



**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

GHSA White House Meeting 26 Sept 2014 – B. VALLAT, OIE Director General presentation

Thank you for granting me the privilege and the opportunity to present the animal health perspective and its critical interdependence with human health in achieving the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) objectives.

Pathogens of animal origin are an important and growing global threat to human and animal health, food security, food safety, poverty reduction and biodiversity. The evolution of new and re-emerging pathogens is the consequence of a multitude of factors and, in combination with the potential for deliberate threat, can only be addressed through a multi-faceted and well-coordinated global strategy.

That is why the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), which is the intergovernmental standard-setting body for animal health *and* the pre-eminent source of early warning and monitoring of animal diseases, is committed to a robust participation.

For the past 90 years, we have, through our global network, successfully coordinated the international control of animal disease. It's our job, it's our passion, and it has become an ever-growing shared responsibility as a global public good.

In this respect, we offer *five unique platforms* that are both essential and available to contribute to a successful GHSA:

- 1) Firstly, **we set international standards for disease prevention and control methods and the quality of national animal health system** because good governance is the most critical factor to the control of animal diseases including zoonoses.
- 2) Secondly, we assist our 180 Member Countries to evaluate and improve their compliance with these intergovernmental standards. The **OIE PVS Pathway - for the improvement of Performance of Veterinary Services** - offers independent expert assessments to enable countries to identify and address gaps in their veterinary services' capacity, including veterinary

education and public private partnerships, to prevent, detect and respond to animal disease threats.

- 3) Thirdly, the OIE and the WHO have jointly developed a Guide to assist member countries to improve compliance with both WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) and OIE standards on the quality of veterinary services. Our **joint WHO-OIE national workshops** facilitate better cooperation and strategic planning between public health and animal health services.
- 4) Fourthly, the OIE **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)** is the foremost comprehensive source for the early detection, monitoring and transparent reporting of animal diseases including zoonosis. This global real-time link is critical for the early warning on, and rapid response to, disease events.
- 5) Finally, our global network of **296 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres** and more than 1,300 national **Focal Points** constitute an ongoing and permanent scientific information and global emergency response system worldwide.

In summary, these five platforms are the *backbone of global animal disease control*. The OIE has established platforms and connected teams in place, ready to support the achievement of the GHSA goals. Ebola, influenza, and West Nile Virus have all emerged first in developing countries which have not had the capacity to implement the OIE standards to detect, prevent and respond to these diseases of animal origin. With appropriate commitment, we can expand animal disease warning and monitoring systems worldwide.

Furthermore, we have the tools to assist countries to improve their national veterinary services capabilities and their strategic cooperation with national public health services. In short, we are enthusiastic and prepared to be part of the solution to the short term objective of improved zoonotic disease prevention and control, and to the longer term issues such as vaccine development and other alternatives to antimicrobial use in animals.

We look forward to offering you every avenue of assistance as we work together to accelerate progress against all global disease threats in collaboration with our national and international partners, WHO and FAO. By protecting animals we are preserving our future.

Thank you for your kind attention.