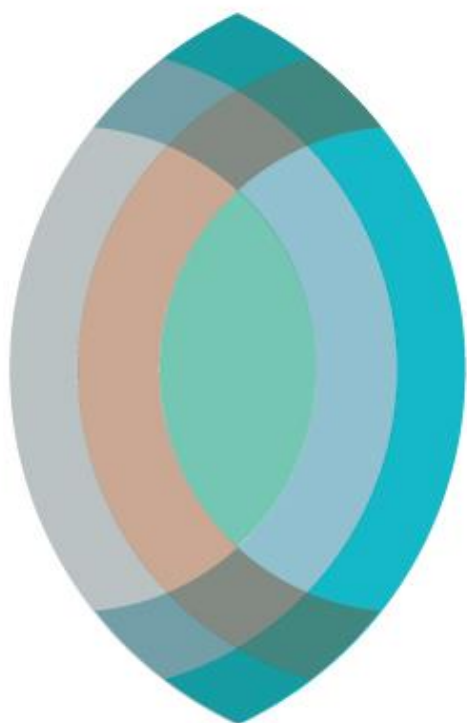


Final Report 2015



83SG
Paris **24-29** May



83rd General Session • Paris, 24–29 May 2015

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List of abbreviations

ADFCA	:	Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority
AEGCD	:	ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases
AMU	:	Arab Maghreb Union
APHCA	:	Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ASEAN	:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASWGL	:	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC	:	African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
AVA	:	African Veterinary Association
AVSF	:	<i>Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières</i>
CABI	:	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
CILS	:	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CILSS	:	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIRAD	:	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
EBRD	:	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	:	European Commission
ECCAS	:	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	:	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWAS/RCAH	:	Regional Animal Health Centre of the Economic Community of West African States
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEEVA	:	Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations
FEI	:	Fédération Equestre Internationale
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GARC	:	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
GF-TADs	:	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GLEWS	:	Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses
IAEA	:	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Animal Welfare
IDA	:	International Development Association
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IFAH	:	International Federation for Animal Health

IFHA	:	International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
IPPC	:	International Plant Protection Convention
IZS	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (Italy)
IZSAM	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
IZSLER	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna
IZSVE	:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie
NATO	:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OIRSA	:	<i>Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria</i>
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization – PANAFTOSA - Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PATTEC	:	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
PCR	:	Polymerase chain reaction
PRRS	:	porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
Quads	:	Quadrilateral (United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SPC	:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSAFE	:	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
UNIDO	:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	:	United States Department of Agriculture
VICH	:	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHIS	:	World Animal Health Information System
WAP	:	World Animal Protection
WCO	:	World Customs Organization
WFO	:	World Farmers' Organisation
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WTO	:	World Trade Organization

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 83rd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 24 to 28 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 29 May 2015 at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany), President of the Assembly. Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda) chaired that part of the First Plenary Session dealing with the Technical Item. Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa) chaired the Eighth Plenary Session following his election as President.
2. Delegations from 151 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from 2 non-member countries or territories and representatives of 34 international and regional organisations having an agreement with the OIE.
4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Tammy R. Beckham (United States of America) participated in the General Session as Rapporteur for the Technical Item.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.
7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibe, Dr Romano Marabelli, Dr Barry O'Neil, and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, participated in the General Session.
8. The Director General of Pan American Health Organization – PAHO, Ms Carissa Etienne, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Mr Kunio Mikuriya, as well as 16 Ministers and Members of Government from Member Countries also participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 24 MAY 2015 ≡

Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the 83rd General Session, a musical group, generously provided by Argentina, was invited to enliven a part of the Opening Session.
10. President Schwabenbauer welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Mr Senzeni Zokwana (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa), Mr Carlos Casamiquela (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Argentina), Ms Katia Abreu (Minister of Agriculture of Brazil), Mr Javier Ponce Cevallos (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Ecuador), Mr Asylzhan Mamytbekov (Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mr Akram Chehayeb (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Anthelme Ramparany (Minister of Livestock of Madagascar), Mr Mahaman Elhadji Ousmane (Minister of Livestock of Niger), Mr Issa Ali Taher (Minister of Livestock and Hydraulics of Chad), Mr Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan (Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research of Pakistan), Mr Faisal Hassan Ibrahim (Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rangelands of Sudan), as well as Mr Raúl Sunico (Deputy Minister of Economy of Chile), Mr Nodar Kereselidze (First Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Nuno Vieira e Brito (Secretary of State for Food and Agri-food Research of Portugal), Mr Sami S. Al-Nohait (Assistant Deputy Minister for Animal Resources of Saudi Arabia), Mr Mohamed Sadiki (Secretary General at the Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco), Mr José Reano (Under Secretary of State to the Deputy Minister for Livestock of the Philippines), Ms Carissa

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

Etienne (Director of the Pan American Health Organization – PAHO), Mr Kunio Mikuriya (Secretary General of the World Customs Organization) and Mr Patrick Dehaumont (Director General of Food at the Ministry for Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry of France).

11. Dr Schwabenbauer then stated that her 3-year term of office had enabled her to meet the Delegates of numerous countries, discuss with them their national or regional difficulties and constraints in dealing with animal health issues and thus gain a clearer understanding of their expectations of the OIE.

In her address, Dr Schwabenbauer reminded the Assembly of the progress made during the past 3 years in meeting the challenges facing Veterinary Services. She provided some activity indicators for the Organisation, including the number of chapters of the *Codes* and *Manuals* that had been revised, the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres recognised, the number of agreements with other organisations, the number of twinning projects and global conferences, and also the two new OIE offices, established in Moscow (Russia) and Astana (Kazakhstan), as well as the increase in the budget, enabling the activity programme to be implemented. This had been made possible thanks to the commitment of all those involved and to partnerships.

The President pointed to topics meriting special attention within the framework of the forthcoming Sixth Strategic Plan, which would serve as a guideline for the future Director General. With regard to the results already achieved, Dr Schwabenbauer emphasised the decisive role of Dr Vallat during his 15 years as Director General. Lastly, she thanked the OIE teams for their excellent work in supporting OIE Member Countries, and also the experts of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups.

12. Following her address, the President handed the floor to Mr Dehaumont, who read out a message from Mr François Hollande, President of the French Republic, and then to Mr Senzeni Zokwana, Mr Carlos Casamiquela, Ms Katia Abreu, Mr Javier Ponce Cevallos, Mr Asylzhan Mamytbekov, Mr Akram Chehayeb, Mr Anthelme Ramparany, Mr Issa Ali Taher, Mr Raúl Sunico, Mr Nuno Vieira e Brito, Mr Mohamed Sadiki, Ms Carissa Etienne and Mr Kunio Mikuriya.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

13. Dr Schwabenbauer reminded the participants that in 1985 the Assembly had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. She then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2015 to receive the awards: Dr Roy Gordon Bengis (South Africa) for the Gold Medal and Dr Abdul Rahman Sira (India), Dr Temple Grandin (United States of America) and Prof. Volker Moenning (Germany) for the Meritorious Service Award.
14. Dr Schwabenbauer commended Dr Bengis and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and to the veterinary world, in his capacity as a wildlife specialist, as State veterinarian in the Kruger National Park (South Africa) and notably as a member of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife for a number of years. She presented him with the Gold Medal. She then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Sira, Dr Grandin and Prof. Moenning and presented them with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
15. The College of Veterinarians of Costa Rica together with the Costa Rican National Animal Health Service were announced as the joint recipients of the 2015 World Veterinary Day prize by the President of the World Veterinary Association, Dr René Carlson, and the OIE President, Dr Schwabenbauer.
16. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony. The winners of the 2015 OIE photo competition, one from each of the OIE regions, were presented their awards by the President.
17. Following the ceremony, Dr Schwabenbauer declared open the 83rd General Session of the Assembly.

MONDAY 25 MAY 2015

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

18. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as Members or observers.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Docs 83 SG/7 and 83 SG/8)

19. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.
20. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

**Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda
for the 84th and 85th General Sessions**

21. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 84th and 85th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa) and Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

22. The Assembly appointed Dr John Clifford (United States of America) and Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), Members of the Council, to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
23. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President the list of Delegates who, owing to their country's arrears of statutory contributions due to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2014

(Doc. 83 SG/1)

24. Dr Vallat presented the most important points of the report on activities in 2014 contained in the summary of the document, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2014 being presented in the report Doc. 83 SG/1 and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme was carried out within the framework of the Fifth Strategic Plan and in application of the 3-year work programme of the Director General adopted by the Assembly in 2010.

In this connection, Dr Vallat thanked all the staff of the OIE for the work carried out during the year, the elected members of the Council for supporting this work and the elected members of the Specialist Commissions and all the experts of the Working Groups and *ad hoc* groups for giving the OIE the benefit of their scientific expertise. The Director General also made a point of thanking all the Delegates – and in particular those from countries that had increased their statutory contribution category and hosted OIE meetings – and the donors, whose commitment enables the OIE to develop an ambitious work programme.

25. The Director General began by stating that in 2014 the OIE had 180 Member Countries, following the accession of Liberia and South Sudan.

26. Dr Vallat emphasised the success of the 82nd General Session and of the two Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions (Europe and the Americas) held in 2014 and generously hosted by Switzerland in September 2014 and Mexico in November 2014. He also mentioned the Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat in February 2015, hosted and supported by Morocco.
27. At the end of 2014, the OIE had 14 offices around the world (Paris, as well as Astana, Bamako, Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Gabarone, Moscow, Nairobi, Panama City, Sofia, Tokyo and Tunis). The Agreement that had been signed on 6 March 2013 with the Government of the Russian Federation for the establishment of a Representation in Moscow was approved by Parliament and the President of Russia. Furthermore, the negotiations with the Authorities of Kazakhstan had resulted in the signing of an official Headquarters Agreement for the establishment of a Sub-Regional Coordination Unit for the foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme; this governmental agreement was ratified by a law and the teams were already at work.
28. The Director General presented an update on the OIE's continued active participation in various programmes in partnership with major international organisations (WHO, FAO, WTO²). He placed special emphasis on collaboration with WHO concerning the development, with the financial support of the World Bank and the European Union (EU), of work aimed at harmonising their respective evaluation procedures (i.e. the OIE PVS³ Pathway and the WHO International Health Regulations [IHR]) to synergise their evaluation tools, this work having resulted in the drafting of a joint operational guide, which was published in September 2014. National workshops would be organised in countries interested in this approach. This guide, entitled "WHO-OIE Operational Framework for Good governance at the human–animal interface: Bridging WHO and OIE tools for the assessment of national capacities", was now accessible on the OIE website.
29. Dr Vallat also mentioned the continuing active implementation of the GF-TADs⁴ Agreement with FAO and the GLEWs⁵ Agreement with FAO and WHO: a new "GLEWS+ Concept Paper" was finalised and published by FAO, WHO and the OIE in November 2013, entitled "The Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface".
30. Dr Vallat then stressed the importance of the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), which had continued to be extremely active within the framework of the formal Agreement under which OFFLU undertook to collaborate in the WHO Vaccine Strain Selection Process by supplying timely information on relevant strains of animal origin. In April 2014, the OFFLU network set up a partnership with STAR-IDAZ (Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses) to develop strategic priorities for animal influenza research. OFFLU also achieved tangible results, such as a global viral antigenic cartography showing antigenic links between the different swine influenza viruses circulating in the world.
31. Dr Vallat also expressed satisfaction at the successful implementation of the project to set up a pilot vaccine bank for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa, within the framework of the project entitled 'Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa', financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The interesting and positive results of this project provided useful input during the preparation of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, which was presented at the global conference co-organised with FAO, and with the support of the Authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in March 2015.

² WTO: World Trade Organization

³ PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

⁴ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

⁵ GLEWS: Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses

32. Dr Vallat then mentioned the continued work being undertaken on the global strategy for FMD control. Thus, following on from the OIE Global Conference, co-organised with FAO in Thailand (Bangkok) in June 2012, the OIE continued to contribute to the work of the FAO/OIE GF-TADs Working Group on FMD held every 2 months, and in several regional meetings. He also reminded the Assembly of the OIE's role in officially endorsing national FMD control programmes and the support provided by the OIE for countries wishing to submit their programme by organising regional programmes.
33. With regard to rinderpest, and in application of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011, the OIE and FAO set up a Joint Advisory Committee on rinderpest and a joint secretariat to support the Committee. The Committee met twice in 2014. The Committee approved a new research proposal aimed at sequencing the last remaining stocks of rinderpest virus prior to their destruction, so that important scientific information could be saved and the remaining virus-containing material destroyed. The procedures for onsite visits by joint OIE-FAO missions to institutions seeking to become OIE-FAO-approved as safe to store rinderpest virus-containing material were finalised.
34. Dr Vallat also emphasised that in 2014 the OIE had continued to follow up on the recommendations issued at the World Conference on Rabies Control (Incheon-Seoul, September 2011) to sustainably control and prevent rabies at its principal source in animals. The OIE actively communicated on risks and on methods of prevention (videos, pamphlets, articles, etc.). World Rabies Day, celebrated in September 2014, was marked by the publication of a new infographic aimed at the general public. On 1 September 2014, the OIE signed a cooperation agreement with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to promote collaboration between the two signatories. Within the framework of the Tripartite Agreement, the OIE, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, organised several regional seminars, in Thailand, Tunisia, Niger and Japan, advocating closer coordination between the animal and human health sectors in order to improve rabies control.
35. In 2012, the OIE published its biological threat reduction strategy, entitled 'Biological Threat Reduction: Strengthening Global Biological Security'. In 2014, the OIE continued to collaborate with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in its capacity as an observer organisation and played an active part in several meetings of experts. The OIE also actively collaborated with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). These activities have helped to prepare the Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, which the OIE is organising in Paris (30 June–2 July 2015) aimed at including biological threat reduction in the programme of activities of the Veterinary Services and strengthening links between the services and partners involved, in particular the administrations responsible for security.
36. In the field of animal welfare, Dr Vallat reminded Delegates of the support of the Department of Agriculture of Australia for an ambitious programme to promote animal welfare, which had been successfully launched in 2012, and had continued in 2014 with the organisation of 'training of trainers' sessions in the field of handling and slaughter of animals (especially cattle) for an extended group of countries in Asia and the Middle East. At the end of these training sessions and with the educational material that had been compiled, a DVD on welfare of cattle in pre-slaughter and slaughter (with or without stunning) was produced and a copy was given to trainers and OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare.
37. Lastly, within the framework of its policy of public–private partnerships, the OIE had established a Brainstorming Group on Safe International Movement of Competition Horses, thanks to a collaboration agreement signed with the FEI⁶ in January 2013. The IFHA⁷ officially joined the initiative in September 2013. Several documents were produced, including a *Terrestrial Code* chapter defining a "high health status horse subpopulation",

⁶ FEI: Fédération Equestre Internationale

⁷ IFHA: International Federation of Horseracing Authorities

which was adopted by the World Assembly in May 2014. The concept of “high health, high performance” horses (“HHP horses”) was presented at several regional and global meetings organised by the OIE, the FEI and the IFHA in 2014; other important meetings were planned for 2015, to continue to raise awareness of this concept among Veterinary Services.

38. The Director General also indicated the draft agreements that had been signed in 2014 and those that were envisaged with other international and regional organisations.
39. In the field of scientific activities, the Director General briefly reported on the world conferences that had been organised or co-organised in 2014 and the conferences due to be held in 2015 or planned for 2016. He also reviewed the work of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups and collaboration with the network of Reference Centres that provide the OIE with significant support. He reminded the Assembly that, by the end of 2014, the number of OIE Reference Centres had reached 296 (49 Collaborating Centres and 247 Reference Laboratories), constituting a network of excellence providing support for the OIE, in particular for the twinning programme. The World Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which was held in the Republic of Korea from 14 to 16 October 2014, provided an important opportunity to review current issues relating to these Centres (e.g. twinning programmes) and relations within this network.
40. With regard to support for Member Countries, Dr Vallat confirmed the continued fruitful development of the PVS Pathway and the worldwide programme of capacity-building for national Veterinary Services, thanks to the support provided by numerous donors, which he gratefully acknowledged. Dr Vallat backed up his statements with an update on PVS Pathway missions, 31 missions having been conducted at the request of Member Countries, and he concluded that the programme for worldwide improvement of governance in the veterinary domain had continued at a steady pace, several countries having also requested information meetings on the PVS Pathway, with a view to carrying out self-evaluations or preparing for missions to be conducted by outside experts. Dr Vallat also reported on the numerous training workshops organised in 2014 for newly appointed Delegates and national Focal Points.
41. Lastly, with regard to activities financed by the World Fund, Dr Vallat informed the Assembly that, as of 31 December 2014, OIE vaccine banks had enabled, with the support of donors, the delivery of 3.69 million doses of rabies vaccine in Asia and Africa (vaccination of dogs), 2.75 million doses of FMD vaccine in Asia and the funding of 14 million doses of PPR vaccine in Africa. In addition, several Member Countries were able to purchase vaccines directly through OIE vaccine banks, in particular thanks to the financial support of the World Bank and WHO⁸, enabling them to benefit from high quality vaccines, delivered rapidly and at advantageous prices.
42. Dr Vallat highlighted the importance of standards in the field of veterinary medicinal products. In this connection, he emphasised that the OIE had continued its activities, in particular with regard to the use of antimicrobial agents, following the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals, which had been held in Paris (France) from 13 to 15 March 2013. The OIE also continued to participate in the work of VICH⁹. The OIE also continued to implement its training programme for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products of all Member Countries. The OIE also participated actively in its areas of expertise in drafting the WHO global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

⁸ WHO: World Health Organization

⁹ VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

43. Dr Vallat briefly reported on the operation of the global system WAHIS¹⁰, and the major changes made to these tools, in particular to take into account wildlife diseases. He reminded OIE Delegates of the importance of their notifying animal health events and emphasised the need to notify emerging diseases without delay.
44. Lastly, Dr Vallat briefly reported on communication activities and tools and on publication work and the extremely rich documentary database now available on the OIE website.
45. The Delegate of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of her country, which holds the presidency of the African Union, congratulated the Director General on his activity report and pointed out that Africa now had 54 Member Countries following the accession of South Sudan and Liberia.
46. The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the OIE for the excellent activity report, emphasising the work achieved in elaborating standards, which needed to be done on a regular basis. The control strategy for PPR adopted at the international conference held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) was also supported, and the Member States of the EU would contribute to this strategy.

The Delegate of Ireland also took this opportunity to applaud the work carried out by the Council in preparing the Sixth Strategic Plan.

Lastly, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, the Delegate of Ireland addressed his warmest thanks to Dr Vallat for his work and for the extraordinary development that the OIE had undergone during his 15 years as Director General.

47. The Delegate of Norway, after thanking the Director General for the excellent activity report, expressed her views on the need for a change of approach in terms of agricultural production, and especially with regard to biosafety and compartmentalisation in aquaculture production, which needed to take greater account of biodiversity.
48. The Delegate of the Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) commented on certain quantitative data in the activity report. Lastly, on the subject of PVS missions, the Delegate wished that the OIE could respond more quickly to countries requesting to benefit from such missions.
49. The Delegate of Panama thanked Dr Vallat and the OIE for the excellent work in 2014 and applauded the OIE initiative to disseminate information to veterinarians throughout the world via social media. He encouraged the OIE to continue in this way.
50. The Delegate of Australia intervened on behalf of the Quads¹¹ countries to emphasise the work of the experts relating to the updating of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* chapters. He also expressed the wish for improving aspects of the *Manual*, a task that required additional scientific support to cope with the scale of the work to be done. He suggested the constitution of a new commission or a new *ad hoc* or permanent group that could work in collaboration with the experts of Reference Centres and the Aquatic Animals Commission.
51. The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Dr Vallat on the work carried out especially on behalf of his country and for the OIE's support for the modernisation of veterinary legislation. Lastly, he thanked the OIE for having organised the PPR conference in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).
52. The Delegate of Senegal expressed his gratitude for the OIE's presence through its Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He also emphasised the importance of the agreements with regional partners in improving the harmonisation of actions, and the global conference on rabies in partnership with WHO. Lastly, with regard to Reference Laboratories, the Delegate expressed the wish for strengthening resources for the twinning programme.

¹⁰ WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

¹¹ Quads: Quadrilateral (United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)

53. The Delegate of Georgia expressed his gratitude to the OIE, and especially the Director General, for the work achieved in recent years. He emphasised Georgia's commitment to supporting the activities of the OIE, at a time when Georgia had just signed an association agreement with the European Union.
54. The Delegate of Indonesia thanked the Director General for his comprehensive activity report. Regarding the various diseases, and equine diseases in particular, the Delegate stressed the importance of developing the HHP concept and of complying with the rules governing its implementation.
55. The Delegate of Nepal wished that OIE Member Countries could be kept better informed about disease free zones or compartments in order to improve the safety of trade in animals and animal products.
56. The Delegate of Haiti applauded the quality of the report and took the opportunity to thank the OIE, on behalf of the Republic of Haiti, for the support he had received in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2010, and then through the PVS missions, especially with regard to veterinary legislation.
57. The Delegate of Guyana thanked the Director General, his team and the office of the OIE Regional Representation in Argentina, and noted the importance of the PVS Pathway. He expressed a wish for more information on the conclusions and recommendations made following Gap Analysis missions conducted within the framework of the PVS Pathway.
58. The Representative of Egypt thanked the Director General for his comprehensive activity report and expressed his satisfaction at the development of the OIE in recent years thanks to the efforts of Dr Vallat.
59. In response, Dr Vallat thanked the speakers for their comments and their kind words. Replying to the points raised, he stated that certain technical questions would be dealt with in detail. Dr Vallat confirmed to the Delegates that the OIE would do everything in its power to effectively implement the PVS Pathway and the twinning programmes.
60. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

Composition of the Working Groups

61. The Director General presented the composition of the three OIE Working Groups, validated by the Council, for the period May 2015 – May 2016:
 - Working Group on Wildlife
 - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
 - Prof. Marc Artois (France)
 - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
 - Dr John Fischer (United States of America)
 - Prof. Ted Leighton (Canada)
 - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
 - Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)
 - Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Dr Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
 - Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO)
 - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
 - Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)
 - Prof. Steve Hathaway (New Zealand)
 - Dr Jessey Alice Kamwi (Namibia)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (WHO)
 - Dr Alexander Panin (Russia)
 - Dr Koen Van Dyck (European Commission)
 - Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Dr Abdul Rahman Sira (India) (Chairman)
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
 - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
 - Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
 - Dr Peter Thornber (Australia)
 - An Expert proposed by World Animal Protection
 - An Expert proposed by the IEC¹²
 - An Expert proposed by the IMS¹³ (observer)
 - An Expert proposed by the IDF¹⁴ (observer)

Dr Vallat wished to pay tribute to Dr David Bayvel (WSPA) who had died on 6 April 2015. Dr Bayvel had been a distinguished member of the Working Group for many years.

62. The Assembly approved the composition of the Working Groups.

TECHNICAL ITEM

The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting, surveillance and emergency response (Doc. 83 SG/9)

63. Dr Kauta, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Tammy R. Beckham, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.
64. Dr Beckham presented her report, which included an analysis of the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them.
65. In introducing the Technical Item, Dr Beckham stated that information technologies now available to the global animal health community are revolutionising the way animal disease data and information are collected, integrated, reported, analysed, shared and disseminated to stakeholders. These new technologies offer substantial opportunities for enhancing animal, public and ecosystem health across the globe. Harnessing existing and new technological advances in an effort to ensure timely and accurate disease information collection and dissemination will require resources, development of policy and standards, as well as training for individuals located throughout every level of veterinary services.

A questionnaire was sent to the Delegates of all 180 OIE Member Countries to assess the impact and the potential of current and new information technologies for advancing animal health and welfare in OIE Member Countries. The questionnaire also evaluated the availability and frequency of use of existing and new technologies, as well as the limitations/constraints (administrative, data, and utilisation) of each technology within four broad categories: remote data collection, information management systems, diagnostics and online media. Summarised questionnaire responses indicate that information technologies are widely available to OIE Member Countries but are currently utilised at low levels in animal health relative to their availability. Technologies for data management, online data entry/import, mobile devices, and laboratory information management systems were considered most effective and high priority for additional development and implementation. Technologies for point of care testing, tele-diagnostics, and remote sensing/collection devices were the least utilised technologies and had lower priority for implementation. Data sharing and integration across public health, wildlife, and domestic animal health authorities is occurring to some extent within all OIE regions; however, the OIE and Member Countries should work with public health counterparts to expand data integration

¹² IEC: International Egg Commission

¹³ IMS: International Meat Secretariat

¹⁴ IDF: International Dairy Federation

across these sectors for a One Health approach toward the early detection, rapid identification, response and prevention to diseases at the human-animal interface. Significant resource (financial and personnel) and data limitations among OIE Member Countries are affecting not only the implementation of technologies, but also the utilisation of data generated as a result of their use. Many of the limitations/constraints identified could be addressed through technical capacity building, technology guidance, and establishing data standards and guidelines for the implementation and utilisation of information technologies, which would strengthen disease surveillance and reporting capabilities in OIE Member Countries for national and global good.

Discussion on the Technical Item

66. Dr Kauta thanked Dr Beckham and congratulated her on the excellent presentation. He highlighted the unprecedented response rate of 80 per cent of Member Countries to the questionnaire as a strong indicator of the relevance and interest in the subject and then invited the Assembly to comment on the presentation.
67. The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, congratulated Dr Beckham and her co-workers on the valuable report and detailed research. Allowing that Africa is not particularly underprivileged with respect to the overall availability of information technology, the Delegate nonetheless wished to emphasise its constraints, such as insufficient internet coverage, poor internet connectivity and the inability to sufficiently analyse technical data for decision-making. The Delegate indicated that Africa endorsed Dr Beckham's proposal for the use of twinning and other capacity-building activities to support the use of new technologies. He also recognised the need to develop standards to facilitate information sharing between countries and also with the OIE.
68. The Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) congratulated Dr Beckham on her excellent work, the design of the questionnaire and her presentation. He commented that the new information technology era promised a bright future, including in the veterinary field. As a global veterinary leader, the OIE should invite some Member Countries, particularly those in Europe, to serve as exemplary models in the use of new technologies, and encourage them to share experiences that could be used to develop practical guidelines and principles. The Delegate encouraged the OIE to work with other international organisations (such as FAO and WHO) and with advanced Member Countries, to further develop capacity-building, technical assistance, twinning programmes and training. The Delegate indicated that China was willing to cooperate to promote the use of new information technologies, as well as other dimensions such as biotechnologies and artificial intelligence.
69. Dr Beckham thanked the Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) for his comments and confirmed her understanding of the constraints applying to Africa. She agreed that the limitations must be addressed, including through twinning and capacity-building, in order that Member Countries can take full advantage of information technologies. Dr Beckham also noted that standards will be important in the future to ensure interoperability between information systems.

Dr Beckham thanked the Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) for his willingness to support OIE initiatives in the field of information technology. She agreed that there are some technologies that the report had not addressed. Twinning and capacity-building will be needed to fully understand the types of technologies that could be used and to implement them. Recent pilot projects have shown that information technology is revolutionising the

way that we communicate with our stakeholders. It is therefore important to improve the bilateral flow of information between producers, veterinarians and community animal health workers, and to establish incentives that encourage the provision of information to veterinary services. The OIE has an important role to play in facilitating this process.

70. The Chairman once again congratulated Dr Beckham for her presentation and invited the Delegates of China (People's Rep. of), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Estonia, Kenya and the USA to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly. The representatives of Australia and Brazil also participated in the drafting group.

≡ TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015 ≡

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Election of the Director General

71. The President reminded the Assembly that Dr Bernard Vallat had been re-elected Director General in May 2010 for a third 5-year term of office with effect from 1 January 2011 and stated that Dr Vallat had informed the Members within the stipulated time limit that he would not be seeking a new term of office.
72. The President informed the Assembly that candidatures for the post of Director General of the OIE had been examined on 27 February 2015 and on 22 May 2015 by the Council, which, in application of Article 29 of the General Rules, proposed the following list, a single candidature having been received to this date:
- Dr Monique Eloit, presented by France, with the support of the Member States of the European Union.
73. The Credentials Committee reported that 139 Members were participating at the 83rd General Session and were eligible to participate in the deliberations of the Assembly.
74. Mr Matthieu Gaudemet, Legal Counsel, explained the election procedure: election by secret ballot, in the presence of the Official and accredited Delegates only, with three rounds if necessary. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the first round, an absolute majority in the second round or a simple majority in the third round.
75. The President checked the number of participants, and indicated that 139 Delegates were present and that as this number was greater than the quorum, voting could take place. The Credentials Committee excluded from the vote two countries present known to be in arrears with contributions and therefore not entitled to vote. She also asked if there were any other candidatures; no nominations were proposed.
76. The floor was given to Dr Eloit to present her declaration of intent to the Delegates.
77. Dr Eloit stated that her project took as its starting point the substantial development of the OIE during the past 15 years, which must be preserved and further consolidated. She emphasised the need to adapt the functioning of the Organisation and its bodies to the developments of our time and to listen carefully to the Delegates' expectations in order to maintain the OIE's enhanced recognition and its legitimacy in the international institutional landscape.

Her vision, founded on the forthcoming Sixth Strategic Plan, is one of commitment to better veterinary governance, for the sustainable economic and social development of the animal production sector, but also to create a better world for agricultural populations and for the undernourished. She pointed out, however, that this vision must in no way relegate the OIE's core missions to a secondary level.

To put this strategic vision into effect, Dr Eloit indicated that she would undertake to promote excellence, transparency and solidarity as the cornerstones of modern animal health governance, and she proposed three key objectives: 1) strengthening the momentum of support to Member Countries; 2) moving towards more science and more transparency in expertise; and 3) developing partnerships.

Lastly, Dr Eloit concluded by outlining her career and her professional experience, which she would place at the service of modernising the OIE and increasing its worldwide influence, and expressed her desire to see greater proximity between the OIE and its Member Countries.

78. The ballot was then declared open and the candidate was invited to leave the room.
79. The Delegates of numerous countries sincerely and warmly thanked Dr Vallat for all his efforts during his three terms of office to make the OIE an efficient, widely recognised and respected organisation. Speakers included the Delegates of Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Uganda, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Despite many other requests to speak from most of the Members present, the President interrupted the interventions to start the procedure to elect the new Director General.
80. Dr John Clifford (United States of America) and Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) were designated as scrutineers.
81. The results of voting were as follows:

First ballot

Number of votes cast	: 139
Spoiled ballots	: 5
Blank ballots	: 1

Result:

Dr Eloit	: 133 votes
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82. After the voting, the President declared that Dr Eloit had been appointed as the Director General of the OIE for a period of five years starting from 1 January 2016. She then invited Dr Eloit to enter the room to inform her of the result of the voting and to congratulate her on her election and assure her of her personal support.
83. Dr Eloit thanked the French authorities for their confidence in having designated her as a candidate. She also presented her thanks to all the Delegates of Member Countries who had supported her. She thanked the President, as well as the Director General for his considerable support throughout all the years they had been working together.
84. The President then addressed the Director General, emphasising the work accomplished during his terms of office, the work carried out internally at the OIE and the confidence shown in him by all OIE staff members.
85. The Delegate of Latvia, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, congratulated Dr Eloit on her election and assured her of his support for the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan. He underlined his confidence in Dr Eloit's vision and also paid tribute to the Director General for his work in transforming the OIE, emphasising the remarkable results he had achieved.

86. The Delegate of Brazil, after having expressed his delight at the result of the election and after having thanked Dr Vallat for his excellent management, proposed that Dr Vallat be nominated Honorary Director General. The Delegate of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the countries of the Regional Commission for the Americas, thanked the Director General for the excellent work accomplished during his terms of office.
87. The Delegate of Togo, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, congratulated Dr Eloit on her election and also paid tribute to the Director General for the work carried out.
88. The Delegate of Nepal emphasised the Director General's excellent management, especially with regard to the control of epidemics and to public health. He also offered his congratulations to Dr Eloit.
89. In response, the Director General thanked all the Delegates for their kind words and emphasised that he had every confidence in Dr Eloit who would undoubtedly bring new energy to the OIE.
90. In response to the proposal from Delegate of Brazil regarding the creation of a position of Honorary Director General, the President of the OIE indicated that it would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

**Presentations by World Organisations
having an Agreement with the OIE**

91. The President reminded the Assembly that presentations at a Plenary Session are made only by intercontinental, international organisations, which can address the Assembly every 3 years; an exception to the 3-year rule is made for the WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO, the World Bank and the WTO, which can make their presentations every year if they so desire. Regional organisations can, in principle, make their presentations every other year within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
92. The President indicated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by intercontinental professional organisations.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

93. Ms Maria Elena Semedo, Deputy Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), began her address by thanking the OIE for the invitation to attend this OIE General Session.
94. She recalled the longstanding partnership between the OIE and FAO to improve animal health worldwide and in the control and eradication of animal diseases. Relating to the latter, she made reference to the collaborative efforts between the OIE and FAO to evaluate the impact of animal diseases on the economies, health and trade of affected countries.
95. She took the opportunity to remind the Assembly that FAO's mission is to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition as well as to promote sustainable development. Ms Semedo drew attention to the fact that livestock contributes 43% to the world's agriculture gross domestic product (AGDP), amounting to more than USD 740 billion annually. Since the early 1960s, she stated that in developing countries, the consumption of milk has almost doubled, meat consumption has more than tripled and egg consumption has increased by a factor of five. She affirmed that such an investment needs to be safeguarded and recognised. With reference to fisheries and aquaculture, she pointed out that the annual value amounts to USD 100 billion and that approximately USD 6 billion are lost each year due to preventable diseases.

96. The importance of the livestock sector to achieve global food and nutrition security and for the implementation and accomplishment of the new Sustainable Development Goals (expected to be launched in September 2015 during the United Nations General Assembly in New York) was underlined by Ms Semedo. Animal health, she signalled, plays a key role for reaching this goal, and reminded the Assembly that the OIE and FAO have consolidated, joint experience in undertaking actions to meet this objective. This collaboration includes: assistance in standard-setting processes and the sound development of country and global strategies, thereby linking the importance of animal health to human welfare and nutrition.
97. She made reference to the collaboration between the OIE and FAO, which culminated in the global freedom from Rinderpest in 2011, and that this corresponded to the first ever eradication of an animal disease. Further to this success, she informed the Assembly, that the OIE and FAO had joined efforts to tackle other high impact diseases. She reminded the participants of the recent FAO/OIE International Conference on the control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR), which took place in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) on 31 March to 2 April 2015. This event provided official endorsement of the FAO/OIE Global Control and Eradication Strategy, targeting total eradication of the disease by 2030. She emphasised that the eradication of major transboundary animal diseases, such as PPR, generates numerous positive impacts on the livelihoods of farmers, and food security for all communities.
98. She also made reference to other high impact diseases such as avian influenza, foot and mouth disease (FMD) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-Cov) that have been addressed through various collaboration and partnership mechanisms.
99. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was identified as an important challenge by Ms Semedo, particularly with reference to its health and economic consequences. She appealed for urgent action at national, regional and global levels. Linked to this, she mentioned FAO's active involvement in tackling AMR within the framework of the Tripartite (FAO-OIE-WHO) collaboration in the spirit of the 'One Health' approach.
100. She announced that FAO should adopt a Resolution during its 39th FAO Conference (June 2015) to assess the evidence of antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture systems, identify knowledge gaps, and provide recommendations to Members in order to effectively combat antimicrobial resistance, in accordance with OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards. She underlined the importance of such a decision.
101. Ms Semedo affirmed that in today's world, the challenges are multidimensional and include: climate change, judicious use of our natural resources, including sustainable policies in water and land use, and the need to ensure nutritional and food security for a growing global population that demands higher animal-sourced foods in their diets. These challenges, she stressed, should be tackled using a comprehensive, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach. Urging for innovation, she underscored the importance of developing synergies and partnerships.
102. She confirmed FAO's commitment to collaborate alongside the OIE in the control of animal disease, for the promotion of animal health systems, and food safety of products of animal origin. Strengthened by the previous positive collaborations and recognising the complementarity of the respective mandates of the OIE and FAO, joint actions will be undertaken and defined in order to reduce poverty and hunger in the world.
103. Ms Semedo concluded her address to the Assembly by acknowledging Dr Vallat for his numerous accomplishments and hard work, and took the opportunity to congratulate

Dr Eloit for her recent election as Director General of the OIE. She confirmed that FAO would continue to work alongside the OIE to tackle emerging diseases and other health-related issues, such as climate change.

World Health Organization

104. On behalf of Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the WHO, Dr Awa Aidara-Kane congratulated Dr Eloit on her election as Director General of the OIE, and acknowledged the tremendous efforts led by the current Director General of the OIE, Dr Vallat, for not only promoting public health globally, but also strengthening the collaborative relationship between the OIE and WHO.
105. Dr Aidara-Kane announced that since its creation in 1948, WHO has been promoting public health at the human–animal interface and has worked continuously with partners in the animal health and agriculture sector.
106. She iterated the importance of WHO’s relationship with the OIE, and the necessity of the Tripartite collaboration between the OIE, WHO and FAO, under which the Tripartite Concept Note was published in 2010, detailing the joint efforts to address health threats at the human–animal–ecosystems interface.
107. Dr Aidara-Kane conveyed the appreciation of WHO towards the OIE’s firm commitment towards not only building strong animal health systems in countries, but also to addressing threats to public health.
108. She recognised that existing, endemic and emerging health threats from animals pose continual risks to human health as well as global health security, and thus collaborative work to strengthen health systems is of paramount importance. She also explained that solid public health systems, coordinated and aligned with robust animal health systems are key to fostering strong and resilient health systems, capable of responding rapidly to health concerns.
109. With regard to national governance, Dr Aidara-Kane spoke of the obligations to meet the international standards and regulations of the WHO and OIE, and more specifically of the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the WHO. The aims of the IHR are to assist the international community with detecting and responding to acute public health risks. She announced that the WHO and OIE are working together to align the WHO’s IHR and the OIE’s PVS Pathway, and are continuing to encourage their respective Members to utilise the results of the WHO IHR Monitoring Framework and the OIE PVS Pathway in their assessment of national capacities to detect and respond to significant public health events.
110. The experience gathered during the pilot missions have been documented in a publication entitled ‘WHO-OIE Operational Framework for Good governance at the human–animal interface: Bridging WHO and OIE tools for the assessment of national capacities’. This publication continues to be widely disseminated, and the WHO and OIE are in discussions with several countries for the organisation of WHO IHR/OIE PVS Pathway national Bridging Workshops, aims of which are to facilitate the identification of synergies and gaps between the outputs and outcomes of the IHR Monitoring Framework and the PVS Pathway.
111. Dr Aidara-Kane informed the Assembly that in May 2015, the WHO had issued best practices for the naming of new human infectious diseases, which were developed with the OIE and FAO. She stated that names such as ‘swine flu’ and ‘Middle East respiratory syndrome’ (MERS) have had a negative impact on certain industries, communities and the animal health sector in certain countries. She strongly encouraged national, regional and international stakeholders to follow these best practices in the event of the emergence of a new human disease.

