other international organisations and approved the draft Agreements signed with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

543. The President informed the Delegates of his journeys to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled him to observe the many achievements of the OIE.

544. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 84 SG/18).

545. The President proposed to the Assembly the adoption of a Resolution recognising the former Directors General of the OIE as honorary OIE Directors General.

546. The Delegate of Congo (Rep. Dem. of the), asked if the Resolution solely concerned former Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, or more generally all Directors General at the end of their term(s) of office.

547. In reply the President and Dr Evans emphasised the general nature of the proposed honorary status, explaining that the Resolution would accord honorary status to all former Directors General, as is already the case for former Presidents of the OIE.

548. The Delegates of Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay expressed their support for the Resolution.

549. The Assembly adopted Draft Resolution No. 37 unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 37 at the end of this report.

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

(Doc. 84 SG/19)

550. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), approved by the Council.

551. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted with one abstention (Namibia). The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

(Doc. 84 SG/20)

552. Dr Dop presented the draft Agreement with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), approved by the Council.

553. Draft Resolution No. 12 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

Election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe

554. The Assembly opted to conduct the elections by a show of hands.

555. At the initiative of the President, taking into account the number of seats up for renewal, Dr Schwabenbauer, in her capacity as Immediate Past President of the OIE, reminded Delegates of the unanimous proposal by the Regional Commission for Europe to renew the entire Bureau.

556. A quorum having been met (113 participants/108 entitled to vote), the Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal put forward. The Bureau of the Commission is composed of the following:

President	:	Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-President	:	Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)
Vice-President	:	Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Secretary General	:	Dr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Belarus)

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

557. At the initiative of the President, the President of the Regional Commission reminded Delegates of the unanimous proposal by the Regional Commission for the Middle East for the position of the Vice-President within the Bureau.

558. A quorum having been met (113 participants/108 entitled to vote), the Assembly unaminously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President	:	Dr Majid Al-Qassimi (United Arab Emirates)

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

559. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report is printed in two documents (the Technical Sessions and then the Administrative Sessions).

560. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.

561. 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 2016** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). He stated that, beyond this date, the report would be considered to have been adopted in its final form.

Closing Session

562. 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 and Regional Representations, the translators, the messengers, the photographer and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 84th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.

563. He invited the Delegates to return for the 85th General Session in May 2017.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE

during its 84th General Session

22 – 27 May 2016

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2015

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 2015 (84 SG/1).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 2

Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2015

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2015 (84 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 3

Approval of the Financial Report for the 89th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2015)

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 89th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2015) (84 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 4

Acknowledgements to the Member Countries and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the provision of personnel

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2015 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2015,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America;

   The European Union (European Commission) and the World Bank;

   The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) and the Maris Llorens Foundation;

   for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2015.

2. Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Djibouti, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam;

   for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2015.

3. Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of) and United States of America

   for the provision of personnel paid directly by their country to support the implementation of the programmes of the OIE in 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2016 Budget

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 6

OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 91st Financial Year
(1 January to 31 December 2017)

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2017

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 8

Planned Work Programme for 2016-2017

CONSIDERING

The Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2016-2020 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

   To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2016 (Appendix I of document 83 SG/6), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

   Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Planned 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 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 9

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 his mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of 1 year (2016) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and donors that helped the OIE in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

CONSIDERING

Resolution No. 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 additional voluntary contributions received by the OIE within the framework of the subscription launched among Member Countries and 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 Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the Latin American Poultry Association.

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains open, until further notice, to the Member Countries and potential donors so as to finalise the acquisition and renovation of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed with the total or partial reimbursement of the bank loan granted in 2009 to acquire the first part of the building.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 11

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

The Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and OECD was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 30 September 2015 (84 SG/19),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 28 May 2016.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 12

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

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 Indian Ocean Commission (IOC),

The Agreement between the OIE and IOC was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 30 September 2015 (84 SG/20),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 28 May 2016.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Amendments to 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 related to terrestrial animals and animal products,

2. Member Countries were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following final chapters for the *Terrestrial Manual*:

1.1.10.	Vaccine banks
1.1.11.	Standards for high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics
2.1.4.	Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus, B. melitensis* and *B. suis*) (infection with *B. abortus, B. melitensis* and *B. suis*)
2.1.7.	Japanese encephalitis
2.1.14.	Rift Valley fever
2.1.15.	Rinderpest
2.1.18.	Tularemia
2.2.2.	American foulbrood of honey bees
2.2.3.	European foulbrood of honey bees
2.3.10.	Fowl pox
2.3.12.	Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)
2.4.6.	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
2.4.14.	Lumpy skin disease
2.5.7.	Equine influenza
2.6.2.	Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
2.7.13.	Scrapie
2.9.4.	Cryptosporidiosis
2.9.9.	Salmonellosis

3.6.8 Validation recommendation: Comparability of assays after minor changes in a validated test method

3.7. Recommendations for the manufacture of vaccines

3.7.1. Minimum requirements for the organisation and management of a vaccine manufacturing facility

3.7.2. Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines

3.7.3. Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,

2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Biological Standards Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,

3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,

4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,

5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,

6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,

7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE *Reference Laboratory for highly pathogenic avian influenza*
Laboratório Nacional Agropecuário em Campinas – Lanagro-SP, Unidade de Sanidade Aviária, Campinas, BRAZIL

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease*
Laboratório Nacional Agropecuário em Campinas – Lanagro-SP, Unidade de Sanidade Aviária, Campinas, BRAZIL

OIE *Reference Laboratory for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome*
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, China Animal Disease Control Center, Daxing District, Beijing, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)

OIE *Reference Laboratory for avian chlamydiosis*
Laboratoire de santé animale, Unité Zoonoses bactériennes, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE *Reference Laboratory for enzootic abortion of ewes* (*ovine chlamydiosis*)
Laboratoire de santé animale, Unité Zoonoses bactériennes, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE *Reference Laboratory for bovine spongiform encephalopathy*
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZSPLVA), Torino, ITALY

OIE *Reference Laboratory for scrapie*
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZSPLVA), Torino, ITALY

OIE *Reference Laboratory for rinderpest*
National Reference Laboratory for Rinderpest, Exotic Disease Research Division, National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, Tokyo, JAPAN

OIE *Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease*
Division of FMD, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (QIA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Gimcheon-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do, KOREA (REP. OF)

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Q fever*
National Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Cattle and Sheep Diseases, Pulawy, POLAND

OIE *Reference Laboratory for brucellosis* (Brucella abortus *and* B. melitensis)
National Institute of Animal Health, Bangkok, THAILAND

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Register of diagnostic kits 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 Member Countries and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,

4. OIE Member Countries 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,

6. According to the OIE Standard Operating Procedure, registration of the diagnostic kits included in the OIE Register has to be renewed every five years,

7. 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 Member Countries,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General add the following kits 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**
Pourquier® IIF *Taylorella equigenitalis*	IDEXX Laboratories	Fit for the detection of *Taylorella equigenitalis* bacterial bodies from the swabs of the reproductive tract of stallions and mares for the following purposes: 1. Certify freedom from infection or agent in individual animals or products for trade or movement purposes; 2. Estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys, herd health schemes or disease control); 3. Control of infection in stallions and mares at the start of the breeding season.

BIONOTE® Rapid MERS-CoV Ag Test Kit	BioNote, Inc.	Fit for the qualitative detection of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) antigens from nasal swabs in dromedary camels for the following purposes: 1. Detection of MERS-CoV infected herds (herd test) with acutely infected animals with high virus loads; 2. When used as a supplemental test, to estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis, e.g. surveys, herd health schemes and disease control programmes.

2. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards, the Director General renew for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kit certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Check&Trace Salmonella	Check-Points B.V.	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 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 16

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) 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. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code:*

Albania
Australia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Estonia
Finland
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Lesotho
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Montenegro
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
San Marino
Serbia[1]
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Vanuatu

[1] Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones[2] where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

   the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

   Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

   Bolivia: one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2011;

   Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:

   - one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
   - one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
   - one zone covering Zone 4a;
   - one zone covering Zone 6b;

   Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;

   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 Chocó Department);

   one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);

   Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galapagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

   Kazakhstan: one zone consisting of the regions of Akmola, Aktobe, Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay, Mangystau, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan, as designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

   Malaysia: one 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;

   Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

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[2] For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;

Peru: one zone consisting of three merged zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004, in January 2007 and in August 2012;

Russia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;

South Africa: one zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in documents addressed to the Director General in May 2005 and January 2014.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones[3] where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. 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 October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;

Bolivia: one zone consisting of four merged zones covering the regions of Amazonas, Chaco, Chiquitania, Valles and part of Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and March 2007, in August 2010, in August 2012 and in October 2013 and February 2014;

Brazil: four separate zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General as follows:

- one zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997);
- one zone consisting of State of Rondônia (documentation of December 2002), State of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of State of Amazonas (documentation of March 2004) and an extension of this zone into the territory of State of Amazonas (documentation of December 2010);
- one zone consisting of three merged zones: one zone covering the middle southern part of State of Pará (documentation of February 2007), States of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, parts of State of Bahia, parts of State of Tocantins (documentation of May 2008), and the zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of July 2008); one zone located in States of Bahia and Tocantins (documentation of December 2010); and one zone covering States of Alagoas, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and the northern region of State of Pará (documentation of October 2013);
- one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of August 2010);

Colombia: one zone consisting of five merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, in December 2004 (two zones), in January 2007 and in January 2009;

[3] For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Paraguay: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and in August 2010;

Peru: one zone consisting of the regions of Tumbes and parts of Piura and Cajamarca as designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2012;

Turkey: one zone designated by the Delegate of Turkey in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE 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 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)
RESOLUTION No. 17

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 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* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries with endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Bolivia, China (People's Rep. of), Ecuador, India, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Mongolia, Namibia, Thailand and Venezuela.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)
RESOLUTION No. 18

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) 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 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France	Singapore
Australia	India	Swaziland
Botswana	Mexico	Switzerland
Canada	New Caledonia	United States of America
China (People's Republic of)	Portugal	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a CBPP free zone[4] according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code:*

   Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2015.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

[4] For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as CBPP free,enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' official control programme for CBPP based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries with endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 20

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Member Countries and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*),

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Hungary	Norway
Australia	Iceland	Panama
Austria	India	Paraguay
Belgium	Israel	Peru
Brazil	Italy	Portugal
Bulgaria	Japan	Romania
Chile	Korea (Rep. of)	Singapore
Colombia	Latvia	Slovakia
Costa Rica	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Croatia	Lithuania	Spain
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Sweden
Czech Republic	Malta	Switzerland
Denmark	Mexico	United States of America
Estonia	Namibia	Uruguay
Finland	Netherlands	
Germany	New Zealand	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Canada	Greece	Poland
Chinese Taipei	Ireland	United Kingdom
France	Nicaragua	

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a zone[5] recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau.

AND

4. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

5 For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as having a negligible BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 21

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from AHS,

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as AHS free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria	Czech Republic	Kuwait	Philippines
Andorra	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan	Poland
Argentina	Ecuador	Latvia	Portugal
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Qatar
Austria	Finland	Lithuania	Romania
Azerbaijan	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belgium		Malaysia	Slovakia
Bolivia	France	Malta	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Mexico	Spain
Brazil	Greece	Morocco	Sweden
Bulgaria	Hungary	Myanmar	Switzerland
Canada	Iceland	Netherlands	Thailand
Chile	India	New Caledonia	Tunisia
China (People's Rep. of)	Ireland	New Zealand	Turkey
Chinese Taipei	Italy	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Colombia	Japan	Oman	United Kingdom
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	United States of America
Cyprus	Korea (Rep. of)	Peru	Uruguay

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 22

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from PPR,

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as PPR free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Chinese Taipei
Colombia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Korea (Rep. of)
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Myanmar
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Norway
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
United Kingdom
United States of America

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a PPR free zone[6] according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2014.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

6 For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as PPR free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 23

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from CSF,

2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as CSF free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code:*

Australia	Hungary	Norway
Austria	Ireland	Poland
Belgium	Italy	Portugal
Canada	Japan	Slovakia
Chile	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Spain
Denmark	Mexico	Sweden
Finland	Netherlands	Switzerland
France	New Caledonia	United Kingdom
Germany	New Zealand	United States of America

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having CSF free zones[7], according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

7 For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Member Country recognised as CSF free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2014;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goias, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins, Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea, in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 24

New Member of the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in China and South-East Asia (SEACFMD)

CONSIDERING

1. Resolution No. X of the OIE International Committee on 17 May 1991, recommending the creation of a working group to coordinate foot and mouth disease control in South-East Asia,

2. The approval given by the OIE International Committee on 18 May 1994 for the creation of a Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia,

3. The OIE programme for the eradication of foot and mouth disease in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) set up by the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in 1997,

4. Resolution No. XXXVI of 26 May 2006 relating to the composition of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign,

5. Resolution No. 14 of 25 May 2010 relating to the inclusion of the People's Republic of China, Brunei and Singapore as Members of the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) and to the revision of the name of this Sub-Commission as "Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in China and South-East Asia (SEACFMD)",

6. That the inclusion of other countries in the region in the FMD eradication programme will contribute to the effectiveness and success of the programme's objectives,

7. That the Members of the Sub-Commission and their technical and financial partners wish to pursue and step up the programme based on an approved roadmap until 2020,

8. Request by Mongolia to become a Member of the Sub-Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. Mongolia shall become Member of the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in China and South-East Asia (SEACFMD), with effect from 27 May 2016;

2. The name of the Sub-Commission remains unchanged.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 25

Global Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Following its first identification in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) has spread to over 70 countries in Africa, the Near and Middle East, and Asia, which are home to more than 80% of the world's sheep and goat population,

2. Controlling transboundary animal diseases such as PPR is a shared interest between infected and uninfected countries and should be considered as a global public good,

3. The eradication of PPR is achievable given that the disease is caused by only one serotype, there is neither a carrier state nor a sustainable reservoir outside domestic small ruminants, and effective diagnostic tools and vaccines that comply with the quality standards of the OIE are available,

4. At the 82nd General Session of the OIE, the World Assembly of Delegates unanimously adopted Resolution No. 24 recommending the development of a global control and eradication strategy under the GF-TADs (Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) mechanism that recognised the need for an integrated approach involving effective vaccination programmes, investment in the capacity of Veterinary Services to be compliant with OIE standards, and the control and prevention of other priority diseases of small ruminants in a cost-effective manner,

5. The OIE, in collaboration with the FAO, held an international conference on the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 31 March to 2 April 2015, at which the OIE/FAO Global Control and Eradication Strategy based on the principles described in point 4 above was officially endorsed with a vision to eliminate PPR by 2030,

6. Subsequent to the international conference, initial roadmap meetings have been held in several regions within the GF-TADs framework,

7. The OIE and the FAO have established a joint PPR Global Secretariat hosted by the FAO and operating within the GF-TADs governance structure,

8. During the 81st General Session of the OIE, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter on infection with PPR virus in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be officially recognised by the OIE as free from PPR,

9. The procurement of vaccines using the OIE regional vaccine bank mechanism ensures the timely procurement of high quality and affordable vaccines,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Affected Member Countries consider PPR as a priority disease for the development of national control programmes in line with the guiding principles and the three pillars of the Global Control and Eradication Strategy endorsed at the Abidjan conference.

2. Such national PPR control programmes include the use of vaccines compliant with OIE international standards, the design of vaccine delivery systems adapted to local conditions, assurance of laboratory diagnostic capacity, and robust surveillance plans to support timely and accurate disease reporting to the World Animal Health Information System in order to monitor the global situation.

3. Affected Member Countries actively promote the development of public–private partnerships between official Veterinary Services, livestock owners, private veterinary and para-professional personnel and other stakeholders to facilitate the understanding and implementation of national PPR control programmes.

4. Member Countries participate in the regional GF-TADs roadmap process to ensure the continual evaluation and monitoring of the PPR situation using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool and Post-Vaccination Evaluation Tool developed for this purpose.

5. The OIE and FAO work collaboratively and diligently through the established joint PPR Global Secretariat to support the endorsed Global Control and Eradication Strategy and its three component elements.

6. The OIE and FAO support the efforts of the joint PPR Global Secretariat in their development of a donor engagement and funding strategy.

7. The OIE facilitate affordable access to quality-assured vaccines manufactured in line with established standards through the use of the established regional vaccine bank mechanism.

8. The OIE continue to provide training on the official country disease status and endorsed control programme recognition procedures provided for in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* with respect to PPR and the endorsement of successful applications by the Assembly as an important incentive for countries to engage in PPR control and eradication programmes.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 26

Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Rabies is a neglected and under-reported zoonosis that causes tens of thousands of human deaths annually despite being 100% preventable,

2. Half of the world's population live in rabies endemic areas and over 95% of human cases are caused by the bite of a rabies-infected dog,

3. Rabies disproportionately burdens rural communities, particularly children, from economically disadvantaged areas, where awareness of the disease and access to appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis is limited or non-existent,

4. It has been demonstrated that dog-mediated rabies can be sustainably eliminated at the animal source by implementing regular mass dog vaccination in high-risk areas with high quality vaccines, advocating for responsible dog ownership and population control complying with OIE international standards, ensuring access to affordable human post-exposure prophylaxis and by raising public awareness about dog bite prevention and treatment as recommended by WHO,

5. Investing in eliminating rabies at its source by vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective and equitable approach for the elimination,

6. The procurement of dog rabies vaccine using the regional OIE vaccine bank ensures the timely procurement of high-quality and affordable vaccines and creates incentives at country level for the sustainability of dog-mediated human rabies elimination programme,

7. Rabies elimination remains a priority for the Tripartite (OIE, FAO and WHO) and the existence of regional strategies to eliminate human rabies using the One Health approach,

8. The progress made by OIE Member Countries in implementing the recommendations of Regional and Global OIE Rabies elimination Conferences: Ukraine 2005, France 2007, Republic of Korea 2011 and Switzerland 2015,

9. The Global Framework for the Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies (Global Framework) that was elaborated in accordance with the consensus reached by participants at the Global Conference: Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies held in Geneva in 2015,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMENDS THAT

1. The OIE, in partnership with WHO, FAO and other interested parties, sustains its commitment to the elimination of dog-mediated rabies as a priority in the public interest.

2. The OIE and OIE Member Countries maintain their efforts to foster political will and long-term social commitment for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies.

3. OIE Member Countries, policy makers and donors be persuaded as to the merit and value of investing in rabies elimination strategies as well as the promotion of different forms of investment and partnership to leverage resources and community engagement.

4. National or regional dog-mediated rabies elimination strategies be developed or refined and validated in order to allow individual countries to adapt their approaches and investments to their local circumstances.

