

# *Reports*

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions  
held during the 86th General Session**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**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.

REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 21 May 2018

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The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 103 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission, 5 observer countries, and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Rep., Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Observer countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AVSF<sup>40</sup>, AU-IBAR, CEMAC<sup>41</sup>, IGAD<sup>42</sup>, EISMV<sup>43</sup>, FAO, WTO, and WAEMU<sup>44</sup>.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, and seconded by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

**2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019**

Unfortunately, the Delegate of Cameroon could not attend the meeting and therefore, was not in the position to officially confirm his country as host of the forthcoming Regional Conference.

Dr Malek Zrelli, OIE Delegate of Tunisia, proposed that his country hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference to be held in February 2019.

This proposal was unanimously approved by the Regional Commission.

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<sup>40</sup> AVSF: *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*

<sup>41</sup> CEMAC: *Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale*

<sup>42</sup> IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

<sup>43</sup> EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar*

<sup>44</sup> WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

### **3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa**

On behalf of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Working Group of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department and co-chair of the FMD Working Group, updated the Regional Commission for Africa on the FMD Roadmaps conducted in Africa to date and those planned in 2018. She briefly outlined the principles of the Global FMD Control Strategy and the division of Africa into five sub-regions (North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa) based on the FMD virus pools. She presented the FMD regional situation as assessed against the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD, as well as the progress made in those sub-regions that had hosted two roadmap meetings.

She described the various tools provided by the FMD Working Group to support countries willing to control FMD, including FAO/OIE Guidelines for vaccination and post-vaccination monitoring and templates for developing national FMD control plans. She explained the challenges identified in implementing the Global FMD Control Strategy at the global level, as well as in Africa, and some of the activities planned by the FMD Working Group to address these challenges and gaps.

### **4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative**

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships, and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants' expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.
- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. The second cluster includes producers' associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.
- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

**5. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

The President of the Regional Commission presented to Delegates a proposal from the Members of the Bureau and the Council regarding the technical item for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa as follows:

- Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa

He then proposed to Delegates of the region that Technical Item I (with a questionnaire to Members), “*PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa*”, which had already been selected at the Regional Commission meeting during the last General Session in May 2017, be changed with Technical Item II (without questionnaire), proposed today in order to provide participants with the opportunity to debate the topic of veterinary paraprofessionals with the support of a questionnaire.

The proposal was endorsed unanimously by the Regional Commission.

Thus, Technical Items for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will be as follows:

Technical Item I (with questionnaire): “Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa”.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire): “PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa”.

**6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- The role of veterinarians in combating threats posed to public health and food security by emerging and re-emerging diseases and pests

**7. Recent progress on the OIE’s work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa**

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa reported on recent progress with VEEs and VSBs in Africa.

During the presentation he highlighted the following:

- The new status adopted by the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med for its acronym in French), which expands its mission and clarifies and simplifies its procedures and management. REEV-Med will focus its efforts on promoting the importance of close cooperation between veterinarians in the Mediterranean region for addressing veterinary public health and animal health challenges. They will therefore work on building trust between faculties and on facilitating student exchanges, as well as on implementing joint research activities. REEV-Med also explores cooperation initiatives targeting the Mediterranean basin (such as ERASMUS+ and PRIMA) and encourages faculties to collaborate within the “One Health” framework.

- The network of Deans of Eastern and Southern Africa Veterinary Educational Establishments (ESAVEE) met for the sixth time in Lusaka (Zambia) in June 2017. The meeting was hosted by the University of Zambia (UNZA) with the financial support of the OIE. For the first time, a REEV-Med representative attended the meeting, providing an opportunity for the two networks to share past experiences, lessons learned and future directions. The meeting also took decisive steps towards sustaining the network's activities after the OIE withdraws its co-funding for the annual meeting, which it has supported since the meetings began in 2011.
- The meeting of VSBs in the Southern Africa region (with observers and facilitators from East Africa), which was supported by the OIE and was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in November 2017. It was attended by some 45 representatives from VSBs in Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, where they existed, or else from the government departments that register veterinarians and/or veterinary paraprofessionals (animal health technicians, meat inspectors, nurses, veterinary laboratory technicians). The overall aim was to establish a region-wide network of VSBs able to simplify and facilitate the recognition, registration and licensing of veterinary professionals throughout the region. At the end of the meeting, an electronic OIE Veterinary Statutory Boards Southern Africa Forum was established, using simple and affordable tools such as a *Facebook* group, *Skype* conference calls and a shared *Dropbox* folder. The working group that was established at the same time is currently looking to: review applicable legislation and regulations in light of the OIE day-one competencies and the OIE model core curriculum; and to share procedures, policies, reports and all other applicable information and best practices on the use of the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') in countries, rules for veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals which include scopes of practice and minimum standards for facilities (registration, authorisation), minimum standards of training, criteria for the evaluation of training institutions and continuing professional development. The process is driven by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), which has been assigned the role of champion and ensures that positive interventions take place.
- The first OIE Twinning agreement between VSBs in Africa, officially launched on 20 April 2018 at an inaugural coordination meeting between SAVC and the Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) at SAVC offices in Pretoria (South Africa). The Twinning arrangement between these two VSBs will last for 18 months. The next scheduled meeting of the Twinning partners will take place in July 2018, again in Pretoria, and aims to produce a joint training needs assessment for the last year.

**8. Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa**

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek (Namibia) from 10 to 12 April 2018, and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa. The Sub-Regional Seminar was organised by the OIE in collaboration with the Government of Namibia under the sponsorship of the project "Technical support for Namibia in eliminating rabies in dogs", financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to assist the Government of Namibia in controlling dog-mediated human rabies, especially in the Northern Communal Areas. The project is managed by the OIE, with technical assistance from the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies in Germany.