112. On the subject of food safety, Dr Aidara-Kane underlined the commitments of the WHO and OIE to improve global food safety and referred to the 'Launch of the World Health Day 2015' at Rungis (France), which was attended by the Director General of the OIE and the Director General of the WHO. OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety have furthermore been invited to collaborate with the International Food Safety Authority Network (INFOSAN) so as to represent the veterinary sector better within this network.
113. She returned her attention to the Tripartite collaboration, and in particular, the '4-way-linking' project at country level, which aims to strengthen the relationship between the animal and public health agencies for virological and epidemiological investigations associated with H5N1 and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) events and establishing joint mechanisms for risk assessment within national governmental structures.
114. Dr Aidara-Kane highlighted the efforts undertaken by the WHO and OIE to eliminate rabies and the corresponding elimination programmes. She stressed that rabies elimination is feasible if human and veterinary health sectors collaborate closely together. She also revealed that the WHO and OIE, in collaboration with the FAO and Global Alliance for Rabies Control, will be hosting a Global Conference on the 'Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies – The Time Is Now' at WHO Headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) on 10 to 11 December 2015.
115. Dr Aidara-Kane was pleased to note the acceleration of other control and elimination programmes developed by the OIE for endemic zoonotic diseases such as porcine cysticercosis and echinococcosis.
116. She expressed the gratitude of WHO for the strong collaboration between the OIE and FAO on issues relating to MERS, and notably the OIE's participation in recent joint missions in Saudi Arabia.
117. As a priority topic for both the WHO and OIE, she next spoke of the rising threat of AMR, and the approaches developed by the WHO and OIE to address AMR in humans and animals. Dr Aidara-Kane informed the Assembly that WHO has participated in the activities and initiatives of the OIE on AMR, including the updating of OIE standards on AMR, regional seminars for OIE National Focal Points, and the global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. The OIE has similarly participated in the development of the Global Action Plan on AMR, which promotes a comprehensive 'One Health' approach.
118. Moreover, Dr Aidara-Kane referred to the resolution adopted by the 68th World Health Assembly of the WHO in 2015 to strengthen the collaboration between the OIE, FAO and WHO for combatting AMR under a 'One Health' approach.
119. In closing, Dr Aidara-Kane stated that WHO looks forward to continuing its close collaboration with the OIE, and warmly appreciates the work conducted by the OIE to improve public health, food safety, food security, the control of rabies and other zoonoses and emerging new diseases.

The World Bank

120. Dr Caroline Planté, Livestock Specialist at the World Bank, thanked the President of the OIE, the Director General of the OIE, and all national Delegates to the OIE for allowing the World Bank to address the World Assembly and to present the World Bank's perspectives on livestock.

121. Dr Planté commenced her presentation by introducing the World Bank delegation attending the 83rd OIE General Session, which was led by Dr Francois Le Gall, and comprised of six persons in total.
122. Dr Planté explained the two main goals of the World Bank (known as the Twin Goals), which are to eradicate extreme poverty within one generation (by decreasing the percentage of people living with less than USD 1.25 a day to no more than 3% by 2030) and to boost shared prosperity (by improving the living standards of the lower 40% of the population in every country). She indicated that the agriculture sector is linked to both of the Twin Goals of the World Bank, as well as to the Sustainable Development Goals, which drive the post-2015 development agenda.
123. In 2010, there were over 900 million rural poor, of which 750 million were working in the agriculture sector. To put livestock within the broader agriculture sector and highlighting the role it plays in contributing to eradicate extreme poverty and boost prosperity, Dr Planté indicated that over 1 billion poor people were dependent on livestock for their livelihoods; the majority of these, at least two-thirds, are women. Furthermore, approximately 200 million pastoral households depend on livestock for their survival.
124. Dr Planté subsequently elaborated on investment in animal health, which supports both the mission of the World Bank Group and the Sustainable Development Goals because, firstly, it enables the poor and smallholders to optimise production and productivity and seize better market opportunities to alleviate poverty; secondly, animal disease control is a direct contribution to public health (food safety, zoonotic diseases control, nutrition); and thirdly, animal disease control contributes to climate-smart livestock (reduction of production losses/waste and improved feed conversion).
125. With regard to the World Bank Agriculture portfolio, she announced that as of May 2015, there were 326 active agriculture projects, of which 96 were related to livestock. These projects represent a total IBRD¹⁵/IDA¹⁶ commitment of approximately USD 19.2 billion across 98 countries. For the last fiscal year (2014), newly approved projects (IBRD/IDA and trust funded projects) represented a total commitment of approximately USD 3.8 billion, of which USD 226 million was allocated to livestock related activities. She also noted that Africa was the region with the largest livestock portfolio, followed by South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific (especially in terms of commitments).
126. Dr Planté informed the Assembly that livestock falls under the Agriculture Global Practice of the World Bank Group, and as such, is a direct contributor towards poverty reduction. In recent years, the World Bank Group has witnessed a number of emerging trends in the livestock sector. Among these, she signalled the growing demand for livestock related projects and technical support from all regions of the world, with possible different focuses on health, environment and/or equity. Furthermore, by its very nature, she stated that livestock is multisectoral, and its relationship with other sectors such as human health, environment, fragility and conflict should be facilitated by the new operational model of the World Bank. This new global model should also assist in matching country needs, World Bank's in-country engagement, global public good and World Bank corporate agendas.

¹⁵ IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

¹⁶ IDA: International Development Association

127. Dr Planté underlined that the World Bank is committed to fostering strong partnerships with key institutions, which is critical for the achievement of common goals. The Livestock Global Alliance for instance, whose Secretariat is hosted at the World Bank, brings together key global public institutions holding a high stake in the livestock sector. The goal of the Livestock Global Alliance is to promote a safer, fairer and more sustainable livestock sector by developing and communicating a common vision and a coherent approach among all the key partners involved. The Livestock Global Alliance, moreover, seeks to better support the sector by leveraging the respective strengths of partners and comparative advantages. Other important partnerships mentioned by Dr Planté included the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (whose Advisory Committee is chaired by the World Bank) and the Global Food Safety Partnership (whose Secretariat is hosted by the World Bank). She added that the World Bank also participates in many other partnerships linked to livestock.
128. Dr Planté provided examples of areas in which the World Bank and OIE, together with other partners of the Alliance, are collaborating. This includes the development of strategic communication on livestock; an activity under which a joint narrative note on sustainable livestock is being developed. In addition, a web portal is similarly being developed, and will provide information about the sector, while directing new visitors to the websites of the Alliance partners for further details. Dr Planté explained that the World Bank had also participated in important meetings such as the International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) at the end of March 2015 and the FMD Socio-Economic Expert Panel meeting in Rome (Italy) in early April 2015.
129. On the subject of One Health, Dr Planté shared that a One Health operational framework is being developed by the World Bank, seeking to facilitate the development of cross-sectoral operations on One Health globally. The framework will promote existing tools (e.g. the tools under the OIE PVS Pathway for animal health systems, the tools of the WHO's IHR for human health systems), and the World Bank has contributed to enhancing these tools through the provision of a previous grant to the OIE and WHO for the 'Human and Animal Health Systems Assessment Tools and Bridges' project. Efforts will also target the environmental health dimension, and Dr Planté took this opportunity to mention the World Bank's recent partnership with Eco-Health Alliance.
130. Dr Planté stated that over the last year, the World Bank had worked in close cooperation with the OIE on various projects, such as the regional Sahel Pastoral Support Project (PRAPS), which was currently being presented to the World Bank Board for approval on 26 May 2015. This six-year project covers six countries for a total cost of USD 248 million, of which approximately USD 50 million corresponds to animal health activities. The design of the animal health component at country and regional levels has relied heavily on OIE PVS Pathway reports, outputs and recommendations. She added that the OIE would be providing support in the initial project implementation stage by ensuring the regional coordination of the animal health component, by delegation of CILSS¹⁷, and in close collaboration with ECOWAS/RAHC¹⁸.
131. Dr Planté next elaborated on certain activities led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), including the L-MIRA (Livestock Micro-Reforms in African Agribusinesses Project), managed by the IFC and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation over three countries for a total of USD 7 million from 2015 to 2019. She revealed that the OIE had provided important guidance on two project components: the

¹⁷ CILS: Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

¹⁸ ECOWAS/RCAH: Regional Animal Health Centre of the Economic Community of West African States

Legislative and Regulatory Reforms for Animal Health and the Institutional Reforms for Animal Health. Input from the OIE was sought to provide quality control and ensure alignment with and use of its PVS Pathway mechanisms and results, and facilitate this closer cooperation. An IFC legal expert had furthermore participated in a training session organised by the OIE for veterinary legislation experts through the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Program (VLSP).

132. In addition, Ms. Planté reiterated the importance of the livestock sector for the IFC and stated that the ‘animal protein’ business currently represents approximately half of all new investments in agribusiness. She informed the Assembly that, at the end of 2014, the IFC had updated the good practice note on animal welfare, replacing the 2006 version. The revised document makes strong references to the OIE standards on animal welfare, and indicates in particular that the IFC has and will continue to decline projects where the system is incompatible with acceptable and science-based animal welfare standards. The note furthermore states that the IFC will continue to liaise with the OIE to ensure that its lending approaches are compatible with the OIE’s intergovernmental standards.
133. Dr Planté concluded her presentation by congratulating Dr Monique Eloit on her election as the Director General of the OIE and thanked the current Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, for the OIE’s excellent and valued collaboration with the World Bank.

World Trade Organization

134. Ms Marième Fall, Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, World Trade Organization (WTO), reported on the relevant activities of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) for 2014 and the first quarter of 2015.
135. Ms Fall drew the attention of the Assembly to the fact that, in the 19 years between 1995 and the end of 2014, 382 specific trade concerns (STCs) were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee against SPS measures maintained by other WTO Members. Of these, 39% were related to SPS measures linked to animal health and zoonoses, 31% related to food safety and 25% to plant health. The animal health and zoonoses-related STCs were comprised of: 34% transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), 35% other animal health concerns, 23% foot and mouth disease (FMD) and 8% for avian influenza. Ms Fall informed the Assembly that further information is available in WTO document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.15.
136. Ms Fall revealed that in 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, eight new STCs of relevance to the OIE were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee. Also, several WTO Members had taken the opportunity of SPS Committee meetings to provide information relating to animal health measures and zoonoses, as well as on their pest or disease status.
137. She disclosed that a total of 1174 notifications, that is 1062 proposed new or revised SPS measures and 112 emergency ones, were submitted to the WTO during 2014. This is the highest number of SPS notifications ever circulated in any year since the SPS Agreement entered into force in 1995. Among these, 113 regular notifications and 70 emergency notifications identified animal health as the objective of the measure while 626 regular notifications and 50 emergency notifications identified the protection of humans from zoonoses or plant pests. Of these, 81 of the regular and 70 of the emergency notifications identified an OIE standard as relevant, by either indicating the application of the OIE standard or a deviation from it.

138. Ms Fall explained that the SPS Committee is mandated to review the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement every four years. As agreed in its Second Review¹⁹, the SPS Committee developed a procedure to facilitate the use of *ad hoc* consultations and negotiations to resolve trade problems, which was adopted in July 2014²⁰. The procedure lays out how two or more WTO Members can use the office of the SPS chairperson or another facilitator to find a solution to their concerns.
139. She highlighted that, in 2014, the SPS Committee undertook the Fourth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement. Several WTO Members submitted issues for consideration as part of this Review. Two of these proposals were further discussed in 2014: (i) the joint submission by Canada and Kenya of a catalogue of instruments available to WTO Members to manage SPS issues; and (ii) the joint submission by Chile, the European Union, Morocco and Norway on transparency. A questionnaire on transparency was circulated in February 2015, to inform further Committee discussions on this subject, as well as a Transparency Workshop planned for October 2015. The SPS Committee discussed a draft Review Report at the July 2014 meeting. The report was subsequently revised twice based on Members' comments and suggestions received after the July 2014 and October 2014 meetings. Consensus could not be reached on the report in March 2015 and Members will try to resolve the remaining differences at an informal meeting in July 2015, with a view to adopting the report at the regular meeting in July 2015.
140. Regarding the recent development concerning private standards, discussions in 2014 continued to focus on the development of a working definition of "SPS-related private standards". An electronic Working Group was established in 2013 to develop a working definition of "SPS-related private standards", with China and New Zealand serving as 'co-stewards'. Two reports on the work of the electronic Working Group were circulated by the co-stewards, at the March and October 2014 meetings, but no consensus could be reached. Ms Fall added that a compromise working definition was then put forward by the co-stewards to successfully conclude the discussion on a working definition at the March 2015 Committee meeting²¹. However, while very close, the SPS Committee was not able to reach a consensus on a working definition and it was agreed that the electronic Working Group would reflect further on the issue.
141. The WTO Secretariat and OIE continue to cooperate in providing technical assistance to developing countries, both through the OIE's active participation in WTO-organised training activities, and through Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)-related projects. Ms Fall announced that the WTO Secretariat will be organising the following three regional training events on the SPS Agreement in 2015: i) Regional SPS Workshop for the Caribbean in September, ii) Regional SPS and TBT²² Workshop for Asia in November, and iii) Regional SPS Workshop for Arab Countries, 30 November to 3 December. She referred to the WTO document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.5, which contains detailed information relating to all the SPS technical assistance activities planned for 2015, including application information and deadlines for WTO funding.
142. In conclusion, Ms Fall extended her congratulations to Dr Monique Eloit on her recent election as Director General of the OIE and expressed her gratitude to Dr Vallat for his efforts and leadership in the past fifteen years.

¹⁹ G/SPS/36

²⁰ G/SPS/61

²¹ G/SPS/W283

²² TBT: technical barriers to trade

Codex Alimentarius Commission

143. Dr Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, began her address by thanking the President of the OIE, on her own behalf and on behalf of the Secretary of the CAC, for the invitation to attend this OIE General Session.
144. She informed the Assembly of the strong relationship fostered between the CAC and OIE, and their collaboration on ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin in food production.
145. She furthermore welcomed the active participation of the OIE in Codex activities and commended OIE experts for their valuable contributions at the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, the Codex Committee on General Principles and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
146. The collaboration between the CAC and OIE has moreover enabled a number of Codex and OIE texts to be developed in a consistent and complementary manner.
147. In July 2014, the OIE had submitted a list of joint achievements to the 37th session of the CAC, in which the OIE referenced 15 Codex texts, which explicitly refer to the OIE. The OIE will be submitting a similar list to this year's session.
148. The Codex Secretariat, in addition to the FAO, WHO, similarly participates in the OIE's Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.
149. Dr Ochieng Pernet subsequently spoke of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), under which WTO Members are encouraged to align their national food safety, animal and plant health measures with the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the CAC, OIE and the IPPC²³.
150. The importance of collaborating with the OIE and IPPC is reiterated in the Codex Strategic Plan 2014–2019, and more specifically in Objective 1.3, which states the strategic objective of the CAC to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standard-setting organisations that seek to avoid duplication of efforts and to optimise opportunities. Additionally, Activity 1.3.1 of the Codex Strategic Plan aims to promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the OIE and IPPC on standards that cover the farm-to-fork continuum.
151. In terms of achievement, Dr Ochieng Pernet announced that the 'Guidance on Codex-OIE Cooperation' document was endorsed at the 37th Session of the CAC, held in Geneva (Switzerland) in July 2014.
152. She expressed her gratitude to the OIE for having contributed towards this important Codex initiative, for which the OIE had actively participated in the discussions held in the various Working Groups and had hosted the meeting of the Codex Physical Working Group at the OIE's Headquarters in Paris.
153. With regard to food safety at the international level, Dr Ochieng Pernet highlighted the need for cooperation and dialogue amongst key standard-setting organisations, and a multi-national approach at the national and regional levels so as to ensure the development of food safety legislation and regulations. In order to strengthen collaboration at these levels,

²³ IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

and as encouraged by the ‘Guidance on Codex-OIE Cooperation’ document, Dr Ochieng Pernet underlined the importance of promoting dialogue between the Codex Contact Point and the OIE Focal Point. Member governments were similarly invited to further dialogue on animal health and food safety through national and regional level working groups and subcommittee meetings.

154. Dr Ochieng Pernet recalled that during the discussions on the proposed Codex Draft Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* spp. at the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene in November 2014, the observer from the OIE emphasised the need for Codex and OIE Member Countries to coordinate their work to ensure the consistency of documents, and praised the OIE for its efficient cooperation with Codex.
155. She next elaborated on the draft ‘Guidelines for the Control of *Trichinella* spp. in Meat of Suidae’ and mentioned that during the finalisation of these draft guidelines, the observer from the OIE had encouraged discussions between Codex and the OIE on whether any improvements could be made to Chapter 8.15 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, ‘Infection with *Trichinella* spp.’, so as to improve alignment between these two texts.
156. In conclusion, Dr Ochieng Pernet congratulated Dr Eloit for her election as Director General of the OIE and the excellent work conducted by the OIE under the leadership of Dr Vallat to ensure food safety and quality along the food production chain, which are protecting the health of consumers around the world.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

157. Dr Franck Berthe, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the Commission held a meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 29 September to 3 October 2014. The Commission met again from 2 to 6 March 2015 to consider Member Country comments on the report of its October 2014 meeting and to identify issues that should be presented at this General Session. The items and comments on texts that are not being submitted for adoption at this General Session and that could not be dealt with during the March 2015 meeting will be discussed at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission in September 2015, together with new Member Country comments on the report of the March 2015 meeting as well as those received at this General Session.
158. Dr Berthe expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Huang Jie (Vice-President), Dr Victor Manuel Vidal (Vice-President), Dr Ingo Ernst, Dr Brit Hjeltnes and Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Members) for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of the experts of the Commission’s various *ad hoc* Groups, FAO experts, as well as the many individual experts who provided scientific assistance. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Berthe gratefully acknowledged the resolute support of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Commission by members of staff at OIE Headquarters, especially Dr Derek Belton, Dr Gillian Mylrea, Ms Sara Linnane and Dr Tomasz Grudnik.
159. Dr Berthe thanked those Member Countries that had submitted comments for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and encouraged all Member Countries to contribute to this work.
160. Dr Berthe noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting every proposal received. However, he assured the Assembly that all Member Country comments were considered by the Commission. Dr Berthe encouraged Member Countries to refer to explanations provided in previous reports when preparing comments on longstanding issues. He also reminded

Delegates that the reports of *ad hoc* Groups, provided as annexes to the Commission reports, included important information and he encouraged Member Countries to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.

161. Dr Berthe noted that the OIE would continue to provide the unofficial version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions (in English, French and Spanish) to be finalised and translated. Dr Berthe also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including annexes to the report, such as *ad hoc* Group reports, endorsed by the Commission, on the OIE public website. This is an important communication channel to inform organisations and the general public of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and to contribute to that work. Dr Berthe also noted that Aquatic Animal Focal Points were notified when the unofficial and official versions of the meeting reports are uploaded and encouraged them to arrange access to these documents through their Delegate.
162. Dr Berthe noted that the Delegate bags contained a USB flash drive with the complete reports of the October 2014 and March 2015 meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission, including annexes with *ad hoc* Group reports. The folder distributed at the General Session contains only the introductory text and texts presented for adoption from the March 2015 report. Dr Berthe advised Delegates that detailed comments on proposed new and amended texts should be submitted by mid-August each year for consideration by the Commission at its September/October meeting and by mid-January each year for the February/March meeting. He advised that the deadline for comments is always provided in each meeting report. He reminded Delegates that the Commission could not examine comments submitted in the period between the Commission's February/March meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February/March meeting during the discussion at the General Session. The Commission would address these comments at its September/October meeting.
163. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Berthe emphasised that where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* chapters to ensure their alignment. He reminded the Assembly that modifications to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* will be detailed in Resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.
164. Dr Berthe presented the following texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to the Assembly for adoption. He informed Delegates that the revised chapters could be found in Annexes 3 to 21 of Doc. 83 SG/12/CS4 B.

165. **User's Guide**

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member Country comments on the revised User's Guide and made relevant amendments while ensuring alignment, as far as possible, with the User's Guide in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Berthe considered that the revised guide provided a much improved guide as to the role, scope and correct use of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, commended the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission and supported the revised texts in general. The Delegate commented that the work of both Commissions to align horizontal texts was appreciated. However, he commented that some challenges remain with respect to the User's Guide, and also the Chapter 5.1 on certification and the new Chapter 6.5 on risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance. He noted that some of the proposed changes were considered to be unacceptable as the text would differ from the *Terrestrial Code* and this could lead to confusion and have a negative impact on trade. He urged the OIE to achieve

strict alignment of these important points and urged the Commissions to work together to avoid problems of this type in the future. Joint meetings of Commissions and *ad hoc* Groups could be considered. Another possibility would be to develop a single Code containing horizontal chapters on terrestrial and aquatic animals.

The Delegate gave three examples of deviations where, for reasons of consistency and to avoid misunderstandings, he insisted that the texts in the two Codes be aligned. In Section A point 4, he recommended using the wording in the *Terrestrial Code*, and in Point 4 of Sections B and C, using the term “more stringent” as proposed in the *Terrestrial Code*.

He noted that further comments had been sent to OIE in writing prior to this General Session for consideration by the Commission.

The Delegate of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, supported the EU position on Point 4 of Section A and proposed to change ‘when’ to ‘where’ and remove ‘a’ before ‘risk analysis’ in this Section.

He went on to say that Africa had sent further written comments on Annex 3 and Annex 8.

Dr Berthe thanked the Delegates for their comments. He recognised that the issue is non-alignment between the texts of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*. This issue has been raised on many previous occasions and it remains work in progress. Both Commissions have worked hard to address it, despite some difficulties, and this work will continue. Dr Berthe declined to comment on the proposals for joint meetings and the development of a single Code. He noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission supported all efforts to harmonise the texts in the two *Codes*. On the specific points raised in Sections A, B and C of the User’s Guide, he noted that the term ‘exceeds OIE standards’ is effectively the same as ‘more stringent’.

The President of the Terrestrial Code Commission was invited to comment. Dr Thiermann noted that the proposal for a joint meeting was not the best solution, given the workload of both Commissions. He explained that individual Member Countries often submitted divergent comments on the respective texts in the two *Codes* and recommended that they endeavour to coordinate their submitted comments on the two *Codes*, while noting that there are also some justifiable differences between the two *Codes*.

Dr Berthe proposed to adopt the text with amendments to address the recommendations of the Delegates of Spain and Uganda.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

166. Glossary

Dr Berthe noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member Country comments on the revised definitions and made relevant amendments while ensuring alignment, as far as possible with relevant definitions developed by the OIE Code Commission at its March 2015 meeting.

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed with the Code Commission to develop a definition for *biosecurity* to be included in both *Codes*. Dr Berthe explained that they had amended the definition for *biosecurity* in response to several Member Country comments. He also commented that the amended definition is aligned with that proposed for the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that the revisions of the definitions for *disinfectant* and *disinfection* were made to more suitably reflect the use of these terms in the *Aquatic Code* and will also be used in the development of the new draft chapter on disinfection of aquaculture establishments, water and fish eggs for Section 4 of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Berthe noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had agreed with the Code Commission that the current definition of *hazard identification* adds little to the existing definition of hazard and could therefore be deleted from the glossary. Dr Berthe added that no comments were received on this proposal.

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to delete the definition for infective period because this term only appears twice in the *Aquatic Code*. The Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment to retain the definition as it considered its use in the *Aquatic Code* does not require a specific glossary definition.

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed to amend the definitions for *risk analysis* and *risk assessment* to align with amendments being proposed for these definitions in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of China (People's Republic of) indicated that he supported the Commission's proposed definition of biosecurity, and encouraged the Commission to develop the concept of a biosecurity plan and related criteria.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

167. Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.)

Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission recognised the significance of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) to many countries. At its February 2014 meeting, the Commission had considered the possible listing of AHPND in accordance with Article 1.2.2. Criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease. However, due to the lack of specific diagnostic methods for the causative agent of AHPND at that time, the disease did not meet the criteria for listing.

Dr Berthe reported that at their October 2014 meeting, the Commission developed an assessment for AHPND, and, in light of the development of new diagnostic methods, considered that AHPND now met the criteria for listing in accordance with Article 1.2.2.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed comments received from Member Countries' regarding the listing of AHPND. While some Member Countries supported listing, some did not. The Commission noted that comments against listing were based on a recent report that a *Vibrio* species other than *V. parahaemolyticus* was found to be PCR²⁴ positive for the plasmid that carries the gene coding for the toxin necessary to cause AHPND. While the Commission recognised this new development in the knowledge of AHPND, it agreed that this finding must be balanced against a considerable body of scientific information that now exists and which demonstrates that a strain of *V. parahaemolyticus* carrying the pVA-1 plasmid is the cause of AHPND.

²⁴ PCR: polymerase chain reaction

Dr Berthe noted that, as stated in Chapter 1.2 of the *Aquatic Code*, the objective of listing is to support Member Countries' efforts to prevent the transboundary spread of important diseases of aquatic animals through transparent and consistent reporting. The Commission agreed that AHPND should be proposed for listing.

Dr Berthe also noted that in light of the Commission's proposal to list AHPND and recognising that it is essential to distinguish the causative agent of AHPND from other forms of the bacterium, the Commission recommended that a chapter on AHPND be developed for inclusion in the *Aquatic Manual*. He reminded Delegates that a new draft *Aquatic Manual* chapter for AHPND was circulated in the Commission's March 2015 report for Member Country comments.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of China (People's Republic of) suggested that the name of the chapter on infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus be amended, based on reassessment of the virulence factors. The Delegate noted that the name of the chapter in the *Aquatic Manual* and the *Aquatic Code* is not consistent with the name of the listed disease.

Dr Berthe asked the Delegate to submit this proposal, with a scientific justification, to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at the next meeting.

The amended text was adopted unanimously.

168. **Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.1.)**

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed amendments in the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* adopted by the Assembly in May 2014, where text had been removed because it was not directly pertinent to an import risk analysis. The Commission had agreed to make the same amendments in the *Aquatic Code* chapter as it considered it important that such horizontal chapters in the two *Codes* be aligned. The Commission also proposed to delete 'potential' from the term 'potential hazard' throughout the chapter because this word is inaccurate as a qualifier of hazard, an amendment also adopted in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

169. **Recommendations for surface disinfection of salmonid eggs (new Chapter 4.X.)**

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Disinfection draft a new chapter on 'Recommendations for surface disinfection of salmonid eggs' (Chapter 4.X.). The Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended the draft chapter as appropriate.

Dr Berthe noted that once the proposed draft Chapter 4.X. is adopted, the cross reference to a protocol on disinfection of salmonid eggs that currently appears in Chapters 10.4., 10.5., 10.6. and 10.10. would be amended to cross reference to this new chapter.

Dr Berthe noted that once the new Chapter 4.X. is adopted, the *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 1.1.3. 'Methods for disinfection of aquaculture establishments' will be deleted.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission recognised the need to expand recommendations for egg surface disinfection to other aquatic animal species, as appropriate, and requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Disinfection address this in their future work.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the Commission for developing this important chapter and supported its adoption.

The Delegate of Norway, also speaking on behalf of Chile and Canada, thanked the Commission for this important chapter and supported adoption of the text. However, she noted that there were some scientific and technical issues that should be addressed, namely the management of green eggs versus newly fertilised and eyed eggs. Also with respect to Article 4.X.2 point 1 and point 3 on rinsing of eggs in 0.9% pathogen free saline, ‘saline’ should be written before ‘pathogen free’. In addition ‘pathogen free’ should be defined or alternative wording chosen. The Delegate indicated that she would submit these proposals in August.

Dr Berthe indicated that the reason for using the term ‘pathogen free’ is to put the emphasis on the outcome of disinfection. He confirmed that all technical comments would be forwarded to the Commission and the *ad hoc* Group for review.

170. Control of pathogenic agents in aquatic animal feed (Chapter 4.7.)

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Commission had prepared a revised draft Chapter 4.7. ‘Control of pathogenic agents in aquatic animal feed’. The revised chapter exclusively addresses the risk of transmission of infectious diseases of aquatic animals via feed and the prevention of entry of pathogenic agents of concern via feed. The revised chapter aims to assist Member Countries to recognise and assess the risks related to pathogenic agents in feed. At its March 2015 meeting, the Commission considered Member Country comments and amended the text of the draft chapter, as appropriate.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

A Member of the Chilean Delegation thanked the Commission for its work and stated that Chile supported the adoption of the chapter because it provides the key elements of control for some important pathogens.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

171. General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member Country comments and also reviewed amendments proposed by the Code Commission in the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, and amended the chapter based on these considerations. Article 5.1.2 points 1 and 2 were amended to avoid use of the term “appropriate level of protection” in the *Aquatic Code* except when directly referring to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, commended the Commission on its work but noted that as mentioned previously in relation to the User's Guide, there were some important differences between the text of the *Aquatic Code* and that of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate recommended that in Article 5.1.2. points 1 and 2, the word 'exceed' should be replaced by 'more stringent'.

The Delegate of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, supported the position of the European Union, and called for the reinstatement of the text as it was prior to the last meeting of the Commission.

Dr Berthe proposed that the amended text be revised in accordance with the text of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The revised text with amendments was adopted unanimously.

172. Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member Country comments and also reviewed amendments proposed by the Code Commission in the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, and amended the chapter based on these considerations. The Commission had accepted Member Countries' suggestions to amend Article 5.2.4. to better describe the procedures for electronic certification.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

173. Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals (new Chapter 6.5.)

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the draft Chapter 6.5. 'Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals' that had been developed by the *ad hoc* Group on Antibiotic Use in Aquatic Animals. The draft chapter had been circulated for Member Country comments in the Commission's September 2014 report. He wished to note that the draft chapter had been developed based on the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* but includes Article 6.5.2. 'Special considerations for conducting antimicrobial resistance risk analysis in aquaculture' to highlight the differences between risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance in terrestrial and aquatic animals. The Commission considered Member Country comments and amended the text, where appropriate.

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission had moved the text defining the use of the terms for hazard, risk and risk to public health, for the purpose of this chapter, into a new point 3 of Article 6.5.1. to improve readability. The lists of factors to be considered in points on release assessment, exposure assessment and consequence assessment in Articles 6.5.3. and 6.5.4. were expanded and text in the points on risk estimation were simplified to improve clarity. The Commission also replaced the term "release assessment" with the term "entry assessment" throughout the chapter to ensure consistency with Chapter 2.1.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Norway, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the Commission for taking some of its comments into account but could not support adoption of the chapter. She stated that many of the proposed changes modify some

important concepts (e.g. ‘entry’ replacing ‘release’). She stated that the *Terrestrial Code* is being revised without much congruence to the changes being proposed in the *Aquatic Code* and this is regrettable. She suggested deferring adoption until the corresponding *Terrestrial Code* chapter has been adopted.

A member of the Canadian Delegation thanked the Director General for recognising the importance of the aquaculture sector. On behalf of the Regional Commission for the Americas, she raised concerns about some of the proposed modifications to the chapter and called for consistent use of language throughout the chapter, such as public health versus human health.

Dr Berthe thanked the Delegates for their comments.

On the issue of alignment between the two *Codes*, Dr Berthe noted that alignment is a dynamic process. The improvements could come from the aquatic or the terrestrial sector and also, some differences between the *Codes* are justifiable.

Noting that there is as yet no guidance on how to conduct risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance in the *Aquatic Code*, he stressed the importance of adopting this chapter so that it can be used by Member Countries.

In Article 6.5.3 point 2 and in Article 6.5.4 point 2, ‘hazard identification’ is replaced by ‘hazard’. In Article 6.5.3. point 2 and Article 6.5.4 point 2, replace the words ‘point 4 of Article 6.5.1.’ with ‘point 3 of Article 6.5.1.’

The Brazilian Focal Point for Aquatic Animals, speaking on behalf of the Delegate of Brazil, supported Dr Berthe’s proposal.

The Director General commented on the parallel work of the two Commissions. For the past 15 years there have been many efforts to ensure coordinated texts. Much has been achieved in this regard but work remains to be done. Within the framework of harmonisation, *ad hoc* Groups play an important role. In the field of antimicrobial resistance the OIE does have some Groups that include aquatic and terrestrial experts. This approach is under way but needs to be further strengthened.

The Delegate of Australia asked Dr Berthe to address the comments of Canada regarding the terms human health and public health. Dr Berthe said that these terms are rather synonymous and agreed that the term ‘human health’ would be used throughout the chapter.

The adoption of the revised Chapter 6.5. was opposed by 25 European OIE Member Countries.

The revised text with amendments was adopted.

174. **Amphibian disease-specific chapters (Chapters 8.1. and 8.2.)**

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had recognised the need to amend Articles 8.1.10. and 8.2.10. of the amphibian disease-specific chapters because the importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in laboratories, zoos and the pet trade carry a different level of risk compared with agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use. The Commission therefore amended Articles 8.1.10. and 8.2.10. to specifically address the level of risk associated with animals intended for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical uses, and proposed new Articles 8.1.13. and 8.2.13. to address the risks associated with the importation of live amphibians intended for use in laboratories and zoos.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had proposed the removal from Articles 8.1.8. and 8.1.10. of the provision for treatment of live aquatic animals to eradicate infection because there is an inconsistency between the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* on this point. The

Commission agreed that treatment of live animals prior to importation is not considered an adequate risk mitigation measure to prevent spread of infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. The Commission therefore proposed the removal of the provision for treatment of live aquatic animals from Articles 8.1.8. and 8.1.10. The Commission also acknowledged that the aquatic animal pet trade is an important importation pathway and should be addressed in the future.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

175. Articles X.X.7. and X.X.11. of disease-specific chapters

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had recognised that the text in Articles X.X.7. and X.X.11. in disease-specific chapters is almost identical and therefore proposed to merge these two Articles in all disease-specific chapters to improve readability. He noted that the model article apply to Article X.X.7. (importation of live aquatic animals) and Article X.X.11. (importation of aquatic animal products) from a country, zone or compartment declared free of disease for all disease-specific chapters except in Chapter 10.4. where this new model applies to Articles 10.4.10., 10.4.11., 10.4.15. and 10.4.16. Dr Berthe noted that only comments supportive of this proposal were received.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

176. Corrections in Articles 10.4.4. and 10.4.6.

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had recognised that the text in point 2 of Articles 10.4.4. and 10.4.6. in Chapter 10.4. Infection with Infectious salmon anaemia virus was incorrect and had proposed a correction of the relevant text. He noted that only comments supportive of the proposed changes had been received.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the 10 OIE Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), expressed thanks to the OIE and the Aquatic Commission for the work that had been completed and indicated that the countries supported adoption of the amended text. The Delegate indicated that he would like to make some overall comments on disease-specific chapters regarding the requirement to maintain basic biosecurity conditions for at least 2 years, as well as targeted surveillance for 2 years without detection of the pathogen. The Delegate asked about the scientific justification for this period and whether it was intended to apply to self declaration of disease status or to the recovery of freedom of a country, zone of compartment. He recommended that the setting of the time period take account of scientific knowledge, aquaculture production systems, production cycles and so forth.

Dr Berthe agreed that the basis for the two year period is a default position and that it would need to be addressed more precisely in the disease-specific chapters. He noted that a dedicated session on surveillance had been included in the recent OIE Global conference on Aquatic animals (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) and that the issue raised by the Delegate would be followed up in the Commission's future work plan with a view to improving the recommendations in the *Aquatic Code*.

The Delegate of Thailand commented that guidance was particularly needed in relation to the minimum time period during which specific surveillance should be conducted and measures implemented to maintain the status of a disease free country or zone.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

177. Infection with *Perkinsus olseni* (Article 11.6.2.)

Dr Berthe reported that at its September 2014 meeting the Aquatic Animals Commission had recognised the need to remove *Crassostrea gigas* from the list of susceptible species in Article 11.6.2. as there is no information to substantiate that this species is susceptible. He noted that this amendment is also being proposed for the corresponding chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Berthe noted that no objections to this proposal had been received.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

178. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed comments provided by Member Countries on proposed changes to Article 1.1.5. and also reviewed amendments proposed by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents to Article 1.1.4.

Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that the revised Chapter 1.1. was included in the March 2015 report of the Commission for Member Country comments.

179. Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases (Chapter 1.2.)

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents and agreed that it was valuable having representatives of three OIE Specialist Commissions as observers at the meeting of this *ad hoc* Group. Dr Berthe also recommended further strengthening of coordination between the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission to ensure consistency of horizontal chapters in both *Codes*, where relevant.

Dr Berthe explained that the *ad hoc* Group had proposed a set of simplified criteria for Chapter 1.2. of the *Aquatic Code*. While the Commission noted that the proposed criteria have been simplified, there is still a need to ensure clarity of those criteria. The Commission noted that the removal of the explanatory notes leads to a loss of guidance on how to apply the criteria and the underlying principles, and agreed that it is critical that the concepts underlying the listing criteria should be easily understood.