5. The OIE regional vaccine bank mechanism in collaboration with the WHO be promoted and supported to ensure the timely provision of quality vaccines to support the implementation of regional and national dog-mediated rabies elimination programmes.

6. OIE Member Countries enhance rabies surveillance and reporting of incidences of human and animal cases and to share the information across government levels and sectors using a One Health approach.

7. OIE Member Countries and other interested parties consider the Global Framework to harmonise actions and to provide adaptable guidance to achieve the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 27

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 fifteenth meeting in November 2015 and drafted a work programme for 2016, taking into consideration the objectives of the 6th Strategic Plan (2016-2020),

2. The Working Group's membership includes high level experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and internationally recognised experts in animal production food safety from around the globe,

3. 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 farm-to-fork system approach to achieving food safety outcomes,

4. 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, food borne zoonotic diseases and related issues,

5 During the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite meeting held in February 2012, FAO and WHO asked the OIE to encourage its Member Countries to designate INFOSAN Focal Points from their official Veterinary Services,

6. National Delegates have nominated 175 national focal points for animal production food safety according to proposed terms of reference.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General review the membership and mandate of the the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to ensure alignment with the 6th Strategic Plan and the provision of expertise in support of the work of the 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, and appropriate activities undertaken with the objective of further strengthening the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The Director General continue to work with Codex to implement measures to promote collaboration, in particular the adoption of systematic procedures for cross referencing between the relevant OIE and Codex standards, the enhancement of processes to identify joint priorities of mutual interest, and the strengthening of linkages at the national and regional levels.

4. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P, the International Standardization Organization (ISO), the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) and the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) initiative and other relevant organisations from the private sector to ensure their awareness of and compliance with OIE animal production food safety standards.

5. The Director General continue to organise regional seminars for the national animal production food safety focal points designated by Delegates.

6. National OIE Delegates collaborate with their public health counterparts and designate the national OIE Focal Point for animal production food safety to be an INFOSAN Focal Point or, if this is not possible, to nominate an officer from Veterinary Services as both the INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point and the OIE Focal Point.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 28

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, and political and trade policy dimensions,

3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which proposes and provides guidance for the implementation of a detailed annual work programme and provide regular updates to the Assembly,

4. Additional work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards for pig and layer hen production systems,

5. A new standard on the welfare of working equids is proposed for adoption,

6. Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health have been prepared,

7. Regional animal welfare strategies, animal welfare platforms and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and participate in regional training programmes.

2. Within the framework of an OIE 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 animal welfare mandate.

3. Veterinary Services of each Member Country 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.

4. Veterinary Services of each Member Country take steps to engage with governmental and non-governmental organisations to apply the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health including, as appropriate, the possible need to strengthen the relevant regulatory frameworks, and improve their capacity to respond to any kind of disaster.

5. The Working Group continues to provide recommendations to the Director General to be considered in the development of the future work programme of it relates to animal welfare.

6. The OIE Regional Commissions and their respective Member Countries continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Animal Welfare Platforms, with the assistance of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group members from their respective regions.

7. The OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres are encouraged to identify "OIE twinning project" opportunities in accordance with OIE policy, and that further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.

8. The OIE continues to monitor the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare and its recognition of OIE's international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.

9. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.

10. The Director General continue dialogue with the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) to ensure awareness of OIE science-based animal welfare standards.

11. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.

12. The Director General continue to consult widely on the draft OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy proposed by the Animal Welfare Working Group.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Collaborating Centres,

2. The Terms of Reference of each of the four elected OIE Specialist Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,

3. All OIE Collaborating Centres applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,

4. Details of the applicant institutions that have been assessed by a Specialist Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,

5. All Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the OIE Council,

6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Collaborating Centre follow the same procedure,

7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval".

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of OIE Collaborating Centres (available on the OIE web site):

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Infectious Reproductive Diseases in Europe*
LNCR, laboratoire national de contrôle des reproducteurs, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Services Capacity Building*
Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia-Pacific, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, THAILAND

OIE *Collaborating Centre for Day-One Veterinary Competencies and Continuing Education*
Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ames, Iowa, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Designation of an OIE Reference Laboratory for aquatic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,

2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,

3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,

4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,

5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,

6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,

7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratory for aquatic animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE *Reference Laboratory for infection with* Hepatobacter penaei (*necrotising hepatopancreatitis*)
Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences,
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 31

Approval of the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends (84 SG/2).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 32

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 2016 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 84 SG/12/CS 1B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Document 84 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 4, 5, 11, 13 and 14 of Document 84 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

   2.1. In Annex 4 (User's Guide)

   (*The modification only applies to the English version*)

   In the first paragraph of point 3 of Section C, add "some of the" before "tools used to control diseases".

   2.2. In Annex 5 (Glossary)

   In the definition of "*Casings*", delete ", oesophagus" between "intestines" and "and bladders".

   2.3. In Annex 11 (Chapter 6.8.)

   Go back to the previously proposed text for the first paragraph of Article 6.8.1. in the September 2015 Code Commission meeting report as follows:

   > "For the purpose of this chapter, therapeutic use of *antimicrobial agents* means the administration of *antimicrobial agents* to *animals* for treating and controlling infectious diseases."

2.4. In Annex 13 (Chapter 15.3.)

In Article 15.3.3. point 1 e), replace "pig *establishments*" between "people in" and "to prevent" with "areas and *establishments* where pigs are kept" as follows:

"providing adequate toilet and sanitation facilities for people in areas and *establishments* where pigs are kept to prevent the exposure of pigs and their environment to human faeces."

2.5. In Annex 14 (Chapter 7.5.)

In Article 7.5.7. point 2, modify the text to make 3 sentences into one paragraph, as follows:

"Captive bolts powered by cartridges, compressed air or spring can be used for *poultry*. The optimum position for *poultry* species is at a right angle to the frontal surface. Firing of a captive bolt in accordance with to the manufacturers' instructions should lead to immediate destruction of the skull and the brain and, as a result, immediate *death*."

3. 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 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 33

Amendments to the *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous OIE General Sessions,

2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations of the February 2016 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 8 of Document 84 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Document 84 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 34

Amendments to 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. Member Countries are asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,

3. The following revised chapter was sent to Member Countries for comment:

    2.2.8. Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised chapter for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexe 9 of Document 84 SG/12/CS4 B, with the following modifications:

    1.1. In Section 2.1.1. *Aetiological agent, agent strains*, to replace the abbreviation "YHD" with the words "yellow head disease".

    1.2. In Section 2.2.2. *Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility*: to add the words "red claw crayfish *(Cherax quadricarinatus*)".

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 35

The Economics of Animal Health: Direct and Indirect Costs of Animal Disease Outbreaks

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* glossary definition of risk assessment includes reference to the economic consequences of the entry, establishment and spread of a hazard,

2. The veterinary profession has a critical role in the management of the health and welfare of terrestrial and aquatic animals,

3. Animal diseases, which can have profound economic consequences for countries, the animal production sector and owners, and public health, are the reasons for the existence of significant investments in Veterinary Services across the world,

4. Public animal health investments in non-notifiable endemic diseases are poorly represented in many of the current national disease control programmes, yet these may have a critical impact on animal productivity, biodiversity and environments,

5. These animal health investments do not cover all animal species and populations, particularly those animals kept by producers with limited resources,

6. Despite these animal health investments, many areas of the world continue to have low staffing levels of their national Veterinary Services relative to their animal populations,

7. There are insufficient high quality data and information on direct and indirect economic losses caused by animal diseases in general, which are required for an overall economic assessment of animal health,

8. Well-designed and presented economic analyses are a useful and necessary tool for defending existing and current resource allocation to Veterinary Services necessary to protect animal and public health, and animal welfare,

9. Economic analysis provides information on imbalances between: species and sectors; diseases; and activities within a disease control programme. Such information should be the basis for improved decision making of the Veterinary Services and their ability to engage with political and financial stakeholders at local, national and global levels,

10. The OIE is the world leader in collecting, analysing, reporting and disseminating information on global terrestrial and aquatic animal and zoonotic diseases through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS),

11. The OIE's support and/or involvement to promote the collection of economic data and the development, implementation, and integration of economic analyses will be critical for Member Countries to enhance the capacity of their Veterinary Services,

12. OIE Member Countries are keen to take advantage of existing and emerging educational and training opportunities, and the need to improve the economic analysis of animal health,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries consistently report disease events in accordance with the obligations provided for in the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes,* and to regularly update the related information concerning livestock populations, as well as veterinary and laboratory services as part of their annual reports.

2. Member Countries use the associated collection and capture of data as a basis for the improvement of economic analyses and their use.

3. Investments be made by Member Countries in their national disease reporting systems to ensure timely and quality data capture.

4. Investments be made by OIE and Member Countries to optimise the use of the WAHIS data in support of economic analyses.

5. The OIE, with support from relevant organisations and donors, and informed by best practice of Member Countries, develop and test a methodology to determine the global burden of animal diseases in order to address deficiencies in economic information on national and world impact of animal diseases.

6. The OIE, with support from relevant organisations and donors, and informed by best practice of Member Countries, develop and test a methodology guided by the OIE PVS Gap Analysis Tool that will determine the costs of national Veterinary Services over continuous time periods. The resulting datasets combined with the burden of animal diseases should be used to estimate of productivity changes and returns on investment.

7. Veterinary education at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development levels includes the practical use of economics in animal health and welfare, and/or enhanced collaboration with relevant professionals in order to improve the use of economic analysis by the Veterinary Services.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 36

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a One Health Approach: Actions and OIE Strategy

CONSIDERING

1. That antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is both an animal and human health threat of growing concern which has been significantly considered by the OIE through the development and adoption of relevant and important standards and guidelines,

2. That during the 77th General Session (May 2009), the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 25 on Veterinary Medicinal Products, which also considered previous Resolutions on the harmonising of registration requirements for veterinary drugs, their responsible and prudent use and the monitoring of resistance including recommended actions to be implemented,

3. The recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, held in March 2013 in Paris, France, including Recommendation No. 7 to collect harmonised quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with the view to establishing a global database, which was subsequently formally endorsed by the Assembly at the 83rd General Session (May 2015) through the adoption of Resolution No. 26,

4. The contribution of the OIE to the development of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, under the framework of the Tripartite agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the WHO and the OIE, which was adopted by the World Health Assembly of the WHO in May 2015,

5. The recommendation to Member Countries, to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, in particular by developing national action plans, in respect of the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and ensuring close collaboration with public health officials, adopted through Resolution No. 26 of the 83rd General Session on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals,

6. The importance of the capacities of the national Veterinary Services to comply with the relevant standards and the particular benefit of the OIE PVS Pathway in supporting the Member Countries to update their legislation, which is a prerequisite to ensure good governance covering registration, production, distribution, prescription and use as well as control and surveillance of antimicrobial agents at the national level,

7. The role of the network of the OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products in supporting the global implementation of the OIE standards regarding veterinary products,

8. The importance of appropriate veterinary and veterinary para-professional education in the promotion of veterinary oversight to ensure responsible use of antimicrobial agents in animals,

9. The action of OIE to raise the awareness of the health risk posed by antimicrobial resistance by developing communication materials and organising sub-regional, regional and international events,

AND RECOGNISING the importance and the relevance of the actions carried out by the OIE to date in the fight against antimicrobial resistance

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

All the actions developed by the OIE according to the mandate approved by the Assembly, i.e.:

– The setting of standards and guidelines,

– The implementation of capacity building programmes for better governance with the aim of an improved veterinary stewardship of veterinary drugs in order to prevent the inappropriate use of antimicrobials,

– The establishment and the management of a database for the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals as well as the development of interpretation indicators,

– The publication of and the contribution to the development of scientific knowledge, in particular on new technologies, including vaccines and alternatives to antimicrobials,

– The development of communication materials, to promote the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials and to increase the public awareness,

Shall be compiled and consolidated within the OIE Strategy on antimicrobial resistance.

AND RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Strategy on antimicrobials be implemented through a stepwise approach, in close cooperation with WHO and FAO through a One Health approach as well as with other concerned partners and stakeholders, and that the OIE further promote intersectorial cooperation, coordination and interaction at regional and national levels.

2. The OIE advocate that policy makers act to preserve the efficacy of antimicrobial agents. These critical tools help to sustain animal health and welfare, contribute to food security and safety, protect human health from zoonotic disease threats and contribute to the economic prosperity of countries.

3. The OIE Strategy promote the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials as well as approaches to decrease their use, such as the adoption of best practices for sanitation, OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Code provisions for biosecurity to prevent disease, and good husbandry practices including vaccination programmes.

4. The OIE provide guidance on alternatives to the use of antimicrobials and on how to carry out risk analyses to demonstrate appropriate management to reduce the development of resistance and the protection of both animal and human health.

5. OIE Member Countries fulfil their commitment under the Global Action Plan to implement policies on the use of antimicrobials in terrestrial and aquatic animals, respecting OIE intergovernmental standards and guidelines on the use of critically important antimicrobial agents, and the phasing out of the use of antibiotics for growth promotion in the absence of risk analysis.

6. The OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations be actively communicated by the OIE to contribute to public discussion with full consideration of the multifactorial causes of antimicrobial resistance.

7. The OIE seek support to enable Member Countries to implement the OIE Strategy and their national action plans.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 27 May 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 37

Honorary title for OIE Directors General

CONSIDERING

1. The functions of the World Assembly of Delegates, set out in a non-exclusive manner in Article 6 of the Organic Rules,

2. The services rendered by the Directors General of the OIE during the course of their mandate(s) for the improvement of animal health worldwide and the outreach of the Organisation,

On a proposal of the Council,

THE ASSEMBLY,

RESOLVES

To grant the title of « Honorary Director General of the OIE » at the end of the mandate(s) of the OIE Directors General.

This honorary title does not grant any prerogative or specific authority, nor any statutory function within the Organisation.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
in view of an entry into force on 28 May 2016)

Recommendations

of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2015

Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
on 26 May 2016

29th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 14 to 18 September 2015

Recommendation No. 1**:**	The role of Veterinary Authority in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?
Recommendation No. 2:	How can we progress the cooperation between Animal health sector and public health sector?

Recommendation No. 1

The role of Veterinary Authority in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Recent growth in global aquaculture production has been extraordinary—rising to 97.2 million tonnes in 2013 from 27.8 million tonnes two decades earlier;

2. The Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania are responsible for more or less 90% of global aquaculture production volume and 79% of global aquaculture production value;

3. Many characteristics of the rapidly growing aquaculture sector are consistent with drivers of disease emergence;

4. The emergence of new, damaging diseases has been a feature of aquaculture in recent decades with some emerging diseases resulting in panzootics and significant economic impacts;

5. Member Countries have experienced severe impacts from emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

6. In many countries, responsibilities for managing aquatic animal health are shared between the Veterinary Authority and other authorities (e.g. fisheries or aquaculture agencies);

7. Member Countries have identified improving transparency regarding notification of emerging diseases as one of the most important actions Member Countries could take to support international efforts to manage emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

8. Members Countries have identified early detection, public private partnerships and industry cooperation, availability of diagnostic tests, and early response as the most important factors for successful response to emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

9. Members Countries have identified better understanding of emerging disease epidemiology as the single most significant factor that would need to be addressed to improve success in disease response;

10. Some of the most important drivers of disease emergence such as production of alien species and aquatic animal translocation are not considered in the aquaculture planning and aquatic animal health management arrangements of some major aquaculture producers;

11. Some member countries do not have contingency plans for aquatic animal disease emergencies;

12. Member Countries have identified sharing of epidemiological information on emerging aquatic animal diseases, improving transparency and improving biosecurity and disease control as the most important actions Member Countries could take to manage emerging diseases; and

13. Member Countries have identified coordinating regional action for serious emerging diseases, provision of technical guidance on new emerging diseases, supporting OIE Members to build their capabilities through the OIE PVS Pathway, and advocating improved transparency for notification of emerging diseases as the most important actions that the OIE could take to support international efforts to manage emerging diseases.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member countries consider any need for improved cooperation between their Veterinary Authority and other authorities responsible for aquatic animal health capabilities (e.g. fisheries or aquaculture authority) to ensure effective prevention and control of emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

2. Member Countries utilise risk analysis chapter and application of other measures recommended in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code to manage the risk of introducing pathogens during trade of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products;

3. Member Countries conscientiously report the occurrence of *emerging diseases* in accordance with the requirements in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code;

4. Member Countries consider drivers of disease emergence in their aquaculture planning and aquatic animal health management programmes;

5. Member Countries ensure that important factors for successful response to emerging diseases— early detection, early reporting, early response, and public private partnerships and industry cooperation— be incorporated in their aquatic animal disease preparedness programmes;

6. Member Countries take steps to improve biosecurity and disease control within their aquaculture industries;

7. Member Countries request PVS Evaluation missions of their Aquatic Animal Health Services to assist improvement and compliance with OIE standards;

8. Member Countries include among their priorities the strengthening of initial and continuing veterinary education for aquatic animal health professionals, taking into account the OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') and the OIE guidelines on a veterinary education core curriculum;

9. The OIE work with Member Countries to facilitate improved coordination of regional action in response to serious emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

10. The OIE continue to provide technical guidance on new emerging diseases of aquatic animals;

11. The OIE develop and publish standards and guidelines for the control of aquatic animal diseases with clear principles that can be adapted to emerging diseases despite the lack of epidemiological understanding;

12. The OIE consider how it could advocate improved transparency for notification of emerging diseases of aquatic animals through WAHIS, including investigating motivation for notification; and

13. The OIE continue to support Member Countries in the region through the OIE PVS Pathway for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 September 2015 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016)

Recommendation N°2

How can we progress the cooperation between Animal health sector and public health sector?

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Emerging and re-emerging diseases pose a substantial and continued threat to public health, animal health, ecosystems and, food and nutrition security;

2. 'Global public health' is a shared responsibility of both the human and animal health sectors;

3. Coordination and collaboration between the Veterinary Services (VS), the Public Health Services (PHS), other relevant authorities, and private sector constitute a key component of good veterinary and public health governance;

4. The OIE and WHO actively promote, with the support of FAO, an intersectoral collaborative approach among institutions and systems for the prevention, detection and control of diseases among and between animals and humans;

5. The OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO International Health Regulations Monitoring Framework (IHRMF) are useful tools helping countries to assess the competencies and capacities of their animal and human health sectors;

6. The joint use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF results in a detailed assessment and analysis of existing strengths and gaps and a better alignment of capacity-building approaches and strategies at the national level between the animal and human health sectors;

7. Veterinary and Public Health Services national pilot workshops, supported jointly by OIE and WHO and promoting intersectoral collaboration among the animal and human health sectors using the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF , have provided opportunities for recipient countries, such as Thailand in the region, to undertake concrete actions to improve such collaboration; and

8. The OIE, jointly with WHO and the World Bank, has published a guide for their Member Countries outlining methods for strengthening the good governance of health systems entitled "WHO-OIE operational framework for Good Governance at the human-animal interface: Bridging WHO and OIE tools for the assessment of national capacities".

