



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE¹
Paris, 21 – 23 June 2016

1. Opening and background information

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereafter referred to as ‘the Group’) met from 21 to 23 June 2016 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France.

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, welcomed the participants and reiterated the importance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the current working programme of the OIE. She informed the Group that Resolution No. 36 on “Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a One Health Approach: Actions and OIE Strategy” had been adopted at the last OIE General Session in May 2016, and that the Technical Item 1 of the next General Session (May 2017) will be on antimicrobial resistance and based on the analysis of a questionnaire that will be sent to all OIE Delegates. She also informed the Group that a Scientific Symposium on alternatives to antimicrobial agents will be organised by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) with the support of the OIE in December 2016 at OIE Headquarters, and that a Second Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals will be organised in 2017. She thanked the Group for its continued support of the OIE’s activities related to the use of antimicrobial agents, and stressed the ongoing need of the Group’s expertise and support in the collection of data and reporting by OIE Member Countries on their use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel thanked the representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who attended the meeting and highlighted their productive collaboration and the development of joint activities for the reduction of antimicrobial resistance. Dr Awa Aidara-Kane gave an update on AMR activities by the WHO. These included organisation of regional workshops to support the development of “One Health” National Action Plans to combat AMR, with Tripartite participation; the proposal for new work on AMR to be considered in June 2016 by Codex Alimentarius, and the upcoming United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting in September 2016 that would further endorse the great progress that has been made through resolutions at the WHO, FAO and OIE annual meetings and through the agreement of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP). Dr Sylvia Kreindel informed the participants that AMR will be also on the agenda of important forthcoming meetings of the FAO.

Finally, Dr Erlacher-Vindel explained that the meeting of the Group would be focused mainly on the OIE Database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and on the adoption of a provisional calculation of the denominator to estimate the animal biomass. The main objectives of the meeting would be a presentation of the first phase of data collection from OIE Member Countries on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals as presented during the OIE General Session, to adopt a provisional calculation of the denominator estimating animal biomass in the short- and long-term, given future improvements to WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System), and to validate improvements to the data collection template and guidance.

¹ Note: This *ad hoc* Group report reflects the views of its members and may not necessarily reflect the views of the OIE. This report should be read in conjunction with the September 2016 report of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/scientific-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

2. Appointment of the chairperson and rapporteur, and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Dr Herbert Schneider, and Dr Carolee Carson acted as rapporteur.

The adopted Agenda and List of Participants are presented in Appendices I and II of this report, respectively.

3. Presentation of the data collected by the OIE on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals in 2015, and of the proposed draft report

Dr Delfy Gochez presented an overview of the data on the use of antimicrobial agents collected from 130 participating OIE Member Countries. This overview consisted of a presentation of the final results of the first phase of data collection, including what was presented at the OIE General Session in May 2016 to the World Assembly of Delegates, as well as additional analyses performed.

The Group recognised the value of the contributions of OIE Member Countries and the efforts of the OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products in providing these data.

Dr Gochez also presented an outline of the draft report providing a summary of the global and regional results of the first phase of data collection. The Group agreed on the proposed outline and made some comments to improve the draft report. The Group was informed that the aim would be to publish the final report on the OIE website before the end of the year.

4. Review of the proposed updates to the template and guidance documents to be sent at the end of 2016 to all the OIE Member Countries for the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals (2nd phase)

As a result of the experience of the first phase of data collection, and to improve the template to clarify and to simplify the guidance for Member Countries, an updated version of the template and guidance document were presented to the Group for their consideration.

The following improvements to the template were proposed to the Group. The outcomes of the Group's discussion of these points are described below:

Template - Baseline Information

- Reporting year of data
 - A proposal was made to modify from a free text field to check boxes, thereby reducing the number of choices possible, with the expectation of reducing data error and misinterpretation. In addition, a line requesting 2014 data in the template was inserted, with an information box indicating that 2014, 2015 or 2016 data would be accepted for the second phase. In the future, data from a single year will be requested from all Member Countries. Additional information on the time period covered by the data, with an example given (1 January – 31 December), was included.
- Data source
 - A proposal was made to re-group the current 23 data sources into eight categories: imports, marketing authorisation holders, manufacturers, feed manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, veterinarians, pharmacy, farmers and other users.
 - Although the Group noted the complexity of the number of categories, the Group proposed to keep the original categories for the second phase of data collection with the exception of “Sales data – Veterinarians” as it was a duplicate category and of “Veterinary prescription data – Dispensing” as it was covered by other categories.
- Animal groups covered by the data
 - The Group agreed on the proposed changes to this field, with text modification for additional clarity to assist in the selection of the correct Reporting Option.
- Table to assist Member Countries in choosing the most appropriate Reporting Option
 - The Group agreed on the improvement of the original table, in which the excel spreadsheet would

automatically select the most appropriate Reporting Option, based on the replies of the Member Countries to the Baseline Information sheet.

Template - Reporting Options 2 and 3

- The Group agreed to add a “Companion animals” column to Reporting Options 2 and 3, to accommodate reporting of this information.

Guidance document

- The Group accepted the proposed modifications of the Guidance document, such as colour coding of sections and the grouping of all information by Reporting Option. No changes were made to the Annex.

5. Discussion and adoption of a provisional calculation of the denominator estimating animal biomass

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD), and Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist in WAHIAD, attended this part of the meeting.