Dr Berthe encouraged Delegates to comment on the proposal, by the *ad hoc* Group, to delete this guidance. All comments will be helpful to inform further consideration of the listing criteria by the new Commission at its September 2015 meeting.

180. General recommendations on disinfection (Chapter 4.3.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission had requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Disinfection draft a new chapter on ‘Disinfection of aquaculture establishments’ to provide recommendations for disinfection procedures during routine biosecurity activities, emergency response and transport of aquatic animals. He noted that this revised chapter would replace the current *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.3. ‘General recommendations on disinfection’.

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Commission, at its October 2014 meeting had reviewed the preliminary draft chapter developed by the *ad hoc* Group on Disinfection, and recommended that the *ad hoc* Group continue work on the development of this chapter.

181. Infection with yellow head virus (Chapter 9.2.)

Dr Berthe explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed with a Member Country's comment to add 'genotype 1' after the name of infection with yellow head virus given that genotype 1 is the only known pathogenic agent of yellow head disease.

Dr Berthe reported the Commission had also considered a recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to Infection with OIE Listed Diseases to revise the list of susceptible species for Chapter 9.2. Infection with yellow head virus (YHV).

Dr Berthe explained that the Commission had agreed with the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to amend Article 9.2.2. in line with the application of the new criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen (described in Chapter 1.5.). Dr Berthe reminded Delegates that the Commission circulated the proposed changes to the list of susceptible species in Article 9.2.2. in its March 2015 report for Member Country comments.

Dr Berthe noted that the Commission had also requested the authors of the *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 2.2.8. Infection with yellow head virus to amend the list of susceptible species in this chapter to align with the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group report. The Commission will review the amended *Aquatic Manual* chapter at its next meeting in September 2015. Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that details of the application of the new criteria are in the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to Infection with OIE Listed Diseases that was appended to the Commission's March 2015 report.

The Commission also recommended that the *ad hoc* Group continue its work to review the list of susceptible species for other OIE listed crustacean pathogenic agents.

The President of the OIE reiterated the need for Member Countries to be consistent in the comments they submit, in this respect, to both the Aquatic Animals and Terrestrial Code Commissions.

182. *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

Dr Berthe reported that comments had been received from Member Countries on the five draft chapters for the next edition of the *Aquatic Manual* that had been circulated following the September/October 2014 meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission: infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis, necrotising hepatopancreatitis, taura syndrome, infection with yellow head virus and infection with *Perkinsus olseni*.

At the March 2015 meeting, the Commission, in consultation with the chapters' authors, reviewed the Member Country comments and amended the texts, as appropriate.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that the updated chapters had been provided for Member Country comment at Annexes 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Doc. 83 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Berthe presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the adoption of the five revised *Aquatic Manual* chapters.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

183. **Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease**

Dr Berthe explained that given the significance of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) to many countries, and in light of the proposal to list the disease, the Commission had recommended that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to develop a draft chapter on AHPND for inclusion in the *Aquatic Manual*.

The Commission, at its March 2015 meeting, reviewed the draft chapter prepared by the *ad hoc* Group and clarified that the definition of AHPND was to address the disease caused by unique strains of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, carrying a plasmid, designated pVA1, containing genes coding for a deadly binary toxin (Pir^{vp}). Dr Berthe emphasised that one of the main purposes of listing a disease is to share important information on its diagnosis, distribution and notification. For this purpose, Section 7 of disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Manual* provides definitions of a suspect and of a confirmed case of the disease in question. For AHPND, a case is suspicious based on histopathology findings or detection of AHPND-causing *V. parahaemolyticus* (VP_{AHPND}) or mortality associated with clinical signs; a case can be confirmed by detection of VP_{AHPND} and histopathology findings or mortality associated with clinical signs or bioassay.

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the new draft chapter on AHPND was circulated for Member Country comments with the Commission's March 2015 report.

184. **OIE Reference Centres**

Dr Berthe reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had not received any applications for Reference Centre status in the past year. The Commission noted that there are currently no OIE Reference Laboratories for necrotising hepatopancreatitis or for infection with *B. dendrobatidis* and invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists for these crustacean and amphibian diseases.

The OIE had not been notified of any changes of designated expert at OIE Reference Laboratories for diseases of aquatic animals.

Dr Berthe informed Delegates that annual activity reports for 2014 had been received from 41 of the 42 Reference Laboratories and from the two Collaborating Centres for aquatic animals. The Collaborating Centres had used the new online web-based annual report template for the first time.

The Aquatic Animals Commission was pleased to note that the number of OIE Reference Laboratories that do not have an internationally recognised quality management system in place had decreased. The Commission encourages non-accredited OIE Reference Laboratories to take the necessary steps to achieve this goal.

The Delegate of Australia, speaking on behalf of the Quads countries, congratulated the Aquatic Commission on its achievements. He considered that the resources available to develop the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* were considerably less than those available for the *Terrestrial Code* and *Manual*, and recommended that the Aquatic Commission be provided with the additional resources to address issues in the *Aquatic Manual*. He proposed that the OIE convene a new group with specific aquatic animal expertise and indicated that this could take the form of a Commission, Working Group or *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member Countries, thanked the OIE for supporting its laboratory twinning projects on Koi herpes virus and shrimp diseases, and noted that this would help in diagnosis at the regional level.

The Delegate of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, commented that aquaculture is very important and the scientific resources are insufficient to keep up with the development of transboundary diseases, such as white spot disease, which are moving north from southern Africa. He requested technical assistance from the OIE to ensure an adequate approach to the surveillance and eradication of such diseases.

185. **Third OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: ‘Riding the wave to the future’, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), 20-22 January 2015**

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission agreed that the goal of the conference to set priorities for future work of the Commission had been achieved and that key issues raised should be considered in the formulation of the new Commission’s Work Plan at its next meeting in September 2015.

The Commission noted the strong interest from participants during the surveillance session and the need to strengthen recommendations on surveillance in the *Aquatic Code*, in particular the need to provide guidance on more flexible approaches to surveillance.

The Commission also noted the strong interest from participants during the compartmentalisation session and the need to clarify the concept of compartmentalisation, a concept designed to facilitate international trade.

The Commission also noted the need to provide updated and separate guidance for zoning and compartmentalisation in the *Aquatic Code*. This revised guidance should support practical application of these concepts by the private sector and Competent Authorities. These revised chapters would require supporting guidance in Section 4 of the *Aquatic Code* on principles of biosecurity and disease control.

The Commission also noted the importance of the PVS Pathway to support Member Countries to build capacity of their Veterinary and Aquatic Animal Health Services. Dr Berthe recommended that Member Countries consider requesting an OIE PVS aquatic evaluation of their Veterinary Service or Aquatic Animal Health Service with the objective of improving competencies and general compliance with OIE standards for aquatic animals.

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the Commission had discussed with FAO the issue of fish-borne zoonotic trematodes (FZT) that had been raised during the OIE Global Conference. He reported that the Commission recognised the importance of FZT, which are estimated to infect over 18 million people worldwide, and many mammalian species. The Commission also noted that FZT have recently been added to the WHO list of neglected tropical emerging diseases. The Commission agreed to include this important subject in its Work Plan.

Dr Berthe reminded the Assembly that the conference recommendations, presentations and abstracts are available on the OIE website.

186. **Aquatic Animals Commission Work Plan for 2015/2016**

Dr Berthe informed the Assembly that the work plan of the Commission has been reviewed and updated and provides Member Countries with an overview of current and upcoming activities.

Dr Berthe finished his presentation by thanking the current Commission members for their time and work during the past 3 years and wished those who will be elected onto the new Commission this week all the best for a productive term.

187. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.
188. The President of the OIE, noting that Dr Berthe will not stand for re-election to this Commission, thanked him and presented him with a token of the OIE's appreciation for his leadership and service.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

189. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in September 2014 (Doc. 83 SG/12/CS3 A) and February 2015 (Doc. 83 SG/12/CS3 B). He outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups operating under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Groups for the Evaluation of Member Countries Status for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD); Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); African Horse Sickness (AHS), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF); the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance; the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis; the *ad hoc* Group on African Swine Fever; the *ad hoc* Group on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED); the *ad hoc* Group convened to set up a global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals; the *ad hoc* Group on the International Movement of Horses; the *ad hoc* Group on MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Coronavirus) infection in Animals; the *ad hoc* Group on Prioritisation of Diseases for which Vaccines could reduce Antimicrobial use in Animals; the *ad hoc* Group on Listing Criteria for OIE Listed diseases and the Working Group on Wildlife. A total of 20 meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and one meeting of the Working Group were convened during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission (the meeting of the CBPP *ad hoc* Group was conducted by electronic consultation). Most of these meetings were also attended by a representative from the Scientific Commission. During the September 2014 and February 2015 meetings of the Scientific Commission, joint meetings were convened between the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to promote harmonisation of approaches, facilitate work integration and sequencing and the sharing of information between the two Commissions.
190. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the Scientific Commission, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Director General, Dr Vallat, the Deputy Director General, Dr Brian Evans and the staff at the OIE Headquarters. He noted especially the efforts of the Director General and Deputy Director General to ensure continual support to the Scientific Commission with the increase in diseases on the list for official disease status recognition. The Scientific Commission also noted with appreciation the increase in the staff component of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to provide continual assistance to the Scientific Commission in its work. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Scientific Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife for their critical contributions, sharing of expertise and supporting role.
191. **Review of the annual work programme**
- During its meetings in September 2014 and February 2015, the Scientific Commission reviewed the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife and *ad hoc* Groups for the 2014–2015 period in support of the annual work programme of the Director General, the provisions of the Fifth Strategic Plan and the Commission's priorities. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the World Assembly during the 82nd General Session relative to its work programme and priorities.

These included the finalisation of a *Guide to Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance*; the revision of several chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, namely FMD, BSE, ASF, tuberculosis, glanders, high health status horse subpopulation, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and the ongoing revision and updating on the chapters relevant to antimicrobial resistance. With the adoption of the chapter on CSF during the 81st General Session, the Scientific Commission had to plan for an additional *ad hoc* Group to conduct Member Country applications for CSF status recognition. Member Country applications for CSF were assessed for the first time at a meeting in November 2014. In addition to the regular scheduled meetings of *ad hoc* Groups on the annual calendar, the Scientific Commission, with the support of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department conducted additional *ad hoc* Group meetings on emerging diseases (PED and MERS-CoV) as well as an *ad hoc* Group meeting, under the joint auspices of the Scientific, Code and Aquatic Commissions, on Notification of Diseases, Infections and Infestations, and Provision of Epidemiological Information, and Criteria for the Inclusion of Diseases, Infections and Infestations on the OIE List.

In discussions with the Deputy Director General and the Code Commissions, it was decided to provide as an annex to each report of the Scientific Commission, the rationale for changes or amendments proposed to existing chapters rather than to include it in the body of the text of the report. This procedure has been followed for both the September and February reports of the Scientific Commission to facilitate easy reference for Member Countries when consulting similar text in the reports of both Commissions.

192. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

a) Review of chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*

The President of the Scientific Commission reminded the Delegates that the Scientific Commission initiated a review of Chapter 8.5. (which later became 8.6. and 8.7.) of the *Terrestrial Code* on FMD during its meeting in September 2011. The *ad hoc* Group on FMD commenced the review of the chapter during its meeting in January 2012. Since then, the draft text was reviewed several times by the *ad hoc* Group and the Scientific and the Code Commissions following receipt of Member Country comments. The text that is to be presented for adoption at the 83rd General Session has thus been reviewed an unprecedented number of times. It is the view of the Scientific Commission, realising that no chapter is cast in stone and remains subject to continual improvement based on advances in scientific knowledge, that the amended chapter would greatly contribute to a better application and understanding of OIE standards for FMD control.

b) OIE/FAO initiative for a global FMD control strategy

The Scientific Commission was updated on the progress with the implementation of the FMD Global Control Strategy including the activities under the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). The Scientific Commission took note, with appreciation, that regional roadmap meetings were being organised to evaluate the progress of Member Countries on the progressive FMD control pathway (FMD-PCP). These meetings were also a good opportunity for Member Countries to exchange information, best practices and experiences. The role of the established Regional Advisory Groups has been well recognised and accepted by the participants representing their country at the regional roadmap meetings. The positive impact of the regional roadmap meetings was also noted to be appreciated by the Member Countries, but it is recognised there is a need for further investment to ensure sustainability.

The Scientific Commission emphasised that, in addition to following the steps of the FMD-PCP, Member Countries should remain sensitised to the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* when progressing on the pathway and eventually applying for endorsement of their control programmes as this assessment would have to be done against the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*.

c) Expert missions to Member Countries

Members of the Scientific Commission undertook an expert mission to South Africa to assess the application of maintenance of standards for FMD control and a mission to India to assess the measures in place for the management of their national control programme for FMD, submitted to the OIE for endorsement. These expert missions by members of the Scientific Commission to selected Member Countries have now been undertaken for several years and have proved beyond doubt their value to Member Countries in helping them to move towards status recognition and also to better understand the application of OIE standards for the control of FMD and maintenance of status.

d) OIE/FAO network of FMD Reference Laboratories

The President of the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network from the Pirbright Institute and reported briefly on the evolution and current FMD situation worldwide. Concerns were raised on the continuous increased activity of multiple lineages of FMD viruses in East Asia, the increased activity of serotypes Asia 1 in the Middle East and SAT-2 in North Africa and the remaining threat of East–West transboundary movements of FMDV from East Asia to the north of Africa and the Middle East.

Of the samples from 29 countries examined to January 2015 by the Pirbright Institute, serotype O remains the most prominent, followed by serotype A. No serotype C or SAT-3 was detected during the year. The Scientific Commission also took note, with appreciation, of the important recommendations of the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network Group emphasising the commitment of the network to obtain and analyse samples from under-sampled endemic pools with the help of the OIE and FAO; that the network partners will provide a central resource of expertise and advice regarding FMD control, vaccines and diagnostics and will continue to explore (and support) tools for real-time sharing of laboratory data generated within the Network. The Scientific Commission also supported the request that core OIE and FAO Network partners continue to support the organisation of the network and to explore opportunities to make it a more inclusive network to maximise data collected from the field.

e) Post-vaccination monitoring (PVM) for FMD

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that, following several meetings of selected experts representing both the OIE and FAO, a guideline for post-vaccination monitoring for FMD has now been developed and completed. The guideline has been structured into chapters covering: the strengthening of veterinary services for PVM, vaccine attributes, vaccine delivery and coverage, measuring antibody response to vaccination and effectiveness of vaccination programmes. The guideline, which was still subject to final editing, would be published as a joint OIE/FAO publication under the GF-TADs umbrella to assist Member Countries to progress with the Global FMD Strategy.

f) Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Control Strategy

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that the Commission had been regularly updated on the progress made by the PPR (GF-TADs) working group in charge of the development of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR.

193. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The President of the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group to adapt the surveillance system to the current BSE incidence considering the role of both atypical and classical BSE. However, although scientifically robust, this model gave more weight to the surveillance in older animals and allocated higher surveillance points to those countries that focus their surveillance on aged animals. After testing the proposed amended criteria against the data of countries with a given risk status, it appeared that it would not be appropriate to some OIE Member Countries already recognised as having a controlled or negligible BSE risk status. The Scientific Commission concluded that the proposed modification could not be considered at this stage for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The *ad hoc* Group summarised current scientific knowledge on several key questions to examine whether and how atypical BSE should be considered in Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* on BSE. The President of the Scientific Commission referred Delegates to the discussion of the Scientific Commission of atypical BSE 2 years before, available in the report of its November 2012 meeting, and invited Member Countries to reflect on its content.

As the outcome of its discussion, the Group agreed that atypical BSE should be differentiated from classical BSE in Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* including its impact on BSE risk status recognition, maintenance and associated surveillance. The main issue of importance to Member Countries at this stage is how the sporadic cases of atypical BSE have an effect on the risk status categorisation of countries already having a favourable risk status and adhering to the strict surveillance and specified risk material control criteria for the maintenance of their risk status. The Scientific Commission endorsed the suggested changes by the *ad hoc* Group to the existing chapter to clearly indicate that the current chapter for the purpose of risk categorisation only refers to classical BSE and not atypical BSE. In discussions with the Director General and the Code Commission, it was strongly suggested that Member Countries assess the proposed changes for possible adoption during this 83rd General Session.

With regard to Article 11.4.25., the Scientific Commission agreed that the import of ruminants other than cattle is not considered to be a risk and it therefore proposed to replace “ruminant” by “cattle” or “bovine” in the entire chapter, except in reference to the ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. The suggested change is consistent with the chapter’s evolution of focus from ruminants to cattle in preceding iterations.

The Scientific Commission suggested that the Biological Standards Commission consider a revision of the BSE chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* to include the description of the available tests able to discriminate atypical from classical BSE.

194. Classical swine fever (CSF)

Following the review of the chapter on African swine fever (ASF) and suggestions made by the *ad hoc* Group on ASF, the President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates of the need to review the chapter on CSF to be consistent with the terminology

and approach of the ASF chapter. The revision will be added to the working programme of the Scientific Commission for 2015/2016 pending a revision of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter in respect to a DIVA (discrimination of infected from vaccinated animals) vaccine for CSF.

195. **Harmonisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD)**

An *ad hoc* Group under the auspices of the Scientific Commission reviewed the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on bluetongue, EHD and African horse sickness (AHS) with the aim of harmonising the essential concepts within these three chapters related to the vector and vector control. A team consisting of both the OIE Scientific and Technical Department and the International Trade Department, further refined the process by producing a matrix to assist in the harmonisation process. The chapters on bluetongue and EHD have now been circulated for Member Country comments and possible adoption at this 83rd General Session.

196. **Antimicrobial resistance**

The President of the Scientific Commission noted with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group to set up a global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. The suggestions made by the *ad hoc* Group to ensure appropriate data collection and reporting by the OIE were fully supported by the Scientific Commission.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the work conducted to finalise the template and the guidelines on reporting to the OIE data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and to review the technical comments received on the adopted version of the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance and the technical comments received from some Member Countries on the adopted versions of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.7. and Chapter 6.10.

The Scientific Commission took note, with appreciation, that issues related to antimicrobial resistance at the human–animal interface were considered a priority for the OIE in the framework of the Tripartite activities. The three international organisations (WHO, FAO, OIE) agreed, during the last Tripartite meeting, to present a resolution on antimicrobial resistance to their respective member countries. OIE Resolution No. 26 would aim to respect the OIE standards, to support the WHO Global Action Plan and to enhance the reporting on the use of antimicrobial agents by Member Countries.

Following the adoption of the resolution to be proposed during this 83rd General Session, a pilot questionnaire would be proposed to gather data on the quantities and geographical scope of use of the listed antimicrobial agents. It is envisaged to develop an online database to ease the reporting, which would ultimately be included in the WAHIS reporting system.

The amended Chapter 6.7. and Chapter 6.10. will be presented during the 83rd General Session for adoption.

The President of the Scientific Commission also informed the Delegates that the Director General had convened an *ad hoc* Group in April to prioritise diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in animals.

197. **Guide to Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance**

Good progress had been made with this much-needed handbook, which has now been published by the OIE and is available for the benefit of its Member Countries. French and Spanish versions are in preparation.

198. Ebola technical factsheet

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates on the endorsement of a technical factsheet on Ebola virus disease that was prepared and reviewed by internationally renowned scientific experts, including experts from OIE Reference Centres and the Working Group on Wildlife. The Scientific Commission recommended its publication on the OIE website to support Member Countries.

199. OIE Collaborating Centres

The President of the Commission informed the Delegates of applications from two Member Countries, one for the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre and one for a twinning project with the aim of achieving OIE Collaborating Centre status, and concluded that further information would be needed before an informed decision could be made on either application.

200. Middle East respiratory syndrome – Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

The President of the Commission informed the Delegates on the consideration and endorsement of the report of the *ad hoc* Group that was convened to review the latest scientific evidence relating to the epidemiology of MERS-CoV, to provide guidance on surveillance in camelids and other animals and to evaluate whether MERS-CoV infection meets the criteria of Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* to be included as an OIE Listed disease.

The Scientific Commission supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group, which unanimously concluded that when measured against current scientific information and the requirements for disease listing, infection with MERS-CoV did not meet the criteria to be included in the OIE List of diseases.

The Scientific Commission also confirmed its decision, taken by electronic communication following the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group, to endorse the proposed communications strategy that included an update of the relevant ‘Questions and Answers’ (Q and A) on the OIE website.

201. Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED)

Following a presentation during the 82nd General Session on the emergence of this disease in pigs in Canada and the United States of America, an *ad hoc* Group was convened by the Director General to assess the disease against the existing listing criteria of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Scientific Commission also considered the written opinion, provided by a Member Country after the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group, on the listing of PED and its rationale regarding the impact of the disease. After considering the scientific evidence available, the Scientific Commission supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group, which concluded that measuring the scientific information available at the time of the meeting and the requirements for disease listing, infection with PED virus did not meet the criteria of the *Terrestrial Code* to be included in the OIE List of diseases. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that PED and transmissible gastroenteritis were comparable in terms of the OIE criteria for listing diseases. However, considering that the OIE was in the process of revising the criteria for listing diseases, their listing could be considered again if and when the revised criteria are adopted by the Assembly.

The President also informed the Delegates that a technical factsheet on PED had been endorsed by the Scientific Commission and was available on the OIE website to support Member Countries, following the same protocol as in the case of technical factsheets of other emerging diseases that were not incorporated in the OIE List of diseases.

202. International horse movement for equestrian sport

Chapter 4.16. on the high health status horse subpopulation was adopted at the 82nd General Session. The Code Commission considered the comments made by Member Countries during the General Session and circulated an amended chapter for Member Country comments after its September 2014 meeting. The Scientific Commission addressed the relevant comments from the document forwarded by the Code Commission. The Scientific Commission reiterated that the chapter was aimed at introducing a general concept and that other documents were being developed in support of this chapter, such as the biosecurity and management guidelines, specific model health certificate, etc. Therefore, the Scientific Commission could not support the request to include more details in this chapter.

The Scientific Commission also addressed Member Country comments received on the model certificate for international movement of the high health status horse subpopulation after its September 2014 meeting. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the model certificate was developed under the concept of high health status horse subpopulation and was intended to be used and adapted to Member Country requirements if supported by an appropriate risk assessment. The Scientific Commission agreed that the certificate should be included in the *Terrestrial Code* to provide guidance to Member Countries. The Scientific Commission supported the request from several Member Countries for a short explanatory document, summarising the rationale for the inclusion of the selected diseases and the health guarantees mentioned in the certificate.

The Scientific Commission issued a reminder that self-declaration is not accepted for AHS as this disease is now covered by an OIE procedure for official recognition of disease status.

203. Rinderpest

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates on progress with post-rinderpest eradication activities over the past 12 months. The full results of the second OIE annual report on rinderpest virus-containing material for 2014 were presented to Delegates at the 83rd General Session. The response rate for the 2014 annual report on remaining stocks of rinderpest virus-containing material was 98% (this compares with 100% for the 2013 annual survey). As of 26 May 2015, reports for 2014 were outstanding for two Member Countries. Nonetheless 100% of Member Countries have replied at least once to the questionnaires since they were launched in 2013.

Applications were received from six facilities to become approved rinderpest-holding facilities. As part of the approval process, the OIE organised site inspections of three facilities whilst the FAO organised two inspections. Reports from these missions were presented for review at the 7th FAO–OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meeting in Rome on 8–9 April 2015.

Resolution No. 25 relating to the designation of facilities approved for holding rinderpest virus-containing material was presented for adoption.

The OIE also launched a call for proposals for “Sequencing and destruction of historical rinderpest virus isolates”. This project aims to determine the genetic sequence of rinderpest viruses before their destruction. The project ultimately aims to facilitate total destruction of potentially infectious rinderpest virus-containing material whilst retaining historical data. A call for proposals had been sent to several institutes in different countries that were known to hold rinderpest virus-containing material that may also meet the eligibility criteria. The proposals would be reviewed by a selection committee and by the JAC.

204. **Work of *ad hoc* Groups still in progress**

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates of tasks assigned to *ad hoc* Groups under the auspices of the Scientific Commission to review and amend current chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. These assignments were still work in progress with the aim of presenting the amended chapters for possible adoption during the 84th General Session in 2016:

– *Tuberculosis, PRRS, ASF and glanders*

Following requests from Member Countries, the Director General was also requested to convene new *ad hoc* Groups during the period 2015–2016 on theileriosis, lumpy skin disease and trypanosomosis and an *ad hoc* Group to develop a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* to outline vaccine strategies and policies for disease control purposes.

205. **Working Group on Wildlife**

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the Working Group and took note with appreciation of the recommendations made by the Group in respect of the tuberculosis diagnostic test for New World camelids and also the zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates as requested by the Scientific Commission at the September 2014 meeting. The Scientific Commission supported the opinion of the Working Group on the use of diclofenac in livestock and its negative impact on scavenging wild birds.

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates on the proposed definition for “metapopulation” as introduced in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on ASF and amended it to read as follows: “A *metapopulation* is a group of spatially separated populations of the same species that interact at some level and may consist of several distinct subpopulations within an area of suitable habitat.”

The definition of metapopulation was forwarded to the Code Commission for further consideration when reviewing the ASF chapter and to consider introducing the concept within the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Scientific Commission took note of the definition provided by the Working Group for “bushmeat” and acknowledged that there were inconsistencies in the definitions publicly available. The Scientific Commission discussed the proposed definition of the Working Group, but it was considered not to be completely accurate as not all meat from wildlife should be considered as bushmeat. The Scientific Commission could not suggest an appropriate definition and acknowledged that the word bushmeat *per se* would continue to be used in its current context.

The Scientific Commission endorsed the draft guidelines for wildlife disease surveillance that were prepared by the Group at the request of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission also recognised the work in progress on the scientific paper on rabies and its impact on biodiversity. The Commission suggested that once finalised the guidelines should be made available on the OIE web page dedicated to the Working Group on Wildlife together with the publication of the workbook on the training of the OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife.

At its February 2014 meeting, the Scientific Commission requested the Working Group to consider the possible impacts of the establishment of Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) on country disease status. Following the recommendations of the Group, the Commission concluded that each case should be individually evaluated as the nature of TFCAs varies across country borders.

The Scientific Commission endorsed the modification made by the Working Group on Chapter 7.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* intended to provide recommendations for the humane slaughter of reptiles. The chapter was forwarded to the Code Commission for further deliberation.

The Scientific Commission discussed the proposed modification to Chapter 8.7. FMD concerning susceptible species. The Scientific Commission disagreed with the proposal to consider the subfamily “*Bovinae*” as it would exclude small ruminants. The Scientific Commission decided to maintain the term “*Ruminantia*” when defining FMD susceptible species.

The Scientific Commission was updated on the state of play of the surveillance for influenza in wild birds and acknowledged the publication of a scientific paper on this subject. The Scientific Commission emphasised the need for an internationally coordinated targeted cost-efficient surveillance in wild birds following recent outbreaks of H5N8 and H5N1. The Scientific Commission had recommended that its concern for such a surveillance programme should be included in the agenda of the next OFFLU meeting in April 2015 and also proposed that a Member of the Scientific Commission participate in discussions on this topic by teleconference.

The Scientific Commission was informed of the initiative to develop e-learning material to support the OIE wildlife focal point training. The Scientific Commission welcomed the initiative but emphasised that it would be important to continue with the current face-to-face training format to maintain the OIE Focal Points network.

The Scientific Commission commended the OIE on the publication of the OIE *Bulletin* on Bee diseases and conveyed its thanks to Dr François Diaz for being the driving force behind this special edition of the *Bulletin*.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the work programme suggested by the Working Group on Wildlife.

206. Evaluation of Member Country applications for official recognition of disease status

The evaluation of applications by Member Countries constituted a major portion of the activities of the Scientific Commission during this year. With the addition of PPR and CSF to the list of diseases eligible for official status recognition, a total of 56 applications had to be assessed while expert missions to two Member Countries were conducted to verify applications and to assess the measures in place for the maintenance of status.

The President of the Scientific Commission emphasised that Member Countries that were granted disease status recognition must provide annual evidence of their continued compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of their status. He also reminded the Assembly that Member Countries applying for the endorsement or reconfirmation of their official control programmes should state their objectives for progressing toward eradication and identify clear indicators and time-lines to assist evaluating annual reports.

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission supported the FMD *ad hoc* Group’s suggestion to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of selected Member Countries’ annual reconfirmation. The Scientific Commission would select the countries to be evaluated based on the risk of incursion or circulation of the pathogens but also following a random selection. The Scientific

Commission decided that for future meetings, time should be allocated in the agenda of its February meetings, to assess the annual reconfirmations provided by Member Countries for the maintenance of their disease status and the progress of endorsed official control programmes.

The Scientific Commission recognised that there was a need to revise all the questionnaires related to disease status and suggested including this revision in the terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Groups tasked with the evaluation of Member Country disease status applications during 2015 and early 2016.

The Scientific Commission also proposed to modify the wording in the article and in the questionnaire related to the endorsement of official control programmes to clearly indicate that Member Countries should provide information not only on the current measures implemented in the country, but also to provide a detailed action plan with timelines for progressing towards disease eradication. This was discussed with the Code Commission who would consider amendment to the existing text.

The Scientific Commission discussed the need to allow countries to apply emergency vaccination in the face of a threat of imminent FMD virus incursion without affecting their disease status. The Scientific Commission decided to include this point in the agenda of the next Scientific Commission meeting.

The Scientific and Technical Department was commended on the development of a web-based tool to facilitate the management of the increasing administrative actions related to annual confirmation of disease status and endorsed control programs.

a) Evaluation of Member Country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Group had received and evaluated 14 dossiers. Of these, eight applications were for disease status recognition; and six applications for endorsement of official control programmes for FMD. It was encouraging to note that applications for the endorsement of FMD control programmes were submitted by Member Countries playing a significant role in the global epidemiology of FMD.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group that met three times to evaluate Member Country applications for FMD status recognition, the endorsement of official control programmes and to address the comments received from Member Countries after the last circulation of the amended Chapter 8.7. on FMD.

- ***Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for the status recognition of an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the Philippines as an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised. The Scientific Commission reminded the Assembly that after the recognition of the entire country as free without vaccination, any outbreak in the country would cause the whole country to lose its status unless the country would apply the principles of a containment zone.

- ***Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for the redesignation of its FMD free zone***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the four zones (Zone 6b, Zone 4a, Zone 3c Maitengwe and a zone composed of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) proposed by Botswana as four separate FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the status recognition of FMD free zones where vaccination is or is not practised***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the zone of Kazakhstan composed of the provinces of Akmola, Aktobe, Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay, Mangystau, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of Ecuador and recommended that the Assembly recognise the Insular Territory of the Galapagos as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised and continental Ecuador as an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.

- ***Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the endorsement of their official control programme for FMD***

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group on the applications of Member Countries for the endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD. To enable an informed decision on the application of India, an expert mission was conducted in this Member Country during January 2015. The Commission recommended that the Assembly endorse the official control programmes for FMD of Namibia, China (People's Republic of), India and Venezuela.

- ***Evaluation of the information provided by two Member Countries with regard to the endorsement of their official control programme for FMD***

Further to the request of the Scientific Commission during its September meeting, Algeria and Morocco provided detailed information on how their endorsed control programmes were implemented and adjusted in response to the latest FMD events in the region.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos. 17 and 18.

b) Evaluation of Member Country status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group who consulted by electronic communication on the evaluation of the applications from two Member Countries, one for the recognition of a CBPP free status and one for the endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise France as a CBPP free country.

The Commission also concurred with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group on the application sent by Namibia and recommended that the Assembly endorse the official control programme for CBPP of Namibia.

The Scientific Commission approved the form for the annual reconfirmation of the endorsement of official control programmes proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and reminded the Assembly that the revision of the chapter on CBPP was included in the work plan.

These recommendations were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolutions Nos 19 and 20.

c) Evaluation of Member Country status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from Member Countries for the recognition of BSE risk status of Member Countries. The Scientific Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise the following Member Countries as having a negligible BSE risk: Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 21.

d) Evaluation of Member Country status for African horse sickness (AHS)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the application from two Member Countries for the recognition of AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise Morocco as a country free from AHS.

The Scientific Commission discussed the *ad hoc* Group opinion on AHS infectivity and agreed that there were no new data that would justify modification of the current definition of the infective period of 40 days. The Scientific Commission also clarified that AHS virus does not cause persistent infection.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 22.

e) Evaluation of Member Country status for peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from four Member Countries for the recognition of PPR free status. The Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise the following Member Countries as free from PPR: Czech Republic, Mexico, the Philippines and Swaziland.

The Scientific Commission also endorsed the *ad hoc* Group's conclusion on the evaluation of Namibia's application for official recognition of a PPR free zone and recommended that the Assembly recognise the zone of Namibia, south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, as a PPR free zone.

The Scientific Commission took note of the *ad hoc* Group initiative to amend Chapter 14.7. Considering the recent adoption of the chapter, the Scientific Commission concluded that amendments at this time would not be opportune and that proposals for modification would be considered at a later stage.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 23.

f) Evaluation of the Member Country status for classical swine fever (CSF)

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of the applications from 25 Member Countries for the recognition of CSF free status.

The Scientific Commission commended the *ad hoc* Group and the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE for their effort in evaluating the high number of dossiers submitted for evaluation for the first time.

The Scientific Commission agreed to recommend that the Assembly recognise the following Member Countries as countries free from CSF:

- Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The Scientific Commission also recommended that the Assembly recognise the zone of Brazil composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as a CSF free zone.

The Scientific Commission endorsed the form for the annual reconfirmation of CSF status proposed by the *ad hoc* Group.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 24.

207. **Future work programme of the Scientific Commission**

The President of the Scientific Commission presented to the Delegates the following issues identified by the Scientific Commission that would need to be attended to or finalised during the coming year:

- Finalisation of the update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on tuberculosis;
- Finalisation of a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS);
- Finalisation of the update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on glanders;
- Finalisation of the revised chapter on African swine fever;
- Review and development of chapters for the *Terrestrial Code* on theileriosis, lumpy skin disease and trypanosomosis transmitted by tse-tse fly and by other vectors;
- Development of a chapter on vaccination strategies for the *Terrestrial Code*.

208. After the presentation of the report of the Scientific Commission, the President opened the floor for discussion.

209. The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, commended the Scientific Commission for its essential work and in particular for the quality of revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters, including the chapters on FMD, BSE and the high health status horse subpopulation, and the harmonisation of some vector-borne disease chapters. He stated that the EU would continue its participation and support to the *ad hoc* Groups. The EU highlighted the tremendous work on official recognition of disease status and endorsement of official control programmes that had increased during recent years. The EU confirmed its full support to the established procedure for official recognition, which includes the quality of expertise in the *ad hoc* Groups and elected Scientific Commission. The EU concluded that it would support the recommendations of the Scientific Commission.

210. The Delegate of Japan thanked the OIE for recommending the designation of the National Institute of Animal Health of Japan as an approved Rinderpest Holding Facility. He stated that, upon adoption of the relevant resolution, Japan would contribute to maintaining global freedom from rinderpest in close collaboration with the other three Member Countries having Rinderpest Holding Facilities, and to undertaking the tasks expected of the designated facilities.

211. The Delegate of Indonesia made a remark related to the chapter on high health status horse subpopulation of the *Terrestrial Code*. The President of the OIE clarified that the *Terrestrial Code* chapter would be discussed during the Code Commission's presentation.
212. The Delegate of Djibouti, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, expressed his appreciation for the work of the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on FMD regarding the *Terrestrial Code* FMD chapter. He stated that Africa had formulated some proposals for further improvement of the chapter, which would be discussed during the Code Commission session. He supported the OIE's intention to develop a specific *Terrestrial Code* chapter on vaccination strategies as it had become apparent that there were diverse interpretations of vaccination strategies, posing potential obstacles to trade negotiations.
213. The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, expressed his appreciation for the Scientific Commission's plans to ask the Director General to convene *ad hoc* Groups to review standards for trypanosomosis and theileriosis, which are diseases of critical importance for Africa. He mentioned that there are several renowned experts for these two diseases in Africa and requested that the Director General consider the African experts when convening the *ad hoc* Groups.
214. The Delegate of Benin, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, thanked the Scientific Commission and Code Commission for the progress on the tuberculosis and PRRS chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, and kindly requested them to expedite the process for adoption of the chapters by the Assembly.
215. The Delegate of Iran expressed appreciation for the work done by the Scientific Commission. He mentioned that Iran was a leading country in the regional eradication of rinderpest and that Iran had facilities for rinderpest vaccine production. He highlighted the fact that Iran had appropriate facilities for storing rinderpest virus-containing material, and asked the OIE to include institutes in Iran in the Resolution for Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material. The Delegate of Iran mentioned that an official request had been sent to the OIE Headquarters.
- The Delegate of Iran also mentioned that theileriosis remains an important disease for the region and suggested that the Director General of the OIE should consider experts from this region when convening the *ad hoc* Group on this disease.
216. The Delegate of Pakistan commended the President of the Scientific Commission for the work done, especially on subjects such as AMR and wildlife. He appreciated the effort made by the Scientific Commission in evaluating Member Countries dossiers for their recognition of official disease status. He suggested that the OIE should allocate more resources to extend the work of the Scientific Commission on these topics.
217. The Delegate of Argentina acknowledged the work of the Scientific Commission during the past year, especially on the recognition of official disease status. He supported comments made by the Delegate of France on behalf of the EU Member States.
218. The Delegate of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, expressed appreciation for the leading role played by the OIE on AMR and the high profile allocated to work on AMR during the OIE/WHO/FAO tripartite meeting. He urged the OIE to maintain its leading role on AMR in animals and especially the intended discussion on reducing the use of antimicrobials through more effective and wider use of vaccines to combat diseases in animals.