The key outcome was a set of recommendations to various stakeholders summarised as follows:

Member Countries should establish functional high-level One Health (multisectoral) rabies elimination steering committees as oversight bodies at national and sub-national levels. One of the tasks of these committees should be to oversee the development of national multisectoral rabies elimination plans, which clearly outline (with timelines and resource allocations) the activities designed to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

The SADC Secretariat was encouraged to take the leadership (coordination) role for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies in the region and to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination from the region by 2030, using the One Health approach.

The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with its continental mandate, should support the SADC Secretariat and Member Countries in coordinating dog-mediated human rabies elimination, by mobilising donor support, and in facilitating inter-regional collaboration in the effort to eliminate rabies.

Development partners should continue to support Member Countries at national and regional levels in order to control and eventually eliminate dog-mediated human rabies from the region, by contributing resources and building capacity.

Specifically, the OIE should continue to develop scientific standards and guidelines to facilitate the elimination of dog-mediated rabies, including considerations for the development of a procedure for the endorsement of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies elimination, and it should enhance the procedure for the self-declaration of dog-mediated rabies freedom. The OIE should also continue to provide/maintain a dog rabies vaccine bank.

The World Health Organization (WHO) should continue to develop and disseminate science-based WHO guidelines that facilitate the prevention, control and elimination of dog-mediated rabies, and should further develop validation procedures for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies as a public health problem. WHO should advocate for readily available rabies biologicals for the most vulnerable communities and, through its Country Offices, should actively support member countries to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination by 2030.

FAO, in collaboration with the OIE, should assist SADC member countries in developing the regional pathway towards rabies elimination and in implementing this regional roadmap (similar to that developed for foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants), and should assist countries in rabies rapid-response missions following outbreaks (Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health [CMC-AH]) missions, technical cooperation projects, among others).

## **9. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa**

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Secretariat, began his presentation by pointing out that the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) had been launched by FAO and OIE in October 2016, in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). It constitutes the first step towards eradication by 2030, which will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The four components of PPR GEP were presented to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa last year, at the 85th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates on 22 May 2017.

Dr Soula described the main achievements of PPR GEP implementation since then, including: the start of a second round of PPR regional roadmap meetings (five of the nine regions are in Africa); the launch of a PPR Advisory Committee and a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network; and the thermotolerant PPR vaccines workshop. He added that the countries had been supported in drafting their PPR National Strategic Plans, in line with the PPR GCES and with the Pan-African strategy and programme for the control and eradication of PPR.

These steps were facilitated by the support of AU-IBAR and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC).

He added that FAO and the OIE had endorsed a PPR resource mobilization and marketing strategy to facilitate fund-raising. To this end, a social media campaign was launched by FAO and the OIE in December 2017 and the two videos on PPR eradication were shown.

Dr Soula announced that FAO and the OIE would organize a global conference on “Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world”. This high-level event will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 6-7 September 2018, hosted by the European Commission. The objectives are to: reaffirm international political commitment to globally eradicate PPR by 2030; provide a forum for governments to confirm their political commitment; and obtain commitment and support from resource partners.

He concluded by mentioning the OIE dedicated tool linking the PVS Pathway with PPR GEP and the procedures for official recognition of PPR free status and for endorsement of national official control programmes for PPR.

## **Discussions**

The issues raised by the Delegates on the various technical topics in the agenda were discussed and clarified as follows:

- Regarding FMD, not many Roadmaps meetings were organised for Western Africa countries because the disease was not considered as a priority in the sub-region. Therefore, it was difficult to get donor funding supporting the planning of any FMD-related activity in the sub- region.
- When it comes to the serotype O identified in Africa and the way it could affect the FMD pool in the region, it was mentioned that, although globalisation influences long distance spread of this serotype, so far, no changes in the virus pool categories were foreseen.
- Regarding possibilities to establish Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) networks in Africa, it was underlined that current initiatives had been triggered by countries’ demand and thus, it was up to them to show interest and request joining such networks. It was also reminded that guidelines were available for all countries on this matter and they were encouraged to read them and to ask any support, if needed.
- Regarding rabies, it was reminded that the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Death from Dog transmitted Rabies by 2030, launched in September 2017, would soon be published.

- Regarding PPR control strategy, all African countries currently either have an endorsed plan by the OIE and FAO, or have already drafted their plan with the contribution of AU-IBAR.

#### **10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

#### **11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)**

##### **Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)

##### **Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of Congo)

**Vice-President:** Dr Malek Zrelli (Tunisia)

**Vice-President:** Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)

**Secretary General:** Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

##### **Specialist Commissions:**

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

##### **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan)

##### **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Kevin William Christison (South Africa)

**Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)  
Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte-d'Ivoire)

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Baptiste Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa)  
Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia)

The meeting officially ended at 6:10 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
  2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019
  3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa
  4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative
  5. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
  6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
  7. Recent progress on the OIE's work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa
  8. Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa
  9. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa
  10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
  11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 27 Members of the Commission and representatives from 15 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States of America, and Uruguay.

Observer countries: United Kingdom and Saint Lucia.

International/Regional Organisations: AAVLD<sup>45</sup>, ALA<sup>46</sup>, CARICOM<sup>47</sup>, CVP, FAO, FARM<sup>48</sup>, IEC<sup>49</sup>, IICA<sup>50</sup>, IPC<sup>51</sup>, OIRSA<sup>52</sup>, PAHO-PANAFTOSA<sup>53</sup>, PANVET, SG-CAN<sup>54</sup>, SSAFE<sup>55</sup> and WRO<sup>56</sup>.

