RESOLUTION No. XXXV

Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses

CONSIDERING

The significant negative socio-economic impact of animal diseases at the national, regional and global levels, especially the impact of transboundary diseases,

The recent acceleration in the global spread of certain emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases, and infections, most of which are zoonotic, as a result of globalisation,

The Global Public Good character of public and private policies and activities aimed at preventing and controlling pathogens of animal origin that could become transboundary in nature, or be used for bioterrorism,

The need to take account of the probability and impact of the various threats in order to prioritise sustainable and flexible allocation of national and/or external resources,

The existence of international standards adopted by OIE Member Countries in the areas of disease information, surveillance, and control of animal and zoonotic diseases, as well as in the area of quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services,

The fundamental role that national Veterinary Services must play in preventing and controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses, whilst complying with and implementing OIE standards,

The pressing need to ensure that these standards are implemented in all OIE Member Countries in order to prevent and contain the spread of pathogens of animal origin at the national, regional, and global levels, and to overcome the economic and other limitations to successful implementation of these standards that exist in some countries,

The existence and use, under the auspices of the OIE, of the “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS) instrument, a new tool designed to facilitate the identification of areas of improvement to bring national Veterinary Services into compliance with the OIE quality standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. This will help to prevent and control animal diseases more effectively and/or to demonstrate to their trading partners that the health certificates that they issue are supported by reliable procedures,

The need to continually improve this instrument, in compliance with OIE procedures, as experience in using it grows,

The decision of the World Bank and the donor community represented at the Beijing Conference in January 2006 to consider the use of the PVS tool under the auspices of the OIE as an extremely useful approach for any Member Country requesting international financial aid to build the capacity of its Veterinary Services and help to bring them into compliance with OIE standards, in order to pinpoint the fields in which priority investment must be made,

The need to conduct appropriate socio-economic and financial analyses to evaluate more accurately the direct and indirect effects of health crises of animal origin, as well as the cost of measures needed to prevent and control such crises via the activities of national Veterinary Services, in order to guide policymakers to invest in animal health policies,
The need to continue the technical, economic and financial analyses aimed at fostering the creation or improvement of national, regional and global insurance and reinsurance mechanisms for reducing the adverse economic effects of health crises on sectors and countries,

The need to support OIE Member Countries in the area of socio-economic and financial analyses relating to animal health policies,

The need to support any OIE Member Country that so requests, in the area of Veterinary Service evaluation, notably in the context of assimilating it into the Global Public Good concept, as well as in the context of the 1991 Doha Declaration aimed at facilitating the access of developing and transition countries to the international market in animals and animal products,

The need for the OIE to have Collaborating Centres to support it in the aforementioned areas, including the training of experts responsible for animal health economical surveys and for supporting the evaluation programmes for Veterinary Services in Member Countries that so desire,

The OIE mandate stemming from the Fourth Strategic Plan to improve animal health in the world, by exerting its influence on governments and the international community to invest effectively in implementing animal health and research policies based on OIE standards,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE should intensify its actions to help prevent and control animal diseases, including zoonoses, more effectively at the national, regional and global levels, by continually updating appropriate standards and guidelines and using its influence on national policymakers and international development institutions to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of all its Member Countries;

2. The OIE should continue to support the Member Countries by helping the donor community to guide investment for building the capacity of the Veterinary Services of any Member Country by promoting use of the PVS instrument worldwide;

3. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, created by Resolution No. XVII and adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2004, to make available to its Member Countries economic and financial analysis and methodologies aimed at measuring more accurately the direct and indirect effect of animal diseases and health crises at the national, regional and global levels and for identifying the best means for funding;

4. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to support its Member Countries by analysing and promoting a general framework for financing support to a global governance system for animal health. This framework should include the survey of the setting up of a global compensation fund supporting the methods used to control pathogens of animal origin (such as for culling in outbreaks) aimed at encouraging the declaration of outbreaks and facilitating early detection and a rapid response to disease outbreaks;

5. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to support its Member Countries to analyse and make the case for insurance and reinsurance systems aimed at reducing the harm suffered by Member Countries and their livestock sectors during health crises;

6. The OIE should call for applications from its Member Countries to establish one or more Collaborating Centre(s) to support it in all the aforementioned areas:
7. The OIE should select and train competent experts, with the support of the Collaborating Centres responsible for training veterinary officials, to support the evaluation and then the promotion of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries that so desire;

8. The OIE should continue its actions for promoting the quality and evaluation of its Member Countries' Veterinary Services, by regularly updating the standards pertaining thereto, as well as the PVS instrument, whenever necessary calling upon the services of the ad hoc group on the quality of Veterinary Services, which is responsible for reporting to the Specialist Commissions in this field which will make appropriate proposals to the International Committee;

9. Member Countries are invited to include in their national budget the necessary resources to implement the OIE standards.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)