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries advocate for a high level of commitment by the national VS and the national PHS as a prerequisite for establishing national common priorities and for improving the effectiveness and capacities of both the animal health and public health sectors;

2. Member Countries consider a clear chain of command and the coordination mechanisms as priority factors for good governance of the VS and the PHS;

3. Member Countries be fully involved in the implementation of the OIE standards and WHO IHR through the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF;

4. Member Countries be encouraged to identify practical activities for joint national and regional roadmaps to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the animal and public health sectors targeting antimicrobial resistance, rabies, zoonotic influenza, food safety, and emerging zoonotic diseases as priorities;

5. Member Countries identify opportunities for joint training programmes with animal health and public health officials from the different authorities likely to be called upon to work on joint contingency plans and disease controls or investigations of disease outbreaks and food safety events;

6. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO, and the support of FAO, continue to advocate at the highest level strong collaboration between the veterinary authorities, the public health authorities and other relevant stakeholders, including from the private sector;

7. The OIE continue to provide its Member Countries with support through the OIE PVS Pathway to improve their compliance with OIE standards, with particular emphasis on those relating to veterinary legislation, transparency, technical independence, joint programmes and coordination of their activities with the PHS;

8. The OIE support its Member Countries in the identification of concrete and well-defined goals and indicators to monitor their progress towards parallel implementation of joint technical areas of PVS Critical Competencies and IHR Core Capacities;

9. The OIE support its Member Countries in the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF as the relevant tools in order to undertake a detailed assessment and analysis of the existing national strengths and gaps in the animal and human health sectors;

10. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO, continue to support VS and PHS in organising, at the request of individual Member Countries, national workshops promoting intersectoral collaboration between the animal and human health sectors using the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF; and

11. The OIE consider establishing an ad hoc Group and publish guidelines on coordination mechanisms and interventions between the animal health and public health sectors (including other relevant stakeholders) using the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF as tools.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 September 2015 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016)

13th Conference of the OIE
Regional Commission for the Middle East

Kaslik, Lebanon, 10-14 November 2015

Recommendation No. 1:	Control of rabies in the Middle East Region, with emphasis on stray dog control
Recommendation No. 2:	The use of non-structural proteins to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals

Recommendation No. 1

Control of rabies in the Middle East Region, with emphasis on stray dog control

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Rabies is a widespread, neglected and under-reported zoonosis that has an almost 100% case fatality rate in humans and animals untreated in time and causes a significant social and economic burden in many countries of the Middle East;

2. The Member Countries where the disease is endemic should consider rabies as a high priority zoonosis;

3. Massive culling of dog populations or wildlife, as an isolated, interim or emergency control measure, is neither sustainable nor scientifically supported for efficiently controlling or eliminating dog-mediated rabies;

4. The control and elimination of rabies in dogs, through vaccination, and appropriate stray dog population control remains the only cost-effective way to sustainably protect humans from contracting the disease;

5. Only four (4) out of eighteen (18) countries of the Middle East Region estimate the size of their stray dog population, only two (2) countries have information on the prevalence of rabies in their stray dog population, and only five (5) countries have a vaccination programme for stray dogs;

6. The OIE has adopted and continually updates its intergovernmental standards relating to rabies prevention and control and stray dog population control;

7. The World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the OIE, united in a "One Health" approach to eliminate human and animal rabies, provide Governments and other concerned stakeholders with strategic and technical guidance and build advocacy around rabies prevention, underpinned by strong Public Health and Veterinary Services;

8. The "One Health" concept and approaches are gaining momentum and attention across OIE Member Countries of the Middle East;

9. There is a consensus among Member Countries of the Middle East Region that the OIE should strengthen its support for rabies control and eradication in the Middle East region using the "One Health" approach; and

10. The scope of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Middle East (2014-2019) includes the appropriate control of stray dog populations.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE, WHO, and FAO, develop and adopt a Regional Strategy for the eradication of rabies from the Middle East in which the vaccination of dogs and the control of stray dog populations, in compliance with the relevant OIE standards, including Animal Welfare standards, will be key components;

2. The Member Countries develop national roadmaps, including extension programmes, for the control of rabies, which will provide a pathway towards achieving the objectives of the aforementioned Regional Strategy, based on measurable activities and realistic timelines and indicators;

3. The Veterinary Services of Member Countries collaborate with the Public Health Services (Ministry of Public Health), municipalities, relevant NGOs and local communities to develop the national roadmaps and benefit from the cost-effective advantage of eliminating rabies at the animal source through appropriate programmes;

4. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE and in collaboration with WHO and FAO, update and enforce their legislation (in accordance with the Regional Strategy) to comply with relevant standards, including those of the OIE, for effective rabies prevention and control, and stray dog population control;

5. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, organise biennial "One Health" coordination regional workshops in the Middle East to provide technical support and monitor the progress of the Member Countries, to discuss future steps and actions, and, when relevant, to review and update the aforementioned Regional Strategy;

6. The OIE, with the financial contribution of Member Countries and donors, consider the establishment of an OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank to which Member Countries of the Middle East region would have access; and

7. The OIE, provided funding is available, organise in 2016 a Regional Conference in the Middle East aimed at presenting to Member Countries the OIE standards applicable to rabies and stray dog population control, establishing the baseline situation of the Member Countries and validating the aforementioned Regional Strategy.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 14 November 2015
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016)

Recommendation No. 2

The use of non-structural proteins to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Serological tests are widely used to monitor the immune status of animals potentially exposed to foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) or vaccinated against FMD;

2. There are a number of commercially available tests, and in-house assays that detect non-structural protein (NSP)-specific antibody responses;

3. The strength of the NSP-specific antibody responses in vaccinated animals that are subsequently infected with FMDV can vary according to the extent of virus replication;

4. NSP tests to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals are already used by several countries to support foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programmes;

5. The design of sampling surveys is critical when NSP tests are used to support national programmes to attain the OIE status of FMD-free without vaccination (i.e., to identify animals in which virus is circulating or has established persistent infections), since random surveys are not always effective at detecting rare events; and

6. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* provide standards on the use of vaccines and interpretation of serological tests for FMD.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. According to their national FMD status, and their official control programme, including vaccination strategy, Member Countries clearly define the purpose of sero-surveys: e.g. i) to determine the serological prevalence, ii) to provide robust evidence that the country or a zone of the country is free from FMD, and iii) to monitor the population immunity after vaccination;

2. With the support from the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network, Member Countries identify and compile the FMDV field strains currently circulating in the Middle East region as well as the strains that could sporadically occur;

3. Member Countries compile a list of all vaccines (including details of manufacturers, specific FMDV strains, formulations, and degree of purity) that are currently deployed or available in the Middle East region;

4. Member Countries ensure that the FMD vaccines used are appropriate for the viruses circulating in the region and make greater use of the vaccine matching services offered by the OIE Reference Laboratories;

5. Member Countries ensure that the vaccines used comply with the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals;*

6. Member Countries wishing to differentiate vaccinated from infected animals use vaccine purified from NSPs, as recommended in OIE standards;

7. When using NSPs surveys, Member Countries carefully consider the study design and interpretation of results in the context of the performance of the assays used and, whenever required, seek advice from OIE Reference Laboratories;

8. Member Countries consider the importance of establishing and supporting a laboratory network to develop and harmonise capacity in the Middle East region using, among others, OIE Twinning mechanism;

9. The OIE continue to provide support to countries wishing to engage in the OIE procedure for endorsement of their official national control programme and official recognition of FMD freedom, including the organisation of a regional workshop on OIE's procedures in the region;

10. The OIE consider the possibility of establishing an FMD vaccine bank for the Middle East region; and

11. The OIE, in collaboration with its Reference Laboratories, collate field data and, where relevant, experimental data on the extent of NSP sero-prevalence in vaccinated herds that become infected, to inform the design of future serological surveys.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 14 November 2015 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2016)

Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions held during the 84th General Session

Paris, 23 May 2016

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.

84 SG/11B/AF

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 98 participants, including Delegates and observers from 34 Members of the Commission, 2 observer countries, and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: France, United States of America.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA[39], FAO, IGAD[40], WAEMU[41].

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the World Assembly of Delegates, and Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Modisane then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued to discuss implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

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39 CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

40 IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

41 WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

Dr Modisane provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.
2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate's allowance.
3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.
4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.
5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.
6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.
7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the *ad hoc* groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.
8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.
9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

With regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates' nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

Dr Modisane informed the Commission of the various activities in which he had participated in his capacity as President of the OIE, including: the OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, held in Paris, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2015; the Conference on global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies, held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2015; and the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015.

Finally, Dr Modisane reported that, in line with Resolution XVII of 28 May 2004 on the establishment of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, the 10th meeting of the Management Committee, chaired by the President of the Assembly and comprising two members appointed by the Council, had been held on 18 May 2016 to review and endorse the financial and technical reports submitted by the OIE Headquarters.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Komla Batasse Batawui, Delegate of Togo and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, began his presentation by providing details on the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa, elected in the last General Session.

Dr Batawui reported that the monitoring of activities since the General Session in May 2015 revealed the following highlights for Africa:

1. Strong participation of African Delegates at the OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, held in Paris (France) from 30 June to 2 July 2015.
2. The participation of 74 Africans, including both experts and OIE Delegates at the important global conference: “Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Rabies – The Time is Now”, held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 10 and 11 December 2015, and organised jointly by WHO and the OIE in collaboration with FAO and GARC.
3. Meeting to prepare the roadmap for the eradication of PPR, held in Dakar from 8 to 11 May 2016, in line with the recommendations of the meeting in Abidjan, held from 31 March to 2 April 2015.
4. The African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organised the 8th Pan African meeting of OIE Delegates to coordinate a joint position of sanitary standards, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 28 April 2016.

With regard to capacity-building seminars and seminars dedicated to National Focal Points organised by the OIE, Dr Batawui commented that Africa benefited from the organisation of two events. A regional seminar for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products, held in Dakar (Senegal), from 21 to 23 March 2016; and a Continental conference on the role of veterinary paraprofessionals in Africa, held in Pretoria (South Africa) from 13 to 15 October 2015.

Dr Batawui reported on the continued implementation of the recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015, concerning cross-border movement of animals and animal products and transboundary disease control campaigns.

Finally, Dr Batawui reported on the future prospects by highlighting the organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, summarised the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between May 2015 and May 2016, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He said that the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (RR-AF) had focused mainly on: providing technical assistance in the field of animal health; facilitating better animal disease reporting; capacity-building; and improving governance. With regard to technical assistance, he gave details on the activities in which the RR-AF had participated. The RR-AF also encouraged and assisted Member Countries in submitting their contribution to the OIE database on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Dr Tounkara gave details about capacity-building activities, including: implementation of the animal health component of the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS); the joint OIE/World Health Organization (WHO) external evaluation missions of the post-Ebola preparedness project in Guinea Bissau and Niger supported by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID); participation in the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services [PVS] Evaluation mission to Guinea Bissau; and assisting Guinea and Senegal in formulating the World Bank Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (REDISSE). The RR-AF organised a regional seminar in Dakar (Senegal) for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products and helped to prepare the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) Legislation Seminar for Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to be held in Lomé (Togo).

With regard to disease reporting, Dr Tounkara said that the RR-AF encouraged countries infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever to send regular weekly follow-up reports. He added that, jointly with the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, the RR-AF also encouraged Member Countries to send all due six-monthly reports. As regards governance, he reported that the RR-AF encouraged all Member Countries to pay their statutory annual financial contribution to the OIE. He also mentioned the VET-GOV Steering Committee meetings attended by RR-AF. He said that RR-AF continued to act as temporary secretariat for the ECOWAS Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako (Mali) and as permanent secretariat for the Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa.

Finally, Dr Tounkara reported on the work plan for 2016, saying that it would focus on the three strategic objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan. For Strategic Objective 1 (securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management), activities will concern *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), highly pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever and anthrax. The main activity on Strategic Objective 2 (establishing trust through transparency and communication) will be encouraging Member Countries to meet their obligations regarding animal disease notification and submission of statutory reports. For the implementation of Strategic Objective 3 (ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services), he said that the RR-AF planned to continue providing technical support to Member Countries, to organise technical seminars and to encourage Twinning projects.

Dr Tounkara reported that the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for East Africa and the Horn of Africa (SRR-EA) were geared towards (co-)organising several capacity-building events and regional conferences and seminars, as well as managing relations with regional organisations such as the African Union institutions (primarily the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources [IBAR] and the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre [PANVAC]), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and, increasingly, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), for which a cooperation agreement will be submitted for approval by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 84th General Session.

Dr Tounkara provided details on major SRR-EA outputs, which were not always conducted in the East Africa region itself, including: facilitating the fourth annual meeting of the Deans of the Southern and Eastern Africa Association of Veterinary Educational Establishments (SEAAVEE); and coordinating two regional training programmes on harmonisation of veterinary legislation at community level, organised with the support of AU-IBAR under the VET-GOV programme, and the fourth cycle in the ongoing training of OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products. He also commented on the co-organisation and coordination of the inaugural continental conference for veterinary para-professionals, held in Pretoria (South Africa) in October 2015 with the aim of improving the quality of field work conducted in Africa by strengthening the linkages and collaboration between veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Dr Tounkara reported that the no-cost extension of the VET-GOV programme (up to end of July 2017) had enabled the OIE to fund new capacity-building programmes and to support novel initiatives for reaching regional consensus on OIE matters.

Dr Tounkara added that the SRR-EA continued to support Member Countries and regional economic communities with advice on optimising the implementation of animal health and welfare policies and regulations, through: steering committee mechanisms (AU-IBAR, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology [ICIPE], IGAD and IOC programmes); roadmap-type meetings (PPR); visits to country authorities; and the provision of constructive technical comments or support. He said that the SRR-EA actively encouraged and supported applications for Twinning projects in the region, not only for laboratory but increasingly for veterinary statutory bodies and veterinary education establishments. It has also participated in international initiatives, such as: the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership (on climate change mitigation in livestock production); the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (on biological threats); the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) programme (on trade facilitation and sanitary and phytosanitary [SPS] measures); and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).

Dr Tounkara reported that a new three-year European Parliament-funded project on strengthening Veterinary Services in developing countries had recently been signed and was currently in its inception phase. The project is expected to support many of the OIE-led VET-GOV activities (PVS Pathway missions, support to veterinary legislation and capacity-building for OIE National Focal Points), along with the support to the establishment of a continental vaccine bank for rabies and targeted rabies control activities in the Maghreb region and the Republic of Kenya, where the project will support the implementation of Kenya's rabies elimination strategy.

Dr Tounkara said that the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa (SRR-NA) had conducted various activities in connection with the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) and had consolidated a number of relationships, in particular with the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD). The SRR-NA had continued to work to strengthen veterinary education in the Mediterranean basin and within the framework of the VET-GOV programme under the auspices of AU-IBAR.

He said that, over the reporting period, the SRR-NA had revitalised the sub-networks of REMESA, as requested by the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee (JPC/Chief Veterinary Officers platform) at the JPC meeting in Heraklion (Greece) in March 2015. To this end, various workshops were held in Tunis (Tunisia) to convene the four thematic REMESA sub-networks on veterinary laboratories, epidemiological surveillance, socio-economics and communication on priority diseases, such as rabies, avian influenza and foot and mouth disease (FMD). Not only did the REMESA JPC meetings in Algiers (Algeria) in November 2015 and Toledo (Spain) in May 2016 reiterate the importance of establishing a regional FMD vaccine bank in the REMESA region (on which progress had been made), North African countries were also encouraged to harmonise their vaccination strategies. Effective livestock identification was considered crucial in order to implement effective traceability of animal movements. The SRR-NA therefore held a workshop in March 2016 to harmonise the FMD vaccination strategy in North Africa, attended by the Chief Veterinary Officers concerned and leading international experts on FMD, where it was agreed that harmonisation of the vaccination strategy in North Africa would be based on an assessment of risk in the region. Further information (e.g. surveillance data, field research) is being collected in order to further the harmonised strategy. Subsequent short-term actions will include consolidating the FMD vaccination strategy in the North Africa region and starting to discuss livestock identification in the region.

Dr Tounkara said that the SRR-NA had also organised the fourth General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med) in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in October 2015, with the aim of strengthening veterinary education in the Mediterranean basin.

He reported that the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (SRR-SA) had hosted a Continental conference on veterinary para-professionals with the assistance of the SRR-EA and OIE Headquarters. The SRR-SA had also co-organised a seminar on the harmonisation of veterinary legislation for Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries, jointly with the AU-IBAR office. The SRR-SA is working very closely with the SADC Programme Officer responsible for animal health.

Dr Tounkara noted that, as the sub-region included countries with the highest levels of compliance with OIE international standards, they were officially recognised as free from a number of transboundary animal diseases. This had given them access to lucrative international markets. In line with the strategic objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, the SRR-SA constantly encourages and assists Member Countries to continue using OIE international standards to control animal diseases and to apply for disease freedom where applicable – especially for PPR, FMD and rabies, for which global control/eradication strategies already exist or are under development.

Dr Tounkara said that the occurrence of FMD and PPR during the current reporting period was of particular concern. Eight countries had reported new outbreaks of FMD over the past 12 months, while Zambia had reported serological occurrence of PPR in the country. This brought to a total of four the number of countries affected by PPR in the sub-region. In

response to a vaccine shortage during recent events, the latest SADC Livestock Technical Committee meetings recommended the establishment of an FMD vaccine or antigen bank to hold buffer stocks of vaccine for use during outbreaks. SADC has taken note of and promised to give consideration to a sub-regional vaccine or antigen bank.

He reported that the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) had transferred rinderpest material to AU-PANVAC in Ethiopia for safekeeping, in accordance with a resolution taken by OIE Member Countries on rinderpest virus sequestration.

The SRR-SA had hosted a workshop on procedures for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Member Countries for FMD and PPR.

Dr Tounkara reported that the SRR-SA has an arrangement with the SADC Secretariat where, following each SADC Livestock Technical Committee meeting, Delegates meet at the OIE offices to reflect on the outcomes of major OIE events of the year, such as the OIE General Session and Regional Commission meetings, as well as OIE conferences and workshops for members, in order to gauge what follow-up action might be required and how their countries/sub-region could benefit from these.