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 was adopted unanimously as described in the Appendix.

Dr Jorge Bonino, representative of FARM, requested the Commission to provide more details regarding the recent FMD events in Colombia and Venezuela. The President while apologizing indicated that, due to time constraints, it was not possible to address this topic during the meeting.

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45 AAVLD: American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
46 ALA: Latin American Poultry Association  
47 CARICOM: Caribbean Community  
48 FARM: Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR  
49 IEC: International Egg Commission  
50 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
51 IPC: International Poultry Council  
52 OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria  
53 PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center  
54 SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community  
55 SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere  
56 WRO: World Renderers Organisation

## **2. Report on OIE Council meetings**

Drs Hugo Idoyaga Benítez and Joaquín Delgadillo Álvarez, Members of the OIE Council, presented a summary of the latest Council meetings. They referred to the monitoring of progress made with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum and election procedures. They also highlighted progress with the WAHIS+ project and the Observatory of Standards. They concluded by inviting Delegates to communicate more frequently with Council Members in their region.

## **3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session:

- Assessing the competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade

## **4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- Sustainability of Veterinary Services: experiences and challenges

Based on discussion of the other proposed items, it was suggested to include in the agenda of the next Conference of the Regional Commission, as panel discussion and / or short presentations format, items relating to organised crime and its influence on disease prevention, control and eradication; the integration of national health services and Veterinary Services in a “One Health” environment; and measures to prevent and control new world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*).

## **5. Organisation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in the Dominican Republic**

Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez, Delegate of the Dominican Republic, confirmed that her country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Punta Cana from 19 to 23 November 2018.

She reported briefly on the various arrangements that the Dominican Republic had made to start organising the conference. Dr Gómez provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that they would be sent all the details in a timely manner.

## **6. Request of Saint Lucia to become a new OIE Member**

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques informed participants of an application by Saint Lucia for the accession as an OIE Member Country, which had been approved by the Council and would be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval. He added that this was in line with the objective of increasing the number of Caribbean Members of the OIE.

Dr Auria King-Cenac, Chief Veterinary Officer of Saint Lucia, introduced the proposal of her country to become a Member of the OIE.

The proposal of Saint Lucia was unanimously approved by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

## **7. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions. These candidates will be put forward by the Americas region for election on Friday, 25 May.

Mr de Souza answered all the questions raised.

## **8. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session):**

### **Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico)

Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)

### **Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)

**Vice-President:** Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez (Dominican Republic)

**Vice-President:** Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado (Bolivia)

**Secretary General:** Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

### **Specialist Commissions:**

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

### **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

Dr Gastón María Funes (Argentina) (2nd position)

Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil) (1st position)

### **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada) (2nd position)  
Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile) (1st position)

### **Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

Dr Ana María Nicola (Argentina) (2nd position)  
Dr John Pasick (Canada) (1st position)

### **Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

Dr Vitor Salvador Picão Gonçalves (Brazil) (2nd position)  
Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America) (1st position)

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

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**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS  
Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on OIE Council meetings
3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
5. Organisation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in the Dominican Republic
6. Request of Saint Lucia to become a new OIE Member
7. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
8. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 127 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of ~), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of ~), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong SAR, Samoa, and the United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: Australian Veterinary Association, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, ICFAW<sup>57</sup>, NACA<sup>58</sup>, and World Animal Protection

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. Opening remarks by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and adoption of the Agenda**

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu welcomed participants and started his opening remarks by reviewing major OIE related events and activities in the region since last May, particularly the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, successfully held from 20 to 24 November 2017, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Conference was attended by a total of 119 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 19 Members of the region and senior officers from regional and international organisations. Presentations on the two Technical Items prompted stimulating discussions among participants allowing the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to elaborate and adopt two recommendations as follows: recommendation 1: "*How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector*"; recommendation 2: "*Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets*". Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement and will become an important guideline not only to the Asia, Far East and Oceania region

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<sup>57</sup> ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

<sup>58</sup> NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

but to the whole Organisation. He informed Delegates that the final report of the Conference was available in the Delegates' website.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu also highlighted the excellent support received from the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific when it comes to the coordination of activities in order to facilitate the synergies between the Regional Core Group members. He invited Delegates to take notice of the document on the OIE activities in the region distributed to all participants at the entrance of the meeting.

Finally, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu presented the Agenda for adoption.

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

**2. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in 2019**

Dr Norio Kumagai, OIE Delegate of Japan, reiterated his country's offer to host the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

He also confirmed that, this time, the Conference will be held in the first week of September 2019 instead of November 2019, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far and Oceania. It will be held in Sendai.

**3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- Zoonoses and food safety – improving collaboration between animal and public health professionals to achieve a better outcome

**4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- New technological advances in animal therapeutics and vaccine as a tool for control of diseases and AMR

**5. Progress report on Regional Work Plan Framework**

Dr Tashi Samdup, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and OIE Delegate of Bhutan, reminded participants that he had made a presentation at the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Putrajaya, Malaysia, 20-24 November 2017), regarding the state of play on the regional objectives and specific activities as established in the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020, which had been adopted by the Regional Commission in 2015. He went on to explain that, in light of the comprehensive review made at the Regional Conference, the Regional Core Group had agreed to propose modifications to the current Regional Work Plan Framework, keeping the main structure unchanged, and to present it to the Regional Commission for endorsement at its meeting during the 86th OIE General Session in May 2018.

