Recommendation No. 1

Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock diseases surveillance and control

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Obtaining accurate and updated livestock census data is a critical component of any disease surveillance and control programs;

2. A good knowledge of livestock production data, including livestock population, is important for assessing the status of national regional, and continental food security;

3. The OIE standards on “General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals” relate to the development of identification and traceability systems;

4. The OIE annual publication “World Animal Health” includes raw data on livestock from all OIE Member Countries;

5. The OIE is actively promoting the strengthening of Veterinary Services in Africa through the implementation of the PVS Pathway to address, among others, the capacity of veterinary services to comply with OIE standards;

6. Implementing appropriate livestock census legislation and methodologies facilitates the Veterinary Services and other competent authorities to carry out their mandates and responsibilities;

7. Public and private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals represent a significant proportion of the veterinary services, provide great support to farming systems in Africa, and are the main actors in livestock diseases surveillance and disease control;

8. Many countries in Africa are experiencing numerous cultural, logistical, infrastructural and resources limitations to effectively conduct livestock census and are in need of strong political commitment to establish good veterinary governance to move towards appropriate and regular livestock census; and

9. Efforts have already been carried out in collaboration with other international and regional organisations in supporting Members with the development of agricultural census guidelines and national livestock census activities.
THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to provide support to all its Members, and particularly African countries, in strengthening their Veterinary Services through the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway;

2. OIE Member Countries be encouraged to implement OIE guidelines on identification and traceability of live animals for the indirect or direct benefit of livestock census, diseases surveillance, prevention and control;

3. Member Countries dedicate more efforts to enact legislative and regulatory texts to support livestock census activities;

4. Animal population information be annually provided to OIE by its Member Countries using the WAHIS Annual Report and this information be disseminated in the annual OIE publication “World Animal Health”;

5. Veterinary Services of Member Countries collaborate with their central statistics authorities to plan and execute national livestock census exercises;

6. OIE Member Countries be encouraged to use technical staff with knowledge on animal health and animal production in the development of livestock census programs;

7. In collaboration with FAO and AU-IBAR, the OIE promote the technical support of the Veterinary Services, the increased awareness of African Governments, and the advocacy for donors to support national livestock census and related activities;

8. OIE member countries ensure the planning and the conduct of livestock census, including camelids, and that the process be harmonised at national and at Regional Economic Community's levels;

9. The OIE Member Countries, in collaboration with the central statistics authorities be encouraged to promote the development of appropriate methods and tools for the census of livestock; and

10. The OIE develop guidelines related to the livestock census that include, among others, a definition of “census” and making this term explicit.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 18 February 2011 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)