Finally, Dr Tounkara reported that the SRR-SA office would be conducting several activities over the next reporting period (May 2016-May 2017), including: jointly with the German Government, supporting Namibia with its national rabies control programme (May 2015-2018); supporting Lesotho during World Rabies Day on 28 September 2016; organising a regional seminar for National Focal Points on laboratories (English-speaking Member Countries), on 13-16 December 2016.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– "Global efforts towards the eradication of dog mediated human rabies by 2030"

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

– "Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa"

7. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017

Dr Adrianatus Florentius Maseke, Delegate of Namibia, reiterated the commitment of his Minister at the opening ceremony highlighting that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event. He invited all Delegates to attend the conference.

He gave a general description of Swakopmund and a brief account of the different actions that Namibia had undertaken to start organising the conference.

To conclude, Dr Florentius Maseke provided general information about hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner in collaboration with the OIE.

8. Status of notifications by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, she showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Awada also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Awada concluded by presenting the results of the online survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch", which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. She highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

9. State of play on the implementation of the recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Rabat, Morocco, in February 2015

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, presented a brief state of play regarding the two recommendations adopted at the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat, Morocco, in February 2015.

Recommendation 1 "*Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa*" had led to the following actions: full involvement of civil society, farmers' associations (Association pour la Promotion de l'Elevage au Sahel et en Savane) and research institutions (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development [WECARD], International Centre for Livestock Research and Development in the Subhumid Zone [CIRDES]) was sought for formulating PRAPS; to build capacity, a training course was held for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary products (Senegal, March 2016) and one is planned for OIE National Focal Points for animal disease notification (Tunisia, July 2016); routine advocacy during participation in official missions; ongoing support and guidance to Member Countries to encourage compliance with their obligations on disease reporting (immediate notification of epidemiologically important events, follow-up reports and six-monthly and annual reports); assistance to Member Countries in the preparation of contingency plans as part of activities under the PRAPS animal health component and participation in relevant workshops, including those on highly pathogenic avian influenza, anthrax and African swine fever; facilitation of cooperation among Member Countries on early warning and early response as part of PRAPS animal health component activities; participation in the joint OIE/WHO external evaluation missions of the DFID post-Ebola preparedness project in Guinea Bissau and Niger; in the context of early warning and early response, an inter-regional conference was held on Rift Valley fever (Middle East-Horn of Africa) to seek new options for trade, prevention and control; the submission of a questionnaire on AMR in the African region was facilitated in order to collect data on the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals in OIE Member Countries; within the framework of REMESA – and to build the capacity of Veterinary Services − various workshops were held for North African National

Focal Points responsible for veterinary laboratories, epidemiological surveillance, socio-economics and communication on priority diseases for the region, such as rabies, avian influenza and FMD; under the auspices of REMESA, a project for establishing an OIE FMD vaccine bank for the North Africa region is under way in compliance with the REMESA resolution on FMD.

Recommendation 2 on "*Cross-border movements of animals and animal products and their relevance to the epidemiology of animal diseases in Africa*" had led to the following actions: one PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission undertaken in Guinea Bissau to strengthen the capacity of its Veterinary Services; Veterinary Legislation Support Programme missions to Chad and Gambia were facilitated and the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation among ECOWAS members is currently being facilitated; ongoing assistance and support provided to Member Countries in a bid to improve their transboundary animal disease status as part of PRAPS activities; contribution to the workshop on the formulation of a PPR roadmap for Central and West Africa; focusing attention on the role of animal movements in the emergence and re-emergence of CBPP as part of PRAPS activities; the 11th REMESA JPC meeting in Algiers (Algeria) in November 2015 decided to further the establishment of formal and informal mapping of animal movements in the North Africa region (Tunisia conducted a study and mapped internal movements) and to start discussing and developing a regional animal identification strategy.

10. Animal health programmes and activities related to the strengthening of Veterinary Services in Africa

Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS)

Dr Karim Tounkara briefly commented on the PPR Global Strategy and PRAPS.

He pointed out that PPR was a highly contagious disease of sheep and goats caused by a morbillivirus closely related to rinderpest virus. It is considered to be one of the most harmful diseases of small ruminant livestock in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

He added that the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR had been presented at the FAO-OIE International Conference for the control and eradication of PPR, held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The strategy has three components: PPR control and eradication; strengthening Veterinary Services; and improving the prevention and control of other major diseases of small ruminants.

The key tools for controlling and eradicating PPR are: the OIE WAHIS information system and the FAO Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i); the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT); post-vaccination evaluation (PVE); vaccines; surveillance; laboratory diagnostics; regional and international laboratory networks; regional and international epidemiology networks; the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN); OIE standards and the OIE PVS Pathway.

The provisions of the PPR Global Strategy include the preparation of regional roadmaps under the auspices of GF-TADs, coupled with regional meetings, if possible on an annual basis, to commit countries to working in a harmonised and synchronised manner to control the disease.

Dr Tounkara explained that PRAPS was funded by the World Bank and its main objective was to improve access to essential productive assets, services and markets for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in selected cross-border areas and along transhumance routes across six Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). He added that PRAPS included an important animal health component (20% of the total budget), which has been programmed taking into account the OIE PVS Pathway outcomes in the targeted countries. Regional coordination of activities under this component has been delegated to the OIE under a partnership agreement with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The technical team responsible for implementing project activities consists of three experts and has been based at the RR-AF since 1 February 2016. The animal health regional component is in three parts: coordination, targeted technical support and training.

Rabies

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, said that, in connection with REMESA, representatives from five North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) had attended a seminar held by the Regional Animal Health Communication Network (RECOMSA) in Tunis (Tunisia) on 4 and 5 November 2015 on the rabies communication strategy, awareness and training for Maghreb countries. The participants represented various organisations involved in the control of zoonoses, especially rabies. In addition to RECOMSA focal points, several ministries were represented: the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior (in charge of stray dog control) and the Ministry of Education (as children are the main victims of dog bites and hence rabies). Several representatives of the Pasteur Institute also attended the seminar.

He said that, following a rabies status review presented by experts from the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) and the Tunisian Directorate-General of Veterinary Services (DGSV), highlighting both epidemiological and economic aspects, each country had presented examples of rabies communication campaigns developed at national level. Students from the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet (Tunisia) explained to participants the actions they had undertaken on the subject.

Finally, Dr Bouguedour reported that communication experts from the OIE, WHO and a communication agency, together with a sociologist, had trained around 30 participants on the basic principles for implementing an efficient rabies control campaign and hence for implementing the global eradication strategy.

Dr Bouguedour went on to mention the OIE rabies vaccine bank, which recently procured and delivered canine rabies vaccines to Tunisia, with European Union funding to support the implementation of a national dog vaccination campaign against rabies in at-risk areas; 80,000 doses of rabies vaccines were delivered to Tunisia in late 2015. This was the first step in implementing a national vaccination campaign launched by the Tunisian authorities on 22 January 2016 on national rabies awareness day. The launch was attended by all regional officers in charge of implementing agricultural development and animal health actions in each Tunisian governorate. The Ministry of Health and ministry in charge of local and regional authorities were also represented, as were WHO, FAO and the OIE. The media were also present.

At the launch, the OIE Representative highlighted the role of the OIE vaccine bank in the global process and the need to improve tools for communication among all stakeholders. Tunisia's Minister of Agriculture, Mr Saad Seddik, warmly thanked the OIE for its support in seeking to eradicate rabies from Tunisia.

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, briefly presented the Namibia rabies control project.

He began by saying that rabies remained endemic in most parts of Africa where it causes suffering and death, especially among children and people in rural areas, who were the most vulnerable groups. In an effort to control the disease, Dr Letshwenyo explained that the OIE, WHO and FAO had joined forces under a Tripartite alliance to combat rabies using the "One Health" approach. To this end, a conference on global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies was held in Geneva (Switzerland) in December 2015. One of the conference resolutions was to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by the year 2030.

He went on to say that countries in the SADC sub-region had been striving to control rabies since time immemorial. According to the 2011 SADC Animal Health Year Book, rabies is the second most reported disease and has the widest geographical distribution.

Dr Letshwenyo reported that, in March 2015, the Government of Namibia had launched its national rabies control strategy with the aim of eliminating human rabies deaths through effective dog rabies control. Shortly after the strategy was launched, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed its interest in supporting dog rabies control in southern Africa, with Namibia the first country to benefit from this assistance. Germany provided funding for three years. The project is implemented under OIE oversight and aims to support Namibia in implementing its national rabies control strategy, and will also benefit from the OIE rabies vaccine bank.

The project has five overarching goals:

- to analyse and evaluate the current rabies situation and control strategy;
- to improve performance of Veterinary Services with respect to rabies control;
- to enhance rabies surveillance and monitoring of vaccination campaigns;
- to implement cooperation between the human health and animal health sectors as part of the "One Health" concept; and
- to set up a pilot regional rabies vaccine bank for dog vaccination.

Dr Letshwenyo explained that the project included a sub-grant with the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI), an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies based in Germany. The project began in May 2015 and will be implemented in two consecutive phases: a pilot phase from March 2016 to February 2017 and the roll-out phase from March 2017 to March 2018.

He added that a three-year project action plan had been developed and vaccinators had been trained in proper dog-handling and vaccination. Specialist dog-handling equipment was also procured for use during training and mass dog vaccination. A mass dog vaccination campaign was due to start on the 2 May 2016 and run until mid-June 2016, after which there will be booster vaccinations before the project is rolled out to other districts under phase two.

Dr Letshwenyo concluded by citing this project as an example of how SADC countries were addressing animal health issues individually and collectively under the global initiatives.

Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) programme

Dr Samuel Wakhusama, OIE Deputy Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa on behalf of Dr Walter Masiga, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, presented a report on progress with the VET-GOV programme and inception of the "Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries + Rabies" (SVSDC+R) project.

He began by describing the VET-GOV programme, a European Union-funded continental programme implemented by three technical agencies: AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE. The project began in 2012 and – following a no-cost extension approved by the donor in early 2015 – is expected to finish at the end of July 2017.

Dr Wakhusama added that, through a separate contribution agreement with the European Commission, the OIE had implemented a number of activities within its specific mandate. They include ongoing PVS Pathway missions (mainly PVS Gap Analysis missions, PVS Evaluation follow-up missions and laboratory support missions at this stage) but with special emphasis on the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, aimed at supporting Member Countries in updating their national legislation to meet international standards. This process includes the implementation of identification missions, followed, where appropriate, by a long-term commitment to work on improving (or in some cases, developing) specific pieces of legislation, through a formal agreement between the OIE and the country.

Since the VET-GOV programme was established, more than 48 PVS Pathway Evaluation missions have been conducted and funded through the programme. Fourteen Veterinary Legislation Support Programme missions have been conducted. A total of 13 VET-GOV-funded PVS Gap Analysis missions and 10 VET-GOV-funded PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions have been conducted to date.

The VET-GOV programme also supports many capacity-building activities for veterinary officials, including a series of joint AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE regional seminars on harmonisation of veterinary legislation at community level. The OIE component of VET-GOV also supports training for OIE National Focal Points for specific issues, such as those for veterinary products, as well as initiatives for harmonising veterinary education in southern and eastern Africa.

The main achievement in terms of continental policy-building was, without doubt, the inaugural continental conference for veterinary para-professionals, held in Pretoria (South Africa) in October 2015. It was organised by the OIE with funding from the VET-GOV programme.

Since August 2015, all information on the OIE component of the VET-GOV programme has been centralised on a specific website accessed through the OIE Africa website.

Finally, Dr Wakhusama reported that a new three-year European Parliament-funded project entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries" had recently been signed and was currently in its inception phase. The project is expected to provide complementary support to many of the OIE-led VET-GOV activities (PVS Pathway missions, support for veterinary legislation and capacity-building for OIE Focal Points), along with the support to the establishment of a continental vaccine bank for rabies with targeted activities in the Maghreb region and the Republic of Kenya, where the project will support the implementation of Kenya's rabies elimination strategy. The new project supported the latest round of training for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (Dakar, 2016) and, later this year, it will support training for Focal Points for other issues (communication, wildlife). It will also support initiatives for regional cooperation between veterinary statutory bodies in the SADC region.

11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

Dr Mbargou Lo, Delegate of Senegal, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the current OIE Reference Laboratory for Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products in Sub-Saharan Africa to be merged with the current OIE Collaborating Centre for Training Veterinary Officials and Diagnosing Infectious Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Tropical Africa to form an "OIE Collaborating Centre for the Training of Official Veterinarians, the Diagnosis of Infectious Animal Diseases and Zoonoses and the Control of Veterinary Drugs in West and Central Africa".

Dr Lo provided a brief review of the proposal.

The Delegate of the Republic of Congo expressed his concern regarding the proposal presented by Senegal. He stated that such a proposal should have been previously consulted by the Members States of the EISMV (*École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar)* before being submitted to the OIE for consideration.

The Dean of the EISMV explained that the EISMV is an independent institution and thus, it is free to present such a proposal as the proposal constitutes a technical issue that has a positive impact for the EISMV at regional and international levels. He subsequently clarified that the proposal was presented by the Delegate of Senegal because the Headquarters of the EISMV is based in Senegal, and, following OIE rules, any proposal presented to the Regional Commission should be made by the Delegate of the country.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe asked for clarification regarding the procedure for submission and approval of a new Collaborating Centre.

Dr Modisane reminded the participants of the meeting that any application for new Collaborating Centre was always democratic and science based. Thus, any accreditation procedure required the validation of the Regional Commission, Scientific Commission, Council and finally, the endorsement of the World Assembly of Delegates. He finally confirmed that the Delegate of Senegal was only presenting the application as requested by the OIE Headquarters as the EISMV was based in Senegal.

The Commission finally supported Senegal's proposal, which will be submitted for approval by the Scientific Commission. Once approved by the Scientific Commission, it will be submitted for endorsement by the Council and then by the World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the "One Health" approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers' meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health Approach": Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

13. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Prof. Ahmed Elsawalhy, AU-IBAR Director, gave a brief review of the activities carried out by AU-IBAR in collaboration with or jointly with the OIE.

He said that, since June 2015, AU-IBAR had continued to carry out interventions in partnership with the OIE, FAO, regional economic communities, AU-PANVAC, African Union Member States, international and national research institutions, academic institutions, national, regional and continental organisations of farmers and other stakeholders, and NGOs.

Prof. Elsawalhy explained that six projects were continental in scope, while two regional projects were being implemented in the IGAD region and two national projects were being implemented in Somalia. The formulation of a Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) and a project for "Sustainable development for livestock for livelihoods for Africa" (Live2Africa) has been completed. Live2Africa will support the implementation of strategic approaches to strengthen partnerships and build the capacity of regional economic communities and African Union Member States to implement LiDeSA.

He reported that the project Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organisations (PANSPSO) had ended in December 2015, following which AU-IBAR had established a Standards and Trade Secretariat to sustain the building of common African positions on international standards for animal health and food safety.

Prof. Elsawalhy said that a revised Pan-African PPR Strategy, aligned with the Global PPR Strategy, had been translated into the four official African Union languages. He added that AU-IBAR had participated in FAO/OIE meetings for maintaining global freedom from rinderpest.

Finally, he reported that AU-IBAR had convened technical meetings to initiate implementation of the animal welfare agenda in Africa.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Berhanu Bedane, Animal Production and Health Officer at FAO Regional Office for Africa, presented the FAO's contribution to hunger and poverty eradication through livestock production and health.

He explained that FAO actions were designed to eradicate hunger and poverty while preserving natural resources, in accordance with FAO's strategic programmes, regional initiatives and country needs. These undertakings consider global and continental priorities as set out in the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Transformative Agenda 2063.

He added that, to achieve the goals, FAO promoted increased livestock production guided by appropriate policy, biodiversity conservation, gender balance in the livestock sector, value chain development, safe animal product trade, and building resilience to natural disasters and major disease outbreaks.

Dr Bedane explained that FAO in Africa worked in partnership to develop healthy and productive livestock for improved food security and economic growth through intervention strategies targeting transboundary animal diseases, such as FMD, PPR, African swine fever, CBPP and high-impact endemic diseases, including vector-borne and parasitic diseases. FAO builds capacity, providing training and equipment for disease surveillance, laboratory diagnosis and control. FAO gathers and analyses disease intelligence for early warning. Countries are supported in designing livestock policies and veterinary legislation. The "One Health" approach is used to control zoonoses and non-zoonotic diseases that reduce the supply of food of animal origin, undermining nutrition security, livelihoods, economic growth and disease resilience. FAO, together with the OIE and WHO, is leading the way in tackling antimicrobial resistance issues.

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Dr Soumana Diallo, Representative of the WAEMU Commission, reported that, in connection with implementing the WAEMU Agricultural Policy, the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that the reforms were aimed, first and foremost, at harmonising veterinary pharmaceutical legislation. The second area of reform is to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of Member States.

A previous reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs, a regulation was adopted in 2007 on the safety of plants, animals and foods in WAEMU. This regulation is being revised with the support of an OIE expert. The WAEMU Commission has established a regional scientific committee to assess food safety risks and to provide scientific advice.

Dr Diallo went on to discuss the reform of support projects for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Through the Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD), the WAEMU Commission supports its Member States in controlling certain animal diseases, such as anthrax, Newcastle disease and rabies. With OIE support, it has also developed two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated national control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he reported on the adoption of a directive guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU Member State, and establishing a College of Presidents of national orders of Veterinary Doctors that henceforth will be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area.

14. OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) had been established jointly by the two organisations to support and coordinate global efforts to prevent, detect and control important influenza strains in animals. One of the network's core objectives is to share avian influenza (AI) genetic sequence data with WHO in order to assist with the selection of the most appropriate circulating viruses for seasonal human vaccines, which can include animal viruses posing a potential pandemic threat.

She explained that, since 2010, OFFLU had contributed more than 1,000 genetic sequences of zoonotic AI viruses isolated from animal samples by OIE/FAO reference centres and by national and regional laboratories, which are shared at twice-yearly WHO vaccine composition meetings to identify relevant virus strains for use in human vaccines. OFFLU would like to thank all the laboratories involved and Member Countries for this generous contribution.

Unfortunately, the amount of genetic and antigenic data submitted by OFFLU to WHO vaccine composition meetings has decreased significantly in recent years in spite of ongoing and new AI outbreaks in various countries. This is of particular concern because relevant animal influenza virus surveillance by the animal health sector is a cornerstone for zoonotic influenza risk analysis and human pandemic preparedness.

As AI is a global problem that poses an ongoing threat to animal and human health, OIE Members adopted Resolution No. XXVI at the 76th General Session (2008) to share AI viral material and information about AI viruses, through OFFLU, with the international scientific community.

