INTERNATIONAL APPROACH FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS:
OIE AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

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OIE's activities in the field of Veterinary medicinal products are consistent with the general objectives of OIE for animal health and welfare and animal production food safety. The OIE collaborative centre for Veterinary Medicinal products located in Fougères (France) has supported a number of initiatives regarding harmonisation of the governance of Veterinary Medicinal products including training, support of veterinary services, twinning, provision of legal and scientific expertise...

At the international level, VICH was created under the auspices of the OIE. OIE participates to the VICH steering committee and contribute to the dissemination of information to OIE countries. In 2009, proposals were made on the ways of improving the outreach of VICH information and principles to other countries and regions wishing to benefit from VICH experience. The OIE provides its support to the VICH process and relays the information on VICH to the 175 OIE Members Countries.

OIE takes an active role in codex activities and participate to the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) and to the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR).

The role of CCRVDF is to establish maximum residue limits for substances used in Veterinary Medicine in order to protect consumer safety and to facilitate trade. OIE contributes to the debate and acts as a partner to FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice.

The TFAMR has been established in 2007 to develop guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment with subsequent consideration of risk management options.

The AMRTF should develop science based guidance taking full account of risk analysis principles and the work and standards of international organisations such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The guidelines on antimicrobial resistance developed by OIE (antimicrobial resistance surveillance, monitoring of antimicrobials, methodologies for antimicrobial susceptibility testing, prudent use, and Risk assessment) as well as OIE work on critically important antimicrobials will be helpful in this context.