219. Dr Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission, expressed his appreciation for the kind words from the Delegates about the work of the Commission and the *ad hoc* Groups. He took note of the comment from Iran and African countries on the expert composition of the *ad hoc* Groups on theileriosis and trypanosomosis to include experts from the Middle East, western Asia, and Africa.
220. The Director General confirmed that the selection of experts for the different *ad hoc* Groups is based first on expertise from OIE Reference Centres, the competence of experts, and balanced geographical representation. He also took note of the comment from Iran and supported the statement by Dr Brückner. He acknowledged that for diseases present only in some regions, experts would be mainly from the infected regions and therefore experts from Middle East, Africa, and western Asia would be considered when convening the experts for the *ad hoc* Group on theileriosis and trypanosomosis.
221. The Director General said that the official application letter from Iran to be included on the list of facilities approved for holding rinderpest virus had not been received by the OIE Headquarters and that once it was received it could be referred to the OIE/FAO Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee. The Director General reminded the Delegate of Iran that a detailed procedure for the designation of facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material was established by adoption of Resolution No. 23 at the 82nd General Session. He further explained that the model for applications is available on the OIE website, and that the procedure included an evaluation of the application by the OIE/FAO Joint Advisory Committee and onsite inspection visits prior to being proposed for adoption by the Assembly; these points were also presented in the current version of the Resolution covering the official designation of the facilities by the Assembly.
222. The Assembly adopted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

223. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease
of Member Countries

224. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

225. The Delegate of Costa Rica made an intervention about financial support for official status recognition. The President of the OIE referred his point for discussion later in the week when the relevant Resolution (No. 16) could be discussed.
226. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Endorsement of official control programmes for Contagious Bovine
Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries

227. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status
of Member Countries**

228. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries**

229. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 22 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries**

230. The Delegate of Australia noted that in Resolutions Nos 17 to 24, reference was made to Resolutions Nos. 15 and 16, which were not yet adopted. The President suggested adopting Resolutions Nos 17 to 24 subject to the subsequent adoption of Resolutions Nos 15 and 16 later in the week. This proposal was accepted.
231. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries**

232. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus
Containing Material**

233. The President reminded the Assembly that this resolution designating approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities was not closed and that other facilities could be considered for approval in the future after making an official application to the OIE and following recommendation of the FAO/OIE Joint Advisory Committee and the successful completion of an inspection by a team of experts convened by the FAO and the OIE.
234. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 25 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of
Antimicrobial Agents in Animals**

235. The Delegate of New Zealand supported the resolution, but requested clarification on recommendation No. 3 and the specific reference to WAHIS. As WAHIS data are collected in accordance with a *Code* chapter, he specifically enquired whether data on antimicrobial use would be collected in accordance with a *Code* chapter or by means of a survey.
236. The Delegate of United Kingdom supported the resolution in principle, but noted that consideration No. 8 used the word “continual” in reference to the PVS pathway. He suggested replacing this word with “supporting”.

237. The Delegate of Senegal requested correction of the second paragraph of the considerations in the French version of the resolution, by adding “anti” to the word “microbial”.
238. The Delegate of Panama suggested that once the resolution is adopted, the Pan American Health Organization should be contacted to determine which diseases should be first worked on in drafting a roadmap.
239. The Director General, in response to the question from New Zealand, explained that recommendation No. 3 mentioned that the data collection would take place “in parallel” with WAHIS, which would leave open the role of WAHIS in this field. He added that the system to collect data on antimicrobial use was under preparation by an *ad hoc* Group, which would make a proposal that would be assessed by the Scientific Commission. The Member Countries would be consulted through the established OIE procedures for commenting on the Reports of the Commission. He further mentioned that the WHO had adopted a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance as part of the 2015 WHO World Assembly that referred to OIE standards as a key element, including the availability of data on the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals. He then stressed that it is therefore the duty of the OIE to collect such data in support of the Global Action Plan.
240. The representative from FAO fully supported the resolution, which he considered very important not only for Veterinary Services but also for agriculture in general. He offered the FAO’s support to the OIE database, and also offered to make available all relevant FAO data. He further suggested that in Codex Alimentarius and the FAO should be mentioned in several specific Articles (4, 6, and 8), and also that UNIDO²⁵ should be mentioned in Article No. 10.
241. The Director General thanked the FAO for its support. He pointed out that Codex Alimentarius and FAO were already mentioned in Article No. 9, and proposed to also add them to two other Articles of the draft Resolution. He concluded that these suggestions will be added to the final version of the resolution. In reference to UNIDO, he noted that Article No. 10 referred to counterfeit products and control activities, which were not the remit of UNIDO.
242. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 26 with the proposed revisions to the text for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The final text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Conferences

243. **Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres: “*Challenges and expectations for the future*”**

Dr Vallat informed the Assembly that the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres: “*Challenges and expectations for the future*” had been successfully held in Incheon (Seoul), Korea (Rep. of) from 14 to 16 October 2014. Over 300 participants representing the OIE network of 296 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres attended this unique international forum, along with participants from the OIE Laboratory Twinning programme and from the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations as well as representatives from international organisations. The network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres is at the heart of the OIE’s scientific core of excellence and provides the basis for the standards published in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*. The Conference presented a unique opportunity to build the future, taking the network into a new era of scientific advice, evolving diagnostic technologies and global platforms.

²⁵ UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The Conference Recommendations were discussed and adopted by all participants at the end of the Conference. These Recommendations included commitments to:

- continue the twinning programme to allow additional Member Countries to host OIE Reference Centres;
- improve the timely sharing and communication of newly available disease control and diagnostic methods and information on existing, novel and emerging diseases to the OIE and to the Reference Centre network;
- develop the concept of establishing a virtual OIE biobank of the biological resources available at OIE Reference Centres;
- develop the design of an OIE platform for the collection and management of partial and complete genomic sequences (including genotype assignment) in animal disease diagnosis and notification in response to the rapid development of new technologies for the diagnosis and characterisation of pathogens, including high throughput genetic sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics (HTS-BCG).

The abstracts and PowerPoint presentations given during the Conference are all available on the OIE Website at: <http://www.oie.int/eng/refcentre2014/presentations.htm>

The final Recommendations are also available in the three official languages of the OIE at: http://www.oie.int/eng/refcentre2014/A_Final_Recommendations_Korea_2014.pdf

244. Dr Vallat presented the main conclusions from this global conference to the Assembly and referred Delegates to the full text available on the OIE website for future implementation.

≡ WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2015 ≡

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

245. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Dr Alejandro Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) had held its fourteenth meeting at the OIE Headquarters on 28 to 30 October 2014. The full report, including the work programme for 2015, was appended to the report of the February 2015 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to OIE Delegates and published on the OIE website.

246. Dr Thiermann summarised the key points raised at the APFSWG meeting.

The Working Group reviewed the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on ‘Infection with *Taenia solium* spp.’ and noted that the recommendations only cover control measures at the farm level. Given the ambitious goal of world-wide control of *T. solium*, it considered that a risk model involving the whole food chain would provide valuable insights to enable further development of integrated control measures at the farm level and throughout the food chain. The Working Group suggested that a similar framework to that used by the OIE and

Codex for the development of their respective standards for *Trichinella* could be applied if Codex undertakes new work on this pathogen. The Working Group recommended that OIE Delegates encourage their national Codex delegations to raise the issue of prioritisation of work on this important public health parasite by Codex.

The Working Group raised the issue of developing a horizontal chapter on biosecurity in animal production and was informed that the Code Commission had also identified the need to develop such a chapter and expects this will be undertaken in the future.

The Working Group considered that *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.15. 'Infection with *Trichinella* spp.' provided clear recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of a negligible risk compartment and for a flexible approach for the Veterinary Services in carrying out these recommendations. The Working Group wished to acknowledge the high level of collaboration between the OIE and Codex in the development of their respective standards for this pathogen. The Working Group suggested that once the draft Codex 'Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella* spp.' are adopted, the OIE should consider the need for any amendments to the OIE chapter where appropriate to ensure it is aligned with the Codex guidelines.

The Working Group welcomed the OIE's work on new chapters on *Salmonella* in pigs and *Salmonella* in cattle in parallel with Codex's new work on *Salmonella* in beef and pork. The Working Group reviewed the OIE draft chapter on 'Prevention and control of *Salmonella* in pig herds' and commended the *ad hoc* group for the level of detail included in it, noting that the on-farm recommendations are very complementary to the content of the draft guidelines being developed by Codex on 'Control of Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork meat'.

Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) has been recognised by the Working Group as an important area for international standard development and will require a coordinated approach by the OIE and Codex to ensure an integrated food chain approach to the control of this pathogen. Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had agreed that the OIE would undertake work on STEC once Codex starts new work on this pathogen.

The Working Group noted that, although there has been continuous strengthening of communication and cooperation between OIE and Codex, there is still room for improvement at the national level to promote dialogue between relevant national OIE and Codex delegates, and experts in the animal health, public health and trade sectors, to ensure better co-ordination in relevant standard-setting activities of the two organisations. Dr Thiermann endorsed the Working Group's comment regarding the importance of OIE Delegates coordinating their national position with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach with standards developed by the OIE and Codex.

247. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27 Animal Production Food Safety

248. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 27 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 27 at the end of this report.

249. **Animal Welfare Working Group**

The Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) held its thirteenth meeting at OIE Headquarters on 24-26 June 2014. The full report was appended to the report of the September 2014 meeting of the Code Commission, and the AWWG draft work programme for 2015 was distributed to Delegates as an annex to the report of the Code Commission's February 2015 meeting. Both documents have been published on the OIE website.

Key points discussed at the meeting included the OIE 82nd General Session Resolutions on animal welfare; animal production food safety; amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Code* adopted; and Member Country comments on the Draft Chapter 7.X on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems and existing chapters. In response to Member Country comments on the general lack of parameters to assess the outcome-based measurables in OIE animal welfare standards, the AWWG agreed there is insufficient data to define globally applicable parameters for the majority of the measurables listed. In the absence of such parameters, the AWWG agreed to explore the development of guiding principles to assist Member Countries in the application of the outcome-based measurables listed in OIE standards.

The AWWG discussed the divergent range of comments on Chapter 7.5, in particular on the method of electrical stunning of birds using a waterbath, and suggested the OIE convene an electronic working group of experts in this field to recommend appropriate revision of this standard.

The AWWG noted the absence of recommendations for humane killing of horses in Chapter 7.6, and agreed that the *ad hoc* Group on the welfare of working equids is well placed to address this issue.

The AWWG was pleased to see the continuing development of OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategies, particularly the development and implementation of the European Platform for Animal Welfare, but also noted the on-going challenges of developing and implementing regional animal welfare strategies in the different OIE regions. The AWWG discussed and agreed a plan to develop an OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy to link the regional animal welfare strategies with the 6th OIE Strategic Plan.

The AWWG noted progress on the development of guidelines for disaster management and risk reduction for OIE Member Countries and the development of a draft standard on the welfare of working equids.

The AWWG took note of OIE's Improved Animal Welfare Programme for training of trainers to improve implementation of OIE animal welfare standards on transport and slaughter in selected Member Countries and the activities and developments in the OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres.

The AWWG will hold its next meeting from 2 to 4 June 2015.

250. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Animal Welfare**

251. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

252. **Report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE Headquarters from 9 to 18 September 2014. The Commission had met again from 10 to 19 February 2015 to examine reports of *ad hoc* group meetings, as well as Member Country comments on the report of its September 2014 meeting, and to identify issues which should be presented at the General Session. The items and comments on texts that were not being submitted for adoption at this General Session and that could not be dealt with during the February 2015 meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2015, together with any new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2015 meeting and comments received at this General Session.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Code Commission (Drs E. Bonbon, J. Caetano and T. Tsutsui and Profs S. Hammami and S.C. MacDiarmid) for their expertise and dedication and commitment. With elections of the Specialist Commissions scheduled for this General Session he wished those seeking re-election good luck and those not seeking re-election all the best in their future endeavors. As Dr Thiermann himself would not be seeking re-election, he thanked Dr Derek Belton and all the staff of the OIE International Trade Department for assisting him in his tasks during his tenure as the President of the Commission.

Dr Thiermann expressed appreciation for the large number of comments that had been submitted in the past year by Member Countries and international organisations with whom the OIE has cooperative agreements. The Commission continues to strongly encourage all OIE Member Countries to actively participate in the standard-setting work of the OIE by providing comments on its proposals along with a supporting scientific rationale for proposed amendments.

Dr Thiermann noted that Member Countries have continued to comment on the lack of consistency between chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code*. He informed Delegates that maintaining consistency between the *Codes* is an ongoing process and that consequential changes for consistency would continue to be proposed as required for amendments adopted by the World Assembly. He reassured Delegates that the OIE would continue its efforts to improve the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann advised that the standards-development cycle of two years should only be shortened under exceptional circumstances with a full explanation of the reason for urgency. He also indicated that in those cases where a text is being presented for adoption without having gone through the full two-year cycle, he would inform the Assembly accordingly. Dr Thiermann thanked Delegates for respecting the OIE convention regarding the submission of comments, i.e. suggested modifications shown as double underline and ~~strike through~~ and the provision of a scientific justification for the proposal. He reminded Delegates that if comments were resubmitted without modification or new justification the Code Commission would not, as a rule, repeat previous opinions. Dr Thiermann encouraged Member Countries to refer to the explanations provided in previous reports in formulating their comments. Dr Thiermann also reminded Delegates that the Code Commission reports should be examined in conjunction with the reports from the Scientific Commission, which provide complementary information on the scientific justification of the drafts being presented.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' website as soon as possible after each meeting, while awaiting the official versions to be finalised and translated. Since September 2010, the report and all its annexes have been posted as Microsoft Word documents on the OIE

Delegates' website to facilitate the process of providing comments. Dr Thiermann also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, as annexes to the report, on the OIE public website. This was important in order to inform organisations and the general public of the transparent work being done by the OIE on international standards and to give them the opportunity to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Delegates' bags contained a memory stick with the complete report of the September 2014 and February 2015 meetings of the Code Commission, including annexes with Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports. The folder distributed at the General Session contained only the Introductory Part and Part A (containing all texts for adoption) of the February 2015 report of the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann advised Delegates that detailed comments should be submitted by late July each year for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting and by the beginning of January each year for the February meeting. He reminded Delegates that the Code Commission could not examine comments submitted in the period between the Commission's February meeting and the General Session. Delegates could however make verbal comments on the report of the February meeting during the discussion at the General Session. The Code Commission would address these comments at its September meeting.

253. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the Delegates that a modification to the text of the *Terrestrial Code* would be detailed in a resolution submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

Dr Thiermann once again commended the improved contribution of comments by Member Countries.

254. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption.

255. **User's Guide**

Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that in response to discussion at the 82nd General Session and Member Country comments, the Code Commission further modified text proposed for the User's guide on how the absence of OIE disease-specific recommendations should be interpreted.

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to Member Country comments seeking the addition of references to the WTO SPS Agreement, the Code Commission considered that except for Chapter 5.3., reference to WTO is not appropriate in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, which is independent of WTO.

Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that the Code Commission agreed with a Member Country's proposal to amend the text of the introduction to include 'use of animals' within the scope of OIE standards, as in the draft chapter on working equids.

Dr Thiermann noted that, in response to Member Countries' comments, the term 'stricter' was replaced with 'more stringent', and the term 'health risks' with 'infectious disease risks' throughout the User's Guide.

Finally, he added that several other points were amended throughout the chapter in response to Member Country comments to improve clarity, and correct grammar and punctuation.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised User's Guide to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the OIE for taking account of their written comments and noted that some additional comments had been sent to the OIE before the General Session for examination at the next meeting of the Commission in September. As had been noted yesterday in response to the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission, the EU is grateful for the work on harmonisation of horizontal texts. He encouraged the OIE to continue this work. At the same time, the Delegate regretted that certain discrepancies between the horizontal chapters of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* continue to exist, e.g. in the chapters on certification and on risk analysis for the use of antimicrobial agents. He said that this type of discrepancy created ambiguity that should be resolved to avoid disruption to trade. He invited the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals Commissions to work more closely together and improve their working practices to avoid such discrepancies.

Dr Thiermann noted that the question of discrepancies had also been raised by the Delegate in yesterday's session of the Aquatic Animals Commission and that the specific points raised by the Delegates had been addressed by Dr Berthe. He agreed that the two Commissions would continue to work closely with a view to harmonising the content of the *Codes* where appropriate.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

256. Glossary

In response to Member Countries' comments on the proposed revised definition of *stamping out policy*, Dr Thiermann explained that the glossary definition can only include provisions common to all disease-specific chapters, and that the glossary definition should be refined further as necessary within disease-specific chapters. At its February 2015 meeting, the Code Commission revised the text of this definition again to improve syntax. He reiterated that the Code Commission will continue to work on the development of recommendations for disease outbreak management.

Dr Thiermann also explained that the Code Commission had reviewed the use of the defined term *hazard identification*, and observed that the use of this term is inconsistent within the *Terrestrial Code*. Further, it concluded that the current definition of *hazard identification* adds little to the existing definition of *hazard* and could therefore be deleted from the glossary. Moreover several definitions relating to risk analysis were modified in order to give them broader application, while Chapter 2.1. will remain as strictly dealing with imports.

Dr Thiermann noted that, in response to Member Country comments, the Code Commission had revised and simplified the proposed definition of *safe commodity*, and agreed that criteria for the recognition of safe commodities in the disease-specific chapters (as provided in the *Aquatic Code*) should be developed for the *Terrestrial Code*. This new work item has been added to the Code Commission's work programme.

Dr Thiermann noted that, in response to a Member Country's comment, the Code Commission had moved the definition of *animal health management* in Chapters 7.9. and 7.10. to the glossary, according to standard *Terrestrial Code* protocol. Similarly the definitions of *feed* and *feed ingredient* will be moved to the glossary from Chapter 6.3. and draft Chapter 6.X. when draft Chapter 6.X. is adopted.

Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that the Code Commission had agreed with a Member Country's proposal to revise the definition of *disease* to include "infestation", and aligned the definition of *listed disease* to align it with this revised definition.

Dr Thiermann also noted that in response to a Member Country's suggestion, the Code Commission developed a definition of *biosecurity* for use throughout the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann also informed the Delegates that the Code Commission agreed with a Member Country's suggestion to delete the words "within the territory of an importing country" from the definition of *risk assessment* to allow more generic use of the term *risk assessment* throughout the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the OIE for considering previous comments and supported most of the revisions, notably on the definition of *safe commodity*. The Delegate stated that the expression 'in whole or in part' was not acceptable in the introductory phrase of the definition of *stamping-out policy*. He considered that the text should make it clear that all three components – killing, destruction of carcasses and disinfection of establishments – are required. He therefore recommended deletion of the words 'in whole or in part' from the first clause since the inclusion of those words could allow killing without destruction of carcasses and disinfection of establishments or other incomplete versions of stamping out.

In addition, the wording of the point related to killing of animals should be amended to remove any ambiguity, by referring only to those animals that need to be killed in any stamping-out policy. It could then be left to the individual disease specific chapters to specify further aspects of killing, depending on the epidemiology of the respective diseases. The Delegate also recommended that the text clearly state the scope of the killing. This would be achieved by deleting the words 'this includes all susceptible animals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, on infected establishments'.

The Delegate noted that further comments on the definition of *safe commodity* had been sent to the Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Chad, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, commented on two issues. First, in the Glossary definition of *safe commodity*, he sought clarification on the reference to listed diseases in the legal definition of safe commodities. Secondly, the Delegate advised that he supported the European intervention in relation to the stamping-out policy. He agreed that the phrase 'in whole or in part' should be deleted.

Dr Thiermann thanked the Delegates for their comments. In response to the Delegate of Chad, Dr Thiermann commented that there is reference to listed diseases because safe commodities are specifically defined with respect to the listed pathogen and the conditions in the disease-specific chapter. In response to the comment of the Delegate of Denmark, supported by the Delegate of Chad, Dr Thiermann agreed that the definition of *stamping-out policy* needs further work. He agreed to remove 'in whole or in part' in order to facilitate adoption of the text at this time.

A representative of the Delegation of Argentina noted that 'partial stamping out' is an important concept and asked that Code Commission to consider the development of a horizontal chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*, Section Four, General Recommendations on Disease Prevention and Control, on how to implement a stamping-out policy.

The revised text, amended as above, was adopted unanimously.

257. Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

Dr Thiermann explained to the Delegates that the Code Commission had referred a suggestion from Member Countries to reference animal welfare where appropriate throughout this chapter to the AWWG for further consideration. Subsequently, in response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission removed the words 'animal welfare' from the text in Article 3.2.14. since animal welfare is not applicable to this clause listing animal products and feedstuffs, and is included elsewhere in the same article. Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission accepted Member Countries' proposal to delete the words 'animal health' from the text in Article 3.2.6. and 'primarily' from Article 3.2.14. The Code Commission also amended Article 3.2.14. to provide consistent use of the term 'Institutes'.

Dr Thiermann proposed the revised text for adoption.

The revised Chapter 3.2. was adopted unanimously.

258. Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.7.)

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to Member Country comments, the Code Commission had deleted the word "listed" from the introductory text of Article 4.7.14., since not all the diseases and pathogenic agents referred to in this article are OIE listed diseases. The Code Commission also agreed with Member Countries' suggestion to align the names of diseases in this chapter to the nomenclature used in Chapter 1.2. Where reference is made to a pathogenic agent that is not a *listed disease* the agent name remains.

In addition, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had harmonised the use of the terms embryo, oocyte and ova throughout this chapter according to the recommendation of an expert. The expert advised that the *Terrestrial Code* should refer to embryos only, unless there is a particular reason not to, since there are no scientific data available on oocyte-pathogen interaction. Similar revision of other chapters will be made when they are next reviewed.

Finally, Dr Thiermann mentioned that a Member Country's suggestion to include new text addressing animal welfare requirements for embryo collection had been referred to the AWWG for further evaluation.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 4.7. was adopted unanimously.

259. Certification

a) General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

Dr Thiermann reported on amendments made in response to Member Countries' comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, recalled previous fruitful debates concerning clarification of the difference between guidelines, recommendations and standards. He re-iterated the point that he had raised during the session devoted to the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission. In relation to the second sentence of Article 5.1.2 (1) the Delegate opposed the proposed amendment as he considered that it would create confusion by referring to recommendations in the standards. He requested that the text from February 2015 be reinstated.

Dr Thiermann replied that, as discussed the previous day, the term ‘recommendations’ refers to elements within a standard. He said that when we refer to an entire *Terrestrial Code* chapter we call it a standard, and when we make reference to an element that is less than a chapter we call it a recommendation.

The Delegate of Australia sought clarification on the proposed new text, and specifically if the term ‘standards’ and ‘recommendations’ are being used in the same sense.

To help resolve any confusion, Dr Thiermann proposed that the Commission develop precise definitions of ‘standard’, ‘guideline’ and ‘recommendation’ for the glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The revised Chapter 5.1. was adopted unanimously.

b) Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.)

Dr Thiermann reported on minor modifications that had been made to the chapter in response to Member Country comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 5.2. was adopted unanimously.

260. Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry (Chapter 6.5.)

Dr Thiermann noted that, following Member Countries’ comments, the Code Commission had added new text to Article 6.5.5. on the protection of treated feed against recontamination.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had accepted Member Country comments to change the text in Article 6.5.8. to recognise the practice of re-using containers.

Dr Thiermann mentioned that in response to a Member Country’s suggestion to replace *antimicrobial agents* with ‘antibiotics’, the Code Commission had noted that the glossary defined term *antimicrobial agent* should be used throughout the *Code*.

Finally, he added that in response to Member Country comments, the Code Commission amended several points throughout the chapter to improve clarity, and correct grammar and punctuation.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised Chapter 6.5. was adopted unanimously.

Prior to the discussion on adoption of further chapters, the President confirmed that the required quorum for adoption of standards was met by the presence of 103 delegations in the room.

261. Animal welfare

a) Draft new chapter on animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems (Chapter 7.X.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission noted and supported a Member Country’s request for refinement of the structure of current and future animal welfare chapters to ensure shorter articles that are easier for users to search and refer to. He added that this issue has been addressed in the new draft chapter on the welfare of working equids, and will be extended to other chapters.

Dr Thiermann also explained that a number of requests of NGOs and Member Countries for additional criteria and examples of ‘measurables’ in the indicative lists for each indicator had not been accepted because the indicators do not have global applicability; they are expected to be used and adapted according to the different dairy cattle production systems. He added that the examples of parameters for each indicator are provided for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be an exhaustive list of examples for each indicator.

Finally, Dr Thiermann mentioned that several other points were amended throughout the chapter in response to Member Country comments and NGOs’ suggestions to improve clarity, and correct grammar and punctuation.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United States of America thanked the Commission for the work completed on this chapter. However, he considered that the inclusion of criteria for equipment design was restrictive and inconsistent with the OIE Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare. Article 7.1.2.8. encourages the use of animal-based or outcome-based criteria.

To illustrate his concerns, the Delegate noted the requirement to provide a space for each cow, so that all cows can lie down at the same time. A further example concerned the provisions on feeding colostrum to newborn dairy calves. He asked for the scientific rationale for the requirement in Article 7.X.5.2 (i) for new born calves and noted that there were inconsistencies in the provisions for dairy and beef cattle. He asked the Commission to amend the text in the draft chapter to ensure that the two chapters were consistent.

The Delegate of Lesotho, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, commented about inconsistent use of the expression ‘animal management practices’ instead of ‘stockmanship’ in this draft chapter. She also proposed that the expression ‘animal management practices’ should be defined in the glossary.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, indicated that the development of this new chapter is an important step forward. He supported the text but had a few comments which he asked the OIE to consider in the future. On behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, the Delegate supported the comments of the Delegate of Lesotho.

The Delegate suggested deleting the phrase “affect length of productive life” in Article 7.X.4.3. and replacing “stockmanship” by “animal management practices” throughout this chapter.

The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, considered that the phrase “culling affects the length of productive life” in Article 7.X.4.3 was unnecessary. He proposed modifying the text to read: “morbidity rates may be direct or indirect indicators of animal welfare”.

The Delegate of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Member States of the African Union, raised an objection in relation to Article 7.X.5.2 (2) regarding the phrase “Freeze branding is thought to be less painful than branding with a hot iron” as there was no scientific evidence for this statement and in fact hot branding is used in many parts of Africa. The Delegate proposed to rephrase the text as “freeze and hot branding should be avoided where alternative identification methods exist”.

Dr Thiermann thanked all the Delegates for their comments. In response to the comments from the United States of America, he affirmed the commitment of the Commission to not be prescriptive and to ensure consistency between the chapters for species-specific production systems to the extent possible. He proposed to refer the issue of the period of colostrum feeding to the *ad hoc* Group for review. He stated that for dairy cattle production systems, the practice of culling does affect the productive life of dairy cattle and that the phrase in Article 7.X.4.3. should be maintained. He agreed with the proposal of the Delegate of Lesotho that consistency in the use of the expression ‘animal management practices’ should be improved and modified in the relevant text at three points in the draft chapter.

In sub-point 2(m) (iii) of Article 7.X.5., Dr Thiermann proposed to modify the text as follows: “Freeze branding and branding with a hot iron should be avoided where alternative identification methods exist (e.g. electronic identification or ear-tags)”.

The new Chapter 7.X., amended as described, was adopted unanimously.

b) Animal welfare and broiler chicken systems (Chapter 7.10.)

Dr Thiermann reported on minor modifications that had been made to the chapter in response to comments of a Member Country and a NGO.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, commented on sub-point 2 (k) of Article 7.10.4., the choice of broiler strain. He stated that sub-point 2(f) of Article 7.X.5. is clearer, mainly due to the inclusion of two additional sentences and recommended that these be added, with suitable amendments, to Chapter 7.10. This would also improve consistency of the chapters. This modification will be proposed for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of China (People’s Republic of) supported the Commission’s proposed amendments to the chapter and noted that Chinese experts would submit comments to the Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

The revised Chapter 7.10. was adopted unanimously.

c) Slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission reviewed the recommendations from experts on the long-standing concerns of Member Countries regarding the current text on electrical stunning of poultry and revised and expanded the text in Article 7.5.7. accordingly.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, did not support the adoption of the proposed modification of the chapter. He was concerned that no scientific justification had been provided, and that there was a substantial risk of increasing the number of animals not properly stunned. Also, he considered that the text was not in line with scientific data, in particular the reports of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) on this topic in 2013 and 2014. The Delegate recommended that the text be revised and circulated to Member Countries with a view to adoption in 2016.

He also noted that written comments had been sent to the Code Commission for consideration.

The Delegate of Thailand thanked the Commission and the AWWG for having addressed the recommendations on the electrical stunning of poultry. He supported the adoption of the proposed text in general, but in relation to Article 7.5.7.3 (b) raised

doubts in light of the many models of waterbath stunners including those with DC or AC current of different waveforms. Therefore, specific recommendations on the type of current and waveform at different frequencies should be developed. He noted that the application of the parameters in the *Terrestrial Code* could result in poor meat quality and cardiac arrest, which affects the correct conducting of religious slaughter.

The Delegate of the United States of America congratulated the AWWG on addressing the longstanding issues related to poultry slaughter methods. He agreed that many parameters affect the efficiency of waterbath stunning methods; this is a broader issue than electrical current and frequencies. The Delegate noted that the proposed modification of Article 7.5.7.3 (b) still contains reference to minimum average electrical current and recommended that “minimum” be deleted as the approach should be focused on outcomes for the animal. He considered that the values in the tables were indicative because other parameters were also important.

He also proposed modification of the 5th paragraph in Article 7.5.7.3 (b), which reads: “Standard procedures should be implemented to ensure that small birds do not go on the line amongst bigger birds and that these small birds are stunned separately” to read instead “Standard procedures should be implemented to ensure that the birds being slaughtered are of a relatively similar size”. This would preserve the intent of the text, but would be more feasible to apply in practice.

The Delegate of Australia supported the new outcome-based language in this proposal and indicated that he would provide written comments and new diagrams on mechanical stunning to replace those in the chapter.

The Delegate of Comoros supported the EU comments, as he considered that these major changes regarding the waterbath stunning method should be submitted to Member Countries for more detailed consideration before their adoption. He therefore requested that the chapter not be submitted for adoption.

The Delegate of Singapore supported the comments of the Delegate of Thailand. As such, he agreed that recommendations on the minimum current should serve as guidance on stunning parameters to achieve an appropriate outcome.

Dr Thiermann stated that this chapter had been adopted several years ago. Its practical application has given rise to trade problems due to the need to meet the precise and prescriptive recommendations under various practical conditions. The experts that have been trying to address this problem had divergent opinions that reflect the practical or research orientation of each expert. Through a series of three electronic meetings, the recommended text had been proposed as a basis for more general and practical guidance.

In responding to Delegates, Dr Thiermann proposed to delete the word “minimum” and to delete the paragraph following the table.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, said that the discussion illustrated the complexity of the issue and the need for more work to be done. Outcome-based measures must be practical but must also be science-based and effective. He could not agree to delete the word “minimum” because the use of lower currents raised the risk of an inadequate stun.

The Delegate of the United States of America again requested that the word “minimum” be removed.

The Delegate of Bulgaria recommended that the decision be deferred.

Dr Thiermann expressed his desire to make progress on this issue, noting that many birds are in fact killed without stunning.

The Delegate of Jamaica asked for clarification regarding the scientific basis of the recommendations on the minimum electrical current. Dr Thiermann responded that this is the main problem – it is not sufficient to specify a minimum current, due to the many other factors that contribute to welfare outcomes.

The President of the OIE proposed that, as there was not a majority in favour of adopting the amended text, she would ask Dr Vallat to reconvene a modified *ad hoc* Group for a physical meeting to reconsider this matter.

The Director General agreed to this proposal.

Dr Thiermann confirmed that in the absence of consensus, the current *Terrestrial Code* would remain in effect. During the next 12 months, he encouraged Member Countries to progress this matter as quickly as possible. He noted that the representatives on the *ad hoc* Group should be selected to ensure a mix of experts with scientific credentials as well as those with expertise in the slaughter of poultry under practical conditions on-site. He encouraged Delegates to get personally involved as 4 years have proven that this cannot be resolved by experts alone.

262. Vector-borne diseases

a) Draft new chapter on infection with epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (Chapter 8.X.)

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that in August 2013 the *ad hoc* group on harmonisation of African horse sickness, bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease was convened with a view to harmonising these three vector-borne disease chapters. Subsequently the Code Commission had reviewed the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* group and the Scientific Commission. Dr Thiermann noted that, in response to Member Country comments, the *ad hoc* group, Scientific Commission and the Code Commission agreed to reinstate the concept of seasonally free zones in this Chapter.

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had inserted a new text to indicate that historical freedom as described in Chapter 1.4. would not apply to infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV). He also explained that the qualifier 'known to be competent vectors' to *Culicoides* had been deleted throughout the chapter since all species of *Culicoides* should be considered competent vectors until proven otherwise.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had added new texts in this chapter to specify requirements for the importation of animals and semen and for surveillance to align with relevant articles in the other vector-borne disease chapters.

Finally, Dr Thiermann reported that, following Member Country comments, the Code Commission had amended several other points throughout the chapter to improve clarity, correct grammar and punctuation, and align with standard *Terrestrial Code* format.

Dr Thiermann presented the new chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of South Africa commented in relation to the recommendations on seasonal freedom in the draft new chapter. He noted that this concept had been deleted in the chapter on AHS based on the rationale that it is not possible to confirm the complete absence of vector transmission. He was concerned about inconsistency in the approach to the three diseases.

Dr Thiermann responded to the Delegate of South Africa, stating that the concept of seasonal freedom had previously been adopted in the AHS and bluetongue chapters. After this, the OIE had, at the request of Member Countries, added AHS to the list of diseases for which official recognition of status could be granted. The *ad hoc* Group responsible for official recognition of AHS status considered that it would not be possible to recognise this specific status while retaining the concept of seasonal freedom and therefore the relevant article was deleted from the chapter on AHS. Dr Thiermann summarised that the reason for deleting the article on seasonal freedom for AHS was specific to that disease. In the case of bluetongue and EHD, there was no reason to delete this article and the provision was maintained in accordance with the advice of experts.

The new Chapter 8.X. was adopted unanimously.

b) Infection with bluetongue virus (Chapter 8.3.)

Dr Thiermann acknowledged the important contribution made to the harmonisation of the three vector-borne disease chapters by the *ad hoc* group, the Scientific Commission and OIE Headquarters experts.

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had revised this chapter taking Member Countries' comments into consideration and aligning with relevant articles in the other chapters on vector-borne diseases.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the OIE for having taken into account its previous comments. However, he could not support the adoption of the modified chapter as proposed. He noted that there were still discrepancies in the wording of some provisions and encouraged the Commission to continue reviewing the chapters on vector-borne diseases (including bluetongue virus [BTV], EHD, AHS and Rift Valley fever [RVF]) with a view to harmonising, as far as possible, the vocabulary used in these chapters.

The Delegate requested that the case definition be revised to exclude infections with non-pathogenic serotypes, as recent scientific knowledge seems to indicate that certain serotypes do not cause clinical signs in any susceptible species and therefore such serotypes do not meet the OIE disease listing criteria. These serotypes should be excluded from the case definition in Chapter 8.3.

Furthermore, the inclusion of naturally transmitted vaccine strains in the definition of BTV infection would constitute a major change for which no rationale or scientific justification has been provided. There may be limited natural live vaccine virus transmission causing neither clinical disease nor any other problems. This should not be treated the same as natural infection with wild virus strains that cause disease, as the consequences would be disproportionate, especially as regards country status and ensuing trade restrictions. Furthermore, this would not be consistent with the provision in sub-point 3, which excludes antibodies that are a consequence of vaccination from the case definition.

The Delegate recommended that “including naturally transmitted vaccine strains” be deleted or that the word “including” be replaced by the word “excluding”, to make it clear that vaccine strains are excluded from the case definition.

The Delegate of Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, supported the intervention of the Delegate of Spain. He also noted that the provision in question only applied to bluetongue and not to other vector-borne diseases and that this was not consistent. He supported the text amendment proposed by the Delegate of Spain.

Dr Thiermann responded to the comments of the Delegates by explaining that the issue of vaccine strains had been raised by the *ad hoc* Group, the report of which had been attached to the last report of the Scientific Commission. He proposed to delete “including naturally transmitted vaccine strains” from Article 8.3.1 (1) pending further consideration of the scientific basis for recommendations that may be appropriate in this area.

The revised Chapter 8.3., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

263. Draft new chapter on infection with *Taenia solium* (Chapter 15.X.)

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had addressed Member Country comments on this new chapter at its February 2015 meeting.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had inserted new text in Article 15.X.5. in response to Member Country comments to allow for recognition of countries, zones or compartments that are demonstrably free from *T. solium* in the recommendations on the importation of meat and meat products of pigs.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had corrected the temperature for heat inactivation in Article 15.X.6. to 80°C based on the WHO/FAO/OIE Guidelines for the surveillance, prevention and control of taeniosis/cysticercosis.

Dr Thiermann presented the new chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of the United States of America thanked the Commission for drafting this new chapter and supported its adoption. However, he recommended reconsideration of two points, namely the proposal to establish a cut-off point of 20 cysticerci in Article 15.X.3 (2) and the proposed change to the inactivation parameters in Article 15.X.6. He stated that the United States of America would submit additional comments for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Australia asked why this chapter is described as an infection rather than an infestation.

The Delelegate of Uruguay considered that the chapter should refer to infestation rather than infection.

The Delegate of Jamaica supported the intervention of the Delegate of Uruguay and considered that the definition of infestation in the *Terrestrial Code* glossary should be reviewed.

The Delegate of Congo (Rep. of the), speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, recommended the deletion of the word “sufficient” before “evidence” and recommended the addition of new text in Article 15.X.3.2 (iv).

The Delegate of the Netherlands, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the new chapter and agreed with the recommendations of the Delegate of Congo (Rep. of the) with respect to Article 15.X.3.2 (iv).