Ms Brand concluded by reminding Member Country Delegates of this commitment and asked them, once again, to request the respective laboratories in their country to share avian influenza genetic sequence information with OFFLU in order to support global pandemic preparedness.

15. Other matters:

Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU-PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the "sequence and destroy project" with the United Kingdom's Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

She reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Finally, she said that the 8th Conference of the African Union had decided that RVCM would be destroyed or sent to AU-PANVAC as the central location for RVCM sequestration. Later in 2015, AU-PANVAC was designated as a rinderpest holding facility by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates under categories A and B. She added that, as a holding facility, AU-PANVAC was instrumental in maintaining global freedom from rinderpest, which was why OIE Member Countries, partners and the African Union should support investment in its future.

Dr Daniel Bourzat, former Advisor to the Regional Representative in Africa, took the floor to announce his retirement. He thanked all Delegates and colleagues from Africa for their excellent collaboration during his carrier in Africa.

Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, expressed his deepest gratitude for the great work accomplished by Dr Bourzat in the region.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 p.m.

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…/Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Komla Batasse Batawui, Delegate of Togo and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa);
2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates);
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Komla Batasse Batawui);
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa);
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa);
6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo);
7. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017 (Dr Adrianatus Florentius Maseke, Delegate of Namibia);
8. Status of notifications by Members in Africa (Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);
9. State of play on the implementation of the recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Rabat, Morocco in February 2015 (Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa);
10. Animal health programmes and activities related to the strengthening of Veterinary Services in Africa
    - Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS) (OIE Regional Representation for Africa)
    - Rabies (OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa)
    - Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) programme (OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa);
11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre (Dr Mbargou Lo, Delegate of Senegal);
12. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
13. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
    - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
    - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
14. OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);
15. Other matters:

    Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department).

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84 SG/11B/AM

Original: Spanish

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 102 participants, including Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:	Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.
International/regional organisations:	CARICOM[42], CVP[43], FAO, ICFAW[44], IICA[45], IPC[46], OIRSA[47], PAHO-PANAFTOSA[48], World Bank, WTO

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, in which it was proposed and agreed to include the discussion on regional consensus regarding interventions to be made at the General Session, was adopted unanimously as described in the Appendix.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Alvarez, Delegate of Mexico and Member of the OIE Council, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Delgadillo Alvarez then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for

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42 CARICOM: Caribbean Community

43 CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

44 ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

45 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

46 IPC: International Poultry Council

47 OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health)

48 PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued to discuss implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Delgadillo Alvarez provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.
2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate's allowance.
3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period. With respect to official recognition of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy status, progress was described regarding the proposal for sampling in countries with small animal populations.
4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.
5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.
6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.
7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the *ad hoc* groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.
8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.
9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Finally, Dr Delgadillo Alvarez reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates' nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

It was stressed that the members of the Council and Bureau represent all OIE Member Countries in the Americas and, to this end, they reiterated their willingness to address any Member Country's concerns or needs.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, began his presentation by reminding participants of the composition of the Bureau elected at the previous General Session in May 2015.

He added that, over the reporting period, the Bureau had held two face-to-face meetings to discuss administrative and technical matters: one on 15 September 2015 in Panama and the other on 20 May 2016 in Paris.

Among the technical matters discussed by the Bureau, Dr Figueiredo Marques highlighted those relating to Regional Commission's priorities, including: the need to increase the participation of countries in the Americas in the OIE standard-setting process; the development of the mapping of the region's diagnostic laboratories; and strategic activities in the Americas relating to antimicrobial resistance. He said that, at its May meeting, the Bureau had also discussed the results of the OIE Knowledge Olympics and diagnostic techniques for glanders.

He added that, on 30 March 2016, the Bureau had held an online video meeting to discuss the agenda and organisation of upcoming meetings and the development of draft regulations for the Public-private Committees of the Americas, which had been sent to Member Countries for comment.

He reported that, as in previous years, on Sunday 22 May a meeting of Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had been held to discuss standards under review and to adopt common positions for the region.

Dr Figueiredo Marques discussed the two recommendations of the 22nd Regional Conference (Mexico) and participation in preparing the upcoming 23rd Regional Conference to be held in Bolivia in November 2016.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

He began by introducing Dr Mirtha Giménez Pereira, who has taken up the post of Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, and Dr Helia Lemos da Silva, Brazil's new chargée de mission at the Regional Representation for the Americas.

He gave a brief account of joint activities with the Regional Commission and its Bureau, as well as participation in the implementation and monitoring of the document containing the priority activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

He described actions to support OIE Headquarters and the Government of Bolivia in organising the next Regional Conference.

With regard to the participation of Member Countries in the OIE standard-setting and updating process, he explained that the WebEx platform for online meetings provided an opportunity for effective communication among Delegates and with Members of the OIE Specialist Commissions. However, he pointed out that participation remained very low and that, in many cases, the purpose of the meeting – for Delegates to discuss and reach agreement on chapters under review is missed. He added that Member Countries nor the OIE could afford to pay for face-to-face meetings and pointed out that the most critical period for preparing comments was from October to January.

Referring to the Laboratory Network of the Americas, he reminded Delegates that it had a platform for Member Countries to access information on the capabilities of national laboratories in terms of diagnostic capacity, vaccine and reagent production, research actions and inter-laboratory tests. Finally, he reminded Delegates of the need for country support in providing and updating information.

On the subject of antimicrobial resistance, he explained that the current framework included OIE and World Health Organization standards and guidelines and that both are linked under "One Health". With regard to the Americas, he said that progress needed to be made on a regional strategy for implementing OIE standards in line with the outcomes of the Technical Item 2 on AMR to be presented the following day, and that it would also be necessary to coordinate actions with other regional and sub-regional organisations, including: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), Andean Community (CAN) and Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Dr Barcos said that efforts would be pursued to secure the membership of Caribbean countries that have not yet become OIE Members.

He gave a brief description of regional actions to support Member Countries with their foot and mouth disease (FMD) plans, as well as to support GF-TADs and diseases considered as a priority for the Americas.

He described the first OIE Knowledge Olympics, held in March 2016, and provided statistics on participation in the event.

With regard to communications from Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, he said that the website had been redesigned and that improvements would continue to be made to its content.

He concluded by reminding Delegates of the importance of teamwork with their National Focal Points, highlighting the support needed by Focal Points and the actions being taken by the OIE for their ongoing training.

In response to the comments received on existing constraints to the participation of Delegates and their National Focal Points in online meetings to discuss the OIE standard-setting and updating process, the Regional Representation was asked to ensure that invitations were sent at least two weeks in advance and that connections with each country were tested before holding online meetings.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Global warming and vector-borne arboviral diseases: keys to advancing surveillance

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

– Highly pathogenic avian influenza - challenges encountered and measures for preventing its spread

At the request of the Regional Commission, an additional technical item (without questionnaire) was proposed for inclusion:

– Depopulation and/or movement of animal populations during animal health emergencies and natural disasters. Experience in the region

The Bureau of the Regional Commission will take the necessary action to consider its inclusion in the Agenda of the Regional Conference.

7. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016

Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado, Delegate of Bolivia, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to host this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements Bolivia had made to start organising the conference.

He gave a brief description of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the hotel that would host the conference, and reported on the visa requirements for entry into Bolivia. He also commented on the planned cultural visit to the archaeological site of Samaipata, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

He concluded by informing Delegates that the OIE would shortly be sending out invitations and relevant information, as well as launching a special website for the event.

8. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres Soto, Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, she showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Cáceres Soto also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Cáceres Soto concluded by

presenting the results of the online survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch", which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. She highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

9. Implementation of the OIE Strategic Plan in the Americas

Dr Martine Dubuc, Delegate of Canada and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, reported that the document containing the priority activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had been based on the priorities and Work Plan defined by the Bureau of the Regional Commission and adopted by the Regional Commission in 2014.

She added that the Work Plan aims to establish the strategic guidelines that the Regional Commission should follow to strengthen relations with Member Countries in the region. She added that the Work Plan is aligned with the relevant objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, following on from the previous Strategic Plan, and that it establishes a five-year implementation period, with annual reviews.

She explained that the priority areas defined by the Regional Commission are: promoting participation in the drafting of OIE standards; diagnostic laboratories; antimicrobial resistance; Regional Animal Welfare Strategy; and activities of National Focal Points. She said that, added to these five priority areas were activities to minimise the impact of unjustified restrictions on trade.

With regard to the priority area of promoting participation in the drafting of OIE standards, it was agreed that the organisation of online meetings was in need of improvement, including the preparation of detailed agendas and the distribution of documents for discussion. It was also decided to continue holding meetings prior to the General Session to coordinate regional positions, as a way of increasing the region's influence.

With respect to laboratories, she said that there was a need to build their capacity in the region. She also explained the need to promote the OIE PVS Tool for laboratories and twinning projects, stressing that they needed to be prioritised. Finally, she listed the current status of laboratory twinning projects in the Americas.

On the issue of antimicrobial resistance, she said that coordinated action was needed in the region, taking into account the various international, regional and sub-regional organisations involved in the Americas.

With regard to animal welfare, she said that the steps set out in the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas needed to be pursued and that the issue should continue to be considered as a priority.

Finally, with respect to National Focal Points, she stressed that, as interaction with their Delegates was essential to improving the OIE standard-setting process, she encouraged their involvement in the process.

10. Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM);

Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the "sequence and destroy project" with the United Kingdom's Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

11. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the "One Health" approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers' meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with

the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health Approach": Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Andean Community (CAN)

Dr Olga Lucía Díaz Martínez, Delegate accredited by Colombia, described the organisation's main activities in the area of animal health on behalf of the President *pro tempore* of CAN.

She said that animal health activities for terrestrial animals were enshrined in Decision 515, updating the Andean Agricultural Health System and establishing the legal basis for adopting sanitary and phytosanitary measures applicable to trade. She explained the decisions affecting veterinary products, community risk analysis, animal quarantine and FMD prevention, control and eradication.

She also described the rules of the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN) on sanitary measures for the trade or movement of animals and their products, disease reporting, health risk categories, animal quarantine and the Andean Subregional Programme for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease.

With regard to aquatic animals, she said that Decision 808 establishes measures for the prevention, surveillance, control and eradication of aquatic animal diseases, as does the Andean contingency plan against early mortality syndrome in farmed shrimp and the technical manual for its implementation.

She described coordination with other international organisations. She commented on a technical cooperation project with FAO that includes the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA) to strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems and emergency management for FMD, as well as the implementation of various activities based on the SGCAN/OIE agreement.

Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)

Dr Luis Eduardo Echaniz, Technical Secretary of the CVP, said that, over the past 12 years, the CVP had consolidated its position as a reference organisation for animal health and food safety of animal products in the Southern Cone, in accordance with the mandate of the ministers of agriculture of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), who consider them to be "regional public goods". He added that the CVP's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, approved in 2015, establishes its annual operational programmes.

He highlighted the CVP's main actions, including stage two of the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Programme (PAMA), aimed at securing sustainability through the joint eradication of FMD by bringing together the activities of all member countries under the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA).

He added that the CVP's Strategic Plan includes the work of its *ad hoc* groups, such as the *ad hoc* group on food safety, which took part in the workshop on strategies for Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) risk mitigation, and the *ad hoc* group on poultry health, which analysed the risk of avian influenza reintroduction and plans for preventing it in the regional strategy for the prevention of avian influenza, which was updated in 2014.

He said that the CVP had held a workshop on responsiveness to animal health emergencies, under the CAS/CVP-IICA agreement, to build the capacity of Veterinary Services to plan and manage their response to animal health emergencies.

Finally he reported on the CVP's work on communication and knowledge management, in addition to promoting the use of videoconferencing. He recommended visiting the CVP website, which contains tools to facilitate regional work.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Julio Pinto, on behalf of the FAO , began his presentation by saying that an estimated 85% of South America's cattle population had now been recognised as FMD-free and that acknowledged progress on animal health had been made in the region, where there are now disease-free territories.

He went on to stress the need for emergency management and response strategies to consolidate the abovementioned progress. He said that, to this end, FAO had developed an online course on the management of health risks and biological invasions for food security and nutrition. He added that technical capacity is being built in Andean countries (FMD).

He also reported that, under the Continental Plan for the Eradication of Classical Swine Fever from the Americas, a joint mission by FAO/OIE/OIRSA and the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) had led to the establishment of priorities for supporting progress and achieving goals in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. South-South cooperation is being implemented for this purpose.

He said that, while canine rabies was in the process of being eliminated from Latin America, wildlife rabies had become an emerging problem that threatened public health and food security in rural areas. In response, he said that FAO was strengthening disease prevention systems through community participation, under the "One Health" approach.

On the subject of antimicrobial resistance, he explained that work had started in the region with a draft regional agenda, based on the global FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which establishes four focus areas of work: awareness, evidence, governance and practices. The draft agenda will be shared and refined with countries in the region at various regional and sub-regional events.

He concluded by saying that major challenges still lay ahead in improving systems for the epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases in a context of climate change and the integrated management of animal, ecosystem and public health under the "One Health" approach.

In answer to a query concerning the institution's approach to antimicrobial resistance, Dr Pinto said that FAO's goal was to work in coordination with all international and regional organisations and Member Countries.

International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)

Dr Luis Alberto Espinoza Rodezno, OIRSA Regional Director for Animal Health, detailed the main actions undertaken by OIRSA in 2015 to strengthen Veterinary Services.

The actions included the provision of support to Panama's laboratory for the diagnosis of vesicular disease (LADIVES), in conjunction with an agreement between OIRSA and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), strengthening of the epidemiological surveillance programme, training on FMD and screwworm, and updating of emergency manuals.

He detailed OIRSA actions to prevent bovine paralytic rabies in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, jointly with FAO, and support for Guatemala and Honduras with diagnostic kits and supplies for the surveillance of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

He discussed the approval of the regulations and procedures manual for the control and eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and Newcastle disease (Standards and Trade Development Facility project grant STDF/PG/358).

He described the project for the prevention, control and eradication of classical swine fever, including the provision of diagnostic kits, and the support given to Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

He gave details of training in the diagnosis of shrimp diseases and the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance of aquatic animals, in cooperation with FAO. He added that OIRSA has provided support and monitoring for small hive beetle *(Aethina tumida)* surveillance in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Belize, and capacity-building for farmers in El Salvador.

He also reported that OIRSA had provided training on veterinary drug residues and withdrawal periods, based on good practice manuals, and had helped to organise, in collaboration with the OIE, and finance the 21st meeting of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET).

He concluded by describing the technical and financial support given to Belize for the eradication of low pathogenic avian influenza H5N2.

13. Other matters:

Discussions and proposals regarding annual face-to-face meetings on the OIE standard-setting process

Dr Martine Dubuc described the current situation regarding the participation of Member Countries in the OIE standard-setting and updating process. In this connection, she explained the participation statistics of the Americas region compared with other regions. She cited the success achieved in the Africa region, where face-to-face and small-group meetings held since 2013 have increased the number of OIE Members from that region submitting comments.

She pointed out that face-to-face meetings had been a decisive factor in enabling Member Countries to agree on regional positions on OIE standards, making it important for the Americas region to be able to hold face-to-face meetings.

She added that, as the main constraint to holding face-to-face meetings had been lack of financial resources, it was necessary to evaluate potential funding sources.

In this regard, the Delegates agreed that a face-to-face meeting should be held annually, ideally in June or July, to establish a common understanding on the role of countries in the process of adopting OIE standards, and that regional consensus positions should be reached.

It was agreed to hold preliminary online meetings with experts, at which priority items for inclusion in the agendas would be selected. To this end, the Delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and the United States of America offered to be involved.

It was noted that, as consensus needed to be reached, the support of experts on the issues under discussion was required to provide OIE Member Countries in the Americas with the necessary training.

Discussion on regional consensus regarding interventions to be made at the General Session

The Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas reviewed the various items proposed for adoption at the 84th General Session. This involved the selection of items relevant to the region, such as the reports of the OIE Specialist Commissions and Brazil's proposal for an OIE Reference Laboratory. This selection included Members speaking on behalf of the Americas.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

…/Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas);

2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Delegate of Mexico and Member of the OIE Council);

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques);

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas);

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez);

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas);

7. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016 (Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado, Delegate of Bolivia);

8. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas (Dr Paula Cáceres, Head, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);

9. Implementation of the OIE Strategic Plan in the Americas (Dr Martine Dubuc, Delegate of Canada and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas);

10. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);

11. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:

    - Andean Community (CAN)
    - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
    - International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)

13. Other matters:

    - Discussions and proposals regarding annual face to face meetings on OIE standard setting process (Dr Martine Dubuc);

    - Discussion on regional consensus regarding interventions to be made at the General Session.

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Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 113 participants, including Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong SAR.

International/regional organisations: *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*, FAO, ICFAW[49], Pacific Community, WAP[50], World Bank.

Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted with slight modifications.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Schipp then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th

49 ICFAW : International Coalition for Animal Welfare

50 WAP : World Animal Protection

General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued to discuss implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Schipp provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.
2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate's allowance.
3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.
4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.
5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.
6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.
7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the *ad hoc* groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.
8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.
9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Finally, Dr Schipp reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates' nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit

categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Delegate of Nepal and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Regional Commission on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, who had been unable to attend the General Session.

Dr Premy reminded Delegates of the composition of the Regional Core Group established pursuant to the Regional Work Plan Framework, namely the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and members of the OIE Council from the region, elected at the 83rd OIE General Session in 2015. He added that *ad hoc* meetings had been held to discuss administrative and technical matters and follow up the outcomes of the 29th Regional Conference in Mongolia, while remaining in contact via email to enhance communication and coordination between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Members in the Region.

Dr Premy touched upon several important global and regional meetings subsequent to the 83rd General Session, in which Members of the Region had participated. Dr Premy explained that a one-day seminar for national Delegates on the development of public-private partnerships to support Veterinary Services, followed by the 29th Regional Conference, had emphasised the need to strengthen collaboration between official Veterinary Services and private veterinarians, veterinary technicians and community animal health workers in the region. He then reported on key global initiatives discussed at the GF-TADs 8th Global Steering Committee Meeting in Rome (Italy) in October 2015, including the standard operating procedure for GF-TADs labelling, the GF-TADs website and pilot reporting of key performance indicators.

