CONSIDERING THAT

The improvement of animal husbandry depends to a large extent on the quality of animal disease diagnosis and of vaccines used to prevent these diseases,

The new biotechnological methods allow more rapid and precise disease diagnosis, as well as more efficient vaccine production,

It is important that the new technologies are used safely and appropriately in order to ensure that public and consumer confidence is maintained,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries examine the application of validated biotechnology in order to ascertain rapid and accurate animal disease diagnostic tests suitable for use under difficult climatic and field conditions.

2. OIE Member Countries examine the advantages of using bio-engineered vaccines, especially where the application of such vaccines can control diseases for which conventional vaccines are not available, or where these conventional vaccines do not provide the appropriate safety, stability, specificity or efficacy.

3. The OIE, in close collaboration with the other international or regional organisations, and in consultation with the public and private sectors, facilitate international harmonisation of diagnostic techniques and bio-engineered vaccine production by:
   a) publishing standardised protocols for diagnostic tests and vaccine production using biotechnology;
   b) promoting regional reference laboratories with standardised assays;
   c) promoting the use of quality assurance programmes in laboratories using this technology.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 28 November 1997 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 1998)