In response to the comments of the Delegate of the Congo (Rep. of) and the Delegate of the Netherlands, Dr Thiermann proposed to delete “sufficient” before “evidence”. In response to the Delegate of the United States of America, Dr Thiermann indicated that the modification of the processing parameters proposed in Article 15.X.6. was based on the WHO/FAO/OIE Guidelines for the surveillance, prevention and control of taeniosis/cysticercosis. In relation to the cut-off point for the numbers of cysticerci, Dr Thiermann advised that this point could be reviewed in the light of Member Countries’ experience once the draft chapter had been adopted.

The Delegate of Jamaica indicated that external lesions such as bacterial dermatoses or mycoses could not be qualified as infestation on the pretext that they were external. The concept of microscopic pathogen could be applied in this case.

The Director General drew attention to the definition of infestation in the *Terrestrial Code* glossary and recommended that this be acknowledged unless any changes in the definition are proposed.

The new Chapter 15.X., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

264. **Foot and mouth disease**

a) Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.7.)

Dr Thiermann explained that a significant number of Member Country comments had been received since beginning the revision of this chapter in 2011, and that comments received after the circulation of the last version had been addressed by the Code Commission in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* group on FMD. The Code Commission commended Member Countries for their constructive comments, and acknowledged the excellent preparatory work on texts done by experts and OIE staff.

Dr Thiermann informed the Delegates that, in response to Member Countries’ proposal to significantly modify the concept of containment zone by the addition of a protection zone while allowing outbreaks to continue to occur in the containment zone, the Code Commission considered that such a significant change should be dealt with in Chapter 4.3. before it is considered in the disease-specific chapters. He added that the introduction of such a fundamental change at this late stage in the process of revision could also significantly delay the adoption of the revised chapter.

Dr Thiermann noted that a Member Country had requested additional definitions of “emergency vaccination” and “systematic vaccination”. However, the Commission considered that this request would be addressed in the future as part of a broader study on vaccination, which could lead to the development of a specific chapter on vaccination. Dr Thiermann indicated that, given the concern expressed by Member Countries that have recently experienced outbreaks, the Code Commission had withdrawn the proposal to amend the article on ‘recovery of free status after emergency vaccination without subsequent slaughter of vaccinated animals’, by reducing the six-month waiting period to 3 months. The Code Commission had recommended that this proposal be further examined by experts. Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission agreed with the Scientific Commission’s proposal to add text requiring the application of recovery of the FMD free status of a containment zone within 12 months of its approval and to indicate that if Member Countries do not apply for recovery of status within 24 months of suspension, the provisions of Articles 8.7.2., 8.7.3. or 8.7.4. will apply.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the Code Commission had not accepted Member Countries' suggestion to include the possibility of FMD vaccination in compartments in Article 8.7.4 since FMD vaccination within a compartment should not be considered a biosecurity measure.

Finally, Dr Thiermann reported that, following Member Country comments, the Code Commission had removed unnecessary words and reworded multiple points through multiple articles to improve syntax, clarity, and consistency of presentation with established *Terrestrial Code* text, structure and format, and correct punctuation.

Dr Thiermann presented the new chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of China (People's Republic of) thanked the Commission for the work it has completed on this chapter, notably the proposal to do furtherwork on a horizontal chapter on vaccination. He indicated that Chinese experts were available to participate in this new *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, stated that this is a very important chapter for Africa. She congratulated the Commissions and the *ad hoc* Group on their work but noted that after adoption there would be a need to allow time for practical implementation. With time, the following issues should be considered. First, consideration of the establishment of compartments with vaccination. Many countries will have difficulty in establishing country or zone freedom. Compartmentalisation provides for the possibility of trade.

Comments from the African Region on Articles 8.7.12. and 8.7.22. have been taken on board, for the establishment of quarantine stations. However, there should be more detail on the needs for surveillance within the 10 km zone around a quarantine station, to ensure there is no circulating virus.

The Delegate of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the OIE and supported the adoption of the revised chapter. It was indicated that there was an inconsistency between paragraph 1 (c) of Article 8.7.7. on recovery of free status with the corresponding box in figure 1. Furthermore, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, Hungary supported the recommendations from the African Region for future revision of the chapter.

The Delegate of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads countries, acknowledged the excellent achievements of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Commissions involved in this work. However, she noted two critical gaps that should be addressed. First, she recommended that the *ad hoc* Group consider the Quads' proposal to allow for the establishment of a containment zone, in circumstances where the outbreak can be limited to a defined zone or area. She further encouraged the Commission to consider the merits of the vaccination-to-live approach with a period of 3 months to regain FMD status for countries that practise a vaccination-to-live policy. She indicated that the Quads countries would provide scientific input to help to address these issues that would dramatically reduce potential animal welfare issues and unnecessary slaughter practices followed to reopen markets.

A representative of the Delegation of Japan appreciated the efforts of all experts involved in this important chapter and supported the adoption of the amended chapter present. He drew the attention of the Commission to some necessary editorial improvements and indicated that he would provide his proposal for consideration by the Commission.

A representative of the Delegation of Brazil acknowledged the extensive revision that had been undertaken and agreed with the Delegate of Canada that work on this important chapter should continue with particular reference to Article 8.7.7.3. on the recovery of status in a free country or zone where vaccination is practised. He doubted that the status could be recovered without the use of emergency vaccination. It was further pointed out that it would be preferable to refer to transmission rather than circulation in the Spanish version of the text.

Dr Thiermann thanked all Delegates for their active participation in the revision of the chapter and provided some points of clarification. He stated that there is a recognised need to work on other biosecurity measures in addition to the 10 km referred to by the Delegate of Zimbabwe. On compartments, Dr Thiermann encouraged Delegates to obtain the latest copy of the OIE *Bulletin* in order to review the article on compartmentalisation²⁶.

In response to the comment from the Delegate of Canada, Dr Thiermann stated that the Quads countries should provide a written proposal as the containment zone is already provided for in the chapter but does not allow for the continued detection of cases.

On vaccination-to-live, Dr Thiermann stated that there was a need for further guidance from the Scientific Commission. Rather than setting targets (3, 4 or 6 months for status recovery) he foresaw a need to provide guidance on the measures that should be implemented.

With respect to the comments from Brazil, he said that the rapid regaining of free status is an important aspect and must be kept in the chapter.

In response to the Delegate of Hungary, Dr Thiermann noted that for consistency with Article 8.7.7.1 (c) it would be necessary to delete the reference to 3 months and the word “or” in Figure 1 in the box referring to Article 8.7.7.1 (c).

The revised Chapter 8.7, amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

b) Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE (Chapter 1.6.)

Dr Thiermann reported that, based on the comments of Member Countries and the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission had made several amendments throughout Articles 1.6.6. and 1.6.11. to improve clarity, grammar and consistency of presentation with established *Terrestrial Code* text, structure and format.

Dr Thiermann presented the modified portion of Chapter 1.6., for adoption.

The revised Chapter 1.6. was adopted unanimously.

265. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.13.)

Dr Thiermann reported on minor modifications that had been made to the chapter in response to Member Country comments.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

²⁶ *Bulletin*, No. 2015-1, pp. 99-102

The Delegate of Latvia, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, generally supported adoption of the revised chapter and noted that some additional comments had been sent to the Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

The revised Chapter 8.13. was adopted unanimously.

266. Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* (Chapter 8.4.)

Dr Thiermann reported that since the adoption of the revised chapter at the General Session in May 2014, the Code Commission had continued to consider comments from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann explained to Delegates that, in response to a Member Country's concern on the implications of the single chapter covering the recognition of country health status in relation to three species, the articles in this chapter identify the requirements for freedom with respect to host population, rather than as previously to *Brucella* species.

Dr Thiermann noted that in response to a Member Country's comment the Code Commission clarified that historical freedom can be claimed in an animal species when there is no history of infection of that animal species with any of the three listed species of *Brucella*.

Finally, Dr Thiermann mentioned that the Code Commission had amended several points throughout the chapter to align with standard *Terrestrial Code* format.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The Delegate of Australia commented regarding the development of a single chapter covering all *Brucella* spp. He noted that each *Brucella* sp. affects different hosts. Australia still has concerns that the approach may cause problems in terms of control and management programmes and the declaration of disease freedom. To address this, the Delegate recommended that either the OIE revert to multiple chapters or that there be reference to the *Brucella* spp. of epidemiological importance on a species basis. Australia will submit comments for consideration by the Commission at its September meeting.

Dr Thiermann recounted the history behind the approach and the decisions taken at previous General Sessions. It was further noted that *B. abortus*, *B. suis* and *B. melitensis* represented the most important species. Diagnostic testing does not differentiate between these species and all are zoonotic pathogens. He said that he was in favour of mentioning the species in some Articles.

The revised Chapter 8.4. was adopted unanimously.

267. Infection with avian influenza viruses (Chapter 10.4.)

Dr Thiermann reported that, based on Member Country comments, the Code Commission had made a minor modification to Article 10.4.29. to align with the similar text in Article 10.9.24. Infection with Newcastle disease virus.

Dr Thiermann presented the amended chapter for adoption.

The revised Chapter 8.10. was adopted unanimously.

268. High health status horse subpopulation (Chapter 4.16.)

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that this chapter was developed as an introductory document setting out general principles, that is without details, to be adopted by the Assembly, similar to the approach adopted for animal welfare. He added that the Code Commission noted that several Member Countries have concerns over this new concept, due to the absence of detailed text on the biosecurity plan and the OIE guidelines, which are both currently under development. The biosecurity plan is being developed by the private sector partners (FEI and IFHA). He reiterated that whilst it is possible that some of the details could be incorporated in the *Terrestrial Code* in the future, for the moment the *Code* chapter is intended to address the key principles and concepts only.

Dr Thiermann also drew to the attention of Delegates the model Veterinary Certificate included as Annex XXIX of the February 2015 Code Commission report, which was also part of the September 2014 report of the Scientific Commission. Member Countries are strongly encouraged to review the model certificate together with an explanatory document which describes the underlying principles and mechanisms that led to the wording of the model certificate attached as Annex XXXIII in the same report, and to provide comments.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had not accepted a Member Country's suggestion to include region in the opening paragraph of Article 4.16.1. because High health High Performance (HHP) horses are imported from and into countries rather than regions. However, in response to Member Country comments the Code Commission amended the chapter to consistently refer to the horse's 'country of usual residence' rather than 'country of origin'.

Finally, Dr Thiermann mentioned that the Code Commission noted that the limitation of certification to periods 'of not more than 90 days' is proposed by both Commissions because the movement of horses for this specific purpose has to be of short duration.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

A representative of the Delegation of Japan reminded the Commission of the comments that he had submitted to the February 2015 meeting, particularly seeking clarification on the status of the OIE Biosecurity Guidelines. He urged the OIE to circulate these guidelines to Member Countries for comment at the earliest opportunity. He indicated that Japan would submit technical comments when the detailed implementation documents become available.

The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, thanked the Commission for its work on this chapter and made a recommendation for a modification to the text. Specifically he noted the deletion of the word "region", in sub-point 3 (d) in Article 4.16.2. and recommended that the Commission make the same deletion in point 1 of Article 4.16.2.

Dr Thiermann agreed to the proposal of the Delegate of Japan and indicated that the Guidelines and the Biosecurity Plan would be circulated as soon as possible. He also agreed that the Commission would look into the point raised by the Delegate of Ireland.

The revised Chapter 4.16. was adopted unanimously.

269. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Chapter 11.4.)

Dr Thiermann acknowledged at the outset that Member Countries had not had the opportunity to comment on the proposed text revisions in line with the preferred standard-setting procedures. It was reported that the Code Commission had reviewed the

amendments to this chapter on the incorporation of reference to ‘atypical BSE’ that had been proposed by the *ad hoc* group on bovine spongiform encephalopathy and subsequently endorsed by the Scientific Commission at its meeting in February.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had determined that, in the absence of discussions with Member Countries, only those changes proposed in relation to disease categorisation should be addressed urgently. Therefore, the Code Commission is only presenting amendments which would prevent a country’s categorisation status being adversely affected by the reporting of an ‘atypical’ BSE case. He also noted that the exposure assessment detailed in Article 11.4.2. should be conducted regardless of the outcome of the entry assessment because of the possibility of recycling ‘atypical’ BSE.

Dr Thiermann indicated that, as stated in the February 2015 report, other amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* group would be considered by the Code Commission at its September 2015 meeting.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads countries, expressed concern at the proposal of amendments without providing the opportunity for consideration and comment by Member Countries. He recognised the need to distinguish between classical and atypical BSE and appreciated that the work completed had enabled this distinction. He noted that Article 11.4.2. requires that an exposure assessment be conducted only if the entry assessment was not negative. However, the proposed amendment would oblige all countries to do an exposure assessment. He added that there is no case definition of atypical or classical BSE in either the *Terrestrial Code* or the *Terrestrial Manual*. He concluded that the occurrence of atypical BSE has been recognised for several years and there is no justification to not follow the normal procedures.

The Delegate of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, saw a need to recognise that the current chapter only applies to classical BSE and supported the adoption of the amended text.

The Delegate of Australia reiterated the concerns raised by New Zealand on behalf of the Quads countries. He considered that Member Countries should be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the chapter, particularly as there were some areas of uncertainty, such as the implications of finding atypical BSE in a country of negligible risk status. Until definitive case definitions and other clarifications had been developed, the Delegate considered that the amendments should not be adopted.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, supported the comments of the Delegate of Algeria and considered that the revision should be finalised as soon as possible. Occurrence of atypical BSE should not affect the status of Member Countries. He strongly supported the adoption of the changes as an urgent matter and noted that the Commission would examine other issues at its next meeting. The Delegate stated that some specific comments had been sent to the Commission, including on the subject of the feed ban and a restrictive list of commodities that should not be traded. Finally, he recommended that the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on BSE also be updated.

The Delegate of Chile recognised the need to differentiate between atypical and classical BSE. However, as many issues remain to be resolved, including surveillance methods and risk materials, he considered that adoption should be postponed.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, reinforced the comments made by the Delegate of Spain. He considered that this was in fact an urgent matter with respect to the BSE status of OIE Member Countries, but also recognised the need to continue working on the chapter, especially in relation to the feed ban and specified risk materials.

A representative of the Argentine Delegation recommended that the chapter could be adopted once it contains a case definition of classical and atypical BSE, and undertook to submit draft definitions to the Code Commission or the Scientific Commission, as appropriate. He also recommended that the *Terrestrial Manual* be updated with regard to diagnosis and surveillance of atypical BSE. Argentina considered that the Member Countries needed more time to consider this matter. Finally, the representative expressed his Delegation's thanks to Dr Thiermann for his management of the Code Commission, which had successfully dealt with growing and complex needs and for his openmindedness and continual support for the objectives of the OIE.

The Delegate of Uruguay endorsed the comments of Argentina with respect to the achievements of Dr Thiermann. Concerning the chapter, he agreed with the Quads countries, Chile and Argentina. Recognising the importance of the subject, he did not see a need for a fast track approach to the revision of the chapter. He recognised several outstanding matters, such as the necessary case definitions, that needed to be addressed before modifying the chapter. He proposed that adoption be postponed until next year.

The Delegate of Canada commented on the need for a clear process. She said that the chapter had not been received in sufficient time to consult stakeholders and this is an important chapter for trade purposes. She therefore recommended that adoption be considered next year, so as to harmonise the *Terrestrial Manual* and the *Terrestrial Code* chapters.

The Delegate of Iran recommended that until there is a case definition for classical and atypical BSE, they are the same and there is no need for amendments to be passed today.

The Delegate of Venezuela supported other Delegates regarding the need to establish the differences between classical and atypical BSE and agreed that adoption of the revised chapter should be postponed.

The Delegate of Colombia proposed to postpone the process of adoption and expressed thanks to Dr Thiermann for his great work.

A representative of the Delegation of Japan supported the comments of the Delegate of Canada and indicated that Japan might provide comments on this chapter including the amendments proposed for adoption this time after consultation with his domestic stakeholders, since he had not been given opportunity to do so.

Dr Thiermann noted the general agreement on the need for more work on atypical BSE, including the case definition, surveillance, as well as differential diagnostic methods in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

In response to Dr Thiermann's comments, the Delegate of the United States of America noted that, as there is no evidence that atypical BSE is having a negative effect on trade, the established procedure should be followed.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom indicated that the key issue was to know whether the negligible risk status of a Member Country would be affected by findings of atypical BSE and sought advice as to the policy of the Scientific Commission on new applications for status.

The President of the OIE commented that in her experience atypical BSE could have trade implications.

The Delegate of Australia urged the OIE to update the *Terrestrial Manual* in parallel with the revision of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of the United States of America asked the President of the Scientific Commission to clarify the impact of a diagnosis of a case of atypical BSE pending the adoption of amendments to the chapter.

Dr Brückner noted that the OIE is obliged to respect the provisions in the current chapter, which does not differentiate between atypical and classical BSE. The finding of atypical BSE reflects effective surveillance systems. In his estimation this is a critical and urgent matter.

The Delegate of Iran reiterated his position that atypical and classical BSE should be treated the same.

The Delegate of New Zealand supported the suggestion of the Delegate of the United States of America. He further proposed that perhaps a compromise could be found in adjustment to the proposed resolution to be presented during the session on the adoption of the list of Member Countries with recognised BSE status.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported this proposal, noting that there was a need for clear definitions and a scientifically robust chapter, which should be adopted next year. The Delegate asked for clarification regarding the number of Delegates needed to pass a vote on a revised text.

The Director General clarified that a total of 91 Member Countries present is needed to establish a quorum and that a two-thirds majority of votes is required for adoption of a proposal.

The President of the OIE announced that there were 101 Delegates in the room but given the sharp regional divergence that was evident, it was not in the best interest to proceed with a vote.

Dr Thiermann indicated that as a science-based standard-setting organisation, Delegates should take into account the importance of the integrity and credibility of the Organisation and the processes that should be respected. Impact on trade was not the issue as the *Terrestrial Code* clearly provides recommendations for safe trade whether from a BSE Negligible Risk country or a BSE Controlled Risk country. Consequently, trade impacts are the result of Member Countries not implementing or respecting the texts adopted.

He further clarified that the issue under consideration related only to official disease status recognition. Therefore, noting that some countries have been penalised and some others could be penalised if the current chapter were maintained without amendment and noting that all Delegates are seeking to reach agreement on this matter, Dr Thiermann proposed that the sole amendment would be to modify the last sentence of the first paragraph of Article 11.4.1. by adding a new sentence “BSE excludes atypical BSE, a condition believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate”.

The Delegates of the United States of America, Uruguay and Spain and a representative of the Brazilian Delegation expressed support for Dr Thiermann’s proposal. A representative of the Argentine Delegation asked Dr Thiermann if this modification would apply throughout the chapter. In explanation, Dr Thiermann advised that the existing chapter would only be modified in this one respect.

The Delegate of South Africa supported the proposed modification provided that all other following articles would be modified accordingly. It was further clarified that the alternative wording was to the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter and not the revised version that had been presented.

Dr Vallat then suggested that Dr Thiermann formulate an alternative amendment to the chapter as follows: “For the purpose of official BSE risk status recognition, BSE excludes ‘atypical BSE’ as a condition believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate”.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the latter of the two options.

The Delegate of China (People’s Republic of) expressed concern about the proposed amendment.

The Director General further explained the options that had been proposed.

Dr Brückner supported the proposed amendment and offered to provide Member Countries (for a second time) with a summary of the report of the *ad hoc* Group recommendations in relation to classical and atypical BSE as part of the next meeting of the Scientific Commission.

The Delegate of Iran commented that this is opening the way to categorising diseases in a new way.

The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) encouraged Delegates to accept Dr Thiermann’s second proposal.

The Delegate of Indonesia proposed to postpone adoption of any amendments.

The Delegate of Australia accepted the second option as it would provide a basis for reporting cases while avoiding unintended consequences on the BSE status of a country.

The Delegate of Colombia supported the Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)

The Delegates of Malaysia and of Pakistan commented that it would be difficult to continue importing cattle from countries in the negligible risk category that have had cases of atypical BSE if the chapter were not modified. Dr Thiermann responded that it is the prerogative of each importing country to decide its import policies and that these should be based on science and an import risk analysis.

A representative of the Argentine Delegation and the Delegate of Canada supported the second option proposed by Dr Thiermann providing that work on the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* would be considered as a priority and for adoption in 2016.

For the purpose of voting, the President of the OIE asked Dr Thiermann to read the proposed amendment to the chapter (i.e. the second option).

The final amendment of the text proposed by Dr Thiermann was adopted unanimously.

270. **Antimicrobial resistance**

a) Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes (Chapter 6.7.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had reviewed draft amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* group on antimicrobial resistance and made further amendments to the chapter to align it with standard *Terrestrial Code* format.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Italy, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, generally supported the adoption of the revised text but did not agree to the proposed modification of Article 6.7.3.9. (c), changing the minimum inhibitory concentration from milligrams to microgrammes. Dr Thiermann proposed to modify the text to read milligrams per litre (micrograms per millilitre).

The revised Chapter 6.7. was adopted unanimously.

b) Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals (Chapter 6.10.)

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that this chapter had been extensively reviewed by the *ad hoc* group on antimicrobial resistance and further revised several times by the Code Commission taking account of comments from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann noted that, following Member Country comments, the *ad hoc* group, the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission agreed to amend the language of the opening paragraph of Article 6.10.1. to harmonise it with the adopted text of Codex Alimentarius Guidelines GL 77.

Dr Thiermann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, commended the OIE for its efforts to incorporate language from existing standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. However she recommended the following amendment: in the first paragraph of Article 6.10.1.: “problems relating to antimicrobial resistance are inherently related to antimicrobial agent use in any environment, including human, animal and other usages”. She noted that this wording seemed to be more balanced. Speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU and with reference to the discussion on the Aquatic Animals Commission the previous day, the Delegate urged both Commissions to continue working to improve the consistency of the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes*.

The revised Chapter 6.10., amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

271. Update of the Code Commission work programme

Dr Thiermann highlighted the future work programme of the Code Commission and invited Member Countries to provide comments.

Dr Thiermann noted that additional new or revised texts addressing the work on several other chapters had been provided for Member Countries’ comment in Part B of the February 2015 meeting report. He gratefully acknowledged the active participation of Member Countries in the OIE standard-setting process and encouraged all Delegates to increase their participation through provision of written comments to the OIE.

Dr Thiermann acknowledged the importance of continuing close collaboration between the Code Commission and the Specialist Commissions in developing and updating the *Terrestrial Code*. He highlighted that the Scientific Commission had established several *ad hoc* groups to address important developments in relation to tuberculosis (TB), antimicrobial resistance, *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), and high health status horse subpopulations, and advised that the Code Commission would participate in these *ad hoc* group meetings as appropriate.

In addition, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had undertaken to update the chapters on theileriosis, avian mycoplasmosis and lumpy skin disease. He also underlined the important ongoing work on animal welfare and *Salmonella* in cattle and pigs.

Dr Thiermann concluded by indicating that the Code Commission expects to update disease-specific chapters to align with anticipated revisions to the *Terrestrial Manual* from the Biologics Standards Commission once they have been adopted by the Assembly.

272. In closing his presentation, Dr Thiermann encouraged the Delegates to give serious consideration to the election of the new Commissions. In order to be successful it is imperative that Members be impartial as they need to work in the best interests of all Member Countries and to reflect the diverse needs of their Regions. He highlighted the time commitment necessary to achieve the annual work programme and the need to work horizontally with the other Commissions. In his estimation, the OIE has an impressive legacy and is the foremost standard-setting organisation in the field of animal health and he challenged the Delegates to keep it that way.
273. The Delegate of the United States of America commended Dr Thiermann for his excellent service and his commitment to finding solutions and bringing people together as he had so capably done for the past 15 years as President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.
274. The entire World Assembly provided a standing ovation in gratitude.
275. The Delegate of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the 54 OIE Member Countries of Africa, thanked Dr Brückner for chairing the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and profusely thanked Dr Thiermann for his efforts, which have had a lasting and positive impact on the African Member Countries.
276. A representative of the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of the 180 Member Countries of all Regions of the OIE, warmly thanked Dr Thiermann for his remarkable contributions, his objective managing of difficult issues and his tireless efforts.
277. The Delegate of Latvia thanked Dr Thiermann on behalf of the 53 OIE Member Countries of Europe, for his 15 years of leadership.
278. The Delegate of Pakistan gratefully acknowledged Dr Thiermann's hard work, the history that he had helped to write and for the improved future that he had contributed tirelessly to achieving on behalf of all countries.
279. The Delegate of New Zealand added his sincere personal thanks to Dr Thiermann and to the United States of America for its long-term support of Dr Thiermann in his position at the OIE Headquarters.
280. The President of the OIE expressed her gratitude for the enormous contribution made by Dr Thiermann, both in terms of his scientific knowledge and his negotiating skills. She also acknowledged the mentoring of other members of the Commission, which would hopefully benefit the OIE in the future.
281. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

**Presentations by World Organisations
having an Agreement with the OIE (contd)**

282. The President informed the Assembly that the international organisations which were unable to make their presentations during the second plenary session were invited to address the Assembly during this plenary session.

Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)

283. Ms Spring Gombe, Policy Advisor at the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) thanked the President of the OIE for the opportunity to make a presentation at the World Assembly of national Delegates of the OIE.

284. She provided an illustration of the per capita human death rates worldwide from canine rabies and highlighted the fact that Africa and Asia are the regions in which rabies is predominately endemic. She subsequently provided a further illustration, which demonstrated the correlation between rabies endemic countries and low gross domestic product (GDP).
285. Ms Gombe explained that rabies is a fatal disease, which is, moreover, completely preventable. She added that rabies is most prevalent in rural communities, which have been negatively impacted by poverty, their remote location, poor infrastructure and negligible health care. In addition to these conditions, she iterated that dogs are less economically vital than other animals and that public health impact is often disregarded. Additionally, Ms Gombe highlighted the challenges regarding the veterinary neglect of free roaming dogs, underreporting due to the absence of laboratory diagnoses and frequent cases of misdiagnosis.
286. She emphasised that legislation, political support and funding from both the human and animal health sector are required in order to enhance surveillance and laboratory diagnostics; post-exposure prophylaxis; dog bite reporting and wound treatment; municipality and community involvement; dog population control; dog vaccination; and public awareness.
287. Ms Gombe next provided a brief overview of the important events and initiatives in which GARC has been and continues to be involved, such as World Rabies Day, Partners for Rabies Prevention, the 'Rabies Blueprint' website, alleviating the burden of rabies and addressing human exposure to rabies, with strong support from non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, such as the OIE, and various other bodies.
288. Ms Gombe revealed that the number of registered events in 2014 had increased by 45% compared to 2013. Country involvement in World Rabies Day had similarly increased in 2014 as a result of the global, regional, national and local initiatives that had been conducted, in partnership with multiple key actors, including the OIE. The importance of World Rabies Day had furthermore been iterated in a statement issued by the Tripartite organisations (WHO, OIE and FAO), which stated that mass dog vaccination and public awareness are key to breaking the cycle of rabies transmission at the source. Ms Gombe announced that the successful eradication of dog rabies would require the vaccination of at least 70% of dogs in risk areas.
289. Ms Gombe subsequently spoke of the work conducted on estimating the global burden of endemic canine rabies and the increasing importance that the global media are attributing to this subject.
290. With regard to the challenges, a 'circle of neglect' was depicted by Ms Gombe, in which poor diagnosis and surveillance, poor reporting and awareness, and poor submission rates of reports were deeply affecting the management of rabies.
291. As an example of rabies awareness, Ms Gombe referred to the Rabies Blueprint website, which provides access to guidelines for rabies control and prevention, in addition to invaluable information on rabies control.
292. Ms Gombe informed the Assembly that dog rabies could be eliminated by 2030 in the majority of countries, and presented a detailed illustration of the ways in which rabies elimination could be successfully effected, with particular emphasis on advocacy activities and communication campaigns.
293. She referred to the South-East Asia Rabies Elimination Strategy (dog rabies elimination strategy), which is a joint initiative of the ASEAN Member States, led by Vietnam, and the OIE, with administrative support from the ASEAN Secretariat and technical assistance from the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia.

294. She also mentioned a parallel initiative targeting rabies control in the Middle East and Eastern European countries, and drew attention to the recent 3rd Meeting of the Middle East and Eastern Europe Rabies Expert Bureau, held in Lyon (France) in April 2015.
295. Ms Gombe announced that the Pan African Rabies Control Network (PARACON), of which GARC is a member, will hold the first PARACON meeting in South Africa in June 2015. She also signalled that in this framework, both Namibia and Kenya have endorsed national rabies control strategies.
296. In closing, she stated that GARC is adamant that dog-mediated human rabies could be eliminated through dog vaccination.

International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)

297. Mr Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director of the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), began his address by commending the longstanding relationship between IFAH and the OIE. He indicated that IFAH is a global representative body of companies and associations. Its activities encompass research and development, manufacturing and commercialisation. IFAH is directly involved with veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products.
298. Mr du Marchie Sarvaas declared that IFAH provides value to society by protecting animals and humans from disease and indicated that IFAH helps to keep pets and food-producing animals healthy. The public health benefits that stem from IFAH's activities include safer and more secure food supplies, more efficient production for increased food supply, improved sustainability and the prevention of the transmission of zoonotic diseases.
299. He stated that the members of IFAH comprise numerous corporations and institutions, including large multinational corporations that account for 80% of the global animal health sector, as well as hundreds of medium-sized and smaller companies or associations worldwide.
300. Moreover, Mr du Marchie Sarvaas informed the Assembly that IFAH has several strong partnerships, formalised through agreements, with international organisations including the OIE, charities and research groups, veterinary groups, as well as institutions from the global food and feed chain.
301. Mr du Marchie Sarvaas noted the considerable size of the industry, with revenues amounting to approximately USD 25 billion in 2014, divided between three regions (America 47%, Europe 31%, Others 23%) as well as its significant scope, encompassing pharmaceuticals, medicinal feed additives, and biologicals.
302. He subsequently introduced the seven global issues, which are growing in importance, namely: (i) policies are increasingly being set at global level; (ii) significant market growth in fast growing countries and increased trade of food products; (iii) increase and persistence of diseases call for global responses; (iv) rising importance of technology for increased production; (v) the increasing number of pets, which has a positive effect on human health; (vi) the increase in animal welfare and sustainable development; and (vii) rising authorisation costs leading to limitations in certain markets.
303. Mr du Marchie Sarvaas noted that these issues were also coupled with certain hurdles that needed to be overcome, such as slower and more cumbersome authorisations, decisions being made on a political rather than a scientific basis, challenging trading opportunities, difficulties in accepting new technologies, and the responsible use of antibiotics.

304. He informed the Assembly that IFAH has developed tools such as educational infographics and video material to inform decision makers on various, relevant subjects. For example, a factsheet on One Health and a leaflet on New Veterinary Medicines, both of which, he stated, can be accessed from the IFAH website at no cost.
305. Mr du Marchie Sarvaas announced that the ‘4th Global Animal Health Conference: Regulatory Convergence’ will take place in Dar Es Salam (Tanzania) on 24–25 June 2015. This global conference will be facilitated by IFAH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and will serve as a forum to bring together actors from the African continent and from around the world.
306. Mr du Marchie Sarvaas concluded his presentation by announcing that IFAH would be changing its name, its logo and its strategic direction as of 1 June 2015. IFAH’s commitment to healthier animals would, however, remain unchanged.

World Renderers Organization (WRO)

307. Mr Stephen Woodgate, President of the World Renderers Organization (WRO) began his presentation by thanking the current Director General of the OIE, Dr Vallat, for his leadership and congratulated Dr Eloit on her election as Director General of the OIE. He proceeded to thank the President of the OIE for the invitation to present the activities of the WRO at the 83rd General Session. The mission of the WRO is to promote biosecurity in the livestock food chain as well as safe and sustainable products. The leadership team of the WRO is comprised of a President, Mr Woodgate himself, and two Vice-Presidents: Mr Tim Juzefowicz and Mr Fernando Mendizabal, each representing different regions of the world.
308. Mr Woodgate indicated that there are 27 Members of the WRO, including allied Members, located in 23 countries. The WRO also works in close partnership with the OIE, WHO, FAO, WTO and Codex Alimentarius. He invited OIE Delegates to contact the WRO, should they wish to initiate ties with WRO in their respective countries.
309. Mr Woodgate underlined the positive interactions with the OIE, WHO, WTO, as well Codex Alimentarius. He then explained that “animal by-products” (ABP), originating from meat, poultry or fish are by-products which are not intended for human consumption, as well as human foods (containing animal materials) that are no longer intended for human consumption. In certain regions, ABP also include dead animals from farm mortalities or from disease eradication programmes. However, he took the opportunity to underline that in most regions of the world these dead animals are processed separately. He added that edible animal products such as offal, hides and skins are not considered as animal by-products.
310. Mr Woodgate revealed that there are approximately 100 million metric tonnes of ABP per year (equivalent to 200 million adult cattle, or 1 billion pigs, or 40 billion chickens). He underlined the importance of the rendering industry, and noted that without it there would be a higher risk of animal/zoonotic diseases, higher environmental pollution of soil, water and air, increased generation of methane, CO₂, N₂O (greenhouse gases) as well as loss of valuable resources. Mr Woodgate highlighted that the founding of the WRO, representing the rendering industry worldwide, enables these issues to be addressed.
311. He next presented a diagram, explaining the process of rendering, which consists of the transformation of raw material into processed proteins (“meat and bone meal” [MBM] or “processed animal proteins” [PAP]) or into rendered fat (“tallow”). The Members of the WRO process these raw materials into safe, sustainable products for various applications,

including animal feed, pet food, technical uses or biofuels. He informed the Assembly that the estimated annual global production corresponds to 22 million metric tonnes of protein meal and 12 million metric tonnes of rendered fats.

312. Mr Woodgate outlined the basic principles that apply to rendering, which foresee that ABP from animals slaughtered for human consumption are utilised in the food chain (subject to conditions) and that fallen stock, diseased animals or risk organs are used in non-food chains or for technical and energy production. These principles, he underlined, are dictated by regulations, codes of practice or consumer demands.
313. Mr Woodgate introduced the Scientific Advisory Panel of WRO, comprised of Representatives from North America, Europe, Australia and Latin America, illustrating a wide geographic range of scientific talent. He also made reference to publications produced by WRO, including '*Guidelines for Hygienic Rendering*' and '*Model HACCP Plan for Rendering*'; these publications are available in English, Spanish and shortly in Portuguese.
314. He then highlighted the importance of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* for the WRO. Mr Woodgate recognised the challenges of finding acceptable compromises between importing and exporting countries, but noted the excellent cooperation with the OIE enabling most of these challenges to be resolved in a timely manner.
315. Mr Woodgate concluded his presentation by thanking the Director General of the OIE for the fruitful partnership, ensuring a safe livestock food chain by applying sound science to the processing of valuable resources and the production of sustainable products.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

316. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 11 to 12 September 2014 and from 28 to 30 January 2015, were presented by Dr Hualan Chen, Vice-President of the Commission (Docs 83 SG/12/CS2 A and B). She thanked the Members of the Commission: Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President, Dr Rodolfo Rivero, Vice-President, Dr Beverly Schmitt, Dr Paul Townsend and Dr Peter Daniels. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions by the other regular participant, Prof. Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, and the experts from the Enlarged Bureau Group (EBG) Dr Yeun-Kyung Shin, Dr Moritz Klemm and Dr Mehdi El Harrak, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, have been unstinting in their support.
317. ***OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (mammals, birds and bees)***

In accordance with the approved procedure for updating the *Terrestrial Manual*, a meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and the EBG had been held prior to each Commission meeting, and the Commission reviewed the recommendations of these EBG meetings. In March 2015, 18 chapters and the glossary that had been reviewed by the EBG and approved by the Commission for circulation to Member Countries, were made available online for consultation as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption.

The *ad hoc* Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories further amended Chapter 1.1.3. The chapter is now entitled: *Biosafety and biosecurity: standard for managing biological risk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities*. The amended chapter was one of those circulated to OIE Member Countries in March 2015.

Regarding the current chapter on rinderpest, section C: *Requirements for vaccines* was amended in light of the global eradication of rinderpest. The amended chapter was one of those circulated to OIE Member Countries in March 2015.

These revised chapters were presented to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE web site.

Member Countries had continued to comment that the disease names used in the *Terrestrial Code* texts follow the format “Infection with [pathogen name]” while the *Terrestrial Manual* does not follow this format. The Commission’s position was that this discrepancy arises from the fact that the *Terrestrial Manual* covers diseases rather than infections. Consequently, a final decision has not been taken for the moment.

318. **OIE Reference Centres**

The Commission recommended acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status for:

- *Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie*: Centro de investigación en Encefalopatías y enfermedades transmisibles emergentes, Universidad de Zaragoza, SPAIN.
- *Foot and mouth disease*: Laboratoire de référence national français pour la fièvre aphteuse, laboratoire de santé animale, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE.

The acceptance of the two Reference Laboratories above had been waiting for an answer from the Council to a question from the Commission, which had been positive.

- *Equine rhinopneumonitis*: Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare, IRELAND.
- *Tularemia*: Laboratory of Zoonotic Bacteriology and Mycoplasmaology, Institute for Veterinary Medical Research, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, HUNGARY.

A number of Delegates had notified changes in the designated expert at OIE Reference Laboratories in their countries. In each case the Commission reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names of the seven new experts were presented to the Assembly for information. These experts had already been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Annual reports were received from 191 out of 205 Reference Laboratories and from 42 out of 47 Collaborating Centres all working in the field of diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. The new web-based annual report template had been used by the Collaborating Centres for the first time. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the January meeting of the Commission (p. 6). Annual reports will be made available on line in the near future.

All OIE Reference Laboratories were asked to indicate in their annual report that they have achieved ISO 17025 accreditation or equivalent through a national or regional accreditation body.

The Commission noted the growing number of OIE Reference Laboratory applications, many of which are unsuccessful, and identified the need to provide more explicit guidance to applicants on what is expected of an OIE Reference Laboratory and what should be emphasised in their applications. The Assembly was informed that the Commission had proposed amendments to the *Guidelines for applicants for OIE Reference Laboratory status* to the Council for consideration prior to the next meeting of the Commission.