Dr Premy explained the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020), which the Regional Commission had adopted at the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission in September 2015, to remind and encourage Members to take steps to put the Work Plan into action in the region. Dr Premy explained that the main changes in the new Work Plan had been in response to Members' comments, including: the addition of a progress review mechanism; more emphasis on promoting scientific excellence using the region's Reference Centres; and stronger engagement in aquatic animal health by specific programmes and better coordination between Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, while ensuring continued alignment with current needs and priorities in the region and the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020). He reiterated the importance of the Vision and Regional Objectives of the Work Plan and introduced a number of specific activities to be developed and/or implemented to address current needs and priorities in the region. He said that the Work Plan would be reviewed at the 30th Regional Conference in September 2017.

Dr Premy also pointed to improvements in communication among regional Members. As Delegates had already been given access to the Regional Delegates' site, it had been launched within the regional website in October 2015. He encouraged Delegates to use it to improve communication and coordination among Members in the region.

He concluded by reminding the Regional Commission of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education to be held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 22-24 June 2016. He encouraged Delegates to participate in this important event.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, began his presentation by informing the Commission of recent staff changes at the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP).

He then touched on the RR-AP's secretariat role for the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the activities of which had just been reported by the Vice-President of the Commission. He reiterated the importance of steadily implementing the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020) as part of the closer relationship between the Regional Commission and Regional/Sub-regional Representations. He also reminded members that the OIE Delegates' Secured Access System had been launched on the OIE regional website in October 2015, and encouraged Delegates to use the system more actively to get involved in the OIE standard-setting process.

Dr Kugita reported the following progress achieved under technical programmes at RR-AP.

- As permanent secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, since March 2015, RR-AP has co-organised with FAO a series of sub-regional meetings of GF-TADs for each sub-region, namely: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Pacific Community and East Asia. At these meetings, specific challenges in each sub-region and possible solutions were discussed among sub-regional members and partners, which will be brought into the forthcoming Regional Steering Committee meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in July 2016.

- In connection with the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in Asia, the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting and 2nd FMD Scientific Meeting were held in June 2015 in Tokyo (Japan). The meetings agreed to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination among members in East Asia to control FMD and to expand their activities to cover other priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs). As a follow-up, the Coordination Meeting for TADs Control in East Asia was held in March 2016 in Shanghai (People's Republic of China). The meeting recommended a possible mechanism and activities to be put in place in the sub-region, which will be further discussed with a view to future endorsement by the sub-regional Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs). As a contribution to the FMD vaccination campaign under the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign, RR-AP supported the donation of FMD vaccine to Laos by the Japanese government.

- Another OIE/JTF project is to support activities for controlling zoonoses in Asia under the "One Health" concept. The 6th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multi-sectoral Collaboration for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses was held in October 2015 in Sapporo (Japan) under the regional tripartite collaboration between FAO, OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO). RR-AP also held further relevant meetings, including: Regional Workshop on Prevention and Control of Neglected Zoonoses in Asia, co-organised with the FAO Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), in July 2015 in Obihiro (Japan); Rabies Workshop for SAARC Countries, co-organised with the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO SEARO), in August 2015 in Colombo (Sri Lanka); and Follow-up Workshop on Relevant International Standards for Dog Rabies, co-organised with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), in May 2016 in Bangkok (Thailand).

- As aquatic animal health activities are another important component of the JTF Project, a Regional Workshop on Safe International Trade in Aquatic Animals and Aquatic Animal Products was held in July 2015 in Nagaoka (Japan). RR-AP continues to collaborate with the Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and agreed

to improve work on the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) Report by streamlining the work done separately by OIE and NACA in the past and by publishing the QAAD Report online for faster and easier access, while discontinuing the printed version.

- The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group (RAWS AG) was established in accordance with the terms of reference and *modus operandi* agreed by the Regional Commission in September 2015. RAWS AG members have been appointed by the OIE Director General and are about to start work.

Dr Kugita went on to report on capacity-building activities at RR-AP. They include seminars for OIE National Focal Points, held with the support of the Republic of Korea, on three topics: animal disease notification, in February 2016 in Chiba (Japan); veterinary products, in March 2016 in Tokyo (Japan); and veterinary laboratories, in April 2016 in Jeju (Republic of Korea). A training seminar on the PVS Tool for East Asia was also held in April 2016 in Seoul (Republic of Korea), with the support of the Republic of Korea.

Dr Kugita concluded by informing the Commission of planned activities for the rest of 2016, as follows:

- Regional Steering Committee meeting of GF-TADs, to be held back-to-back with the East Asia CVOs meeting, in July 2016 in Tokyo (Japan);
- Regional workshop on avian influenza in endemic countries, in August 2016;
- Regional workshop on developing a regional strategy for swine disease control;
- Regional meeting on PPR control and eradication in Asia.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, including the outcome of the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in Chiang Rai, Thailand

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (SRR SEA), began his presentation by saying that the OIE SRR-SEA continued to play a major role in sub-regional coordination of animal health related activities, including for emerging infectious disease, in South-East Asia, which were issues requiring consistent and complementary approaches because of the transboundary nature of these diseases. The OIE SRR-SEA also plays an important role in providing policy, programme and strategic planning advice and support to Members. He reported that the OIE SRR-SEA manages the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative, which gathers under a single umbrella programme all existing programmes funded by the Australian Government, namely: the SEACFMD Campaign; the Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services (STRIVES); and a One Health/zoonoses programme focusing on rabies. STANDZ was given a no-cost extension until December 2017. A new FMD project funded by the New Zealand Government was signed in September 2015 and field activities commenced in November 2015. The New Zealand-funded project will support the existing SEACFMD Campaign.

Dr Abila also provided details on the entire SRR-SEA team led by the Sub-Regional Representative.

He explained that the SEACFMD Campaign remained the SRR-SEA flagship programme. He provided details on key achievements in 2015, including: endorsement of the third edition of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, extending from SEACFMD Phase 5 (2016 to 2020); completion of a regional animal movement study for Mekong countries; delivery of 600,000 FMD vaccine doses through the OIE vaccine bank; post-vaccination monitoring

studies; organisation of various sub-regional meetings; and provision of training on animal disease outbreak investigation and management. He also reported that the New Zealand-funded FMD project had launched its first activity with a mission of experts from New Zealand's Massey University and Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries in Vientiane (Laos) and a field visit to Champasak.

He also gave details of key activities conducted between January and April 2016, including: launch of SEACFMD Phase 5 at the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China; publication of the third edition of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap; and endorsement by the Sub-Commission of Mongolia's application for SEACFMD membership. The New Zealand-funded FMD project that commenced in late 2015 has gathered pace in 2016. The project will build on and extend gains made during the Australian Government-funded STANDZ initiative in Laos and Myanmar.

Dr Abila explained that the One Health/rabies programme provided support to One Health coordination in South-East Asia, promoted the use and application of international standards and guidelines, supported rabies research and studies, and advanced rabies control and prevention in the sub-region. He went on to mention key achievements in 2015, including: a pilot project for rabies control through mass dog vaccination; epidemiological investigations; public awareness campaigns; political engagement to secure more resources for the project; and promotion of the One Health coordination mechanism using rabies as a model. Referring to key activities in 2016, Dr Abila cited the follow-up regional workshop on Members' progress in complying with OIE rabies standards, the end of mass dog vaccination in pilot areas, and documentation on key project achievements and best practices.

On the subject of STRIVES, Dr Abila reported that the SRR-SEA continued to support the strengthening of Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries through the PVS Pathway. Based on the findings of PVS Evaluation and Gap Analysis missions reports, STRIVES has been able to provide specific technical assistance and financial support and to hold workshops and seminars to help address report recommendations. Key achievements in 2015 include: a sub-regional workshop on the PVS Pathway in Bali (Indonesia); several information seminars for public-sector and practising veterinarians in South-East Asia; training of laboratory staff on occupational health and safety; an information seminar for veterinary education establishments; and the fifth OIE sub-regional workshop for veterinary statutory bodies, held in Pattaya (Thailand) on 9-10 November 2015. For 2016, Dr Abila mentioned a training course on the application of OIE standards and guidelines for animal disease surveillance, prevention and control. The SRR also helped to prepare the fourth OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education: implementing OIE guidelines to ensure the excellence of the veterinary profession, in Bangkok (Thailand) on 22-24 June 2016.

Dr Abila then reported on the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, which had been held in Chiang Rai (Thailand) on 8-11 March 2016. The meeting was attended by around 90 participants, including representatives from SEACFMD Member Countries, key partners and OIE Reference Laboratories, as well as OIE staff from Headquarters, the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia and the Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana.

He said that participants had been updated on the current achievements of the SEACFMD Campaign and the launch of Phase 5 of the campaign, as well as on the latest global and regional FMD situation. The recent cross-regional spread of FMD viruses was highlighted

and Member Countries were requested to continue to collect and submit field samples to support early detection of exotic viruses and timely implementation of risk-based control measures.

Dr Abila then provided details of the meeting's key recommendations, which would guide the work of the SEACFMD Campaign over the coming year.

6. Discussion on the forward work programmes of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, conducted a discussion on the reports from the Council and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, in order to confirm endorsement of the intended strategic direction by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

The work plans of the Specialist Commissions published in the February 2016 meeting reports were also presented in order to identify items of interest to Regional Commission Members.

The Regional Commission encouraged items to be identified where experts from the region could make a valuable contribution to *ad hoc* groups, so that Members could provide details of relevant experts to the OIE Director General for consideration.

The Members of the Commission welcomed the Director General's decision to make the process for selecting experts participating in OIE Specialist Commissions and *Ad Hoc* groups more transparent and diverse. The Commission requested that representation from the Region be considered in the future and encouraged nominations to be submitted by all Member Countries in the Region. The Delegate of Iran, requested that the OIE ensure a more balanced distribution of initiatives and activities across the Region. Recognising that these programmes and meetings are linked to donor support, the Commission advocated for funding support covering the overall Region, particularly with regards to the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020).

Concerning the OIE Laboratory Twinning Projects in the Region, it was underscored that the corresponding OIE Regional and Sub-Regional offices can support Member Countries in the development of project proposals.

The Delegate of India indicated interest to obtain, if available, information regarding genetic selection for resistance to infectious diseases in cattle.

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Improving general surveillance through One Health and interdisciplinary approaches

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was adopted for the 30th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

– How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector

9. Confirmation of the venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2017

The Delegate of Malaysia confirmed his country's offer to host the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The Conference will be held in Putra Jaya (Malaysia) in November 2017.

10. Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Paolo Tizzani, Veterinary Epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, he showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Tizzani also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Tizzani concluded by presenting the results of the online survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch", which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. He highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

The Commission discussed mechanisms to improve the epidemiological data in notifications provided to WAHIS. Potential inclusion of data from published articles related to reported outbreaks was identified as a possible mean to enrich the quality of information found in WAHIS. The Commission was also informed that the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and OIE are now working together towards possible inter-operability between the NACA reporting system and WAHIS in the future to improve aquatic disease reporting.

Remarks regarding the impact of transparent reporting to trade and unjustified barriers were also raised.

11. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015

Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, described the outcomes of the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission, which had been attended by a total of 92 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 26 Members, 1 observer country and senior officers from 7 international and regional organisations.

Dr Sen reported that the Regional Commission had agreed to the establishment of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group (RAWS AG), based on the proposed terms of reference and *modus operandi* which had been agreed in principle and further subject to a round of consultation by email. It had also been agreed that, following a call for expressions of interest in the office of RAWS AG member or Chair, the Bureau of the Regional Commission would nominate RAWS AG members prior to submitting their nomination to the OIE Director General for approval.

Dr Sen listed the main recommendations developed following the discussions of each of the two technical items.

Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "*The role of Veterinary Authority in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?*", had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: consider any need for improved cooperation between their Veterinary Authority and other authorities responsible for aquatic animal health capabilities; ensure important factors for successful response to emerging diseases, such as early detection, early reporting, early response, and public-private partnerships and industry cooperation; and request PVS Evaluation missions of their Aquatic Animal Health Services. Technical Item I had also led to recommendations for the OIE to work with Member Countries to facilitate improved coordination of regional action in response to serious emerging diseases of aquatic animals; and to continue to support Member Countries in the region through the OIE PVS Pathway for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled "*How can we progress the cooperation between animal health sector and public health sector?*", had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: advocate for a high level of commitment by national Veterinary Services and national Public Health Services; consider a clear chain of command and coordination mechanisms; be involved in the implementation of OIE standards and World Health Organization International Health Regulations (WHO IHR) through the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHR Monitoring Framework (WHO IHRMF); and identify practical activities for joint national and regional roadmaps to strengthen collaboration and coordination between both sectors. Technical Item II had also led to recommendations for the OIE to: advocate at the highest level strong collaboration between veterinary authorities, public health authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with WHO; and support its Member Countries in the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at its seventh plenary session on 26 May 2016, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Discussion on the proposed amendments to the OIE Codes and other key issues to be taken into account during the 84th General Session

Dr Matthew Stone began a discussion on the chapters proposed for adoption and inclusion in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*. He invited Members of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to share proposed interventions, particularly if they intended not to support adoption or adoption following amendment.

Proposed interventions with wide support from Members of the Regional Commission were identified, and consideration was given to making an intervention on behalf of all Members of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

The Regional Commission agreed that Japan intervene on behalf of the Region during the Fourth Plenary Session on the Code Commission to encourage that the Members of the Region engage during the review of Chapter 15.1 African swine fever of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code in order to address the risks to the Region.

A discussion between Thailand and the President of the Aquatic Animals Commission took place concerning the proposed revision on Chapter 5.1 General obligations related to certification of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.

A general comment was made by China (People's Rep. of) regarding the continuing challenge in maintaining the balance between facilitating global trade to support economies, while protecting and promoting the safety of both animals and national consumers.

13. Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the "sequence and destroy project" with the United Kingdom's Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

14. OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness

Dr Gounalan Pavade, Chargé de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began his presentation by saying that the OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) had been established jointly by the two organisations to support and coordinate global efforts to prevent, detect and control important influenza strains in animals. One of the network's core objectives is to share avian influenza (AI) genetic sequence data with WHO in order to assist with the selection of the most appropriate circulating viruses for seasonal human vaccines, which can include animal viruses posing a potential pandemic threat.

He explained that, since 2010, OFFLU had contributed more than 1,000 genetic sequences of zoonotic AI viruses isolated from animal samples by OIE/FAO reference centres and by national and regional laboratories, which are shared at twice-yearly WHO vaccine composition meetings to identify relevant virus strains for use in human vaccines. OFFLU would like to thank all the laboratories involved and Member Countries for this generous contribution.

Unfortunately, the amount of genetic and antigenic data submitted by OFFLU to WHO vaccine composition meetings has decreased significantly in recent years in spite of ongoing and new AI outbreaks in various countries. This is of particular concern because relevant animal influenza virus surveillance by the animal health sector is a cornerstone for zoonotic influenza risk analysis and human pandemic preparedness.

As AI is a global problem that poses an on-going threat to animal and human health, OIE Members adopted Resolution No. XXVI at the 76th General Session (2008) to share AI viral material and information about AI viruses, through OFFLU, with the international scientific community.

Dr Pavade concluded by reminding Member Country Delegates of this commitment and asked them, once again, to request the respective laboratories in their country to share avian influenza genetic sequence information with OFFLU in order to support global pandemic preparedness.

Further to a request from Indonesia for support concerning expertise on bioinformatics in Influenza virus monitoring, the OIE confirmed that specific discussions can be held to this effect.

Hong Kong SAR informed the Commission that for the past 20 years they have shared information on HPAI sequence isolates with WHO, a practice that is in line with the One Health approach advocated by the OIE.

15. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the "One Health" approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers' meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with

the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health Approach": Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

The discussion on AMR highlighted the need for all sectors to work together on common objectives and to jointly address this important issue. Adopting a step-wise approach was identified as being the key for achieving ambitious objectives relating to antimicrobial resistance. Among others, the specificities of OIE Members will be considered during the OIE-USDA Scientific Symposium on Alternatives to Antibiotics which will take place at OIE Headquarters (Paris) in December 2016.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The FAO Representative began her presentation by saying that the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) comprised 44 member countries. She noted that it was the most diverse region in the world, harbouring over half the world's population but still home to 62% of the world's undernourished people.

She added that FAO's livestock programme within the organisation's new Strategic Framework was aimed at maximising the contribution of livestock to: achieving food security; alleviating poverty; enhancing resilience and sustainability; and reducing health risks to humans and animals. FAO provided technical assistance to countries in the region on animal health and production, including the development of transboundary animal, zoonotic disease and food safety programmes, improving value chains, establishing cross-border dialogue and helping countries to prepare for emerging pandemic threats, including antimicrobial resistance. She noted that FAO had strengthened partnerships with OIE and WHO, ASEAN, SAARC and the Pacific Community and had tapped into a number of animal health platforms, including APHCA, the FAO Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES), the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) and GF-TADs.

She concluded by saying that, at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in March 2016 in Malaysia, member countries had requested FAO-RAP to assist them in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For 2016, FAO will place special emphasis on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on operationalising One Health in the region.

Pacific Community

Mr Ilagi Puana presented the updates, challenges and ongoing work of the former Secretariat of the Pacific Community (now called the Pacific Community) in the Pacific Island Region, which is composed of 22 countries and territories located in the huge Pacific Ocean with about 9 million people.

The GF-TADs Pacific Regional workshop was held in Fiji in 2015, with 8 countries attending. Prior to this workshop, Animal Welfare and OIE WAHIS Reporting training workshop were also held. Paraveterinary training in Vanuatu and Palau commenced in February and April 2016, respectively, and will completed in August and September, 2016 respectively. Training in and testing of animal disease emergency response plan for Samoa was conducted in 2015 and for Vanuatu in April, 2016. Poultry disease surveys were conducted in Samoa and Kiribati in 2014/2015 and FMD, bovine brucellosis and leptospirosis surveillance in cattle were conducted in Vanuatu in late 2015. Laboratory results confirmed Vanuatu remains free from FMD, while results for brucellosis and leptospirosis are still pending. Animal biosecurity training was conducted for 5 northern

Pacific island countries and territories in March, 2016. Suspected HPAI disease incidents were reported and investigated in Yap, Marshall Islands and Palau in the northern Pacific island region in 2015 and 2016. Laboratory results ruled out HPAI in all of these incidents.

Challenges continue to remain in the Pacific Island Region. It is faced with chronic shortages of qualified veterinary specialist and the vast travelling distances between countries and lack of funding support make it very challenging for an effective regional response capacity by Pacific Community Veterinary Unit. Countries with potentially high Biosecurity risks includes Palau, Guam, French Territories, PNG and Fiji based on direct trade and air and shipping links with countries outside of the Pacific region and illegal fishing and logging by foreign countries.

The Pacific Community continues to place emphasis on establishing paraveterinary capacity in selected Island countries with the limited resources that it has. Since its inception in 2003, a total of 473 people have been trained in 16 Pacific Island countries and further 31 people are currently in training in 2 countries.