Dr Samdup introduced the proposed modification to the existing Framework, which reconstructs Chapter 3, entitled “Activities for achievement of the regional objectives”, in order to reflect the achievements and new developments since its establishment and to clarify further the roles of the Regional Core Group and the challenges for Regional Commission members.

He added that the modified Framework would be reviewed at the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in 2019.

After discussion among Delegates, the proposed modification of the Framework was unanimously endorsed.

## **6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals**

Dr Delfy Góchez, Chargée de mission from the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.

The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

## **7. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session**

Dr Hirofumi Kugita reminded participants that the coordination procedure for developing regional positions for the OIE General Session had been developed and adopted at the Regional Commission meeting in May 2017. This was therefore the first time that the region was applying the procedure and endeavouring to develop regional common positions to put forward at the plenary discussion of the OIE General Session.

Dr Kugita stressed how important it was for all OIE members to participate actively in the OIE standard-setting process and said that he expected the coordination procedure to provide all members with a valuable opportunity to better understand the work of the OIE, to recognise the region’s relevant concerns and interests, and to enhance members’ engagement in the standard-setting process.

Dr Kugita then introduced a list of regional common positions proposed by members and asked the proposing members to present the background and rationale for the proposals.

There was discussion among the Delegates on regional positions and some proposals were unanimously approved by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 86th General Session on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Zhang concluded by thanking all Delegates for their active participation in the coordination procedure and expressed the hope that the region would continue to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues.

## **8. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

## **9. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)**

Before starting the discussion on the proposal of candidates for the elections, the President of the OIE Regional Commission, at the request of some Members of the region, briefly explained the role of the Regional Core Group, pointing out that this initiative had been developed as a mechanism to ensure proper linkages and coordination between the Bureau, the Council and the OIE to better address regional needs and facilitate regional inputs to the work of the Organisation.

When it comes to the role of the Regional Core Group in the selection process, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu explained that it was to encourage the active participation of the Members of the region in the selection process, already endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates during the 85<sup>th</sup> General Session. Also, the Regional Core Group took the leadership to provide some guidance to ensure that the most suitable experts from the region be proposed.

### **Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)  
Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore)

**Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Tashi Samdup (Bhutan)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People’s Republic of China)  
**Secretary General:** Dr Norio Kumagai (Japan)

Dr Schipp called for any additional members interested in being in the core group as extra members and New Zealand, Iran and Malaysia expressed their interest.

**Specialist Commissions:**

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)  
Dr Howard Pharo (New Zealand)

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)  
Dr Liu Hong (People’s Republic of China)

**Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Zhiliang Wang (People’s Republic of China)  
Dr Joseph O’Keefe (New Zealand)

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Zengren Zheng (People’s Republic of China)  
Dr Stephen Cobb (New Zealand)

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

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.../Appendix



**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**Agenda**

1. Opening remarks by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and adoption of the Agenda
  2. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in 2019
  3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
  4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
  5. Progress report on Regional Work Plan Framework
  6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals
  7. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session
  8. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
  9. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 126 participants, including Delegates and observers from 43 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: Council of the European Union, EEC<sup>59</sup>, Eurogroup for Animals, European Commission, FESASS<sup>60</sup>, Health for Animals, and ICFAW/RSPCA<sup>61</sup>.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia.

**1. Opening by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and adoption of the Agenda**

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia welcomed all participants and presented the Agenda for adoption.

The Agenda described in the Appendix was unanimously adopted.

**2. Introducing the New Delegates of Europe**

The President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe gave a special welcome and congratulated the newly appointed OIE Delegates attending the meeting.

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59 EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission

60 FESASS: Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire

61 RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**3. Update on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan Framework of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, including the draft chapters speaking notes for support on behalf of the 53 countries**

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, provided an overview of the work of the Regional Core Group (RCG) of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, notably focusing on the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework over the past year.

He first recalled that during the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission held in Lisbon, the Member Countries discussed the revitalisation of the Task-Force, which was created at the 25th Conference in September 2012 in Fleesensee. It was decided to rename it “Regional Core Group”. Considering the strategic objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions, the Regional Commission for Europe agrees to establish a Regional Work Plan Framework for the 2017-2020 period to set up priorities and activities in order to meet the regional needs. The Regional Work Plan Framework will be reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary in light of new developments.

The Regional Work Plan Framework adopted during the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission of Europe in Paris on the 22nd of March 2017, covers 6 strategic objectives, namely:

1. Contributing to the development of scientifically-based Standards and Guidelines
2. Establishing trust through transparency and communication
3. Ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services
4. Prevention, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases
5. Antimicrobial resistance and “One Health”- Policy
6. Promotion of Animal Welfare

It also describes a set of activities (10) to achieve those objectives.

Dr Herzog then provided a detailed update on their implementation, which were reviewed and evaluated by the Regional Core Groups during its 4th (Vienna, 20-21 December 2017) and 5<sup>th</sup> (Moscow, 17-18 April 2018) meetings:

3.1. Sufficient financial and human resources:

To develop a strategy and plan to ensure sufficient financial and human resources to implement the regional activities, on both RCG meetings, the structure and resources were discussed. This work is ongoing and there is the need to consider OIE global budget in the discussion on the resources made available for regional activities. Presentations about the staff resources and the planned actions were given by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives. The members of the RCG see the need for further discussions. It is foreseen to present an option paper during the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in September 2018.

3.2. Establishing a Regional Core Group (RCG):

The RCG was established by the adoption of the Terms of references and working mechanism of the RCG of OIE Regional Commission of Europe in Paris on 22 May 2018. Two meetings took place in Vienna in December 2017 and Moscow in April 2018.

