Recent emergence and re-emergence of transboundary animal diseases, new risks arising from global warming or globalization and the current estimate that 75% of emerging (new) diseases and 80% of pathogenic agents having a potential use in bioterrorist activities are zoonotic, clearly demonstrate the need for Good Veterinary Services Governance (GVSG) on a global, regional and national scale.

The pivotal role of Veterinary Services in animal health, specifically in the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, as well as having a crucial function in public health and zoonoses control, Veterinary Services (VS) clearly constitute a global public good. In addition the strategy of “One World – One Health”, depends on GVSG on all respective levels of activity and service delivery.

An essential cornerstone and tool in addressing and sustaining GVSG are veterinary medicinal products, such as veterinary drugs (medicines) and biologicals. A consolidated legislative framework, establishing mandate and responsibilities of the VS, supported by adequate human, physical and financial resources, are integral and essential components for the control of veterinary medicinal products, which includes inter alia manufacture, importation, registration, sale, efficacy, potency, safety etc.

The Quality of Veterinary Services and thus GVSG depend on OIE International Standards which are available as and contained in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC). The standards of quality relating to veterinary medicines and chemical residues are discussed.

In order to evaluate national Veterinary Services’ compliance with these OIE TAHC Standards, as well as to assist in putting into place GVSG, the OIE has established procedures for the evaluation of the VS, based on the provisions in Chapter 3.2. of the TAHC, using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE-PVS Tool). The application of the OIEPVS Tool is described and the specific critical competencies dealing with veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals are highlighted. The control of veterinary medicinal products is an important and integral function and primary responsibility of national public VS’s, executed in a public-private partnership with all stakeholders such as the pharmaceutical industry, private veterinary sector and animal (livestock) owners.