Further clarification was sought by Fiji regarding policies and governance on diagnostic testing of samples by the Pacific Community.

17. Other Matters:

Regional rabies response plan

Australia put forward a proposal to develop a regional strategy for the control and eradication of dog-mediated rabies. The Global Framework to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030 was developed in December 2015 at the OIE/WHO global conference on the elimination of dog-mediated rabies. An effective global strategy will require a series of effective regional strategies. Therefore, Australia proposed that the Regional Representation could lead the development of a strategy for the region. There are activities related to rabies being undertaken by several countries and sub-regional groups but an overall regional plan has not been articulated. This work is in line with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020 and also the OIE 6th Strategic Plan. The OIE 6th Strategic Plan identifies, as a particular issue to be addressed, the leadership and coordination of international and regional programmes for the global eradication and control of specific disease of economic and social importance including rabies.

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

…/Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Vice-president of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates);
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Delegate of Nepal and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of P.R. China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific);
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, including the outcome of the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in Chiang Rai, Thailand (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia);
6. Discussion on the forward work programmes of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and Member of the OIE Council);
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy);
9. Confirmation of the venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2017 (Dr Hirofumi Kugita);
10. Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Paolo Tizzani, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);
11. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015 (Dr Sen Sovann);
12. Discussion on the proposed amendments to the OIE Codes and other key issues to be taken into account during the 84th General Session (Dr Matthew Stone);
13. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
14. OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness (Dr Gounalan Pavade, Chargé de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);
15. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
    - Pacific Community
17. Other matters:
    - Regional rabies response plan.

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84 SG/11B/EU

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 141 participants, including Delegates and observers from 45 Members of the Commission and representatives from 14 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: Council of the European Union, EuFMD, European Commission, EEAS[51], EEC[52], FAO, FESASS[53], FEI/IHSC[54], FVE[55], IPC, ISO[56], IZSAM[57], IZSLER[58], RSPCA[59].

The meeting was co-chaired by both Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia), Secretary General of the Commission, and Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

They both welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations. Dr Budimir Plavšić explained that three members of the Bureau of the OIE regional Commission for Europe changed their position over the past year and that election had to occur again in 2016.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

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51 EEAS: European External Action Service
52 EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission
53 FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
54 FEI/IHSC: Federation Equestre Internationale/International Horse Sport Confederation
55 FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
56 ISO : International Organization for Standadization
57 IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
58 IZSLER: Instituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell"Emilia Romagna
59 RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, began her presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. She pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Schwabenbauer then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th General Session in the form of draft resolutions. She added that the Council had continued to discuss implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Schwabenbauer provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.
2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate's allowance.
3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.
4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.
5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.
6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.
7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the *ad hoc* groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.
8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Dr Schwabenbauer reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates' nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session. She said that, specifically for the Europe region, the Council approved to close the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia by summer 2016 and to reinforce the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels.

Dr Schwabenbauer also emphasized the need for greater collaboration between the OIE Council and the Regional Commissions and OIE Regional Offices. Finally, she encouraged all countries of Europe to increase the category of their statutory contributions to the OIE, in addition to possibly make voluntary contributions through the well-established OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

3. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, and Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Coordination Unit Office in Astana, presented the work programme of all the OIE Representations in Europe.

With regard to the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (RR Moscow), information was provided on meetings and visits, including high-level officials' meetings.

Details were also provided regarding meetings already held by, or to be held by RR Moscow over the coming months, including National Focal Point seminars and meetings and capacity building activities relating to the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, as well as OIE 'train the trainers' workshops on animal welfare during transport and slaughter.

RR Moscow is the region's contact point for providing support on using the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and related database interface. RR Moscow is also involved in diplomatic dialogue with the Russian authorities.

Details were also provided regarding additional RR-Moscow activities planned for 2016.

As regards the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (SRR-Brussels), Dr Leboucq provided details on the staff situation: the office is staffed by one officer, Dr N. Leboucq, the OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels. However, SRR-Brussels does host Mr O. Stucke, whom the World Health Organization (WHO) has made available to the OIE on a part-time basis to work on matters relating to global risk communication.

Details were also provided on the SRR-Brussels work programme for 2016, which follows on from previous programmes and is in line with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The work programme focuses on the following main areas of intervention.

- Participation in OIE regional activities in Europe, in close collaboration with the OIE Offices in Moscow and Astana: in its capacity as secretariat for the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, SRR-Brussels has continued to implement the platform's 2014-2016 Action Plan, organising a series of activities to build the capacity of Veterinary Services (see specific summary on the platform's activities). It was agreed that, in light of the results already achieved by the platform in terms of regional dialogue and greater awareness of the subject in the region, it would be desirable for the platform to have a second action plan. SRR-Brussels also participates at a technical level in OIE regional seminars for National Focal Points and OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway activities.

- Interfacing with institutions/organisations with headquarters in Brussels, through work meetings primarily on European (but sometimes also global) issues: during the first half of 2016, SRR-Brussels has taken part in a number of coordination meetings with its partners, including the European Commission, World Customs Organization (WCO), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security (FESASS). In addition, SRR-Brussels actively contributes to practical implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the OIE and the WCO, with the preparation of a first joint workshop on implementing the new World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.

- Implementation of the activity programme of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe, in particular with regard to African swine fever (ASF): in its capacity as the secretariat for the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European region (SGE), SRR-Brussels helped to organise expert missions to the seven countries involved in the initiative, as well as the feedback meeting (Moscow, March 2016). Based on the results, a capacity-building programme for countries, with particular regard to ASF surveillance in domestic pigs and wild boar, is being prepared under the auspices of GF-TADs, mainly using European Commission tools, especially the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme.

- Contribution to the work of the Global GF-TADs Working Groups on FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR): within this framework, and following the adoption of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in April 2015, SRR-Brussels participated in the meetings to launch regional 'PPR roadmaps' for East Africa, the Middle East, West Eurasia and South Asia. SRR-Brussels took part in the third FMD Roadmap Meeting for the Middle East and the seventh FMD Roadmap Meeting for Western Eurasia.

Information was then provided on the following activities planned by SRR-Brussels in the second half of 2016: (a) technical support as and when required for the forthcoming seminars for National Focal Points in Europe (for wildlife, in Belarus in July 2016; others to be confirmed); (b) continuation of the activities of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, especially the organisation of a second workshop on stray dog population management, for Balkan countries (Albania, June 2016); (c) preparation of the first workshop on long-distance transport of animals for slaughter (second half of 2016, to be confirmed); and (d) follow-up of the awareness campaign on stray dogs in Balkan

countries, focusing on responsible dog ownership to reduce the number of strays; (e) collaboration in the organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Portugal, September 2016). Details of the aforementioned activities are published on the OIE regional website, managed by SRR-Brussels.

Dr Taitubayev explained that the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana had organised and conducted several meetings, including: Regional Workshop on the OIE procedure for the official recognition of Member Countries' disease status and for the endorsement of official national control programmes for FMD (March 2015 Astana, Kazakhstan); sixth Regional FMD Roadmap Meeting for West Eurasia (April 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan); closing meeting for the OIE laboratory twinning project on brucellosis between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' (IZSAM) in Italy and the National Veterinary Reference Centre (NVRC) in Kazakhstan (December 2015, Astana, Kazakhstan); first Regional PPR Roadmap Meeting for Central Asia (February 2016 Almaty, Kazakhstan); seventh Regional FMD Roadmap Meeting for West Eurasia (April 2016, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan); and commemoration of World Veterinary Day at S. Seifullin Kazakh Agro-Technical University in Astana (Kazakhstan).

Details were also provided on meetings attended by Sub-Regional Coordination Unit representatives, as well as those they are planning to attend up to the end of 2016.

4. Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the "sequence and destroy project" with the United Kingdom's Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries – state of play and specific capacity building needs

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Portugal:

– Lumpy Skin Disease: current situation in Europe and neighbouring regions and necessary control measures to halt the spread in South-East Europe

7. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016

Professor Álvaro Mendonça, Delegate of Portugal, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Portugal had made to start organising the conference. Prof. Mendonça provided general information about hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

He explained that, as September was the peak season for events in Lisbon, no rooms were available at the conference venue before 19 September. Conference participants will be able to reserve rooms only starting from 19 September, the same day on which the conference starts. Consequently and to allow plenty of time on the day of arrival, the opening ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. Registration will open at 2 p.m. Portugal will provide a welcome dinner that evening. He provided other hotel options identified by Portugal in the vicinity of the venue (some being a few subway stops away from the venue, others within walking distance).

To conclude, Prof. Mendonça emphasised the importance of Delegates and other participants to proceed with hotel reservations without delay and, in any case, by no later than 15 July 2016. After that date, the special rate negotiated by the country would no longer be available and availability of rooms could not be guaranteed.

8. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the "One Health" approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers' meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health Approach": Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

9. Status of notifications by Members in Europe

Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, she showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Popovic also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Popovic concluded by presenting the results of the online survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch", which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. She highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

The Delegate of Greece requested that 'Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' be used instead of 'Macedonia'. A representative of the Russian Delegation proposed to change the OIE Code chapter on notification of diseases to include the obligation for endemic countries to report any outbreak within 20 to 50 km from a border using an immediate notification procedure, in order to alert the neighbouring countries on the need to take immediate preventive measures. Dr Marija Popovic indicated that this request will be possibly considered by the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department and the relevant Specialist Commissions.

10. Peste des petits ruminants situation in Georgia

Dr Mikheil Sokhadze, Delegate of Georgia, gave a brief presentation of the PPR situation in his country. He began by saying that high mortality in young sheep (1-2 months of age) had been reported on 14 January 2016 on a farm near Georgia's capital city, Tbilisi. The National Food Agency's Veterinary Department took immediate action to investigate the outbreak and test the samples locally. Bluetongue was diagnosed by the Ministry of Agriculture laboratory. Quarantine measures, as well as stamping-out of diseased animals

and disinfection/disinsection measures, were conducted in the infected farm. A circular letter was sent to all regional veterinarians concerning suspicious disease in small ruminants. Immediate notification was sent to OIE through WAHIS regarding the suspected first occurrence of a listed disease in the country (notification dated 23 January 2016).

He explained that samples were submitted to the Pirbright Institute in the United Kingdom for confirmation of the preliminary results. As the samples tested negative for bluetongue virus (notification dated 29 January 2016), they were re-tested for PPR, after which PPR virus was confirmed in the samples (notification dated 8 February 2016). Following further investigation, the preliminary misdiagnosis was confirmed as having been caused by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) failure at the local laboratory.

On 3 February 2016, Georgia's Chief Veterinary Officer sent an official letter to FAO requesting assistance. In response to the official request, the OIE/FAO Crisis Management Centre-Animal Health (CMC-AH) fielded a rapid deployment team to Tbilisi on 7 February 2016. The overall objective of the mission was to investigate the country's first ever PPR outbreak and support the government in its response. The CMC-AH team visited several farms and a livestock market close to the initial farm. While signs related to PPR were recognised on two of the four farms visited, no specific signs were noticed in the livestock market. Samples for laboratory diagnosis were collected from live and dead animals on all four farms. The outbreak investigation concluded that PPR infection on the farms found to be infected was new because only young animals were sick, having no maternal antibody protection.

In accordance with the CMC-AH team recommendation, the state Veterinary Service planned and implemented the following actions: establishment of a PPR national strategic plan and a PPR task force led by the CVO; a pre-vaccination survey to evaluate the geographical distribution of current PPR infection; risk-based vaccination of susceptible animals, with 1,300,000 small ruminants vaccinated to date; necessary diagnostic kits were purchased for the laboratory.

Dr Sokhadze concluded by saying that, since then, no clinical cases of PPR had been reported in Georgia. Thanks to the rapid response of the Veterinary Service and swift support from CMC-AH mission recommendations, coupled with mass vaccination of susceptible animals, Georgia succeeded in halting and controlling the disease.

The Delegate of United Kingdom, Dr Nigel Gibbens, asked clarification about the stamping out modalities put in place and the duration of the vaccination campaign. Dr Sokhadze indicated that modified stamping out was applied targeting lambs with clinical signs only and all susceptible animals were vaccinated within two weeks, given the risks associated with nomadic system prevailing in Georgia. Vaccination campaign was carried out by the Veterinary Services in collaboration with other relevant authorities.

11. Latest developments regarding the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare in Europe

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, began her presentation by saying that, in the second half of 2015 and in 2016, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, which provides the secretariat for the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare in Europe, had continued to implement the platform's three-year action plan, launched in 2013. This included preparing and organising the following important activities relating to the platform's three priority areas: stray dog population control; transport of animals; and slaughter of animals.

(a) Second train-the-trainers workshop on transport and slaughter for seven Russian-speaking countries (Russia, March-April 2016). An assessment of the first train-the-trainers workshop (Georgia, first half of 2015) showed that most of the participating countries had already increased the number of training sessions at national level for

veterinary inspectors working in local abattoirs and some veterinary education establishments have incorporated this training into the curriculum of veterinary students.

(b) First regional workshop on national strategy for stray dog population management in West Eurasia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 2015) and launch of a self-assessment system for these countries to determine their situation in 2016 using the tool developed by the OIE and its Collaborating Centre in Teramo (Italy); the countries took note of Chapter 7.7 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on stray dog population control and undertook to comply with it fully by 2030.

(c) Preparation of modules on long-distance transport of animals for slaughter and poultry, to be used in train-the-trainers workshops in late 2016 and in 2017.

(d) Development of the platform's new website.

(e) Fifth meeting of the platform's Steering Group (SG5) (Dublin, Ireland, November 2015) and its sixth meeting (SG6) (Teramo, Italy, April 2016), which served to validate the six-monthly programmes already completed (second half of 2015 and first half of 2016) or yet to come (second half of 2016).

Dr Leboucq then reported that, in the second half of 2016, it was planned to hold a second workshop on stray dog management in the Balkans (Albania, June 2016). She noted that the preparation of national roadmaps, based on the results of the self-assessments made in the first half of 2015, would be an important topic during the workshop. The campaign to raise awareness about stray dogs in the Balkans, with a focus on responsible dog ownership and reducing the number of stray dogs, which was launched in May 2016, will also inform discussions during the workshop and will be evaluated in March 2017. There are also plans to organise the first train-the-trainers workshop on long-distance transport of animals for slaughter and poultry, based on the training modules developed in the first half of 2016.

She added that, at the SG5 meeting the members of the platform's Steering Committee agreed on the need to develop a second action plan for the platform, which would cover the period 2017-2019 and continue along the same lines as the first. Depending on the outcome of forthcoming discussions, the welfare of working horses and the welfare of animals in disasters could be added to the list of topics covered by the platform. Dr Leboucq pointed out that OIE Delegates in Europe would be closely involved in the preparation and validation of the platform's second action plan, due to be validated at the 85th OIE General Session in May 2017. An external evaluation – to take place at the end of 2016 – will endorse the platform's first action plan and make useful recommendations for preparing the second action plan. The platform's initial financial partner, the European Union, has already indicated that it will provide financial support for the second action plan, while a growing number of donors (France, Switzerland, Germany, World Animal Protection, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) are also supporting the platform's activities.

Dr Leboucq concluded by saying that the platform's new website was being finalised and would contain comprehensive information about the platform, as well as serving as an online forum for regional discussion and dialogue among all European countries.

The Chair of the meeting, Dr Budimir Plavšić, congratulated the OIE for all the work conducted on animal welfare in the region.

12. Latest developments regarding the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region

Prof. Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, began his presentation by explaining that ASF was one of the most important pig diseases spreading across Eastern Europe.

Prof. Lukauskas presented an overview of ASF spread from Africa in 2007 to the Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

He said that ASF had been introduced into Georgia in 2007. The disease has spread widely to Armenia, Azerbaijan and throughout the Russian Federation, from where it has continued its spread westwards, with the first outbreak reported in Ukraine in 2012, Belarus in 2013, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland in 2014, and Estonia in 2015.

He stressed the potential risk of the ASF virus entering the European Union.

Prof. Lukauskas went on to provide a number of risk analyses that had been made on potential ASF introduction into the European Union and Asia from Africa and Eastern Europe by several routes of entry.

He explained the main characteristics of the transmission routes of ASF, saying that ASF virus was transmitted mainly through direct contact (between an infected animal and a healthy animal), indirect contact through fomites (such as contaminated products, people or trucks) or biological vectors (soft ticks of the genus Ornithodoros).

Prof. Lukauskas commented on the risk factors for early detection of ASF in Eastern European countries namely; inadequate control programmes, late detection, inadequate surveillance programmes, and weak Veterinary Services.

He pointed out that, in 2014, the OIE, in collaboration with the European Union and the FAO, had established a Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for ASF for which a programme had been approved.

Prof. Lukauskas provided details on the outcomes of the three SGE meetings held since 2014.

Prof. Lukauskas reported that the first SGE meeting (SGE1), held in Minsk (Belarus) in December 2014, had stressed the need for strong cooperation among hunters, environmental authorities and Veterinary Services in order to manage wild boars more effectively. Hunting should be conducted in a manner that avoids movement of wild boars. Management of wild boars should be clearly defined in accordance with the ecological, environmental and sociocultural situation in the region. The SGE reiterated that trust and cooperation could only be built by providing full access to the relevant information.

He added that biosecurity was crucial to prevent the entry and spread of ASF into commercial and backyard pig farms. The prerequisite for achieving this is for Veterinary Services to provide basic information to pig farmers by way of appropriate communication campaigns. Backyard farms practising low biosecurity currently play an important role in the spread of ASF. Given the economic importance of backyard farms in certain areas, the control and biosecurity measures to be implemented in backyard production systems need to be carefully evaluated.

Prof. Lukauskas then reported on the second SGE meeting (SGE2), held in Tallinn (Estonia) in February 2015, which established an expert team and scheduled a set of visits to the various affected countries, as follows: Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Latvia, Ukraine, Estonia.

Prof. Lukauskas then provided details on the conclusions of SGE3, held in Moscow (Russia) in March 2016, as follows:

- Surveillance and monitoring activities should be based on the biological characteristics of ASF;
- Surveillance in domestic pigs should be focused on ASF early detection ;
- For wild boar, passive surveillance should be enhanced in both infected and risk areas while maintaining the current level of active surveillance; and
- The proportionality and effectiveness of the measures conducted within endangered zones should be re-evaluated taking into consideration the distinctive epidemiological features of ASF, as well as risk patterns.