### 3.3. Ensure translation of relevant documents in Russian language:

Russia supported the translation of the relevant chapters (for adoption) of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code at the beginning of this year. It was also agreed that the RCG Meetings would be provided with simultaneous interpretation and Russia, as a member of the RCG, offered to support the organiser of the RCG meeting by offering interpreters. The technical equipment has to be provided by the hosting country.

The relevant meeting documents will be translated by the Representations of the OIE.

### 3.4. Relaunch of the Website:

The relaunch of the Website is on the highest priority. Switzerland offered financial support to finalise the relaunch as soon as possible. During the 5th RCG meeting, the developments were discussed and it was visible that the aim to finalize the relaunch by the Regional Commission Conference in September 2018 would not be achievable due to decision to use the technical systems of the OIE Headquarter instead of developing a separate technical workflow.

### 3.5. Ensure active participation in the GF-TADs for Europe Standing Groups of Experts on ASF and LSD:

The outcomes of the experts' groups were discussed and the recommendations were seen as very important for the future work. The RCG thanks the European Commission (EC) for their financial support of these meetings and expressed its hope for future support of this work by EC. The RCG Group members agreed that there is the need to evaluate the existing recommendations and to describe their implementation or possible difficulties encountered by the affected countries and the countries at risk. This evaluation should be done during the next GF-TADs Expert meeting in Autumn 2018.

The discussions concerning the establishment of a regional (multi-disease) vaccine bank is ongoing. There is no decision made and a concept should be developed on later stage.

### 3.6. Strengthen the work of the GF-TADs for Europe:

During the 7th Steering Committee meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe in October 2017, it was agreed that the Steering Committee should meet annually. These further meetings should take place in the margin of the Conferences of the Regional Commission for Europe, which take place every second year. The next meeting will thus take place in September 2018.

Furthermore, the strengthening of the work of GF-TADs is closely related with the financial and budgetary resource of the OIE Regional Office in Brussels. These aspects have to be further discussed in the light of the resources allocation for the Regional Offices.

### 3.7. Establishing the GF-TADs expert group for Rabies:

This action was discussed during the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe in October 2017. During the 5th RCG meeting, the members underlined the importance of this item for many countries in the Region of Europe. It is clear that after finalizing the resources discussion, the members of the RCG will come back to this idea to develop a concept note for the work of such an expert group.

### 3.8. Enforcement of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antibiotics:

No concrete actions have been taken yet. After the presentation of the activities of Russia during the RCG Meeting in Moscow, the members thought about the development of a survey in the Members of the Region to get an overview about the activities in the whole region.

A concept note could be presented during the Conference of the Regional Commission in Georgia in September 2018.

### 3.9. Support the members to establish a link to the human health sector:

The members of the RCG agreed that there is a need to await the result of the discussion about the future developments of the PVS Pathway.

### 3.10. Promote a high level of understanding and awareness of animal welfare:

The implementation of the actions of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Platform is in line with the Regional Action Plan Framework 2017 - 2020 and was presented and discussed during the RCG meetings. By the end of 2018, the process for the development of the follow-up strategy 2020 – 2023 has to be started. The RCG will have this discussion on its upcoming meetings.

All information regarding the work of the Regional Core Group is available on a dedicated webpage.

Dr Herzog, referring to the Terms of reference of the RCG, indicated that the countries that form the RCG are selected during the meetings of the Regional Commission along with the election of the members of the Bureau; given the good work conducted so far, the proposal was made to keep the composition of the RCG unchanged with the same selected countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom). This proposal was agreed.

Finally, Dr Herzog came with a list of speakers proposed to deliver speaking notes as regards to the seven OIE Codes' Chapters and Aquatic User Guide that had been selected by RCG for a common position on behalf of the 53 Members of Europe.

## **4. Reconfirmation of FMD free status in the region**

In order to maintain their officially recognised disease-free status, OIE Members benefiting from this status are required to submit an annual reconfirmation to the OIE. Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department, presented the Regional Commission for Europe with an analysis of the latest European annual reconfirmations, focusing on foot and mouth disease (FMD). After a brief reminder of the procedure for the submission of annual reconfirmations, she presented the analysis results on the submission of annual reconfirmations by European countries in 2017, highlighting possible improvements, such as respecting the submission deadline and providing comprehensive supporting documents.

Dr Weber-Vintzel also stated that a prerequisite for maintaining an OIE official status was ongoing compliance with OIE requirements and that it was not appropriate to state compliance with European Union or Eurasian Economic Community rules.

Finally, an analysis of the last three annual reconfirmation campaigns (2015-2017) indicated that between 66% and 75% of European countries did not report any FMD suspicion over the one-year period. Almost 60% have not reported any FMD suspicion in the past three years. These figures challenge the sensitivity of the surveillance system and call into doubt the effectiveness of early detection systems. Member Countries of Europe region were invited to encourage reporting of FMD suspicions, with inclusive follow-up investigation, and to ensure an appropriate level of awareness.

#### **5. Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018**

Dr Mikheil Sokhadze, on behalf of Dr Lasha Avaliani OIE Delegate of Georgia, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference for which invitations were already sent by the OIE Headquarters.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Georgia had made to start organising the conference. Dr Sokhadze provided general information about visa issuance and hotel accommodation, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

#### **6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals**

Dr Margot Raicek, Chargée de mission from the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member Countries' participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.

The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

#### **7. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative**

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit, provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants' expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.
- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. The second cluster includes producers' associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.
- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

**8. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- The importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of AMR strategy

**9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Electronic certification for animal and animal product trade: opportunities and challenges

**10. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres**

Dr Christine Middlemiss, OIE Delegate of the United Kingdom, presented the Regional Commission with two applications for the OIE to consider: (1) the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) jointly as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Risk Analysis and Modelling; and (2) the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Weymouth Laboratory as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Disease.