319. Past *ad hoc* Group meetings

The outcomes of the following *ad hoc* Groups were summarised for the Assembly. Details are found in the full Reports of the Commission and their annexes.

- a) *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids (see Annex 5 of Doc. 83 SG/12/CS2 A)
- b) *ad hoc* Group on High Throughput Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG) (see Annex 5 of Doc. 83 SG/12/CS2 B).
- c) *ad hoc* Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Veterinary Laboratories (see Annex 6 of Doc. 83 SG/12/CS2 B).

320. Proposed *ad hoc* Groups

The *ad hoc* Group on HTS-BCG will be reconvened to implement its work plan (see *New diagnostic technologies and technology platform* below).

A large volume of Member Country comments had been received on the draft *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on vaccine banks. The Commission recommended that the Director General convene an *ad hoc* Group, following the General Session, to review the comments and amend the chapter accordingly. The amended chapter could then be reviewed at the next meeting of the newly elected Biological Standards Commission in September 2015.

The Commission agreed that the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Camelids could usefully meet again to progress the validation of diagnostic test methods and the development of international standard reagents and vaccines for priority camelid diseases.

321. International standardisation/harmonisation

a) Standardisation programme – future directions

At the Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres, held in October 2014 in Seoul, Korea (Rep. of), Dr Maura Ferrari of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank, gave a presentation on the results of a survey to determine the biological resources and standard reference reagents held in OIE Reference Centres that can be shared among the OIE Member Countries. One of the recommendations of the Conference was to further develop the concept of establishing a virtual OIE biobank of the biological resources available at OIE Reference Centres, taking into account the need to harmonise the system with other existing initiatives. The OIE Reference Centres would contribute to the establishment of this future virtual OIE biobank.

b) OIE Register of diagnostic kits

The Assembly was informed that the evaluation of the dossier on “BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle” had been completed. Based on the final report from the expert evaluation panel, the Commission provided a favourable opinion for the inclusion of this diagnostic kit in the OIE register as fit to detect cell-mediated immune response to infection with *Mycobacterium bovis* and other mycobacteria belonging to the tuberculosis complex on analysis of whole blood

specimens in cattle, buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), goat and sheep (provisionally) for the following purposes:

1. Historical freedom;
2. Re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks;
3. Certification of freedom from infection or agent in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;
4. Eradication of infection from defined populations;
5. Confirmatory diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (including confirmation of a positive screening test);
6. Estimation of the prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control);
7. Ancillary test for eradication of tuberculosis.

This kit was proposed for adoption by the Assembly.

322. **New diagnostic technologies and technology platform**

At the Third Global Conference of the OIE Reference Centres, the *Pilot Project for the Creation of an OIE Platform for the Collection and Management of Genomic Sequences in Animal Health* was presented by the President of the Biological Standards Commission. The principal objective is to develop a comprehensive approach and an *open access* database to collect, store and share sequence information relating to animal and zoonotic diseases and pathogens linked to food safety. It can be envisaged that genome sequence databases of pathogens of animal health significance will have an ever-increasing role in veterinary medicine. The pilot project also includes the development of standards for the management of HTS-BCG for inclusion in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*.

One of the recommendations of the Conference to the OIE was to develop, with the collective support of OIE Reference Centres, the design of this OIE platform taking into account the need to harmonise the system with other existing initiatives. The OIE Reference Centres would support the OIE to develop policies and standards and to design a global network for the use of new diagnostic technologies, including HTS-BCG, and would contribute to the design of the future OIE Platform for the collection and management of partial and complete genomic sequences (including genotype assignment) in animal health, in particular when notifying positive diagnostic results to the OIE, to be used within the WAHIS mechanism.

Following the Conference, the *ad hoc* Group on HTS-BCG met at the OIE Headquarters to begin work on some of the components of the project. The Group agreed that two work plans would be required that needed to progress in parallel. One needed to advance the OIE pilot project, the other should consider the development of OIE standards.

Given the importance of this topic for the OIE, a resolution was presented to the Assembly for adoption.

323. The President of the OIE thanked Dr Chen for her comprehensive presentation before opening the floor for discussion.

During the discussion on the Resolutions related to the report of the Biological Standards Commission, the Delegate of Australia, on behalf of the Assembly, expressed its profound gratitude to Professor Vincenzo Caporale, for his career contributions to the work of the OIE for almost 20 years. It was noted that he had served as a member of *ad hoc* Groups, the President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, and, lastly, as the President of the Biological Standards Commission.

324. The Delegate of Greece, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, congratulated the OIE Biological Standards Commission for its essential work. The EU commended the Commission for its continued efforts to modernise and update the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*. The EU would like to continue to offer all technical support needed by the Biological Standards Commission, its Enlarged Bureau Group and *ad hoc* Groups for this important work on the *Terrestrial Manual*. He thanked the Commission for having taken into account most of the EU comments on those chapters that had been circulated for Member Country comment prior to being proposed for adoption, and added that the EU supported the adoption of these standards. The EU appreciated that the OIE had recently started making draft versions of new and updated *Terrestrial Manual* chapters publicly available on its website, whenever these are circulated to Member Countries for comment, and congratulated the Commission on this advance in transparency. Regarding the OIE Register of diagnostic kits, the EU thanked the OIE for having provided it with some additional information on the bovine tuberculosis gamma interferon test kit mentioned in the report of the September 2014 meeting of the Commission and proposed for inclusion in the OIE Register. While the EU can support the inclusion of this kit in the OIE Register, it would encourage the OIE in the future to systematically make available more information on diagnostic kits before they are proposed for inclusion in the OIE Register, for reasons of transparency and in order to allow for informed decision-making.
325. The Delegate of Panama thanked the Commission for its important and difficult work on the validation of diagnostic kits. Supporting the intervention of the Delegate of Greece, he underlined the importance for OIE Member Countries of having validated diagnostic kits available. Regarding the bovine tuberculosis interferon gamma test kit, it was important for countries to know that it would save time for final diagnosis and early detection of bovine tuberculosis; the kit had been used in parallel with intradermal tests for 3 years in Panama with excellent results.
326. The Delegate of Australia sought clarification from the Director General regarding the procedures for the selection and appointment of members of the Enlarged Bureau Group of the Biological Standards Commission. He also noted the continuing discrepancy in naming chapters between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.
327. The Director General responded to the Delegate of Australia that the members of the Enlarged Bureau Group work in the same manner as experts for *ad hoc* Groups and provide technical support to the Commission. They are proposed by the Commission for their expertise and appointed under the responsibility of the Director General. The Commission is also supported by a permanent Consultant Editor. Furthermore, he recommended that the newly elected Commission would, as a priority, examine the issues regarding the harmonisation of the titles of chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.
328. A representative of the Delegation of Japan, in reference to Chapter 2.1.15. of the *Terrestrial Manual* on rinderpest, appreciated the update chapter in light of global eradication of rinderpest and advised that Japan would submit comments for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.
329. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31
Amendments to the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

330. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

331. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
High Throughput Sequencing-Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG)

332. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 33 for adoption.
333. The Delegate of New Zealand sought clarification of the intent of recommendation No. 2 concerning the development of a platform and whether adoption was committing the OIE to the design and implementation of a system that would impact on Member Country resources for inputs and on OIE budgetary resources.
334. The Delegate of the United Kingdom remarked that provision of funding to support the undertaking should be considered within the framework of the Sixth Strategic Plan.
335. Dr Brian Evans, the Deputy Director General recalled the work programme proposed by the *ad hoc* Group that had been presented in the report of the Biological Standards Commission and adopted by the Assembly earlier. The purpose of the Recommendation is to enable design of a system with appropriate functionality and interoperability to facilitate the input of data from the OIE Reference Laboratory network in support of Member Country needs. Both Council and World Assembly oversight will be assured through review and approval of the annual work plan of the Director General in accordance with the priorities of the Sixth Strategic Plan, if adopted.
336. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE

337. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 34 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

≡ THURSDAY 28 MAY 2015 ≡

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends
(Doc. 83 SG/2)

338. Dr Paula Cáceres, Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department reviewed the current events and trends in the animal health situation world-wide. She stated that first she would start with the presentation of four OIE-listed diseases and infections that are currently of major interest, namely: brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*), bovine tuberculosis, infection with avian influenza viruses and foot and mouth disease. Then, she would present an evaluation of the quality of reports submitted for diseases of aquatic animals and she would finish with a general evaluation of the different aspects of WAHIS in line with its main objectives.

339. Global situation regarding four OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest

Dr Cáceres indicated that this presentation was based on the reports received up to 19 May 2015 and was taking into consideration the various notifications that countries submitted to the OIE for previous years. She pointed out that the historical information was regularly reviewed by the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department. Dr Cáceres acknowledged the high level of response by the Member Countries for sending their reports in a timely manner. She indicated that the selection of diseases analysed for this presentation was partially based on the results of the first technical item presented in May 2014 during the 82nd General Session, according to the proposal of Dr Schwabenbauer. This survey had shown that brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) and bovine tuberculosis had been considered as priority diseases for 2014 by the majority of Member Countries.

340. Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*)

Dr Cáceres stated that infection with *Brucella abortus* was widespread globally and was responsible for a considerable economic burden. She then showed the trend of countries reporting infection with *Brucella abortus* between 2005 and 2014. She pointed out that the percentage had decreased between the first semester of 2005 and the second semester of 2014, from 54% to 52%, indicating a general improvement of the global situation, probably due to the implementation of appropriate control measures by the countries.

Then, she showed the distribution of infection with *Brucella abortus* in 2014. She indicated that, in total, as of 19 May 2015, 50% of the reporting countries/territories in the world were affected by the disease.

She stated that the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had performed an analysis to evaluate trends of incidence and losses at national level in 126 countries/territories that reported infection with *Brucella abortus* at least once between 2005 and 2014, and to identify retrospectively which reported measures may have contributed to an improvement, according to WAHIS data.

She explained the methodology indicating that for each of these countries, the percentage of cases as well as the losses in cattle (meaning the total number of animals that died or were slaughtered or destroyed in response to the disease) among the national annual cattle population was calculated, by semester. She added that the median percentage was calculated for the period between 2005 and 2009 (first period) on one hand and for the period between 2010 and 2014 (second period) on the other hand, separately for cases and losses and for each country. The difference between the two medians was used as an indicator. She explained that for countries with a difference between the two medians lower than “minus one per million”, the situation had been considered to have improved (i.e. decrease of cases or losses). For countries with a difference between “minus one per million” and “one per million”, the situation had been considered stable, and for countries with a difference higher than “one per million”, the situation had been considered to have deteriorated (i.e. increase of cases or losses).

Dr Cáceres indicated that, according to the results for the percentage of cases among the cattle population, the situation had improved in 37% of reporting countries/territories, was stable in 39% and had deteriorated in 24%. She added that for the percentage of losses, the situation had improved in 27% of countries/territories, was stable in 46% and had deteriorated in 27%.

She commented that for each group, the number of countries/territories having applied regular targeted surveillance/screening, routine vaccination, movement control and stamping out (partial or total) had been calculated in order to identify retrospectively which of these measures may have contributed to an improvement (i.e. decrease of the percentage of cases or losses in the cattle population).

She indicated that odds ratios significantly different from 1 have been observed for the contribution of regular movement control and of stamping out to the improvement for cases and to the improvement for losses. She added that, odds ratios of 3.25 and 3.50, significantly different from 1, had been observed for the contribution of regular implementation of the four measures combined to the improvement for cases and losses respectively. According to Dr Cáceres these results showed an impact of the four measures combined on both cases and losses and strengthened the overall significance of the analysis. She underlined that these odds ratios were higher than most other odds ratios calculated for the four measures applied separately.

Dr Cáceres concluded saying that infection with *Brucella abortus* was widespread and half of the reporting countries/territories in the world had notified the disease present between 1 January 2014 and 19 May 2015. She added that the global situation had improved from 2005 to 2014 according to WAHIS data, since a decreasing trend of the percentage of countries affected had been observed.

She stated that WAHIS data showed that regular implementation of these measures across years contributed significantly to the decrease of cases and losses in cattle, the strategy with the greatest impact being a combination of the measures, rather than their implementation separately.

She ended the chapter of brucellosis saying that the OIE recommended Members to implement proper and regular surveillance and control of infection with *Brucella abortus*, emphasising that not only the economic burden of the disease but also its impact on public health could be significantly reduced by controlling the infection in animals.

341. **Bovine tuberculosis**

Dr Cáceres first indicated that the disease had serious implications for the movement of animals and their products, biodiversity, and public health and was of significant economic concern.

She then indicated that an improvement in the global epidemiological status for this disease was shown by the data collected in WAHIS through the trend analysis for the period 2005 – 2014. She showed a reliable reduction trend in the percentage of reporting countries/territories notifying bovine tuberculosis present, from 53% in the first semester of 2005 to 49% in the second semester of 2014.

Showing the distribution of infection with bovine tuberculosis in domestic animals and wildlife in 2014, she indicated that 53% of the 160 countries/territories which had sent information reported the disease present or suspected. She noted that 54 countries/territories (34%) did not send information on wildlife.

Dr Cáceres indicated that 93% of the countries/territories had indicated that bovine tuberculosis was a notifiable disease and 77% had indicated that they applied general surveillance. She added that the most frequently used active control measure was “modified stamping out” and that the control by means of test and slaughter programmes was expensive and required a long-term financial commitment from governments, which was often not affordable for developing countries. She indicated that the least common control method was “control of wildlife reservoirs”, applied by only 8% of the reporting countries/territories.

She mentioned that, taken together, the data presented underlined the epidemiological importance of wildlife in bovine tuberculosis and consequently the importance of applying effective control measures, above all in countries where wildlife had become a reservoir.

She pointed out that, to evaluate the level of attention applied to wildlife at country level, the number of different types of preventive and control measures for wildlife were analysed and she explained the methodology used in the analysis.

Dr Cáceres indicated that bovine tuberculosis had been notified in 38 different wildlife species since 2012 through WAHIS and that, in general, ungulates were the most affected wildlife reservoir. She pointed out that the majority of cases involved only 10 species. She explained that from a quantitative point of view, wildlife had accounted for 208 of the 113 493 cases (0.2%) of bovine tuberculosis reported to the OIE in 2014.

She indicated that a total of 11 different measures were currently applied to wildlife and that a significant difference in the number of control measures had been observed in countries where bovine tuberculosis had been detected in wildlife. She specified that the analysis had showed that in countries where bovine tuberculosis had been detected in wildlife vs. countries where it had not been detected in wildlife, the level of attention given to the disease was higher and that this could indicate the need to increase the preventive and control measures (especially the active ones) in those countries where wildlife reservoirs had not been identified, to: i) avoid the spill-over of tuberculosis from domestic animals to wildlife, and ii) obtain a better knowledge of the epidemiology of the disease in wild animal populations.

She indicated that the analysis of WAHIS data emphasised that, thanks to the huge efforts to control/eradicate the disease, its global epidemiological status was progressively improving. She recalled that the consequences of the disease were still huge, considering the yearly economic impact (production losses and barriers to market access) and the public health consequences.

She highlighted that, despite considerable economic efforts and specific control programmes, bovine tuberculosis was still very difficult to eradicate in some areas and that in general, eradication was complex as it required adequate financial and human resources, but it remained problematic even in countries with high quality monitoring programmes, due to the presence of wildlife reservoirs. She added that the measures to control the spread of the disease in wildlife populations had to be applied, not only in the countries where tuberculosis was endemic in a wildlife population, but above all in countries still free from wildlife reservoirs, in order to increase the possibility of eradicating bovine tuberculosis.

342. Infection with avian influenza viruses

Dr Cáceres indicated that H5 or H7 subtypes of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) were notifiable to the OIE in poultry because they had the ability to mutate and could become highly pathogenic. She added that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was notifiable in both poultry and wildlife. She recalled that the main concerns with influenza viruses consisted of their impact on poultry and on public health. She noted the impact on poultry notified the OIE through WAHIS during 2014 and 2015. In addition, she mentioned the figures provided by the WHO for humans. She pointed out that from an epidemiological point of view, it was very important to note that, when transmission occurs, there was no correlation between the level of pathogenicity of the virus for poultry and that for humans.

Dr Cáceres added that avian influenza (AI) had been the disease most often reported by countries/territories in terms of number of immediate notifications (379) between January 2005 and 19 May 2015. She said that it was of interest to observe the dynamics of the disease in recent years in terms of the number of exceptional epidemiological events notified to the OIE. She commented that the trend of exceptional epidemiological events had suddenly changed in the last two years and that after a peak of notifications for HPAI in 2006, there has been a strong decrease in the period between 2009 and 2013. She explained that, however, the notifications of HPAI had increased to 30 in 2014 and in 2015 had already reached 33 as of 19 May. She pointed out that, for the year 2015, a

considerable increase in the number of exceptional epidemiological events for HPAI was expected.

Furthermore, she indicated that this increase had affected not only the number of exceptional epidemiological events but even the diversity of subtypes reported and that a similar increasing trend had also been observed for the number of subtypes involved (for HPAI notification). She reiterated that for these reasons, sustained efforts to monitor AI should be seen as a primary objective, both in domestic and wild birds.

Dr Cáceres continued her presentation, showing maps of the recent distribution of AI subtypes H5 and H7 in poultry and wild birds. She indicated that, during this period, AI infections had been reported by 43 countries/territories, among which 34 had detected H5 with five different subtypes (H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N6 and H5N8). She said that the most common subtype was H5N1 (23 countries) followed by H5N8 (13 countries), H5N2 (9 countries) and H5N3/H5N6 (4 countries each).

Dr Cáceres indicated that AI H7 had been detected in ten countries/territories, with five subtypes (H7N1, H7N2, H7N3, H7N7 and H7N9). She pointed out that no subtype in this group had been significantly more common than the others. She underlined that the one with the greatest impact from a public health perspective (H7N9) had been reported only in China (People's Rep. of) and Hong Kong (SAR-PRC).

She stressed that the direct economic impact of HPAI was considerable and that the subtypes that had the most severe direct economic impact were H5N8 and H5N2. She said that during the period of analysis, the first event involving the subtype H5N8 had been identified in Korea (Rep. of) in January 2014; the subtype then had spread to China (People's Rep. of), Japan, Russia and United States of America, in November 2014 it had appeared in Europe and in January 2015 in Chinese Taipei. She added that between January 2014 and 19 May 2015, H5N8 had led to the destruction of more than 15 million birds by the Veterinary Authorities of the countries concerned. She indicated that the H5N2 subtype, during the same period, had been reported in China (People's Rep. of) through follow-up reports, then in April 2014 it has been reported in Chinese Taipei and in November of 2014 in Canada and in December in the United States of America. She added that, in January 2015, the subtype reoccurred in Chinese Taipei and in Canada in April 2015.

She also mentioned that the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had performed an analysis to understand not only the yearly dynamics of the virus but even its spatial dynamics. She stressed that in order to prevent the diffusion of a virus it was very important to know its capacity to spread.

She explained that an analysis was performed using data from the 5,910 outbreaks notified through immediate notifications and follow-up reports for HPAI and LPAI covering the period between 1 January 2005 and 19 May 2015. She said that the objective was to analyse the ability of the virus in terms of spread and speed and that for this analysis, only events with more than 10 outbreaks had been selected. She presented the localisation of the outbreaks used for the analysis and explained the methodology used.

Dr Cáceres pointed out that these results should be interpreted with caution because of possible confounding factors: i) the starting point (index case) was not always really the first one of the event; ii) the capacity of countries to carry out surveillance and early detection (and so to observe, or not, the event from its real starting point); iii) the type of poultry industry of each country (commercial vs. not commercial) and its distribution within the country.

Dr Cáceres carried on presenting the results obtained; for all subtypes combined, the maximum spread (within the same country/territory) from the starting point had been reached five months after start of the event (mean of 985 km from starting point – minimum 54, maximum 1745). She added that even the speed varied considerably, and

considering all the subtypes together, the mean speed from the starting point was 18 km/day (minimum 5 km/day and maximum 58 km/day). She stressed that the maximum speed had been reached by the first week.

She indicated that a high variability among the different subtypes existed, showing the spread values (distance from starting points) and speed values (km from starting point/days post event). She explained that, at the local level, some subtypes remained very confined to the infected areas (e.g. H5N8) while others had a higher ability for spread (e.g. H7N9).

Finally she said that, in addition to evaluating local virus dynamics, their international dynamics were also evaluated using, as a model, two important subtypes: H5N8 and H7N9. She recalled that H7N9 had appeared for the first time in humans in March 2013 and that it had caused LPAI in birds but on the contrary had a high impact on humans and caused a severe and sometimes fatal disease and it had very fast local dynamics. She underlined that it had remained confined to China (People's Rep. of) and Hong Kong (SAR-PRC).

Dr Cáceres explained that, on the other hand, H5N8 causing HPAI had a high impact on birds but the health risk for humans had been estimated to be very low. She said that the subtype had presented very slow local dynamics but that, based on the hypothesis that all the corresponding events were linked, it had seemed to have the ability to 'jump' and disseminate to other countries. She explained that in January 2014, the authorities of Korea (Rep. of) had reported the first cases in poultry, in April 2014, Japan and United States of America had notified outbreaks, as well as China (People's Rep. of) and Russia in September 2014. She added that the authorities in Germany had confirmed highly pathogenic H5N8 in early November 2014, four days later, The Netherlands had reported two outbreaks and in mid-November, the United Kingdom had detected the same subtype. She commented that, based on the partial sequence data of the HA gene segment, the viruses isolated in Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom had been identified as being closely related to the H5N8 viruses isolated in Korea (Rep. of). She finally concluded that, in December 2014 this subtype had been notified in Italy and again by the United States of America and in January 2015, it had been notified in Chinese Taipei. She added that H5N8 had been notified in Canada, Hungary and Sweden in February 2015.

She presented the mean spread and speed values for the two subtypes (H5N8 and H7N9). She said that the great difference in dynamics between these two strains seemed to be related to the different role that migratory birds played in their epidemiology.

Dr Cáceres said that AI was one of the most important notifiable diseases, in terms of number of immediate notifications, its impact on poultry and on public health. She explained that in 2014 and early 2015 there had been a clear increase in the number of notifications for HPAI and in the variety of subtypes reported and that this situation was quite alarming from both an economic and a public health perspective.

She pointed out that the results from LPAI monitoring in wildlife had showed a very high subtype diversity in wild birds and consequently, monitoring in wildlife needed to be strengthened.

In conclusion, Dr Cáceres said that the more available information, the greater the likelihood of being able to prevent AI outbreaks in the future as shown by the analysis on AI dynamics. She said that the analysis of the spread of outbreaks gave useful information about the ability of the virus in terms of its spread and speed and that these two parameters were significantly influenced by the subtypes of the virus. She explained that this might be related to the different role that migratory birds play in their epidemiology. Dr Cáceres underlined that, to be in a position to follow the spatiotemporal evolution of a disease, it was important to receive high quality information. She emphasised that for this

reason, the OIE encouraged Member Countries to timely provide detailed information in their immediate notifications, follow-up reports and six-monthly reports to make it easier to better describe and even predict the evolution of diseases and so increase the capacity of Member Countries to manage them and reduce their effects.

343. **Foot and mouth disease**

Dr Cáceres recalled that between January 2005 and 19 May 2015, FMD had been the second most frequently reported disease by countries/territories to the OIE in terms of number (215) of immediate notifications.

She mentioned that as of 19 May 2015, a total of 170 countries/territories had provided information on FMD for 2014 or early 2015, among which 28% notified the presence or suspicion of FMD in domestic animals only, 8% notified FMD present or suspected in both domestic animals and wildlife, and 1% notified the presence or suspicion of FMD in wildlife only. She stated that during this period, 31 immediate notifications were submitted for the disease and that, in total, 37% of the reporting countries/territories in the world had been affected by FMD during this period.

She indicated that the seven FMD virus serotypes had been notified by countries/territories to the OIE between January 2014 and 19 May 2015. She showed the map of the countries/territories according to the different serotypes notified as well as of those which had not specified the serotype. She commented moreover the reoccurrence of serotype O in Algeria and Tunisia and that the two countries had previously been free of the disease for 15 years.

She emphasised that the risk of FMD incursion from neighbouring countries continued to be a critical factor to be considered in disease control and that these risks were mainly related to illegal movement of animals, animal products and other commodities derived from infected animals, as well as movement of people and vehicles.

Furthermore, she stated that wildlife could also potentially play a role in FMD spread and that in fact, control of FMD in Southern and Eastern Africa was particularly challenging due to the involvement of African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), the wildlife reservoir for the SAT types of FMD viruses. She added that between January 2014 and 19 May 2015, contact with wildlife had been indeed indicated as being the source of reoccurrences in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Dr Cáceres stressed that FMD had been absent in the majority of countries/territories of the Americas, Europe and Oceania and that as of 19 May 2015, 45% of Member Countries successfully applied to be officially recognised as disease-free by the OIE or as having an FMD free zone. A map with OIE Member Countries' official FMD status as of July 2014 was shown.

She said that some of the conditions listed in Chapter 8.7. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* to comply with requirements to be considered as free from FMD related to surveillance and reporting and that having a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting was essential, as well as the application of proper surveillance and permanent movement control of susceptible species.

She indicated that an analysis was conducted to evaluate the quality of information reported for FMD to the OIE through six-monthly reports for the period 2009 to the first semester 2014, for each Member Country and for each semester, an analysis was performed separately for domestic animals and wildlife.

She firstly described the results for the Member countries that did not send information. She stated that for each semester during the period under review, less than 2% of reporting Member Countries fell into the category “no information” for FMD in domestic animals. In contrast, the percentage of reporting Member Countries not providing information for FMD in wildlife was higher, with an improving trend over time, decreasing from 26% to 13%.

Then, she presented the results for the Member countries that had reported FMD present; for domestic animals per semester the number of Member Countries ranged between 45 and 63. She stressed that the quality of information provided for FMD present in domestic animals had improved between 2009 and the first semester of 2014. She said that the percentage of reporting Member Countries that had sent reports with the best quality of information, had regularly increased from 61% for the first semester of 2009 to 70% for the first semester of 2014, and that at the same time the percentage of reporting Member Countries that sent reports with minimum information had gradually decreased from 39% to 30%.

Moreover, she stated that the number of Member Countries reporting FMD present in wildlife had ranged between 13 and 20 per semester and that this number had remained relatively low during all the period and most of them had reported FMD suspected or present without specifying the serotype(s).

Dr Cáceres continued presenting also the results for Member Countries reporting FMD absent. She explained that the number of Member Countries that reported FMD absent in domestic animals per semester had ranged between 100 and 119 and that 58% of countries had been able to successfully apply for or maintain an official free status or the recognition of an FMD free zone according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. She said that the situation had remained relatively stable between 2009 and the first semester of 2014. She indicated that the number of Member Countries reporting FMD absent in wildlife per semester had ranged between 113 and 128 and that between 2009 and the first semester of 2014, the situation for wildlife was very similar for Member Countries reporting FMD absent in domestic animals.

She further explained that for each Member Country, a total score for the quality of information provided was calculated out of 100 per semester, based on the sum of the scores obtained for domestic animals and for wildlife. She showed the median of total scores compiled by year, for both FMD present and FMD absent, indicating that the overall quality of information had improved with semesters, with a statistically significant linear trend. She explained that the overall median score had increased from 50 (out of 100) for the first semester of 2009 to 87.5 for the first semester of 2014 and that this improvement seemed to have mainly resulted from the decrease in the proportion of Member Countries that had not provided information on FMD in wildlife, and of the improved quality for Member Countries that reported FMD present in domestic animals.

Finally, Dr Cáceres summarised the main results of the analysis realised by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department underlining that, to continue on the path of global control, the OIE encouraged its Members to implement effective surveillance programmes and to transmit information about their animal disease situation to other countries through WAHIS in order to be recognised with an official FMD-free status. She pointed out that progress had been noted since 2009, for information provided for both domestic animals and wildlife. She said that however, there was still room for improvement, as some countries still did not submit information or did not provide information on the FMD serotypes involved. She encouraged these countries to provide this information, in particular to enable other countries to implement appropriate preventive measures.

344. Evaluation of the quality of reports submitted for diseases of aquatic animals

Dr Cáceres began the second part of her presentation indicating the percentage of Member Countries that had submitted their first six-monthly reports for aquatic animal diseases for 2014. She indicated that small regional disparities had been observed. More than 70% of the Member Countries in the Americas, in Europe and in Oceania had submitted at least their first six-monthly report for 2014 on aquatic animal diseases as of 19 May 2015, while 56% of Member Countries in Asia and only 43% in Africa had submitted their first six-monthly reports by this date.

Then Dr Cáceres presented the diseases most reported present to the OIE in 2014/2015 through six-monthly reports and immediate notifications.

She said that since 2014, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had measured several indicators to evaluate the quality of the reports as part of the routine validation process. She indicated that, for this presentation, some of these indicators were evaluated for aquatic six-monthly reports.

She presented the percentages of Member Countries that had submitted their six-monthly reports for 2014, indicating that 86% of the countries had sent their terrestrial six-monthly reports while 62% had sent their aquatic six-monthly reports for 2014.

She stressed that only 46% of them had reported at least one disease of aquatic animals present and that this number was low compared to terrestrial animal diseases, for which 98% of reporting countries/territories had notified at least one disease present. She indicated that there were several possible explanations for these figures. She said that it was of course possible that OIE-listed diseases of aquatic animals were not widespread and were absent from most countries/territories. She mentioned that another reason could be that some countries/territories did not have sufficient surveillance and diagnosis tools to detect and report the presence of OIE-Listed diseases in aquatic animals, and therefore had considered them as absent. She underlined that “no information” might have been more appropriate in certain situations and that this situation might occur especially in countries where aquaculture was not a primary economic sector. She added that in some countries/territories, it was likely that the Veterinary Services did not have access to information for aquatic animal diseases, even though the presence of diseases in aquatic animals may have been properly diagnosed and a National Focal Point nominated.

She stated that for countries/territories reporting at least one disease present, another indicator of the quality of six-monthly reports was the level of detail of the supplied data. She explained that countries/territories had the possibility to report quantitative data to the OIE for diseases present (including number of outbreaks, cases, deaths, etc.), and to provide details by month or by administrative division. She stated that 60% of aquatic reports including present diseases included quantitative data. She added that for each reporting country/territory notifying diseases present in aquatic animals for the first semester of 2014, the maximum level of detail provided was measured. She specified that if several diseases or infections were reported present, only the highest performance in terms of detail was taken into account.

Dr Cáceres stated that 38% of countries reporting at least one disease present for aquatic animals had used the maximum level of detail to provide information (by month and by administrative division) noting that this percentage was however lower compared to information provided for terrestrial animal diseases.

She concluded this section by summarising the main results that showed important gaps of information for aquatic animal diseases. First of all, not all countries had submitted their reports and regional disparities had been observed. She added that few countries reported

at least one disease present and many were not able to provide any quantitative data. She underlined that this raised the question of the capability of countries to detect these diseases or to access the information.

Dr Cáceres emphasised that, to improve the situation related to information gaps for aquatic animal diseases, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had improved its procedures in several respects. She explained that for each country/territory, one specific person in the team was assigned to follow-up on communication related to all aspects of animal disease notification and that this strategy had strengthened relations between reporting countries/territories and the Department. She added that the verification process before validation of six-monthly reports had been revised and more clarifications were now required from countries during the verification process, in order to improve the quality of data. She highlighted that, in 2014 and early 2015 several countries had updated at once all their historical information for aquatic animal diseases covering several years.

Finally, she mentioned that Members Countries could also contribute to the improvement of the quality of data for aquatic animal diseases. She explained that to improve communication and facilitate reporting, it was recommended that Delegates of Member Countries should nominate National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and provide them with access to WAHIS. She concluded this chapter informing the Delegates that, in order to contribute to improving reporting on aquatic animal diseases, WAHIS training would in the future be implemented for National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals during Regional Seminars.

345. General evaluation of the different aspects of WAHIS against its main objectives

In the third phase of her presentation, Dr Cáceres recalled that since its creation in 1924, one of the OIE's historic missions had been to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation. She underlined that each Member Country had undertaken to report the animal diseases that it detected on its territory and that the OIE would then disseminate the information to other countries, which could take the necessary preventive action.

She explained that to do so, the first version of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) was created in 2005, to collect, store and disseminate information. She stated that ten years after the start of WAHIS, a performance review of WAHIS in terms of the first objectives of the surveillance system was provided, evaluating with key figures the current situation and detailing the activities conducted by the OIE to improve the system, in order to better address the needs of its Member Countries.

346. Sensitivity

Dr Cáceres first indicated that sensitivity was one of the main objectives of any surveillance system. She stressed the fact that it was essential that the highest number of disease events was detected, to allow countries to apply necessary preventive measures. She recalled that, by becoming a Member of the OIE, a country accepted its legal obligation to make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information was necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases, and their aetiological agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control and understanding of these diseases. She drew attention to the fact that this legal obligation ensured WAHIS a certain level of sensitivity.

She noted that, moreover, to make its animal health information system more effective and to obtain the most exhaustive knowledge possible of the distribution of animal diseases worldwide, the OIE had implemented an active search activity and verification procedure for non-official information and rumours relating to animal and public health. She indicated that this activity enhanced the OIE's notification system as the information found as a result of the active search activity was evaluated and verified with the Member Country concerned for the purposes of official confirmation and its publication.

She explained that the active search activity covered many different sources of non-official information disseminated by the media, animal and public health networks, scientific journals and publications, social media as well as the reports from OIE Reference Laboratories. She added that the OIE involved its Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in order to strengthen its network and reduce duplication and possible gaps. She informed the Assembly that in 2014, about 11 000 items of information (related to either WAHIS early warning or monitoring systems) had been verified and 12% of these were deemed relevant.

She indicated that, for the early warning system, in addition to the immediate notifications submitted spontaneously to the OIE, 11 items of information related to possible exceptional events had been submitted to countries/territories for confirmation and publication since early 2015. She added that, out of these items of information, six had been confirmed, and then published through WAHIS, but four had been left without any answer from the country. She underlined that this number represented the number of possibly true events that had not been published through WAHIS, and in other words, its reduced sensitivity.

Then she indicated that between 2005 and early 2015, there has been a decrease in the number of immediate notifications received as a result of the active search activity, indicating a better understanding and compliance on the part of Member Countries of the requirements for notifying diseases to the OIE. She informed the Assembly that, in 2015, up to 19 May 2015, only six of the 80 immediate notifications submitted had been received as result of a request for information sent to the Member Countries concerned. Ninety-two percent of the immediate notifications had been submitted spontaneously by the Member Countries concerned.

Dr Cáceres emphasised that the overall aim of the Department in this respect was to improve the quality and sensitivity of the search activity and verification procedures by i) increasing and diversifying the number of sources of information; ii) reducing the time interval for verification of each item of information; iii) improving a protocol to standardise search and verification procedures; iv) reinforcing the team in charge of information tracking.

Dr Cáceres concluded by saying that the OIE encouraged its Members to respond to the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department enquiries related to information tracking, considering it as a global public good, therefore showing transparency and solidarity with other Members, allowing them to implement the necessary preventive measures to avoid the spread of pathogens and to reduce the potentially serious economic and social consequences that can arise.

347. **Reliability**

Dr Cáceres pointed out that the reliability was one of the main objectives of all surveillance systems, and especially of WAHIS, in its capacity as a global animal health information system of reference for safe international trade of animals and animal products and the protection of human and animal health. She specified that ideally, every notification of the presence and the absence of a disease would reflect the reality of the national animal health situation, as known by the official Veterinary Services.

She informed the Assembly that, to ensure a high reliability of information, access to this secure site had been made available only to authorised users, namely the Delegates of OIE Member Countries or the Chief Veterinary Officers of non-Member Countries, and their authorised representatives. She noted that, therefore, WAHIS data reflected the information gathered by the official Veterinary Services of each country and this was a major strength of the system. Moreover, she indicated that the information published for diseases reported present could be considered highly reliable, since the countries that shared this information did so despite the non-negligible economic consequences.

She added that another guarantee of data reliability consisted of the verification process undergone by all notification reports before validation and publication. She indicated that, if clarifications were needed, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department contacted the reporting country before validation. She then mentioned that, as of 19 May 2015, 504 six-monthly and annual reports had been validated for the year 2014. She showed the percentage of validated six-monthly and annual reports by number of items clarified by the Department with the reporting country after submission and prior to validation.

She explained that in 2014 and early 2015, the Department had improved its procedure for the verification process before validation of six-monthly reports and that, as a result, more clarifications had been required from countries during the verification process, in order to improve the quality of data.

Furthermore, Dr Cáceres stressed that the OIE was continuously making efforts to improve the reporting system through WAHIS and to better address the needs of its Member Countries. In 2014 and early 2015, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Department and the International Trade Department, started the revision of existing WAHIS Guidelines and their harmonisation with the *Codes* with the aim of making the notification requirements more precise and more convenient for Member Countries. She concluded by informing the Assembly that these revised WAHIS Guidelines, now entitled '*Notification procedures*', were available on the OIE Delegate website.

348. **Short notification delays**

Dr Cáceres indicated that short notification times were essential to allow other countries to take necessary preventive actions to avoid the spread of pathogens. She explained that, therefore, the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes* stipulated in Chapter 1.1. that, in accordance with relevant provisions in the disease-specific chapters, immediate notifications for OIE-listed diseases should be submitted to the OIE within 24 hours of their confirmation. She added that follow-up reports should be submitted on a weekly basis.

She indicated that as of 19 May 2015, 241 immediate notifications and 1,150 follow-up reports had been submitted for OIE-listed diseases for 2014 and early 2015 and she showed the distribution of submission times for both types of reports during this period. She indicated that thirty percent of immediate notifications had been submitted to the OIE within one day after the confirmation of the event. She added that 42% of follow-up reports had been submitted to the OIE within one week after the previous report, as stated in the *Codes*. She underlined that some reports had been submitted 49 weeks (almost one year) after the previous report.

