As veterinary medicinal products are essential to animal health, animal welfare and public health including food security and food safety, public policies for veterinary medicinal products are a constant concern of the OIE, and one of the main components of animal health policies.

In March 2008 in Dakar, Senegal, the OIE has started a programme of regional Conferences to improve the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products worldwide.

In order to provide preliminary information on veterinary medicinal products in the Middle East to facilitate exchange and discussion during this specific conference for the Middle East, organized in Damascus, Syria, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East has undertaken the assessment of country situation regarding legislation, registration and control procedures for veterinary medicinal products, using a detailed questionnaire.

The questionnaire took into consideration the following items:

- Regulatory Authority for veterinary medicinal products
- National production of veterinary medicinal products
- Registration and Marketing authorization
- Quality control
- Distribution
- Veterinary medicinal products' importation
- Surveillance and control
- Commercial veterinary diagnostic tests

Even if all countries that answered the questionnaire have specific legislation and regulation for the control of the veterinary medicinal products, different strategies and policies are implemented in the region, particularly for their control and surveillance.

Harmonisation at regional level could be a way to ensure the well control of veterinary medicinal products in compliance with international standards.