OIE STRATEGY FOR VETERINARY PRODUCTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OIE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

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OIE’s activities related to veterinary medicinal products are based on several complementary approaches such as:

- The development and regular updating of international standards and guidelines within the mandate of the OIE as the standard-setting body for animal health and zoonotic diseases recognised by the World Trade Organization;

- The permanent support to Veterinary Services and laboratories to enable OIE Members to implement the published standards;

- The development of a coherent communication and training programme; and

- The modernisation or update of national legislation for marketing approval and control of veterinary products. This approach is clearly supported by donors at the global, regional and national levels.

To enforce communication and enhance awareness of the need for harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products, OIE is currently organising specific conferences and training workshops.

The OIE has recently reinforced its network of National Focal Points to allow experts designated by the OIE Delegates to participate in such conferences and training workshops and also to support National Delegates in their tasks in the respective fields of expertise. These experts act as contact points with the OIE on matters related to veterinary products.

The specific tasks of a National Focal Point for veterinary products, conducted under the authority of the OIE Delegate of his/her country, include communication and establishment of networks with authorities and experts on veterinary products; monitoring of legislation for and control of veterinary products; and consultation and preparation of comments on draft texts of standards, guidelines and recommendations proposed by the OIE.

At the last General Session of OIE Delegates in May 2009, all OIE Members adopted Resolution No. 25 and agreed to enhance OIE activities related to veterinary products, legislation and control. This resolution will also be reflected in the next OIE Strategic Plan.