

Resolutions of the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education Lyon, France 13–14 May 2011

CONSIDERING:

1. The obligations of the veterinary profession, whatever they may include, regarding the animal kingdom and society, in its largest sense.
2. The need to strengthen the capacities of countries globally to create or maintain national animal health and veterinary public health systems that cover the whole national territory and that can provide for surveillance, early detection and rapid response to outbreaks of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases, including zoonoses, whether these arise through by natural or intentional events;
3. That the mandate of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as an intergovernmental organisation with 178 Members (as of April 2011) is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to ensure sanitary safety of world trade of animals and animal products, while consolidating the place of animals in the world;
4. That good governance, according to the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services, in particular the provisions of Article 3.2.12 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) on Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB), is of critical importance in enabling veterinary services to fulfil at least the basic missions recommended by the international community in order to improve animal health and welfare as well as veterinary public health at national, regional and global levels;
5. That the OIE provides to Members the global PVS Pathway for Efficient Veterinary Services under its mandate to strengthen capacities relevant to the veterinary domain, including for animal health and welfare, veterinary legislation, veterinary education and regulation of the veterinary profession by the VSB;
6. That the training (initial and ongoing) of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals must take into account basic competencies, notably skills in diagnosis, epidemiology, food safety, animal welfare, veterinary legislation, management and leadership;
7. That the training of veterinarians must be based on a foundation of strong scientific research in the major domains of study;
8. The disparities between veterinary registration, accreditation and monitoring procedures and the legislation governing VSB in the various regions/countries, as well as the lack of formal VSB or equivalent institutions in some countries;

9. The need for increased regional integration and subsequent transboundary mobility of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
10. The insufficient participation in general of private veterinarians and their associations in supporting the activities of Veterinary Services and the need for more public–private veterinary partnerships in many countries;
11. The need for countries and organisations to work together to support countries that wish to improve veterinary governance;
12. That, following the 1st Global Conference on Veterinary Education (October 2009), the OIE convened an *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, which recommended a set of minimum competencies required of ‘Day 1’ veterinary graduates (in both the public and private sector) to enable Members to meet the OIE standards for efficient veterinary services;
13. The importance of promoting the veterinary profession in order to better address ambiguities relating to the recognition of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
14. The presentations on veterinary education and the role of VSB made at this conference;
15. The need for strengthening the networks between deans of veterinary education establishments at national, regional and world levels; and
16. The willingness of the participants at this Conference to actively participate in the implementation of international recommendations on veterinary education worldwide.

THE CONFERENCE MAKES THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

1. The OIE, with support from relevant international organisations, should continue to progress the PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services (including relevant public and private components) by using all associated supporting mechanisms, including independent evaluation, the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, Twinning Programmes, the PVS Gap Analysis and the PVS follow-up missions;
2. The OIE should continue to work closely with Member Countries and Regional and Global Organisations to support efforts to improve the quality of (initial and ongoing) training of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, and harmonised approaches to recognition of qualifications, notably, with the support of VSB;

3. The OIE should augment its standards and associated PVS critical competencies in the domain of the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB), to better provide guidance to OIE Members wishing to update and improve the national governance of the veterinary profession and the OIE should develop a twinning mechanism for countries wishing to establish or strengthen VSBs or any equivalent body complying with the OIE *Terrestrial Code* definition (further referred to as “equivalent body”);
4. The OIE should present recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates on the Day 1 minimum competencies required by veterinarians for countries to meet the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. The minimum competencies for veterinarians, including those working in governmental services, should ensure sound knowledge, notably in the following subjects: clinical sciences, diagnosis, epidemiology and veterinary public health, including food safety, animal welfare, veterinary legislation, management and leadership;
5. In the framework of the PVS Pathway, the OIE should consider the creation or strengthening of mechanisms to support the evaluation of the quality of national Veterinary Services personnel on the basis of their initial and continuing education, particularly where recognised evaluation systems currently do not apply;
6. The OIE should encourage the creation, if necessary, of regional associations of VSB and/or other relevant organisations with delegated authority for accrediting veterinary education establishments (VEE), which could facilitate the establishment of a list of VEE that would be subject to regional accreditation after appropriate external audit, based on criteria that may be accepted throughout the region to facilitate mobility of veterinarians as appropriate;
7. The OIE should inform VSB about relevant standards and recommendations pertinent to the training of veterinarians and any other useful information related to this field;
8. The OIE should use the principles established under the successful Laboratories Twinning Programme to prepare recommendations for pilot twinning projects between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE), and between VSB (or equivalent body) and convince potential donors to make financial contributions to such projects;
9. OIE Member Countries should take steps to improve compliance with international standards on the quality of national Veterinary Services by following, when needed, the OIE PVS Pathway, as appropriate to the national and regional context;

10. OIE Member Countries that have done a PVS evaluation are urged to consider the findings of the evaluation and, where appropriate, apply the relevant next steps such as the PVS Gap Analysis and Veterinary Legislation Identification missions, to improve general compliance with OIE standards on quality of Veterinary Services and other relevant international standards;
11. OIE Members should develop and implement national legislation enabling the establishment of veterinary associations, including clear definitions of the terms 'veterinarian' and 'veterinary para-professional' based on OIE definitions, and the modalities of their participation in relevant animal health activities in the country;
12. Those Members who have not yet done so should commence the process of creating an autonomous national VSB complying with the OIE *Terrestrial Code* definition, including as a first step providing national legislation for the establishment of a VSB with clearly defined objectives and powers to regulate the whole veterinary profession, in accordance with OIE standards as referenced in Article 3.2.12 of the *Terrestrial Code*;
13. VSBs are encouraged to comply with the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services, in particular the provisions of Article 3.2.12 of the *Terrestrial Code* on VSB;
14. VSBs are encouraged to increase the quality of national Veterinary Services by accrediting only veterinarians who have graduated from high-quality educational programmes (e.g., those programmes accredited by a recognised educational accrediting body and/or complying with the OIE recommended core curriculum model);
15. Countries/regions should encourage collaboration between VSBs or equivalent bodies, relevant official national or regional accrediting agencies, and veterinary education establishments (VEE), in order to harmonise the evaluation of education programmes; to facilitate both regional integration of veterinary services and regional mobility of veterinarians, and also to enable countries whose VEE do not provide good quality training to have access to this; and
16. Countries and regions should encourage stronger cooperation between the various education systems for animal health and human health.