She provided a brief review of the two proposed centres and their activities and said that full details had already been shared with Delegates but that a few copies were available in the conference room for consultation, if needed.

The Commission decided to postpone the approval of the United Kingdom proposal, pending additional information to be provided by United Kingdom and further discussions to be held at the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe to take place in Georgia in September 2018.

#### **11. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General “Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities”, presented the main aspects of the election process. They pointed out that the 86<sup>th</sup> General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

#### **12. Budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019 (Closed session)**

At the request of the Regional Core Group, Dr Alain Dehove, Director of Finance, gave a brief presentation on the budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and the budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019.

He highlighted the following information concerning the budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe (General Session documents 86 SG/4 and 86 SG/5):

- The 2018 budget of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (opened in 2013; rent financing agreement signed by the host country in 2017) is estimated at EUR 600 000 in revenues, of which 39% (EUR 232 000) comprises a share of the statutory contributions, 27% (EUR 160 000) comprises voluntary contributions from the host country, and EUR 208 000 (34%) comprises other revenues (including EUR 50 000 from the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund [World Fund]). Expenditure on salaries, missions and running the office are estimated at EUR 188 800 (EUR 237 500 budgeted; EUR 193 300 spent in 2017). The planned budget for regional activities is EUR 115 000 (EUR 165 000 budgeted; EUR 89 700 spent in 2017).
- The 2018 budget of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels is estimated at EUR 444 000 in revenues, of which 72% comes from the World Fund and 28% (EUR 123 000) comprises a share of the statutory contributions. The office premises are provided rent-free by the host country. A 23% share of the planned expenditure (EUR 126 000) is for salaries, missions and running the office (EUR 98 000 budgeted; EUR 54 100 spent in 2017), with the remainder (EUR 421 000) earmarked for regional workshops and meetings (EUR 205,000 budgeted; EUR 272 200 spent in 2017).

- In terms of revenue, the 2018 budget of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia (Astana) consists of EUR 200 000 in voluntary contributions from the host country solely. Expenditure on salaries, missions and running the office is estimated at EUR 118 000 (EUR 116 000 budgeted; EUR 104 400 spent in 2017). The planned budget for regional activities is EUR 50 000 (EUR 121 500 budgeted; EUR 86 700 spent in 2017).
- Overall, the Europe region benefits from a significant share of Member Country statutory contributions (EUR 355 000 budgeted for 2018 [EUR 301 600 recorded in 2017]) and of voluntary contributions, both financial (EUR 360 000 budgeted for 2018 compared with EUR 399 200 recorded in 2017), and in kind (premises), from host countries or Member Countries (a EUR 158 000 contribution budgeted for 2018 compared with EUR 132 000 recorded in 2017; staff made available), covering the staff and operating costs of the offices in the region.
- Member Country voluntary contributions boost the deployment of regional office programmes of activities for implementing the strategic plan. Member Country statutory contributions in the “extraordinary” category augment the OIE Regular Budget (non-earmarked funds).

Dr Dehove also provided the following details on the budget outlook for the Regular Budget in 2018-2019:

- In May 2017, Member Countries voted to increase statutory contributions by 20% (with effect from the 2018 budget).
- To date, two Members have also confirmed their wish to pay extraordinary category A annual contributions of EUR 500 000: France, the host country of OIE Headquarters (already paid up for 2018 and 2019), which previously contributed EUR 400 000 under category B; and Chinese Taipei (for the 2018-2021 period). Further discussions are under way, in particular with other Member Countries in the Europe region.
- One Member Country confirmed that it would be switching from category 6 to category 5 as from 2019. Similar discussions are ongoing with other Member Countries.
- The OIE Council encouraged the Director General to consider introducing an automatic system that would increase the annual level of statutory contributions in line with an annual core inflation rate. Following a historical analysis, it is proposed to use an inflation rate published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This approach helps to make annual increases in statutory contributions more predictable. Draft Resolution No. 15 proposes to introduce this mechanism as from 2018. The latest annual rate published by the OECD (consumer price index for all member countries [OECD-Total]) is 2.3% for 2017. The financial contributions of OIE Members for 2019 (draft Resolution No. 7) were calculated using this rate of increase (compared to 2018). The OIE Regular Budget for 2019 (draft Resolution No. 6) has been calculated on the basis of this increase.
- Investment in the renovation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS+) has been ongoing since 2017. The corresponding expenditure is covered annually by a portion of World Fund grants for the WAHIS+ project, which are transferred to the Regular Budget (amortisation and use of voluntary contributions received for WAHIS+ as and when required). This has a neutral impact on the Regular Budget (revenues from the World Fund equal actual expenditure). WAHIS system maintenance costs are paid from the Regular Budget.
- In 2018 and 2019, the OIE will finance a new Information Systems Master Plan for which the total budget is estimated at EUR 1 359 000 (an extra EUR 512 000 to be financed as part of WAHIS renovation and improvement, which is needed to install and secure an infrastructure capable of hosting WAHIS+). The investment cost relating to

the Information Systems Master Plan for 2018 is estimated at EUR 862 000, of which EUR 593 000 will be allocated to other IT work and EUR 269 000 to other IT equipment. To date, the investment cost relating to the Information Systems Master Plan for 2019 is estimated at EUR 475 000.

