

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AND *MODUS OPERANDI* OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

In accordance with Resolution No. 19 of the 77<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session, the terms of reference for and *modus operandi* of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group are:

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group include:

- a) consideration of all foodborne hazards arising from animals before slaughter;
- b) a primary focus on food safety measures applicable at the farm level;
- c) consideration of food safety measures applicable elsewhere, for example during animal transport and harvesting of wild animals for food;
- d) work criteria and priorities that take into account global food safety priorities and current work programmes of relevant international organisations, especially the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), FAO and WHO;
- e) the taking into account of the food safety standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, especially the CAC;
- f) support for the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions on pre-slaughter animal production food safety;
- g) advising the OIE Director General on all issues relating to animal production food safety including but not limited to:
  - i) establishing *ad hoc* Groups to address specific tasks;
  - ii) linking at the working level with the CAC, FAO and WHO;
  - iii) ensuring pre-slaughter animal production food safety is integrated in Specialist Commissions' and *ad hoc* Groups' activities;
  - iv) providing technical input, as appropriate, into the work of the Specialist Commissions in relation to OIE relevant food borne disease notification or the official recognition by the OIE of relevant disease status;
  - v) enhancing communications, information sharing and consultation;
  - vi) issues relating to good governance including veterinary education.

## MODUS OPERANDI

Within the above terms of reference, the Working Group sees its role as:

1. providing advice to the OIE Director General on policy and strategic issues relating to the OIE's work on animal production food safety, which has the goal of 'reducing foodborne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products'.

The priorities are:

- a) identifying and addressing gaps, contradictions, areas where harmonisation is necessary and duplications in the work of the OIE and other international/intergovernmental organisations involved in food safety standards (in particular CAC);
  - b) strengthening the relationship to other relevant scientific and normative organisations working in the area of food safety (in particular CAC, FAO and WHO), through enhanced information exchange;
  - c) improving coordination between competent authorities with animal health and food safety responsibilities at the national and regional levels;
  - d) recommending a work programme to address the mandate of the OIE on animal production food safety.
2. acting in a steering group capacity, as required by the OIE Director General, regarding the work of OIE expert groups:
    - a) advising the Director General on membership, scope and terms of reference for expert groups;
    - b) reviewing texts arising from relevant expert groups for consideration by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

Intended outputs addressed to the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions include:

- a) policy advice;
- b) discussion papers;
- c) reports;
- d) comments on draft texts reviewed.