She encouraged the countries concerned to make greater efforts at national level to submit immediate notifications and follow-up reports on time, so that other countries could take the necessary preventive actions and measures.

She indicated that, however, one of the spectacular improvements noted in 2014 was for the submission time of follow-up reports and she presented the trend in the average submission time of follow-up reports between 2005 and 2014. She indicated that this time fell from 51 days after the submission of the previous report in 2013 to 21 days in 2014.

She commented that part of this improvement might be explained by the considerable efforts made by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, since January 2014, to encourage countries to provide their follow-up reports for exceptional events in a timelier manner.

Moreover, Dr Cáceres said that the OIE had made efforts to continue to organise regional workshops on WAHIS for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE as well as global workshops recently appointed National Focal Points. She indicated that two global and one regional workshops (in Bulgaria) have been organised in 2014 or early 2015, to provide training in the use of WAHIS through presentations and practical exercises. She noted that the participants found these workshops very useful, and that all new Focal Points had been able to submit notification reports to the OIE thereafter.

349. Data accuracy

Dr Cáceres explained that data accuracy was another main objective of WAHIS. She recalled that the OIE endeavoured to collect data with a sufficient level of detail, to ensure that countries had access to all the information they needed and to avoid unjustified economic barriers.

Therefore, she explained that the information required for exceptional epidemiological events through immediate notifications and follow-up reports was very detailed. She specified that, between 1 January 2005 and 19 May 2015, the OIE received 5857 follow-up reports for 1703 exceptional epidemiological events. She pointed out that, between 2005 and 2014, the median number of follow-up reports provided remained constant, with two follow-up reports by event. For the first months of 2015, the median was higher, with three follow-up reports by event. She postulated that this increased results from the changes in the communication with countries of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department in 2014 and early 2015.

Moreover, she underlined that the number of follow-up reports submitted to the OIE had never been as high as in 2014, since 857 reports were submitted that year, compared to 521 reports submitted yearly on average between 2005 and 2013.

She explained that the information required in the context of the OIE monitoring system through six-monthly reports was not as detailed, since it related mostly to diseases where the situation in countries was stable. However, she recalled that, as mentioned earlier and as of 19 May 2015, for the first semester of 2014, 65% and 38% of countries that reported at least one disease present provided the maximum level of detail, for terrestrial and aquatic animals, respectively.

She indicated that for each country, one specific person from the Department was assigned according to his or her first language, to follow-up on all communications with a given Member Country related to animal disease notification and that this strategy had strengthened relations between reporting countries/territories and the Department and in parallel has improved the overall quality of reporting.

350. Additional information

Dr Cáceres highlighted that it was not only essential that Member Countries could access animal health data through the WAHIS Interface, but that they must also have the tools to understand the importance of the information.

She indicated that, to make the information easier to understand, the OIE had adapted, the former “*World Animal Health*” publication in paper form to a dynamic online version. She explained that this user-friendly online version, replaced the paper version, improved the display of the information, allowed users to extract relevant data more easily from WAHIS and was updated continuously.

She added that the OIE was also improving access to WAHIS data by developing a new smartphone application for WAHIS alerts. She stressed the fact that all information from immediate notifications and follow up reports would be available using this tool.

Dr Cáceres concluded her presentation by summarising all the strengths of WAHIS, the obligation of the Member Countries and the efforts of the OIE to continuously improve the quality of animal health information, highlighting the excellent response from the Member Countries during this period in terms of notification.

Finally, she informed OIE Members that, 10 years after the launch of the System, a questionnaire would be sent to all National Focal Points entering data into WAHIS, to evaluate their level of satisfaction with using WAHIS, identify the main challenges experienced during the notification process and gather suggestions for improving the notification process.

351. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE, thanked Dr Cáceres for her presentation and for having accepted the proposals made by the Council concerning the information and analysis contained in her report. The President then invited the Delegate of the United States of America to address the Assembly.
352. The Delegate of the United States of America, Dr Clifford, updated the Assembly on the highly pathogenic avian influenza events in his country which were first detected in late 2014. He started by presenting data on the number of cases and types of populations affected. Of the 196 cases detected, 19 were private backyard flocks that do not enter the commercial stream. The remaining 177 cases were in commercial operations which to date involved 6.8 million turkeys, 36.7 million chickens and 35 600 ducks. He emphasised that the United States has an active surveillance program with all commercial flocks monitored prior to slaughter under the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) and also conducts annual wild bird surveys.

The Delegate then briefly described the wild waterfowl migratory flyways, pointing to the overlap that occurs between the Pacific Flyway of the Americas with the Australia/Asia Flyway. It was at this overlap where migratory aquatic birds (waterfowl) on the Australia/East Asia flyway infected with the Eurasian H5N8 strain had introduced the virus to North America. Phylogenetic studies had shown the Eurasian H5N8 strain had mixed with North American lineages to generate new combinations (or “reassortant” viruses) H5N2 and H5N1 that were at that moment detected in the United States of America.

Dr Clifford summarised the epidemic curve for the premises affected since December 2014, and highlighted that an increase in cases had been observed in March 2015 but the curve was now in decline. The quarantines in States of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Montana and in the Midwest in Missouri and Arkansas have been lifted.

Dr Clifford further shared that while the original point introductions appeared to be through migratory wildfowl, the lateral spread in states in the Midwest could be attributed to breaches in biosecurity through fomites, including people, equipment and feed with possible contributions by rodents, and windborne dust.

He stated that the spread of this Eurasian H5N8 suggested that it is well adapted to certain waterfowl species allowing it to survive long migrations, which represented a major change in the Eurasian H5 virus circulation. Dr Clifford concluded his presentation by emphasising that previously all H5N8 detected in the United States of America had been of

the low pathogenic avian influenza of North American wild bird lineage, and different from the Eurasian H5N8 strain. He stated that they were working closely with the industry to improve biosecurity, and other control measures to prevent lateral spread. He added that the majority of the broiler industry of the United States of America is concentrated in the south eastern part of the country and has not been implicated in the outbreak to date.

353. The President of the OIE thanked the Delegate of United States of America and asked the Assembly to begin their comments on both presentations
354. The Delegate of Mexico commended the excellent work of Dr Cáceres in encouraging countries to continue sending reports and to provide clear and plentiful feedback on the quality of the reports. He also thanked Dr Clifford for providing information on the avian influenza outbreaks in his country. He stated that the country's proximity to and trade flows with the United States of America posed a high risk for spread of the disease to Mexico. He went on to say that the application of compartmentalisation, risk analysis and evaluation of epidemiological information helped to keep trade moving and to secure the flow of products such as genetic material and poultry products treated using thermal processes for food production, thereby ensuring food security. He concluded by saying that it was important to continue applying technical criteria in data analysis because the situation was critical.
355. The Delegate of New Zealand spoke on behalf of Quads countries. The Quads reaffirmed the importance of reporting animal disease occurrence information to the OIE, and they commended the recent efforts made by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department to improve WAHIS, including addressing some of the errors in the system. They thanked the Department for the improvements already made and they stated that they look forward to additional ones about to be made. The Quads also stated their appreciation of the Department's current openness in acknowledging problems with the system and its willingness to discuss potential improvements. Then they emphasised that given the key role of WAHIS in communicating the disease occurrence information of Member Countries internationally, it was important to ensure the system is able to collect high quality data, minimising the possibilities for misinterpretation, and to support Member Countries to meet their reporting obligations. The Quads requested the Assembly of this 83rd General session affirm the importance of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department's continued enhancement of WAHIS, including addressing the identified faults in the system. They pointed out that Assembly of Delegates would need to support the Director General and the Head of the Department as they explored the means to fund these developments. The Quads also supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal and Pathogenic Agents that the OIE convene a group to align WAHIS with Article 1.1.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* to help clearly define for Member Countries the amount of data required in reports, and to consider changes to WAHIS that would facilitate the ability of Member Countries to meet their reporting requirements. They urged the 83rd General Session to adopt this recommendation in a resolution on WAHIS.

The Delegate of New Zealand then congratulated Dr Cáceres for the continuing analysis made by the Department and he highlighted that in the analysis particularly related to brucellosis due to *B. abortus*, the data association and causation should not be confused. He added that bias and confounding contributions could be factors. He reiterated that New Zealand is a country free from *B. abortus* and reminded the Assembly that a good surveillance programme, stamping-out policy and movement control applied by each country could be good ways to control the disease, but these needed to be adapted to the local conditions. Diagnostic capability and capacity are particularly important considerations to ensure that screening and confirmatory tests are applied appropriately prior to stamping-out decisions in order to avoid wastage.

356. The Delegate of Panama thanked Dr Cáceres for her presentation and the comprehensive analysis of the animal health situation, which was important not only for countries but also for trading partners. He then thanked Dr Clifford for his presentation, to which he wished to add two facts: (a) that the Mississippi flyway had been delayed by three weeks by passing through the Isthmus of Panama and because the birds had stayed longer, there may have been more contact with migratory birds from the Pole flyway; and (b) that as hawk populations had increased over previous years, they had to be considered as susceptible populations.
357. The Delegate of Senegal thanked the speakers. He stressed the fact that bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis were diseases of particular concern for developing countries. He pointed out that there was a lack of information concerning their epidemiological situations in Africa and asked for OIE support in order to better assess their prevalence and to apply adequate prevention and control measures. He also highlighted the global impact of avian influenza and requested support from the international community to deal with the disease.
358. A member of the Argentine Delegation thanked Dr Clifford for detailing the avian influenza situation in his country. He then thanked Dr Cáceres for the good practices adopted by the Department, which had led to a clear and positive enhancement of the quality of reports. He also commended the promotion of the use of Spanish as an OIE language and extended special thanks to Dr Vallat for his efforts in this area, before calling for Spanish to be further promoted as an official language. In support of the previous comment by the Delegate of Senegal, he noted that, when analysing the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis situation, consideration should be given to the fact that no significant improvement appeared to have been made over the past 11 years with either of these diseases. This may have been because the prevalence was greater in 2004 but this information had been under-reported over that period.
359. The Delegate of Chinese Taipei thanked both speakers for their excellent reports, particularly for the epidemiological analysis of highly pathogenic avian influenza. He highlighted that the disease affected his country, particularly in 2015 and he mentioned that within the report there was useful information which could be very helpful when adjusting preventive and control measures against avian influenza in the future. He therefore asked for a copy of the presentations from both speakers in order to share them with his colleagues.
360. The President, Dr Schwabenbauer, informed the Assembly that both presentations would be made available on the OIE website.
361. The Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) thanked the speakers. He referred to the variety of ecosystems in the United States of America and underlined that the country should be vigilant regarding the effects of climate change on avian influenza. He referred to the presentation by Dr Cáceres and confirmed that there were difficulties with the transmission of animal health information concerning not only aquatic animal diseases, but also for diseases of wildlife. He thanked all the Focal Points for their work and the OIE for its support. He nevertheless reminded the Assembly that the notification of animal health information to the OIE was primarily the responsibility of the Delegates and that they should support efforts in this respect. He asked the OIE to continue with a quality analysis of notification reports received in order to encourage countries to provide better information.
362. The Delegate of Canada thanked Dr Cáceres and her team for providing them with continued support in disease notification and also thanked the Delegate of the United States of America for sharing the information on highly pathogenic avian influenza in his country. She cited the importance and obligation of sharing information on the animal health situation between countries. She highlighted the importance of promoting laboratory capabilities and networks for rapid communication. She reiterated the importance of notifying the information on viruses detected in wildlife, emphasising the fact that these

findings should not lead to unjustified trade barriers being imposed by other countries. The notification of virus detection in wildlife should be taken as a foresight and to gain better scientific knowledge on infection with avian influenza viruses, but it should not have an impact on trade between the country affected and its trading partners. The Delegate of Canada then requested the Delegate of United States of America to provide the Assembly with more information on the conference on avian influenza viruses to be held in the United States of America.

363. The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) thanked both speakers for their excellent presentations and explained that his country currently was facing difficulties in controlling the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza due to subtype H5N8. He noted the presence of the disease in Japan and highlighted that it was important to know the migratory routes. He asked the Delegate of the United States of America to share information on which control measures were being applied by his country to prevent the spread of the disease from migratory birds to farms.
364. The Delegate of Namibia thanked the President for the opportunity to make his comment and congratulated the speakers on their excellent presentations. He said that from his experience with FMD in southern Africa, the alert messages were meant, among other things, to inform current and future trade partners about the disease status. However, for countries that have FMD free zone(s), the title of the alert messages did not identify the specific zone(s) affected. He then suggested improving the title of the alert message to reflect the zone(s) affected to avoid trade barriers. In addition, he supported the idea of training on the use of WAHIS for Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, and for Delegates, to improve the reporting of aquatic animal diseases.
365. The Delegate of Indonesia, after thanking the speakers, pointed out that brucellosis was a priority for his country. He stated that the disease had been eradicated in 15 provinces and islands using zoning. He added that a screening and stamping-out programme had been implemented among high-prevalence populations and that vaccination had been carried out in low-prevalence populations. He insisted that it was an important zoonotic disease and proposed including it in the One Health platform. In conclusion, he asked the Delegate of the United States of America what measures had been taken to prevent the spread of avian influenza to grandparent poultry farms.
366. The Delegate of Uruguay joined the previous Delegates in congratulating Dr Clifford on his presentation. He also commended Dr Cáceres and her team for having improved the quality of information and the good relationship with focal points, as well as for promoting cordial and friendly relations between the Department and countries.
367. The Delegate of Chile welcomed both presentations and congratulated Dr Cáceres, in particular, on her excellent presentation, saying that the epidemiological analysis presented was proof of management and technical capacity of her and her team. He said that the analysis was very useful in ascertaining the global situation and making decisions. He added that the avian influenza analysis was important in view of the current global situation. He pointed out that migratory flyways were a major route of transmission of the disease, and their transboundary nature meant that they involved many countries. He therefore requested the Department to conduct an analysis of migratory routes and make it available online so that countries could base their decision-making on the dynamics of the next migratory season.
368. The Delegate of Eritrea thanked Dr Cáceres and pointed out that during her presentation there had been no mention of the situation concerning tuberculosis of camelids. He asked whether this was due to under-notification for this species in particular or to a lack of data.
369. A member of the Delegation of Sudan thanked Dr Cáceres and the team at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis department for their very fruitful collaboration in the validation of half-yearly reports of his country. He stressed the importance of

brucellosis in his country and proposed setting up an international programme to control the disease. He concluded by asking for a One Health approach to be applied to brucellosis.

370. Dr Cáceres thanked all the Delegates and their representatives, saying that their comments had been gratifying and a matter of pride for the whole team. She stressed that this had been the result of teamwork with Delegates and national Focal Points. She confirmed the evident improvement in the quality of reports and communication with countries.

In answer to the question from the Delegate of Eritrea regarding the analysis of tuberculosis in camels, she said that it had not been for lack of camel data but because the analysis presented today had been confined solely to cattle.

Replying to the comment from the Delegate of Chile, Dr Cáceres stated that an analysis of migratory pathways would be difficult because WAHIS did not collect information on migratory routes and it would only be possible to make an analysis based on information provided by countries on reported outbreaks.

In response to the comment from the Delegate of New Zealand on the scientific grounds for the analysis of brucellosis control measures, Dr Cáceres said that she acknowledged his remark but that the information had to be treated with caution because it was a global analysis over a period of 10 years and needed to be viewed in context as it is based on notifications by countries.

To conclude, Dr Cáceres answered the comment by the member of the Argentine delegation saying that the differences presented in the analysis were statistically significant in the context of the analysis itself.

371. The Delegate of United States of America thanked the Delegates for their comments.

In response to the Delegates of Panama and Korea (Rep. of), he said that the United States of America considered that avian influenza had not yet been found in Atlantic flyway, but for preparedness for the next migrations, all the four flyways would be considered. He added that they would update the Delegates on the ongoing situation and expressed his hope that Member Countries would not take actions on the basis of positive findings in backyard flocks and wildlife, as mentioned earlier by the Delegate from Canada.

In response to the Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of) in the context of the One Health approach, he pointed out that H5N1 started in Asia and the disease was never completely brought under control, thus leading to the current situation with H5N8. He mentioned that it was the first time that HPAI had adapted in this way in wild birds and could spread to all the migration flyways. He emphasised the importance of working together to effectively control the situation.

Answering the question of the Delegate of Canada, he informed the Assembly that the avian influenza conference would be held from 22 to 24 June 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland in the United States of America. He added that the invitations had been dispatched to the major trading partners or to the countries which had suffered from avian influenza. He explained that there were limited places, but the outcomes of this conference would be shared with the OIE and Member Countries' Delegates.

In response to the Delegate of Indonesia's question concerning protection of grandparent flocks, the United States poultry industry has very good biosecurity practices in their grandparent facilities to prevent the introduction of avian influenza.

372. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, emphasised that WAHIS was a tool of considerable importance for the OIE because it allowed the Organisation to deliver on its historic mandate. He thanked the World Animal Health Information and Analysis team, as well as the countries that provided the Department with experts, especially noting Brazil and Italy. He added that the OIE stood ready to welcome new experts sent by Member Countries. He also thanked the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, and in particular Dr Tammy Beckham, for technical assistance with the functioning of the current version of WAHIS. He also stressed the need to create a new version of the system in order to meet new challenges. He pointed out that this project was included in the new OIE strategic plan and that it would therefore not be necessary to provide a specific resolution. He stated that, if the financial contributions of Member Countries were insufficient to finance the entire project, it may be necessary to consider a call for donations via the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

Dr Vallat thanked the Delegates for having invoked the One Health approach and underlined the zoonotic character of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. He believed that, given the high cost of controlling bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, public funds would be required and could only be obtained by demonstrating the zoonotic nature of these diseases. He pointed out that, in this respect, the OIE had persuaded WHO to mention bovine tuberculosis in its global zoonoses programme.

Dr Vallat stated that training Delegates and Focal Points to use WAHIS, in particular Focal Points responsible for notification of animal diseases to the OIE, was essential. He added that he backed the request from Dr Cáceres for specific training on WAHIS for Focal Points for aquatic animals.

373. The President of the OIE noted that setting up the new version of WAHIS was one of the points raised by Dr Eloit during her first address as Director General (Elect) of the OIE. She concluded by affirming that this would be a key project over the coming years.
374. The Delegate of Jamaica thanked the speakers. He first commented on the importance of migratory fly ways in the spread of avian influenza and pointed out that his country shared bird migration routes with the United States of America. He emphasised the need to strengthen collaboration between the countries of the Americas, and to set up a common early warning system for the countries concerned. He also noted that in the past FAO and other international agencies for wildlife had been approached concerning controlling the disease. He recalled the importance of regional collaboration, in particular during the forthcoming migratory season which would start next August.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2014 and the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends

375. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. 1. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14

Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

376. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 14. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of
disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform
encephalopathy and for the endorsement of national official control programmes

377. The Director General of the OIE briefly introduced Resolution No. 15 by explaining that it was a summary and compilation of previously adopted Resolutions to facilitate the understanding of Member Countries of the procedures related to official recognition and maintenance of disease status and for the endorsement of national official control programmes.
378. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 15 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

Disussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Costs to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition
of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform
encephalopathy and the endorsement of national official control programmes

379. The Director General of the OIE briefly introduced Resolution No. 16 by explaining that it was also a summary and compilation of previously adopted resolutions to facilitate the understanding of Member Countries regarding their financial obligations. He emphasised that this Resolution was not presented for negotiation as the financial obligations mentioned in the Resolution have been previously agreed and adopted by the Assembly.

He acknowledged some Member Countries had difficulties in finding sufficient resources and mentioned that the possibility for financial support from donors and the private sector could be explored by Member Countries.

380. The Delegate of Bhutan noted that rinderpest was mentioned in the point 1 of the considerations and inquired whether it should be deleted as global freedom from rinderpest had been declared during the 79th General Session and as Member Countries would no longer be evaluated for official recognition of rinderpest free status.
381. Dr Brian Evans, Deputy Director General, confirmed that all countries were considered free of rinderpest since the declaration of its worldwide eradication. He clarified the importance of maintaining the chronology of previously adopted Resolutions and suggested to keep the text as presented.
382. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

383. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 29. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

384. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 35
The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting,
surveillance, and emergency response

385. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 35 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs. 83 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

386. Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 83 SG/11B AF).
387. She also presented the recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015.
388. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Rabat.

Regional Commission for the Americas

389. Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 83 SG/11B AM).
390. He also presented the recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, from 10 to 14 November 2014.
391. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Guadalajara.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

392. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People's Republic of China), President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 83 SG/11B AS).
393. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

394. Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 83 SG/11B EU).
395. He also presented the recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Bern, Switzerland, from 22 to 26 September 2014.
396. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Bern.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

397. Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 83 SG/11B ME).
398. The Assembly noted the report.
399. All the Presidents of the Regional Commissions expressed their appreciation of the quality of the work and management of Dr Bernard Vallat and thanked him warmly. At the same time, they congratulated Dr Monique Eloit, the new Director General of the OIE as from 1 January 2016, and expressed their support for the implementation of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

Dates of the 84th General Session (May 2016)

400. The Assembly decided that the 84th General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 22 to Friday 27 May 2016. The Director General stated that the 84th General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 84th General Session (May 2016)

401. The Assembly confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen the previous year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Council:
- Economics of animal health: direct and indirect cost of animal disease outbreaks

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

402. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2016 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2016 prior to the 84th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Technical Items for the 85th General Session (May 2017)

403. The Assembly confirmed the Technical Item, which had been chosen from among the topics proposed by the Regional Commissions and examined by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and was presented by Dr Modisane (South Africa):

- Global action to alleviate the threat of antimicrobial resistance: progress and opportunities for future activities under the ‘One Health’ initiative

404. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2017 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2017 prior to the 85th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health status

405. The OIE Members listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Endorsement of an official national control programmes

406. China (People's Republic of), India, Namibia and Venezuela were awarded an OIE certificate endorsing their official national FMD control programme. Namibia was awarded an OIE certificate endorsing its official national CBPP control programme.

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2014 (Doc. 83 SG/3)

407. Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, management, human resources and regional actions, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2014 and the distribution of Member Countries by contribution category.
408. She went on to present the main points regarding the administrative activities of the Organisation.
409. She emphasised the importance of strengthening budgetary and financial management at a time of growth in the activity of the Organisation.
410. Dr Eloit then reminded the Assembly that the ninth meeting of the World Fund Advisory Committee had been held on 16 December 2014, and that the ninth meeting of the World Fund Management Committee had been held on 20 May 2015. She mentioned the efforts of the Working Group to establish performance criteria for activities financed through the World Fund.
411. The Delegate of Canada congratulated the OIE for putting in place performance criteria to assess the effectiveness of the investments made, especially those via the World Fund, as these criteria are particularly helpful to be able to report on the use made of funds allocated to the OIE and to continue to canvass for the allocation of new funds.
412. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2014) (Doc. 83 SG/4)

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World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

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**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year**
(Docs 83 SG/15 and 83 SG/16)

429. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Correa Messuti (Uruguay) and the report of the External Auditor, Mr Selles, appointed by the OIE. Dr Messuti strongly encouraged Delegates to raise the awareness of the relevant authorities to honour the payment of arrears or to consider an increase in contributions by a change of category.

430. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor and his recommendations, including control of staff expenses and the importance of continuing to replenish the Reserve Fund.
431. The Delegate of Botswana congratulated the OIE for its accomplishments and urged Member Countries to pay their arrears to ensure the continued implementation of activities and to replenish the Reserve Fund of the OIE.
432. The Delegate of New Zealand thanked Australia and Japan for their financial contributions through the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to support activities in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region.
433. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

**Acknowledgements to Member Countries and partners that made
voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE,
or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings**

434. The Director General conveyed his warmest thanks to the partners:
- To Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America;
 - To the World Bank and the European Union (European Commission);
 - To the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the Maris Llorens Foundation and World Animal Protection (WAP);
- for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2014;
- To Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Estonia, Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), Japan, Jordan, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Niger, Russia, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia United Arab Emirates and Vietnam;
- for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2014;
- To Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of), Spain and United States of America;
- for providing staff remunerated directly by their country to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2014.
435. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 4. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.
436. The Director General also conveyed his warmest thanks to France for its voluntary contribution, and to Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom, as well as to the Fédération Equestre Internationale and the Latin-American Poultry Association, for their exceptional contributions in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. He had already informed the Assembly in 2014 that several other Member Countries had indicated their intention to participate in the subscription. The subscription remained open with a view to modernising buildings, purchasing the part of the building not yet placed on sale and proceeding with early repayment of the bank loan currently being repaid partially from rental income.

437. Draft Resolution No. 10 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

Nomination of the External Auditor

438. The President proposed that the Assembly renew the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of the accounts of the OIE for a further year.
439. Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

Creation of an old-age pension fund for the staff of OIE Representations

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2015 Budget (Doc. 83 SG/5)

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Discussion and adoption of the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE
(Doc. 83 SG/17)

449. The President informed the Assembly that the main lines of the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE for the period 2016–2020 had been discussed by the Council at its meetings in October 2013 and February 2014. The final version, as proposed for adoption by the Assembly, had been validated by the Council at its meeting in February 2015. The President warmly thanked all the Member Countries that had helped to enrich the deliberations through their interventions at Conferences of the Regional Commissions or by submitting written comments.
450. Dr Schwabenbauer emphasised that the Council had wished to have a short, succinct text so that the key messages on the OIE's priorities for the next 5-year period would be explicit and more easily understandable for the OIE's partners, namely donors and non-governmental or professional organisations, as well as the general public. This new Strategic Plan would thus serve as the reference document for the term of office of the new Director General during the development of the Organisation's annual work programmes.
451. The President also pointed out that the adoption of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan represented a new challenge for the Organisation. Based on the experience of previous strategic plans, the Sixth Strategic Plan set out to consolidate the OIE's core activities (scientific excellence, dissemination of quality animal health information), to pursue capacity-building programmes for national Veterinary Services for better global animal health governance, to meet new challenges especially in the field of processing animal health information, to ensure the robustness of procedures followed by the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, and finally to continue to modernise the administrative functioning of the Organisation to achieve greater efficiency.
452. The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, congratulated the OIE on the continuing and fruitful implementation of the Fifth Strategic Plan and conveyed her thanks to the OIE for the succinct presentation of the upcoming Sixth Strategic Plan, which clearly describes the challenges for the next 5 years. Finally, after thanking the Council for taking into account the comments made during the discussion phase of the Sixth Strategic Plan with the OIE Regional Commissions, the Delegate expressed her support for the Sixth Strategic Plan.
453. Draft Resolution No. 13 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

Evaluation of the OIE Specialist Commissions

454. Following the adoption of the Sixth Strategic Plan and with a view to strengthening the desired scientific excellence of the Organisation's activities, the President of the OIE put forward a proposal to the Assembly for the creation of a Performance Committee to evaluate the OIE Specialist Commissions. Indeed, in light of the activity reports of the various Commissions and suggestions for improving the operating procedures put forward by some of them, the Council had recommended that the performance of the said Commissions be regularly assessed based on an evaluation grid yet to be established. This would enable an annual assessment report of the activities carried out to be presented to the Council.
455. The Delegate of New Zealand pointed out that it was a matter of interest for the World Assembly that the OIE Specialist Commissions were performing effectively and efficiently and so he strongly endorsed the proposal to form a Performance Committee for assessing the OIE Specialist Commissions. He asked what the intentions of the Council were regarding making the reports of this Performance Committee transparent to the World Assembly.
456. The President of the OIE replied that she considered it important for the elected members of the Council to be the first to be informed, as well as the Delegates of the countries providing experts, but that the subject had not yet been broached in detail. This issue would be raised at the next meeting of the Council in September 2015.
457. The Delegate of Brazil, after highlighting the volume of work carried out by the Specialist Commissions, said that it would be necessary to reflect on how to rethink the working methods of the Commissions, without creating a performance committee that could prove costly.
458. The Delegate of Costa Rica supported the Delegate of Brazil and suggested thinking about the profiles of the persons that would constitute this committee before deciding on such a performance assessment system for the Commissions.
459. The President of the OIE replied that the composition of the performance committee appeared in the draft Resolution and that there would be no additional cost for the creation of a performance committee because the meetings of this committee would be held, for example, on the fringes of the General Session.
460. The Director General of the OIE then recalled the need to send observations to the Council so that it could make proposals to the Assembly with a view to improving the work of the Commissions, where necessary noting the shortcomings of certain elected Members.
461. The Delegate of Canada voiced support for setting up a process to assess the work of the Commissions and a framework for the role of the President and Vice-President in these Commissions. Concerning this assessment process, the Delegate stressed the need for a simple framework that allowed a straightforward assessment.
462. Draft Resolution No. 11 creating a Performance Committee to evaluate the OIE Specialist Commissions was adopted with one abstention (Costa Rica). The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

Proposed 2016 Contributions Scale and 2016 Budget Estimates (Doc. 83 SG/6)

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≡ FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015 ≡

THIRD ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Council
(Doc. 83 SG/18)

489. The President recalled the commitments she had made at the time of her election, and then presented document 83 SG/18, which summarises the activities of the Council between May 2014 and May 2015. She emphasised that the work carried out during the year had in large part focused on preparation of the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2020 taking into account the comments and proposals received from Member Countries. Matters relating staff policy, budgetary and accounting management of the Organisation were regularly examined, including the appropriateness of creating a Pension Fund for the staff of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations taking into account the budgetary impact.
490. The Council also worked on preparing for the elections of the OIE's statutory bodies due to take place in 2015, and in particular examined the criteria to be met by candidates for positions on the Specialist Commissions. A guidance note on this subject was sent to all Delegates in November 2014. The Council, having been informed that a single candidature had been received for the post of Director General, interviewed the candidate at its meeting in February 2015.
491. The Council was kept informed of relations with international partners and gave its opinion on monitoring of the network of Reference Centres (Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres).
492. The President informed the Delegates of her travels to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled her to see the many achievements of the OIE.
493. The President thanked all the Members of the Council who had helped her during her term of office to contribute to the momentum of the Organisation.
494. The Assembly adopted the report on activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 83 SG/18).

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)**

(Doc. 83 SG/19)

495. The Director General presented the Agreement with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), approved by the Council. This is an update of the Agreement previously concluded on 19 September 2001 to adapt it to take into account the development of cooperation with IBAR.
496. Draft Resolution No. 36 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Customs Organization (WCO)**

(Doc. 83 SG/20)

497. The Director General presented the Agreement with the World Customs Organization (WCO), approved by the Council. This is an update of the Agreement previously signed on 19 November 2008 to adapt it take into account the development of cooperation with the WCO.
498. Draft Resolution No. 37 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 37 at the end of this report.

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal
Health (OIE) and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL)**

(Doc. 83 SG/21)

499. The Director General presented the Memorandum of Understanding with Interpol, approved by the Council.
500. Draft Resolution No. 38 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 38 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and World Veterinary Association (WVA)**

(Doc. 83 SG/22)

501. The Director General presented the Agreement with World Veterinary Association (WVA), approved by the Council.
502. Draft Resolution No. 39 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 39 at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species (CITES)**

(Doc. 83 SG/23)

503. The Director General presented the Agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), approved by the Council.
504. Draft Resolution No. 40 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 40 at the end of this report.

Verification of the quorum for elections

505. In accordance with the Statutes, the President verified the number of participants and the list of Delegates eligible to vote. As 132 Member Countries were present, the quorum was reached. Only 131 Member Countries were eligible to vote. As the number present exceeded the quorum (91 Delegates present), voting could take place, in the presence of Mr Gaudemet, Legal Counsel. Dr Clifford and Dr Schipp were designated as scrutineers.

Election of the Members of the Regional Commissions

506. The President invited the Presidents of each Regional Commission to make proposals concerning the composition of the new Bureaux. She proposed a vote by a show of hand, which was accepted by the Assembly. The Assembly adopted the following proposals for the five Commissions below:

Regional Commission for Africa (unanimously)

President : Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)
Vice-President : Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda)
Vice-President : Dr Karim Boughalem (Algeria)
Secretary General : Dr Gaston Djonwe (Cameroon)

Regional Commission for the Americas (unanimously)

President : Dr Guilherme Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President : Dr Miguel Azañón (Guatemala)
Vice-President : Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General : Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (unanimously)

President : Dr Zhongqiu Zhang (China [People's Rep. of])
Vice-President : Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia)
Vice-President : Dr Keshav Prasad Premy (Nepal)
Secretary General : Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand)

Regional Commission for Europe (unanimously)

President : Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia)
Vice-President : Dr Siala Rustamova (Azerbaijan)
Vice-President : Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)
Secretary General : Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)

Regional Commission for the Middle East (unanimously)

President : Dr Kassem N. Al-Qahtani (Qatar)
Vice-President : Dr Abdulghani Y. Al-Fadhl (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-President : Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)
Secretary General : Dr Salah F. Abbas (Iraq)

Election of the Members of the Specialist Commissions

507. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Further to the consultations at the meetings of the Regional Commissions, the following candidates were proposed:

President

The only candidature was for Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa), which was put forward by the Delegate of South Africa and supported by several other Delegates including Botswana and Swaziland.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Gideon Brückner obtained 107 votes.

The President declared that Dr Brückner had been elected.

First Vice-President

The only candidature was for Dr Kris de Clercq (Belgium), which was put forward by the Delegate of Belgium and supported by several other Delegates including Luxembourg and Togo.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Kris de Clercq obtained 108 votes.

The President declared that Dr de Clercq had been elected as First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President

Two candidatures were put forward, the first for Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt) by the Delegate of Saudi Arabia, supported by several other Delegates including Jordan and Lebanon, and secondly for Dr Jef Hammond (Australia) by the Delegate of Cambodia, supported by several other Delegates including Malaysia and the Philippines.

The election took place by electronic voting.

The results of the vote were as follows:

Prof. Hassan Aidaros	:	37 votes
Dr Jef Hammond	:	83 votes

The President declared that Dr Hammond had been elected as Second Vice-President.

Members (3)

Seven candidatures were put forward and the election took place by secret ballot. The results were as follows:

Dr Viktor Irza (Russia)	:	30 votes
Dr Baptiste Dungu (Congo [Dem. Rep. of the])	:	63 votes
Dr Zhilang Wang (China [People's Rep. of])	:	39 votes
Dr Ernesto Mendoza Mainegra (Cuba)	:	31 votes
Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt)	:	32 votes
Dr Juan Antonio Montaña Hirose (Mexico)	:	57 votes
Dr Sylvia Bellini (Italy)	:	80 votes

There was one blank ballot.

The President declared that Dr Dungu, Dr Montaña Hirose and Dr Bellini had been elected as Members of the Commission.

The President indicated that for all Commissions those candidates not elected would continue to be called upon to contribute their expertise through participation in *ad hoc* groups as required.

508. **Biological Standards Commission**

Further to the consultations at the meetings of the Regional Commissions the following candidates were proposed:

President

The only candidature was for Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America), which was put forward by the Delegate of Canada and supported by several other Delegates including Uruguay and Jordan.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Beverly Schmitt obtained 115 votes.

The President declared that Dr Schmitt had been elected as President.

First Vice-President

The only candidature was for Franck Berthe (France), which was put forward by the Delegate of France on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, and supported by several other Delegates including Jordan and Togo.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Franck Berthe obtained 117 votes.

The President declared that Dr Berthe had been elected as First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President

Two candidatures were put forward, the first for Dr Hualan Chen (China [People's Rep. of]) by the Delegate of Japan, supported by several other Delegates including Mongolia and Australia, and secondly for Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco) by the Delegate of Morocco, supported by several other Delegates including Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

The election took place by electronic voting.

The results of the vote were as follows:

Dr Hualan Chen	:	71 votes
Dr Mehdi El Harrak	:	48 votes

The President declared that Dr Chen had been elected as Second Vice-President.

Members (3)

Six candidatures were put forward and the election took place by secret ballot. The results were as follows:

Dr Ana Maria Nicola (Argentina)	:	56 votes
Dr Alexei Zaberezhni (Russia)	:	36 votes
Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)	:	77 votes
Prof. Ahmad Mahmoud Al-Majali (Jordan)	:	26 votes
Dr Anthony Fooks (United Kingdom)	:	59 votes
Dr Peter Daniels (Australia)	:	76 votes

There was one blank ballot and two spoilt ballots.

The President declared that Dr El Harrak, Dr Fooks and Dr Daniels had been elected as Members of the Commission.

509. **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

Further to the consultations at the meetings of the Regional Commissions the following candidates were proposed:

President

The only candidature was for Dr Etienne Bonbon (France), which was put forward by the Delegate of France and supported by several other Delegates including Uruguay and Argentina.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Etienne Bonbon obtained 117 votes.

The President declared that Dr Bonbon had been elected as President.

First Vice-President

The only candidature was for Dr Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand), which was put forward by the Delegate of Japan, and supported by several other Delegates including Cambodia and Singapore.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Stuart MacDiarmid obtained 118 votes.

The President declared that Dr MacDiarmid had been elected as First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President

Only one candidature was put forward for Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) by the Delegate of Brazil, supported by several other Delegates including Paraguay and France.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Funes obtained 120 votes.

The President declared that Dr Funes had been elected as Second Vice-President.

Members (3)

Six candidatures were put forward and the election took place by secret ballot. The results were as follows:

Dr Cristobal Zepeda (United States of America) :	67 votes
Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan) :	93 votes
Prof. Emmanuel Couacy Hymann (Côte d'Ivoire) :	75 votes
Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia) :	77 votes
Dr Taras I. Aliper (Russia) :	47 votes
Dr Georges Khoury (Syria) :	16 votes

There was one blank ballot.

The President declared that Dr Okita, Dr Couacy Hymann and Dr Hammami had been elected as Members of the Commission.

510. **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

Further to the consultations at the meetings of the Regional Commissions the following candidates were proposed:

President

The only candidature was for Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia), which was put forward by the Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) and supported by several other Delegates including Malaysia and Korea (Rep. of).

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Ingo Ernst obtained 110 votes.

The President declared that Dr Ernst had been elected as President.

First Vice-President

The only candidature was for Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile), which was put forward by the Delegate of Chile, and supported by several other Delegates including Mexico and Panama.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno obtained 107 votes.