Prof. Lukauskas concluded by commenting on the resolutions of the meeting between the OIE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in 2014. He stressed that the key to ASF control was to raise awareness and educate all sectors involved (including farmers, veterinarians, government officials and hunters) to ensure that they understand the alarming socio-economic impact of the disease in endemic areas, prioritise action and grasp the importance of controlling and eradicating this disease.

Dr Leboucq, in her capacity as Secretary of the ASF SGE initiative, recalled that the fourth meeting of the ASF SGE (SGE4) will be held the next day taking advantage of the presence of the Delegates/CVOs of all seven involved countries as well as of Romania and Moldova, also invited to join the initiative.

13. Implementation of the PVS Pathway in Central Asia

Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, began his presentation by saying that Central Asian countries had used the PVS Tool largely to improve the compliance of their Veterinary Services with OIE international standards. As early as 2007, the first PVS Evaluation missions were requested and conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Tajikistan followed soon after, in 2009, and latterly Turkmenistan, in 2013.

He said that a brief analysis of use made of the PVS Tool showed clearly that two of the countries evaluated appear to be fully aware of the importance and usefulness of the PVS Pathway. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have requested additional missions to their initial PVS Evaluation mission: a PVS Gap Analysis mission to get an indicative costing of resources required to implement the country priorities defined; PVS Follow-up missions to assess progress made; and veterinary legislation support to strengthen their legislative framework. Based on the recommendations of their initial PVS Evaluation, they have also requested twinning projects to improve the quality of their Veterinary Services.

A laboratory Twinning project on brucellosis between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' (IZSAM) in Teramo (Italy) and the National Veterinary Reference Centre in Astana (NVRC) (Kazakhstan) ended in December 2015 with a regional meeting to share the lessons learned with other countries. The goal of the laboratory in Kazakhstan, following this Twinning, is to apply to become an OIE Reference Laboratory for brucellosis.

A Twinning project on veterinary education is under way between the National Veterinary School of Toulouse (France) and the Kazakh National Agrarian University of Almaty, working with a consortium of Kazakh universities. After a slow start, the Twinning project has gathered pace, with exchanges of teachers and students taking place this year.

Kyrgyzstan has also requested a Twinning project to improve the implementation of its recently established veterinary statutory body: a first step that had stemmed from the proposal for Kyrgyzstan to play an active participation in the global conference on veterinary education, held in Iguazu (Brazil) in December 2013.

Dr Taitubayev concluded by saying that regular country PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions were useful for assessing, monitoring and supporting progress made – something that Central Asian countries have certainly taken on board. He acknowledged that the main sticking point for them now – funding for future progress – would require a clear regional cooperation programme to be developed to encourage investors and secure the effective support of their own ministries of finance.

14. Election of the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, informed participants that, as the Delegates of Estonia, Spain and Azerbaijan had changed, leaving vacant the positions of President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Regional Commission, a partial election needed to be held.

The Commission unanimously nominated the Delegates of Latvia, Serbia, Austria and Belarus for the offices of President, first Vice-President, second Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, respectively.

The membership of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe is as follows:

President:	Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-President:	Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)
Vice-President:	Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Secretary General:	Dr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Belarus)

This decision will be submitted for endorsement by vote of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates during the course of the week.

15. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

European Commission

Dr Bernard Van Goethem highlighted the activities of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety in the area of animal health and welfare in Europe, including: transboundary animal disease control programmes in the European Union and neighbouring countries; BTSF activities; the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe; and other OIE capacity-building activities financed by the European Commission. He also gave an update on the state of play of European Union animal health law.

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

The Representative of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) began his presentation by saying that the treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) had come into force on 1 January 2015. He explained that the EEU was an international organisation for regional economic integration with international legal personality. The EEU Member States are: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. The EEC is a permanent supranational regulatory body of the EEU. EEC decisions are binding within the territory of EEU Member States.

He explained that one of the EEC's main tasks in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary measures were to develop (in accordance with the EEU Treaty) EEU regulatory legal acts to maintain the epizootic and veterinary-sanitary well-being of the EEU territory.

He concluded by saying that cooperation between the EEC and OIE was currently based on a cooperation agreement concluded by the EEC and OIE on 10 January 2014.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy, Animal Health and Production Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, began his presentation by saying that FAO provided assistance to countries in Europe and Central Asia on sustainable livestock production, veterinary public health, food safety and animal genetic resource conservation. He added that, in particular, assistance was provided on: development policies and strategies for livestock production and the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (ASF, FMD, PPR, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia), including zoonoses such as brucellosis and rabies; emergency response to emerging diseases such as lumpy skin disease and PPR; and providing solutions to challenges faced by Veterinary Services and livestock producers. FAO also assesses livestock and the implementation of programmes for improving livestock breeding, such as enhancing honey bee productivity and assisting rural populations, especially women, in generating income through capacity-building in honey production. FAO fosters public-private dialogue and partnership in such areas as: awareness of ASF risk prevention and control; and support for the establishment and strengthening of professional and community-based organisations, such as associations of veterinary practitioners, farmers and milk producers. Raising awareness of antimicrobial resistance is another important area of FAO's work in the region.

16. Other matters:

The Delegate of Ukraine, Dr A. Verzhykhovskiy, requested that the proposal of the State Scientific Research Control Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Feed Additives in Lviv, Ukraine, to become an OIE Collaborating Center on bee health and bee product food safety be included as part of the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Lisbon, September 2016). The Chair answered that this request will be possibly considered when finalizing the Conference agenda.

The meeting officially ended at 6.35 p.m.

…/Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Budimir Plavšić, Delegate of Serbia and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe);
2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates);
3. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels, Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana);
4. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Budimir Plavšić);
6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Budimir Plavšić);
7. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016 (Prof. Dr Álvaro Mendonça, Delegate of Portugal);
8. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
9. Status of notifications by Members in Europe (Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);
10. Peste des petits ruminants situation in Georgia (Dr Mikheil Sokhadze, Delegate of Georgia);
11. Latest developments regarding the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare in Europe (Dr Nadège Leboucq);
12. Latest developments regarding the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region (Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow);
13. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Central Asia (Dr Mereke Taitubayev);
14. Election of the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer);
15. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
    - European Commission (EC)
    - Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
16. Other matters.

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84 SG/11B/ME

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 56 participants, including Delegates and observers from 14 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Observer countries/territories: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: CIWF[60], EAHS[61], FAO, INSCA[62], IZS[63] and The Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the OIE Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Delegate of Oman and Member of the Council, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Al-Lawati then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued

60 CIWF: Compassion in World Farming
61 EAHS: Emirates Arabian Horse Society
62 INSCA: International Natural Sausage Casing Association
63 IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale, Italy

to discuss the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Al-Lawati provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.

2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate's allowance.

3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.

4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria would need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.

5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.

6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.

7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the *ad hoc* groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.

8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Finally, Dr Al-Lawati reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates' nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit

categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

3. 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 the Middle East, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern.

He encouraged Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development, in order to support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation more effectively, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding for OIE activities in the region.

He stressed the relevance of maintaining regular regional scientific meetings, in particular capacity building seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity, as part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services. In that regard, he commented on the seminar on animal welfare that had already been held in April 2016 (in Amman, Jordan) and those to be held later this year, on veterinary laboratories (September 2016), disease notification (November 2016) and aquatic animal diseases (December 2016).

He concluded by announcing specific regional activities planned later this year, which still have to be confirmed: a regional conference on rabies control (September 2016), as recommended by the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik in November 2015; FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) regional roadmap meetings on Progressive Control Pathways for foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) (October 2016); animal welfare activities under the Middle East Animal Welfare Action Plan for 2016-19; activities relating to camel diseases.

Dr Al Qahtani concluded by acknowledging a motion of thanks to the countries hosting the regional activities: Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation over the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory twinning-like projects: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) with Italy's Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (IZS) for camel diseases; Jordan Bio-Industries Center (JOVAC) with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) for PPR vaccine; CVLBR with CIRAD for diseases of small ruminants, with specific reference to PPR and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia; Yemen with South Africa for Rift Valley fever; and Yemen with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) for bee diseases.

He presented the conclusions of: the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik (Lebanon) on 10-13 November 2015; the sub-regional camel diseases conference, held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) on 14-16 February 2016; and the OIE Regional Conference "Towards the Application of the OIE Standards on Zoning", held in Amman (Jordan) on 3-5 April 2016.

He also provided a brief summary of planned activities over the coming seven months, highlighting that, for some of them, the budget still had to be confirmed, including: seminar for National Focal Points for laboratories, (September 2016); regional conference on rabies control (September 2016); seminar for National Focal Points for disease notification (Sharm El Sheikh, November 2016); regional roadmap meetings on Progressive Control Pathways for FMD and PPR (October 2016); disease status and endorsed control programme recognition training (October 2016); seminar for National Focal Points for aquatic animals (Jeddah, December 2016).

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Levels of good emergency management practices (GEMP) at ministerial level

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was adopted for the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

– Sustainable strengthening of the epidemio-surveillance systems in Middle East Member Countries

7. Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the "sequence and destroy project" with the United Kingdom's Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2017

Dr Nihat Pakdil, Delegate of Turkey, confirmed the offer of his country to host the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. The Conference will be held in Istanbul (Turkey) in September 2017.

9. Status of notifications by Members in Middle East

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, he showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Mapitse also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Mapitse concluded by presenting the results of the online survey "Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch", which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. He highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

10. Outcomes of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik, Lebanon, from 10 to 14 November 2015

Dr Ghazi Yehia presented the following recommendations adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 14 November 2015 at its 13th Regional Conference.

Recommendation No. 1: *Control of rabies in the Middle East Region, with emphasis on stray dog control*:

1. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE, WHO, and FAO, develop and adopt a Regional Strategy for the eradication of rabies from the Middle East in which the vaccination of dogs and the control of stray dog populations, in compliance with the relevant OIE standards, including Animal Welfare standards, will be key components;

2. The Member Countries develop national roadmaps, including extension programmes, for the control of rabies, which will provide a pathway towards achieving the objectives of the aforementioned Regional Strategy, based on measurable activities and realistic timelines and indicators;

3. The Veterinary Services of Member Countries collaborate with the Public Health Services (Ministry of Public Health), municipalities, relevant NGOs and local communities to develop the national roadmaps and benefit from the cost-effective advantage of eliminating rabies at the animal source through appropriate programmes;

4. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE and in collaboration with WHO and FAO, update and enforce their legislation (in accordance with the Regional Strategy) to comply with relevant standards, including those of the OIE, for effective rabies prevention and control, and stray dog population control;

5. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, organise biennial "One Health" coordination regional workshops in the Middle East to provide technical support and monitor the progress of the Member Countries, to discuss future steps and actions, and, when relevant, to review and update the aforementioned Regional Strategy;

6. The OIE, with the financial contribution of Member Countries and donors, consider the establishment of an OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank to which Member Countries of the Middle East region would have access; and

7. The OIE, provided funding is available, organise in 2016 a Regional Conference in the Middle East aimed at presenting to Member Countries the OIE standards applicable to rabies and stray dog population control, establishing the baseline situation of the Member Countries and validating the aforementioned Regional Strategy.

Recommendation No. 2: *The use of non-structural proteins to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals*:

1. According to their national FMD status, and their official control programme, including vaccination strategy, Member Countries clearly define the purpose of sero-surveys: e.g. (i) to determine the serological prevalence, (ii) to provide robust evidence that the country or a zone of the country is free from FMD, and (iii) to monitor the population immunity after vaccination;

2. With the support from the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network, Member Countries identify and compile the FMDV field strains currently circulating in the Middle East region as well as the strains that could sporadically occur; and

3. Member Countries compile a list of all vaccines (including details of manufacturers, specific FMDV strains, formulations, and degree of purity) that are currently deployed or available in the Middle East region.

11. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday. However, the response rate from Middle East countries was not adequate. She encouraged OIE Members from this region to increase the level of participation.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the "One Health" approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers' meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a "One Health Approach": Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

Dr Ghazi Yehia commented that national contact points for antimicrobial resistance have been nominated in the Middle East region upon a specific request from the WHO Regional Office. He highlighted that these contact points are not always the OIE National Focal Points for veterinary products. Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel concluded that this appears to be a specific problem in the region, which should be addressed.

The Delegate of Qatar stressed that the questionnaire on antimicrobial resistance required too much and detailed information. Dr Erlacher-Vindel requested that a response for baseline information should be provided as a minimum, and that the remaining information could be submitted to the OIE at a later stage.

12. Activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia

Her Highness Sharifa Zein Alsharaf bint Nasser briefly presented the activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB). She referred to the OIE Regional Conference "Towards the Application of the OIE Standards on Zoning", held in Amman (Jordan) on 3-5 April 2016 with the support of the HFDJB, which had been attended by 61 participants, including 25 representatives from the Veterinary Services of 14 countries from the Middle East.

She went on to explain that the HFDJB had launched a livestock trading project in Mohammadiya (southern Jordan) with goals in three strategic areas: (i) socio-economic (to develop the local economy, creating 1,000 direct and indirect jobs) and food security; (ii) commercial (to increase regional trade in livestock through capacity-building to enable the import and re-export of up to 200,000 head per month, worth USD 0.5 billion per year; and (iii) animal health (in public-private partnership with the Jordanian Veterinary Services, supported by international expertise, to establish a disease-free zone around the project area and to secure high health standards in regional livestock trade).

She added that the strong involvement of the Jordanian Government in the public-private partnership (the project is a national priority) was a valuable asset in the pursuit of recognition for the zoning concept in the Middle East, with the technical assistance of the OIE, European Union and Italy.

She concluded by saying that the presentations and fruitful discussions between Delegates and experts paved the way for further appropriation of the zoning concept in the region, as well as for more regional dialogue between trading partners and for harmonisation of animal health import requirements in the region, in compliance with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), as reflected in the "Amman Declaration".

13. State of play of the twinning project between the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) and the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale* (IZS) on camel diseases

His Excellency Adel Al Zaabi, Executive Director of the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), began his presentation by pointing out that increasing global demand for live camels and their products and the higher risk of transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases posed by growing international trade in camels, had led the OIE, through

a specialised *ad hoc* group, to recommend the establishment of both a regional reference centre for the epidemiology and diagnosis of camel diseases and a network of laboratories.

He said that, to address this challenge, in May 2015 ADFCA had funded a twinning-like project on camel diseases with Italy's IZS in Brescia, Palermo and Teramo. Its purpose is to establish a regional centre on camel diseases within ADFCA, which, after at least five years, is expected to become the first OIE Collaborating Centre specialised in the diagnosis and epidemiology of camel diseases. Beyond the transfer of technical skills and scientific capacity-building, the project's specific aims are to identify priority diseases of camels in the Arabian Peninsula and to develop standard diagnostic techniques and specific vaccines and vaccination protocols for these diseases in compliance with OIE standards.

14. Validation of the Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy implementation plan 2016-2019

Professor Hassan Aidaros, Member of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, presented the Middle East Animal Welfare (ME AW) Action Plan for 2016-2019 for final comments and adoption by the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

He described the strategic objective of the Action Plan (empowering Veterinary Services to take animal welfare actions in compliance with OIE standards) and its three specific objectives: (i) raising awareness and achieving a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Middle East; (2) steadily advancing with the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare; and (3) encouraging Member Countries to take part in the OIE standard-setting process, with the CG serving as the major cross-cutting activity for meeting these three technical objectives.

Prof. Aidaros presented the four priorities of the Action Plan: transport of animals by sea (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 7.2); transport of animals by land (Chapter 7.3); slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5); and stray dog population control (Chapter 7.7).

He concluded by listing the priority activities of the Action Plan, as follows:

- to prepare an advocacy document on the ME RAWS and Action Plan in order to attract donors (key activity supporting the others);
- to organise the governance and implementation of the Action Plan (meetings of the CG);
- to develop an OIE website on animal welfare in the Middle East;
- to organise training of trainers on livestock handling and welfare during transport by land and sea, and during time spent on farm/feedlot and time spent at the slaughterhouse;
- to organise a regional workshop on animal welfare for slaughter livestock (transport, handling and slaughter); and
- to organise a regional workshop on stray dog population control.

The Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan was unanimously adopted.

In addition, the Delegate of the United Arab Emirates announced the organisation of the first Animal Welfare Conference in this country, which will be held before the end of the year. Furthermore, Dr Ghazi Yehia announced that the Sub-Regional Conference on Rabies Control in the Near East that would be held in September 2016, depending on availability of funds, would include a stray dog population control component.

15. Election of the Vice-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 the Middle East, informed participants that, as the Delegate of Saudi Arabia had changed, leaving vacant the position of Vice-President of the Regional Commission, a partial election needed to be held.

The Commission unanimously nominated the Delegate of United Arab Emirates, Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Markos Tibbo, Livestock Officer at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began his presentation by explaining that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity in: surveillance, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, lumpy skin disease, PPR) and zoonoses (H5N1 AI, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [MERS-CoV], brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and assessing the status of animal genetic resources. Factors such as disruption of Veterinary Services in countries affected by conflict and a rise in unregulated movements of animals have increased the threat of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the region. FAO has provided training in: good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; and preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. It has also provided a neutral stakeholder forum.

Dr Tibbo added that FAO provided direct support for the surveillance, diagnosis and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza (subtype H5N1), MERS-CoV). To that end, FAO organises major events, in collaboration with the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO), on such issues as: contribution of livestock to food security; FMD and PPR control and eradication; MERS-CoV and "One Health"; camel diseases; antimicrobial resistance. He also announced the opening of a FAO Subregional Office for Mashreq countries in Lebanon, an Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office in Jordan, and a FAO Country Office in Kuwait.

He concluded by saying that FAO had provided technical, institutional or policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and the mobilisation of experts on sustainable livestock production and the management of feed and animal genetic resources. It had also helped small-scale dairy, poultry and small ruminant farmers to increase their produce, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

The Delegate of the United Arab Emirates mentioned the importance to develop local capacities on food security within the Middle East region, in particular by preserving and improving the genetics of local breeds.

The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

…/Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East);

2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Delegate of Oman and Member of the Council);

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East);

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati);

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

7. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2017 (Dr Nihat Pakdil, Delegate of Turkey);

9. Status of notifications by Members in Middle East (Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);

10. Outcomes of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik, Lebanon, from 10 to 14 November 2015 (Dr Ghazi Yehia);

11. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);

12. Activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (Her Highness Sharifa Zein Alsharaf bint Nasser);

13. State of play of the twinning project between the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) and the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale* (IZS) on camel diseases (Dr Salama Al Muhairi, UAE-ADFCA);

14. Validation of the Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy implementation plan 2016- 2019 (Prof. Hassan Aidaros, Member of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group);

15. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**:**

    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

17. Other matters.

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