- The increase in statutory contributions passed in May 2017 makes it possible, in particular, to: finance the new Information Systems Master Plan; strengthen human resource management; enhance procedures for standard-setting and official recognition of animal disease status; increase support to Members for implementing global strategies for monitoring and controlling priority animal diseases; and continue refurbishing the offices and maintaining the two Headquarters buildings. ).
- The revised Regular Budget for 2018 (document 86 SG/5; draft Resolution No. 5) is EUR 12 637 000.
- The initial Regular Budget for 2019 (document 86 SG/6-B; draft Resolution No. 6) is EUR 12 770 000.

### **13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)**

#### **Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Christianne Brusckke (The Netherlands)  
Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia)

#### **Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed to keep the composition of the Bureau unchanged and thus proposed the following names:

**President:** Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)  
**Secretary General:** Dr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Belarus)

#### **Specialist Commissions:**

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions” and some candidates were also added for Biological Standards Commission and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

#### **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)  
Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)

#### **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Atle Lillehaug (Norway)  
Dr Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom)

### **Biological Standards Commission**

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, OIE Delegate of Russia, proposed Dr Ilya Chvala, PhD, Head of Reference Laboratory for Viral Avian Diseases of the FGBI «ARRIAH», in addition to the list of proposed candidates by the OIE Council. Armenia and Kazakhstan supported the proposal of Russia.

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Franck Berthe (France)  
Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland)  
Dr Ilya Chvala (Russia)

### **Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, OIE Delegate of Russia proposed Dr Artem Metlin, PhD, Deputy Director of the FGBI «ARRIAH», in addition to the list of candidates proposed by the OIE Council. Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan supported the proposal of Russia.

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)  
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)  
Dr Artem Metlin (Russia)

The meeting officially ended at 6: 00 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**Agenda**

1. Opening by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and adoption of the Agenda
  2. Introducing the New Delegates of Europe
  3. Update on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan Framework of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, including the draft chapters speaking notes for support on behalf of the 53 countries
  4. Reconfirmation of FMD free status in the region
  5. Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018
  6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals
  7. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative
  8. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
  9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
  10. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres
  11. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
  12. Budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019 (Closed session)
  13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Paris, 21 May 2018**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 44 participants, including Delegates and observers from 16 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO, EUFMD, and The Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of United Arab Emirates, accompanied by Dr Elias Ibrahim, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Lebanon, and assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was suggested by the Chair. He informed the meeting that two items had been proposed to be added to the agenda; an “Update on Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)” and the establishment of the “Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)”, a proposed regional network on aquatic animal health. With the agreement of the Members, these items would be fitted in prior to the discussions relating to the OIE elections. The new agenda items were endorsed for inclusion and the new agenda unanimously adopted.

**2. Activities of the Regional Representation in 2018**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation during the 2017-2018 period, highlighting its primary objectives, which are to build the capacity of Veterinary Services for the appropriate implementation of OIE standards and to control and manage animal diseases including zoonoses.

Activities organised during the year were targeted at:

- improving the regional animal disease information;

- securing animal health and welfare by assisting countries in developing appropriate risk management;
- establishing cooperation and harmonising strategies between Middle Eastern countries on important issues of regional concern: the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), animal welfare training among others;
- strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) (including connections between International Health Regulations and the OIE PVS Pathway), FAO (including activities under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR);
- holding conferences and seminars targeting specific issues related to animal and public health, especially training seminars for Focal Points (for animal welfare, veterinary products, communication, veterinary laboratories and aquatic animals);
- promoting the capacities and capabilities of regional laboratories and coordinating their activities (Twinning projects);
- supporting veterinary education through Twinning with developed country institutions.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, there are specific activities devoted to aquatic, equine and camel diseases (e.g. Camel Middle East Network, Aquatic Middle East Network), which will require ongoing attention over the coming years.

### **3. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals**

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Head of the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member Countries' participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health. In addition, there were also issues in terms of information exchange between the public and private sectors relating to antimicrobial use.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.

The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

Although there is limited data from the Middle East, existing data shows a very high relative use of macrolides, which is highly important to human health. The presenter encouraged the Members to try to promote the use of other antibiotics.

Given low response rates, she also made a plea for the Members to make an effort to send in more data on their antimicrobial use as well as providing animal biomass data (especially for camelids) as this was important to properly measure prudent use in this Region. She informed the Members that a questionnaire relating to the third round of data collection would be circulated around the end of October 2018.

#### **4. Outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and OIE Delegate of Lebanon, described the outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 2 to 6 October 2017, which had been attended by a total of 67 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 11 Member Countries and senior officers from 5 regional and international organisations.

Dr Elias Ibrahim listed the main recommendations developed following the discussions of each of the two technical items. Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “*Sustainable strengthening of the epidemio-surveillance systems in the Middle East Member Countries*”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries, in particular, to: define their duties, develop relevant legislation and undertake surveillance planning, applying the general and disease-specific provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*; commit to enhancing surveillance, especially through better communication and collaboration between bordering countries, as well as in reporting disease occurrences; ensure they have the required number of suitably trained staff to perform epidemio-surveillance activities relevant to their animal health situation; nominate their relevant OIE National Focal Points and ensure their participation in OIE capacity-building activities; be actively involved in all relevant activities related to strengthening intersectoral collaboration; take advantage of the new proposed approaches of the PVS Pathway. Technical Item I had also led to recommendations for the OIE, in particular, to: accelerate the modernisation of WAHIS (WAHIS +) to ensure that the system remains a relevant tool for informing about and analysing the animal health situation worldwide; provide guidelines on the expected competencies of veterinary paraprofessionals involved in epidemio-surveillance activities; continue to provide capacity-building activities for the benefit of relevant OIE National Focal Points; secure funds by exploring with interested partners and donors; support the implementation of PVS Pathway missions and related activities in the region.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “*Addressing challenges in the Middle East at the human-animal interface under the One Health concept*”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: pursue their engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway by requesting PVS Evaluation or PVS Evaluation follow-up missions and other missions under this programme and ensure not only that the results of these missions are made available and used during IHR Self-Evaluation, WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions and all other IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework-related activities, but also that the Veterinary Services also participate actively in these activities; establish and make fully active a National One Health Committee(s) or equivalent (if they have not already done so) as a forum to address the challenges at the human-animal-environment interface; request WHO and the OIE to undertake IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops in the Middle East region; advocate and communicate on the One Health concept among all relevant national stakeholders. Technical Item II had also led to recommendations for the