Dr Mapitse informed the Group that some Member Countries have started to submit animal population information by the sub-categories of birds and pigs that were developed in the previous year. He said WAHIAD was committed to reminding the countries of the importance of the categories and verification of their data. He also mentioned that WAHIAD will continue to make improvements and adapt the ‘Guidelines to Member Countries’ as far as possible at this stage to take into account the needs of accurate animal population data for reporting quantities of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. However, he pointed out that a project for a new version of the WAHIS has recently been initiated and that WAHIAD is accepting suggestions from stakeholders on their needs. The Group therefore decided to refine its previous suggestions and modified the list of animal categories or animal species suggested to be included in WAHIS + (see Appendix III) in order to submit it to WAHIAD for their official consideration for the new version of WAHIS.

Dr Gérard Moulin presented short- and long-term proposals for both the provisional calculation of the denominator to estimate the animal biomass (hereafter ‘the model’) and its future refinement, with contributions made by Dr Carolee Carson and Dr Jordi Torren. The model takes into account key parameters such as OIE animal point in time census data, number of production cycles in a year, and average weights. The Group compared the estimated biomass from the model with available published biomass data of the EU and Canada. There appeared to be good agreement between the model estimates and the national estimates. The Group appreciated the merit of this approach and recommended that additional countries, including low- and middle-income countries, be included to further validate the model. Based on the results, the model may need to be adapted.

The Group discussed the proposals made by Dr Moulin and agreed with the pragmatic, short- and long-term approach.

1. Short-term proposal: Estimate for each country the annual biomass of animals, based on the point-in-time census data currently provided to WAHIS. The following detailed actions were proposed:
 - a) To verify whether data in WAHIS are production or point-in-time census data for the countries that will be included in the development of the model.
 - b) To include information from additional countries to refine the estimate of the number of production cycles in a year and weights, which may vary by country/region, for animal categories as defined by WAHIS.
2. Long-term plan: Proposal for additional animal species/production categories to be included in WAHIS + that will enable better estimation of the biomass.

The Group recognised that while WAHIS provides the data on terrestrial and aquatic animals, additional information may be needed in order to construct the denominator in the long-term. In particular, the total number of animals produced in one year is critical to put into context the total amount of antimicrobial agents used in one year. As such, the Group noted limitations with point-in-time census data, which

affects animals with production cycles of less than one year, such as birds and pigs. For these animals, point-in-time census data will underestimate the number of terrestrial animals produced in a calendar year, which may lead to an apparent overestimate in the use of antimicrobial agents. The Group agreed, therefore, that a production cycle factor will be needed.

The Group recognised that there is variability in production cycles and weights around the world and that comprehensive data are not available. The Group agreed that future refinement would reduce uncertainty and facilitate detection of trends. Depending on the differences observed, it might be necessary to adapt regional/subregional estimates of production cycles and weights for short-lived species.

6. Future perspectives and next steps

The Group considered the robust content of the draft report invaluable and acknowledged it as a major milestone in the global effort to contain antimicrobial resistance. The Group encouraged further active participation of all Member Countries in the data collection on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

Forthcoming OIE National Focal Point trainings for Veterinary Products will provide further opportunities encouraging participation of countries that have not engaged so far in the second phase of the data collection.

The excel spreadsheet containing the current model will be improved as described above and then circulated with the Group, with the aim of providing more data for refinement of the estimated production cycles and weights.

The final report of the first phase of data collection will be published on the OIE website before the end of the year. For the second phase of data collection, the aim would be to include quantitative information at the global and regional levels using the provisional calculation of the denominator.

7. Other business

Dr Jordi Torren gave a presentation on “Future plans of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption project”.

Dr Moulin gave a presentation on “Evolution of the French system for the surveillance of Antimicrobials used in animals”.

The Group thanked the speakers and noted the information provided. The Group intends to keep abreast of surveillance initiatives to inform the future direction of collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

The Group reviewed the letter to Delegates (which accompanied the first data collection template on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals sent in 2015) with the aim of updating it for the second phase. The Group agreed that the background information on the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents should be highlighted in one paragraph, as some receivers of the letter may not be the same people as the previous year. The Group also suggested that the letter not exceed one page.

8. Next meeting

The Group proposed the following dates for the next meeting: between 23 and 26 January 2017.

9. Adoption of report

The Group adopted the report.

.../Appendices

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Agenda

1. Opening and background information
2. Appointment of chairperson and rapporteur, and adoption of agenda
3. Presentation of the data collected by the OIE on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals in 2015, and of the proposed draft report
4. Review of the proposed updates to the template and guidance documents to be sent end of 2016 to all the OIE Member Countries for the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals (2nd phase)
5. Discussion and adoption of a provisional calculation of the denominator estimating animal biomass
6. Future perspectives and next steps
7. Other business
8. Next meeting
9. Adoption of report

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Appendix III

**List of animal categories or animal species suggested
to be included in WAHIS**

ANIMAL CATEGORY
Cattle
Beef cattle
Dairy cattle
Heifers
Steers and Bulls
Veal calves
Buffaloes
Cervidae
Pigs
Adult pigs
Fatteners
Piglets
Backyard pigs
Birds
Poultry
Broilers
Layers
Turkeys
Backyard poultry
Other birds
Small ruminants
Sheep and goats
Sheep
Goats
Lambs and kids
Equidae
Horses
Donkeys
Camelidae
Hares and Rabbits
Hares
Rabbits
Cats and Dogs
Cats
Dogs
Fish (farmed)
Molluscs
Crustaceans
Amphibians
Reptiles