OIE, in particular, to: communicate widely on the recent Tripartite's Commitment document, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, and, in collaboration with WHO, to strengthen connections between the PVS Pathway and the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in order to ensure that Veterinary Services are systematically considered as key actors and leading partners in global health security.

## **5. Implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy**

In the absence of Dr Ahmad Zahran, OIE Focal Point on animal welfare of the United Arab Emirates, Dr Majid Al Qassimi took his place to brief participants on the training modules on long-haul transport by land and by sea, developed to support implementation of OIE animal welfare standards. These modules were presented during two sessions of Training-the-Trainers Workshops in selected countries in the region, respectively in Amman (Jordan) and Cairo (Egypt).

While the training materials cover animal welfare chiefly in relation to long-haul transport, they also could be applied to short-haul transport. The materials address the welfare of cattle, sheep, horses and poultry during transport, with the focus on animals transported for slaughter.

Six countries of the Middle East were selected to undergo the cycle of three workshops (Egypt, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and United Arab Emirates), with a further three countries attending the third session.

The workshops were successful and much appreciated by the participants who formed strong cooperation links for the future.

A second cycle on the same topics involving the other countries in the region is planned for 2019, together with an inter-regional conference entitled "Long journey scenario on transport of livestock", to be held jointly with selected exporting countries in Europe and Latin America.

## **6. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in 2019**

Dr Majid Al-Qassimi reiterated his country's offer to host the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

He also confirmed that this time the Conference will be held in November 2019 instead of September 2019, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. Further details including exact dates would be provided in the near future.

## **7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- Better enforcement of standards for safer trade (BESST)

Given this selected technical item also related to the implementation of standards, the Members agreed that the results of the current 2018 OIE General Session technical item questionnaire on “Implementation of OIE Standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs”, particularly for the Middle East, could be reviewed to ensure there was no duplication and ensure that the new technical item and questionnaire would build on existing OIE information.

In addition, the Members also made additional suggestions for a further technical item (without questionnaire) for later confirmation including:

- Risk communication and emergency management for emerging and transboundary animal diseases in the region” (without questionnaire)

or

- Wildlife trade and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” (without questionnaire)

or

- Network on laboratory capacity in the region” (without questionnaire).

#### **8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020:

- The impact of climate change on emerging and re-emerging diseases

#### **9. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative**

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit, provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants’ expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.
- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. The second cluster includes producers’ associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.

- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

#### **10. Update on Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)**

Dr. Al Muhairi from the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) – United Arab Emirates briefed Members about the CAMENET network including outlining its objective and concept note. She mentioned that the CAMENET Steering Committee will meet in November 2018 in Abu Dhabi to start the implementation of the network plan for 2018 and 2019 which includes the inter-laboratory comparison programme on selected camel diseases to test and enhance the proficiency of the laboratories in the region.

A workshop on camel disease epidemiology jointly with a workshop of OIE Focal Points for laboratories, supported by international partners and OIE Reference Laboratories (Italy), will be held in November 2018 in the United Arab Emirates. This joint event will build capacity and plan and prepare for the inter-laboratory testing programme, where samples will be collected and tested during 2019, and the results will be discussed at the end of 2019. The need to conduct collaborative research was also discussed.

Members requested that clearer planning documentation be provided for use within their countries in facilitating approvals support for involvement in this CAMENET activity. Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, committed to providing this updated documentation via correspondence and it could be discussed further in November 2018.

#### **11. Establishment of the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, briefly presented on a new initiative, the Aquatic Middle East Network, a proposal to develop a network of expertise on aquatic animal health in the region, based on the CAMENET model. The concept was being developed given the growing importance of aquaculture production and associated health risks in the region. Initial activities were intended to begin in 2019 with leadership from Saudi Arabia.

#### **12. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

**13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)**

**Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates)

**Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

**Vice-President:** Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)

**Vice-President:** Dr Ali Al Doweriej (Saudi Arabia)

**Secretary General:** Dr Mahmoud Alhanatleh (Jordan)

**Specialist Commissions:**

No candidates were proposed from the Middle East region for any positions to any of the four Specialist Commissions. There was also no discussion on any of the proposed candidates from the other regions.

The region raised the difficulties in gaining sufficient votes for any positions within the Specialist Commissions due to being a small region with relatively few voting Members. Members were reminded that nominations were also being used to populate OIE *ad hoc* Groups that weren't subject to OIE Members' elections and that there was still a benefit to nominations even if they weren't elected to the Specialist Commissions. Dr Majid Al Qassimi, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, encouraged all Members to provide nominations for the next round of elections to the Specialist Commissions and that a process to think of possible candidates each year in the region should be initiated.

The meeting officially ended at 5:05 p.m.

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.../Appendix



**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST  
Paris, 21 May 2018**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of the Regional Representation in 2018
3. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals
4. Outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
5. Implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
6. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in 2019
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