The President declared that Dr Gallardo Lagno had been elected as First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President

The only candidature was for Dr Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom), which was put forward by the Delegate of the United Kingdom, and supported by several other Delegates including Sweden and Rwanda.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Edmund Peeler obtained 108 votes.

The President declared that Dr Peeler had been elected as Second Vice-President.

Members (3)

Four candidatures were put forward and the election took place by secret ballot. The results were as follows:

Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada)	:	99 votes
Dr Maxwel Barson (Zimbabwe)	:	84 votes
Dr Nelly Isyagi (Uganda)	:	45 votes
Prof. Dato' Dr Mohamed Shariff bin Mohamed Din (Malaysia)	:	86 votes

There was one blank ballot.

The President declared that Dr Constantine, Dr Barson and Prof. Mohamed Din had been elected as Members of the Commission.

Election of the President of the Assembly

511. The President asked the Assembly to present candidatures for this election. The only candidature put forward by the Delegate of Lesotho was for Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa) supported by several other Delegates including Botswana and United States of America. The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane obtained 117 votes

The President declared that Dr Modisane had been elected President of the Assembly of the OIE.

Election of the Vice-President of the Assembly

512. The President asked the Assembly to present candidatures for this election. The candidature of Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) was put forward by the Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) and supported by several other Delegates including Japan and Uganda; the candidature of Dr Hadi Al Lawati (Oman) was put forward by the Delegate of the United Arab Emirates and supported by several other Delegates including Qatar and Bahrain. The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Schipp obtained 69 votes and Dr Al Lawati obtained 47 votes.

The President declared that Dr Schipp had been elected Vice-President of the Assembly.

Election of the Members of the Council

513. Following consultations during the meetings of the Regional Commissions, the President asked the Assembly to present their candidates for this election, as the Assembly had unanimously agreed to vote by a show of hands.

The following were unanimously elected as Members of the Council:

- For the Africa Region: Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda)
- For the Americas Region: Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico)
Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)
- For the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region: Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan)
- For the Europe Region: Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia)
- For the Middle East Region: Dr Hadi Mohsin Al Lawati (Oman).

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Transfer of office to the new President

514. President Schwabenbauer congratulated Dr Modisane on being elected President of the Assembly. She drew the Assembly's attention to the challenges facing the Organisation with regard to the Sixth Strategic Plan. She gave the floor to President Modisane.
515. President Modisane thanked Dr Schwabenbauer and congratulated all the elected members of the Commissions. He paid tribute to the sustained work of Dr Schwabenbauer, the members of the Council and the Director General during the past years. He conveyed his thanks to Dr Schwabenbauer for the effectiveness with which she had presided over the destiny of the OIE.
516. On behalf of the Council, Dr Modisane warmly thanked Dr Schwabenbauer for her personal commitment and engagement towards the OIE.
517. The Director General thanked the President and all the other elected officers. He also thanked the Delegates for their active participation and their willingness to seek a consensus despite cultural and contextual differences.

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

518. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report is printed in two documents (the Technical Sessions and then the Administrative Sessions).
519. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
520. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the Draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2015** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to have been adopted in its final form.

Closing Session

521. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional Representations, the translators, the messengers, the photographer and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 83rd General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
522. He invited the Delegates to return for the 84th General Session in May 2016.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

**Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates
during their 83rd General Session
24 – 29 May 2015**

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. 1](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2014 and the Report on the current situation with regards to the events and trends of animal health worldwide
- [No. 2](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2014
- [No. 3](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2014)
- [No. 4](#) Acknowledgements to the Member Countries and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the provision of personnel
- [No. 5](#) Modification of the 2015 Budget
- [No. 6](#) OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 90th Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2016)
- [No. 7](#) Financial contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2016
- [No. 8](#) Planned work programme for 2016
- [No. 9](#) Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. 10](#) Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and donors that helped the OIE in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony
- [No. 11](#) Creation of a Performance Committee for the evaluation of the Specialist Commissions of the OIE
- [No. 12](#) Creation of a Joint Old-Age Allowance Fund for the staff of OIE Representations
- [No. 13](#) Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period
- [No. 14](#) Adoption of new or revised chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
- [No. 15](#) Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of national official control programmes
- [No. 16](#) Costs to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the endorsement of national official control programmes
- [No. 17](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries
- [No. 18](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries
- [No. 19](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
- [No. 20](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Member Countries
- [No. 21](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries
- [No. 22](#) Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries

<u>No. 23</u>	Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries
<u>No. 24</u>	Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries
<u>No. 25</u>	Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material
<u>No. 26</u>	Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals
<u>No. 27</u>	Animal Production Food Safety
<u>No. 28</u>	Animal Welfare
<u>No. 29</u>	Amendments to the <i>OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>
<u>No. 30</u>	Amendments to the <i>OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
<u>No. 31</u>	Adoption of new or revised chapters for the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>
<u>No. 32</u>	Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
<u>No. 33</u>	High Throughput Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG)
<u>No. 34</u>	Register of Diagnostic Kits Validated and Certified by the OIE
<u>No. 35</u>	The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting, surveillance, and emergency response
<u>No. 36</u>	Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the African Union / Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
<u>No. 37</u>	Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
<u>No. 38</u>	Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL)
<u>No. 39</u>	Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA)
<u>No. 40</u>	Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
<u>No. 41</u>	Appointment of the Director General

RESOLUTION No. 1

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2014
and the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2014 (83 SG/1) and the Report on the current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends (83 SG/2).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management,
Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2014**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2014 (83 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 3

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2014)**

In application of Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Financial Report for the 88th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2014) (83 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 4

**Acknowledgements to the Member Countries and Partners that made
Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE,
or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and for the provision of personnel**

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2014 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2014,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America;

The European Union (European Commission) and the World Bank;

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the Maris Llorens Foundation and the World Animal Protection (WPA);

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2014.

2. Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, China (People's Rep. of), Estonia, Former Yug. Rep of Macedonia, Hong Kong, Japan, Jordan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Niger, Russia, Switzerland, Taipei Chinese, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam;

for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2014.

3. Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of), Spain and United States of America

for the provision of personnel paid directly by their country to support the implementation of the programmes of the OIE in 2014.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2015 Budget

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 6

**OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 90th Financial Year
(1 January to 31 December 2016)**

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2016

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 8

Planned Work Programme for 2016

CONSIDERING

The Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2016-2020 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2016 (Appendix I of document 83 SG/6), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Planned Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the general budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other subsidies to support the OIE activities.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 1 January 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of his mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of 1 year (2015) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 10

**Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and donors that helped the OIE
in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony**

CONSIDERING

Resolution No. XI of 30 May 2008 giving the Director General a mandate for the acquisition of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony,

Having noted the additional voluntary contributions received by the OIE within the framework of the subscription launched among Member Countries and other donors to contribute to this acquisition,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

- The Governments of Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. Of), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom for their voluntary contributions to support the extension of the Headquarters so that it corresponds to the development of the objectives of the Organisation,
- And the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the Latin American Poultry Association.

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains open, until further notice, to the Member Countries and potential donors so as to finalise the acquisition and renovation of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed with the total or partial reimbursement of the bank loan granted in 2009 to acquire the first part of the building.

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015

RESOLUTION No. 11

**Creation of a Performance Committee for the evaluation
of the Specialist Commissions of the OIE**

HAVING regard to the Organic Rules, and in particular Article 3 thereof, designating the organs responsible for carrying out the functions of the Organisation, and Article 10, thereof, stipulating that the rules governing the functioning of each of the Commissions are determined by the General Rules,

HAVING regard to the Internal Rules of the OIE Specialist Commissions, and in particular the articles relating to the qualification of the members,

CONSIDERING that the Sixth Strategic Plan reminds that the OIE's reputation rests on the quality of the science to which the Organisation has access for its standard setting,

CONSIDERING the need to create a body responsible for evaluating the work of the Specialist Commissions,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL,

DECIDES

1. A Performance Committee is hereby instituted, composed of a member of the OIE Council, the President of each Specialist Commission, the Deputy Director General in charge of Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and International Standards, a senior official of the Scientific and Technical Department and of the International Trade Department, and responsible for establishing an evaluation grid for OIE Specialist Commissions for evaluating their work each year. The evaluation grid will be submitted for agreement to the Director General and to the Council.

The work of the Specialist Commissions is evaluated each year by the said Performance Committee, which meets once a year and submits an evaluation report to the Director General established on the basis of the evaluation grid mentioned above. Thereafter, the Director General presents the report to the Council, which can then put forward proposals to the Assembly.

2. The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015

RESOLUTION No. 12

Creation of a Joint Old-Age Allowance Fund for the staff of OIE Representations

RESERVED FOR DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. 13

Sixth Strategic Plan

CONSIDERING

The document 83 SG/17 that introduces the draft Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2016-2020 period,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the Sixth Strategic Plan of the OIE.

REQUESTS

The Director General to prepare annual work programmes, based on the guidelines of this Sixth Strategic Plan, with the corresponding budgets and contribution mechanisms, which will be submitted every year to the approval of the Assembly.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 1 January 2016)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)*, like the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,
2. Member Countries are asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,
3. The following new or revised chapters were sent to Member Countries for comment:
 - 2.2.2. Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
 - 2.2.4. Necrotising hepatopancreatitis
 - 2.2.5. Taura syndrome
 - 2.2.8. Infection with yellow head virus
 - 2.4.7. Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the new or revised chapters for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Manual* proposed in Annexes 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Document 83 SG/12/CS4 B, each text being authentic.
 2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of national official control programmes

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) during the 62nd General Session adopted Resolution No. IX, 'Countries and zones that may be considered as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD)',
2. During the 63rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolutions Nos XII, XIII and XIV, which described the general procedure to update the list of FMD free countries and added contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and rinderpest to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
3. During the 65th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XII, which required that Member Countries with an official free status, either for the whole country or for zone(s), confirm by official letter, in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, during the month of November of each year, that their official disease free status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
4. During the 65th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. XVII, which delegated to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. During the 67th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XVI, which described the general procedure to be followed by the OIE Member Countries wishing to achieve an officially recognised status according to the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and made official recognition contingent to a 60-day consultative period given to all Member Countries' Delegates,
6. During the 69th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XV, which added bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE,
7. During the 72nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIV, which extended the authority of the Scientific Commission to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised disease free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* to the other diseases included in the procedure of official status recognition,
8. During the 73rd and the 74th General Sessions, the Assembly adopted Resolutions No. XXVI and No. XXVII, respectively, which established a new procedure for BSE status recognition based on risk assessment and described three categories of BSE risk status (negligible, controlled and undetermined),

9. During the 75th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII, which introduced in the *Terrestrial Code* the concept of an FMD containment zone, allowing a Member Country to establish an FMD containment zone for the purpose of minimising the impact of an outbreak of FMD on an entire free country or zone,
10. During the 76th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXII, which compiled and updated the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases,
11. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 18, which declared global freedom of rinderpest, and Resolution No. 26, which suspended the duty of Member Countries to annually confirm rinderpest free status,
12. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolutions Nos 19 and 26, which established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Code*,
13. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries and the document was published and kept up-to-date on the OIE website,
14. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 19, which added African horse sickness (AHS) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
15. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 25, which updated the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases or endorsement of a national official control programme for FMD,
16. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29, which added classical swine fever (CSF) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE and established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for PPR in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
17. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 30, which updated the procedure that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases or endorsement of a national official control programme,
18. During the 82nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 31, which established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for CBPP, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*, and Resolution No. 21, which described the procedure that Member Countries should follow to achieve the endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP,
19. Financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of a national official control programme have been determined and updated in specific resolutions,
20. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by OIE Delegates of Member Countries,

21. The OIE is not responsible for publication or maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease status based on inaccurate information or untimely or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the initial declaration,
22. The OIE is also not responsible for publication or maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' national official control programme based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the endorsement of the national official control programme.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. That the OIE Member Countries wishing to be officially recognised and listed for a disease status for AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD, PPR and risk status for BSE or for the endorsement of their national official control programme for CBPP, FMD and PPR have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the recognition of disease status or endorsement of a national official control programme as well as the specific guidelines contained in disease specific questionnaires and the general provisions for Veterinary Services as outlined in Chapters 1.1., 1.6., 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
2. That the Scientific Commission, following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member Country for the recognition or reinstatement of a specific disease status or endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the applicant Member Country to verify compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
3. That the Scientific Commission, following the allocation of a specific disease status, a BSE risk status or endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the Member Country to monitor the maintenance of the allocated disease or risk status or the progress of the national official control programme and to verify continuous compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
4. That in the event of the application for an official status to be assigned to a new zone adjacent to another zone having already the same official status, the Delegate should indicate, in writing to the Director General, whether the new zone is being merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone, and, if the two zones remain separate, provide details on the control measures to be applied for the maintenance of the status of the separate zones and particularly on the identification and movement of animals between the two zones of the same status in accordance with Chapter 4.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
5. That the recognition by the Assembly of the disease status or BSE risk status of a Member Country or the endorsement of its national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60-day consultative period by all Member Countries' Delegates for all new disease status recognitions, changes in the category of disease free status or BSE risk status as specified in the *Terrestrial Code*, changes in the boundaries of an existing free zone, and endorsement of a national official control programme.

6. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or a zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised disease status following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
7. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, the reinstatement of the free status of a Member Country or a zone outside of a containment zone on evaluation of documented evidence provided by that Member Country that a containment zone has been established in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
8. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to confirm or reject, without further Assembly consultation, the maintenance of the allocated BSE risk status of a Member Country or a zone following a report of a change in the epidemiological situation by the Delegate of the Member Country.
9. That a Member Country can maintain its recognised disease status, its recognised BSE risk status or the OIE endorsement of its national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, provided that the Delegate submits, during the month of November of each year, to the Director General of the OIE the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* and that the Scientific Commission is satisfied that the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* continue to be met.
10. That further to the declaration of global eradication of rinderpest in 2011, Member Countries are exempt from annual reconfirmation for rinderpest free status.
11. That when a Member Country having an officially recognised disease status or an endorsed national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR has failed to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this status or endorsement as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code*, it is deleted from the list of officially recognised Member Countries or zones or from the list of Member Countries having an endorsed national official control programme presented yearly to the Assembly for adoption.
12. That a Member Country having been deleted from the list mentioned in the previous paragraph can apply again for recognition of the lost disease status or endorsement of the national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.
13. That the Delegates of Member Countries should document and clarify aspects of Veterinary Services and the specific animal health situation in non-contiguous territories covered by the same Veterinary Authority when submitting new applications for official recognition of disease status or endorsement of national official control programme.
14. That financial participation of Member Countries to the cost of official recognition and endorsement procedures is determined by Resolution No. 16 of the 83rd General Session.
15. This Resolution No. 15 cancels and replaces Resolution No. 30 of the 81st General Session and Resolution No. 21 of the 82nd General Session.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 16

Costs to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the endorsement of national official control programmes

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 70th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. XVIII, which informed all Delegates wishing to have their countries evaluated for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) official status, of the procedures to be followed for payment to the OIE of a fixed amount to offset a portion of the costs incurred in conducting the assessment; Member Countries applying for evaluation should submit with their application the amount of nine thousand Euros (9,000 €) for BSE, of seven thousand Euros (7,000 €) each for FMD and CBPP,
2. Resolution No. XVIII of the 70th General Session also stated that Least Developed Countries need to submit only half the amounts mentioned; that this payment would cover the complete cost of one application for evaluation; that the money submitted would not be refunded, even in the case of an application not being approved; that payment would be required only when a Member Country applies for recognition for the first time; and that for subsequent applications only half of the initial sum would be charged,
3. During the 76th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which updated Delegates on the costs to be covered by Member Countries applying for the official recognition of disease status for BSE, FMD and CBPP, and clarified that the costs of possible additional country missions was not included in these amounts,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20, which described the financial obligation due by Member Countries applying for the endorsement of a national official control programme for FMD, following the inclusion of this new possible step in the procedure for official recognition,
5. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 26, which updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status of certain animal diseases and for the endorsement of a national official control programme to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process, and described the financial obligation due by Member Countries applying for the official recognition of disease status for African horse sickness (AHS) following the inclusion of this disease in the procedure for official recognition,
6. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolutions Nos 31 and 44, which described the financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for the official recognition of disease status for PPR and CSF and for the endorsement of a national official control programme for PPR following the inclusion of these diseases in the procedure for official recognition,
7. During the 82nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 22, which described the financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for the endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, following the inclusion of this new possible step in the procedure for official recognition,
8. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedures for Member Countries to follow for the official recognition of disease status and the endorsement of a national official control programme.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. For new applications, the full amount for each evaluation of a disease status for AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD, PPR and risk status for BSE or for the endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD and PPR will be required only when a Member Country not having already an officially recognised country or zonal disease status for the particular disease or diseases under consideration, or not having an endorsed national official control programme, applies for recognition of status for that disease or for endorsement of national official control programme for the first time.
2. The full amount is nine thousand Euros (9,000 €) for AHS, BSE and CSF, seven thousand Euros (7,000 €) for CBPP and FMD, five thousand Euros (5,000 €) for PPR irrespective of whether the application for evaluation is for a Member Country's whole national territory or only for one or several zones within the Member Country's territory. The full amount is two thousand Euros (2,000 €) for the endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD and PPR. The costs of possible country missions are not included in these amounts.
3. For subsequent additional applications possibly submitted for the same disease (e.g. recognition of an additional zone or change in category of a Member Country's disease status, merging of zones or recovery of status along with enlargement of the zone under consideration, re-submission further to a previously rejected application) or for endorsement of a national official control programme (in the event of the OIE having withdrawn its endorsement due to non-compliance with commitments relating to the initial recognition of the programme), only half of the initial amount will be charged for each disease or programme.
4. In the event of re-submission of an application for endorsement of a national official control programme by a Member Country whose previous application was rejected, only a quarter of the initial amount will be charged.
5. Application for reinstatement of a formerly recognised disease status, including the establishment or lifting of a containment zone, or seeking for confirmation of maintenance of the recognised disease status, will not be charged, provided that the application is for the reinstatement of the same disease status within the same country or the same zone(s) as described by the Delegate for the initial recognition of disease status.
6. For all applications of Least Developed Countries, only half the amounts mentioned above are payable. The eligibility of Member Countries for these reduced amounts is based on the current official United Nations list of Least Developed Countries at the time of the OIE's call for capitals.
7. The amount transferred with any application will not be refunded, even in the case of applications that are withdrawn, are not compliant on a technical basis or are not approved by either the Scientific Commission for Animal Disease or the Assembly.
8. The costs of a possible OIE mission to a Member Country related to official disease status or national official control programme needs to be defrayed by the Member Country concerned.
9. This Resolution No. 16 cancels and replaces Resolution No. 26 adopted at the 80th General Session, Resolutions Nos 31 and 44 adopted at the 81st General Session and Resolution No. 22 adopted at the 82nd General Session.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Member Countries and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Japan	Portugal
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	Romania
Austria	Estonia	Lesotho	San Marino
Belarus	Finland	Lithuania	Serbia ¹
Belgium	Former Yug. Rep. of	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belize	Macedonia	Madagascar	Slovakia
Bosnia and	France	Malta	Slovenia
Herzegovina	Germany	Mauritius	Spain
Brunei	Greece	Mexico	Swaziland
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Montenegro	Sweden
Canada	Guyana	Netherlands	Switzerland
Chile	Haiti	New Caledonia	Ukraine
Costa Rica	Honduras	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Croatia	Hungary	Nicaragua	United States of
Cuba	Iceland	Norway	America
Cyprus	Indonesia	Panama	Vanuatu
Czech Republic	Ireland	Philippines	
Denmark	Italy	Poland	

¹ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones² where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

Bolivia: one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2011;

Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:

- one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
- one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
- one zone covering Zone 4a;
- one zone covering Zone 6b;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Chocó Department);

one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galapagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Kazakhstan: one zone consisting of the regions of Akmola, Aktobe, Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay, Mangystau, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan, as designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

² For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

- Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;
- Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;
- Peru: one zone consisting of three merged zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004, in January 2007 and in August 2012;
- South Africa: one zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in documents addressed to the Director General in May 2005 and January 2014.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having FMD free zones³ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

- Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;
- Bolivia: one zone consisting of four merged zones covering the regions of Amazonas, Chaco, Chiquitania, Valles and part of Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and March 2007, in August 2010, in August 2012 and in October 2013 and February 2014;
- Brazil: four separate zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General as follows:
- one zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997);
 - one zone consisting of State of Rondônia (documentation of December 2002), State of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of State of Amazonas (documentation of March 2004) and an extension of this zone into the territory of State of Amazonas (documentation of December 2010);
 - one zone consisting of three merged zones: one zone covering the middle southern part of State of Pará (documentation of February 2007), States of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, parts of State of Bahia, parts of State of Tocantins (documentation of May 2008), and the zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of July 2008); one zone located in States of Bahia and Tocantins (documentation of December 2010); and one zone covering States of Alagoas, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and the northern region of State of Pará (documentation of October 2013);
 - one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul (documentation of August 2010);
- Colombia: one zone consisting of five merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, in December 2004 (two zones), in January 2007 and in January 2009;

³ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Paraguay: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and August 2010;
- Peru: one zone consisting of the regions of Tumbes and parts of Piura and Cajamarca as designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2012;
- Turkey: one zone as designated by the Delegate of Turkey in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 18

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognising the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member Country, namely the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries with endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria, Bolivia, China (People's Rep. of), Ecuador, India, Morocco, Namibia and Venezuela.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 19

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Member Countries and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	China (People's Republic of)	Singapore
Australia	France	Switzerland
Botswana	India	United States of America
Canada	Portugal	

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 20

**Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
of Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance to the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' official control programme for CBPP based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries with endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 21

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Member Countries and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France	New Zealand
Australia	Hungary	Norway
Austria	Iceland	Panama
Belgium	India	Paraguay
Brazil	Ireland	Peru
Bulgaria	Israel	Portugal
Chile	Italy	Singapore
Colombia	Japan	Slovakia
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Cyprus	Latvia	Sweden
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Denmark	Luxembourg	United States of America
Estonia	Malta	Uruguay
Finland	Netherlands	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Canada	Greece	Poland
Chinese Taipei	Lithuania	Spain
Costa Rica	Mexico	United Kingdom
Germany	Nicaragua	

3. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a zone⁴ recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau.

AND

4. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

⁴ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as having a negligible BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 22

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from AHS,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as AHS free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria	Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal
Andorra	Denmark	Latvia	Qatar
Argentina	Ecuador	Liechtenstein	Romania
Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Singapore
Austria	Finland	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	Former Yug. Rep. of	Malaysia	Slovenia
Belgium	Macedonia	Malta	Spain
Bolivia	France	Mexico	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland
Brazil	Greece	Myanmar	Thailand
Bulgaria	Hungary	Netherlands	Tunisia
Canada	Iceland	New Caledonia	Turkey
Chile	India	New Zealand	United Arab Emirates
China (People's Rep. of)	Ireland	Norway	United Kingdom
Chinese Taipei	Italy	Oman	United States of America
Colombia	Japan	Paraguay	Uruguay
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Peru	
Cyprus	Kuwait	Poland	

AND

2. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 23

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from PPR,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as PPR free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Germany	Paraguay
Australia	Greece	Philippines
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal
Bolivia	Ireland	Romania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Singapore
Brazil	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovakia
Canada	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Chile	Lithuania	South Africa
Chinese Taipei	Luxembourg	Spain
Colombia	Malta	Swaziland
Cyprus	Mauritius	Sweden
Czech Republic	Mexico	Switzerland
Denmark	Myanmar	Thailand
Ecuador	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Estonia	New Caledonia	United States of America
Finland	New Zealand	
France	Norway	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a PPR free zone⁵ according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

⁵ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as PPR free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

Namibia: one zone located south to the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2014.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or their territories.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 24

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Member Countries or zones to be recognised by the OIE as free from CSF,
2. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Member Countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,
3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Member Countries applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries recognised as CSF free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia	Ireland	Slovakia
Austria	Japan	Slovenia
Belgium	Liechtenstein	Spain
Canada	Luxembourg	Sweden
Chile	Mexico	Switzerland
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	Norway	United States of America
Hungary	Portugal	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Member Countries having a CSF free zone⁶, according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2014.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Member Countries shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

⁶ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member Country recognised as CSF free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

RESOLUTION No. 25

Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Resolution No. 23 (2014) adopted by the OIE Member Countries at the 82nd General Session requested the Director General to put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to designate, inspect, monitor and evaluate approved Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material and, when not compliant with the mandate, to temporarily or permanently remove their approved status according to the seriousness of the non-compliance,
2. The mandate provided under Resolution No. 23 of the 82nd General Session (hereinafter ‘the Mandate’) for Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’) (Appendix 1) provides designation criteria, and describes the purpose of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility as:
 - A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks,
 - B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.
3. All FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility applications are assessed by the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (hereinafter ‘the Committee’) using criteria approved by both organisations,
4. Details of the applicant facilities that have been assessed by the Committee are published in their meeting reports,
5. Applicant facilities assessed by the Committee and recommended for inspection are subject to a formal detailed on-site evaluation by a team, comprised of international experts, to determine their capacity and compliance with expected norms for bio-safety and bio-security with respect to the storing of rinderpest stocks and the Mandate,
6. The report and findings of the expert on-site evaluation team are reviewed and evaluated against the Mandate by the Committee and their recommendations are endorsed by the respective internal procedures of the FAO and OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate on behalf of the OIE, and subject to equivalent action by the FAO in accordance with its processes for designation, the following facilities as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material, subject to re-evaluation every 3 years, with the category specified for each institute (Rinderpest Holding Facility or Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility), and proposes to add them to the list of FAO-OIE approved Rinderpest Holding Facilities (available on the OIE web site):

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
2. High Containment Facilities of Exotic Diseases Research Station, National Institute of Animal Health, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan.
3. USDA-APHIS, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Plum Island, New York, United States of America.
4. The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre African Union (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia
 2. Building for Safety Evaluation Research, Production Center for Biologicals; Building for Biologics Research and Development (storage), National Institute of Animal Health, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 26

**Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use
of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals**

CONSIDERING

1. That antimicrobial agents are essential tools for protecting animal health and welfare and also contribute to meeting the increasing global demand for safe meat, milk, fish and eggs, and other products of animal origin,
2. That antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a significant global animal and human health threat that is influenced by the use of antimicrobial agents in some conditions,
3. That during the 77th General Session 2009, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 25 on Veterinary Products, which considered previous Resolutions on harmonisation of registration requirements for veterinary drugs, their responsible and prudent use and monitoring of resistance,
4. The recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, held in March 2013 in Paris, France, including recommendation No.7 to collect harmonised quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with the view to establishing a global database,
5. The recent update and development of OIE standards and guidelines related to antimicrobial resistance, which include references to the relevant standards developed by Codex Alimentarius,
6. The tripartite agreement between FAO, OIE and WHO to address as a priority antimicrobial resistance and the important contribution of the OIE to the development and achievement of the WHO global action plan on antimicrobial resistance,
7. The network of OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products and its role in supporting the global implementation of the OIE standards regarding veterinary products,
8. The importance of the PVS pathway in supporting compliance of national veterinary services with OIE standards including legislation, as a prerequisite to ensuring good governance covering production, registration, distribution and use of antimicrobial agents at the national level,
9. The importance of appropriate Veterinary Education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies in the promotion of veterinary oversight to ensure responsible use of antimicrobial agents in animals,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to develop and update standards and guidelines related to antimicrobial resistance and the prudent use of antimicrobial agents including updating regularly the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance.

2. The OIE, with support from relevant organisations and donors, work with Member Countries to support them to implement OIE standards and guidelines using the PVS pathway and other relevant OIE capacity building mechanisms, including twinning and regional seminars.
3. The OIE develop a procedure and standards for data quality for collecting data annually from OIE Member Countries on the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals with the aim of creating an OIE global database to be managed in parallel with the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).
4. OIE Member Countries set up an official harmonised national system, based on OIE standards, for the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals, and actively participate in the development of the OIE global database.
5. The participation of OIE Member Countries in the VICH Outreach Forum be facilitated with the aim of adopting and utilising harmonised international guidelines related to the technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products.
6. OIE Member Countries improve veterinary legislation and education, where necessary, in order to facilitate implementation of OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards and guidelines related to antimicrobial resistance and veterinary oversight of the use of antimicrobial agents.
7. The OIE and OIE Member Countries encourage Veterinary Statutory Bodies and the veterinary profession as a whole to develop, implement and ensure compliance with ethics and codes of good veterinary practices, with particular reference to the prescription and delivery of antimicrobial agents by well-trained veterinarians or veterinary para-professionals under their direct oversight.
8. OIE Member Countries follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, developed with the support of the OIE in the spirit of the “One Health” approach, in particular by developing national action plans, with the support of FAO and WHO where feasible and warranted, in respect of the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and ensuring their close collaboration with public health officials.
9. The OIE continue to seek donor support for the organisation of dedicated regional training seminars for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products with the participation of FAO and WHO within the tripartite collaboration and invite other relevant partners to build capacity at the national and regional levels to enable the implementation of OIE and Codex Alimentarius intergovernmental standards to combat antimicrobial resistance and support the recommendations of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.
10. The OIE strengthen its collaboration with international organisations, such as the World Customs Organisation and Interpol, and stakeholders to combat counterfeit products with the aim of ensuring access to antimicrobial agents of proven quality.
11. Research be promoted to improve tools for rapid diagnostics for use in animals and to explore alternatives to antimicrobial use in animals, including the development of vaccines and other tools for priority diseases.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its fourteenth meeting in October 2014 and drafted a work programme for 2015,
2. The Working Group's membership includes high level experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and internationally recognised experts in animal production food safety from around the globe.
3. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by both organisations are consistent and take a 'whole food chain' approach to food safety,
4. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation between the OIE and the FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, food borne zoonotic diseases and related issues,
5. During the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite meeting held in February 2012, FAO and WHO asked the OIE to encourage its Member Countries to designate INFOSAN Focal Points from their official Veterinary Services,
6. National Delegates have nominated 172 national focal points for animal production food safety according to proposed terms of reference,
7. The OIE continues to organise seminars for national focal points in all five OIE regions, with the objective of providing information and contributing to capacity building of veterinary services,
8. The WHO celebrated its 2015 World Health Day with the theme of food safety on 8 April 2015 and invited the OIE to contribute to the campaign.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.
2. The participation of high level FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be maintained, and appropriate activities undertaken with the objective of further strengthening the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The 2015 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities in the field of animal production food safety in the next 12 months, with provision of the resources needed to address the identified priorities.
 4. The Director General continue to work with Codex to implement measures to promote collaboration, in particular the adoption of systematic procedures for cross referencing between the relevant OIE and Codex standards, the enhancement of processes to identify joint priorities of mutual interest, and the strengthening of linkages at the national and regional levels.
 5. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P., the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere initiative (SSAFE) and other relevant organisations from the private sector to ensure their awareness of and compliance with OIE animal production food safety standards.
 6. National OIE Delegates collaborate with their public health counterparts and that OIE Delegates designate the national OIE Focal Point for animal production food safety to be the same person as the INFOSAN Focal Point or, if this is not possible, to nominate an officer from Veterinary Services as both the INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point and the OIE Focal Point.
 7. The Director General continue to organise regional seminars for the national animal production food safety focal points designated by Delegates.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 28

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,
2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, and political and trade policy dimensions,
3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme,
4. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004, 2008 and 2012 confirming the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare,
5. Animal welfare standards were adopted at the 2005, and subsequent World Assemblies and are regularly updated,
6. More work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards concerning animal welfare in livestock production systems, with animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems proposed for adoption,
7. The active involvement of all OIE Member Countries is essential to the successful global implementation of the OIE animal welfare mandate,
8. Animal welfare is included in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, the OIE Veterinary Legislation and Veterinary Education initiatives,
9. The Director General has asked Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal welfare according to established terms of reference and the OIE regularly organises seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services,
10. Regional animal welfare strategies, and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2015/2016 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.
2. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and participate in regional training programmes.

3. Within the framework of an agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.
 4. Veterinary Services of each Member Countries continue to take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, the strengthening of the regulatory framework for animal welfare.
 5. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies, with the assistance of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group members from their respective regions.
 6. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE's international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.
 7. OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be encouraged to identify “twinning” opportunities in accordance with OIE policy, and that further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to criteria agreed by the OIE Council.
 8. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.
 9. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative, GLOBAL G.A.P. and the International Standardisation Organisation(ISO) to ensure awareness of OIE science-based animal welfare standards.
 10. The Director General continue to organise regional seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous OIE General Sessions,
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations of the March 2015 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 21 of Document 83 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Document 83 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annex 3, 9 and 11 of Document 83 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Annex 3 (User's Guide)

- a) In Section A, point 4 be replaced with the following text:

'The absence of chapters, articles or recommendations on particular pathogenic agents or commodities does not preclude the application of appropriate sanitary measures by the Competent Authorities, provided they are based on risk analyses conducted in accordance with the *Aquatic Code*.'

- b) In Section B, point 4 replace the last sentence with the following text:

'The importing country may also use these standards to justify import measures which are more stringent than existing OIE standards.'

- c) In Section C, point 4, third sentence be replaced with the following text:

'To scientifically justify more stringent measures, the importing country should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with OIE standards, as described in Chapter 2.1.'

2.2. In Annex 9 (Chapter 5.1.)

- a) In Article 5.1.2., point 1, the last sentence of the paragraph read as follows:

‘If there are no such recommendations or if the country chooses a level of protection requiring measures more stringent than the standards of the OIE, these should be based on an import *risk analysis* conducted in accordance with Chapter 2.1.’

- b) In Article 5.1.2., point 2, the last sentence of the paragraph read as follows:

‘The measures imposed on imports to manage the *risks* posed by a *pathogenic agent* or *aquatic animal disease* should not be more stringent than those applied as part of the official control programme operating within the *importing country*.’

2.3. In Annex 11 (new Chapter 6.5.)

- a) In the title and point 3 of Article 6.5.1.; in point 5 of Article 6.5.3.; and in point 5 of Article 6.5.4. replace the words ‘public health’ with ‘human health’.
- b) In the heading of Article 6.5.3. point 2; and Article 6.5.4. point 2 delete the word ‘identification’ after ‘Hazard’.
- c) In Article 6.5.3. point 2; and Article 6.5.4. point 2 replace the words ‘point 4 of Article 6.5.1.’ with ‘point 3 of Article 6.5.1.’

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The present content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*), is the result of modifications made by the OIE World Assembly during previous General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the February 2015 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 83SG/12/CS1B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX of Document 83 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes V, X, XIV, XV, XVI, XXI, XXII and XXIII of Document 83 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Annex V (Glossary)

In the definition of “Stamping-out policy”, delete the words “in whole or in part” in the first sentence.

2.2. In Annex X (Chapter 7.X.)

- a) In Article 7.X.4., replace “animal management system” in the first paragraph with “animal management practices”.
- b) In point 2 of Article 7.X.5., delete “and” between “management” and “practices” in the subtitle.
- c) In point 2 of Article 7.X.5., add “animal” after “Good” and delete “and” between “management” and “practices” in the first sentence.
- d) In point 2 m) iii) of Article 7.X.5., amend the 1st sentence in the second paragraph as follows:

“Freeze branding and branding with a hot iron should be avoided where alternative identification methods exist (e.g. electronic identification or ear-tags)”.

- 2.3. In Annex XIV (Chapter 8.3.)

In point 1) of Article 8.3.1., delete “, including naturally transmitted vaccine strains,” in the first sentence.
 - 2.4. In Annex XV (Chapter 15.X.)

In Article 15.X.3., delete “sufficient” before “evidence” in point 2 b) iv).
 - 2.5. In Annex XVI (Chapter 8.7.)

In Figure 1, delete “3 or ” before “6 months” in the box referring to Article 8.7.7.1c.
 - 2.6. In Annex XXI (Chapter 11.4.)

Reject all proposed amendments and insert a new sentence at the end of the introduction of Article 11.4.1. as follows:

“For the purpose of official BSE risk status recognition, BSE excludes ‘atypical BSE’ as a condition believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate.”
 - 2.7. In Annex XXII (Chapter 6.7.)

In point 9 c) i) of Article 6.7.3., reject the changes proposed and instead add “(micrograms per millilitre)” after “milligrams per litre”.
 - 2.8. In Annex XXIII (Chapter 6.10.)

In point 1 of Article 6.10.1., replace “including human and non-human uses” at the end of the paragraph with “including human, animal and other uses”.
 3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 31

**Amendments to the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,
2. Member Countries were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following final chapters for the *Terrestrial Manual*:
 - Glossary of terms
 - 1.1.1. Management of veterinary laboratories
 - 1.1.3. Biosafety and biosecurity: standard for managing biological risk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities
 - 1.1.6. Principles of veterinary vaccine production
 - 2.1.12 Q fever (diagnostic section only)
 - 2.1.15 Rinderpest (vaccine challenge test only)
 - 2.1.19. Vesicular stomatitis
 - 2.3.9. Fowl cholera
 - 2.3.4. Avian influenza (agar gel immunodiffusion test protocol only)
 - 2.4.1. Bovine anaplasmosis
 - 2.4.8. Bovine viral diarrhoea
 - 2.5.7. Equine influenza (requirements for authorisation of strain updates to vaccines only)
 - 2.5.9. Equine rhinopneumonitis (diagnostic section only)
 - 2.5.11. Glanders
 - 2.7.9. Ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)
 - 2.8.7. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
 - 2.8.8. Influenza A virus of swine
 - 2.9.6. Nipah and Hendra virus diseases
 - 2.9.12. Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates
2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 32

Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for OIE Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the OIE Biological Standards Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Member Countries relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All OIE Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to OIE's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission are published in the report of the meeting of the Commission,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in an OIE Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

OIE Reference Laboratory for Foot and mouth disease

Laboratoire de référence national français pour la fièvre aphteuse, laboratoire de santé animale, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, FRANCE

OIE Reference Laboratory for Tularemia

Laboratory of Zoonotic Bacteriology and Mycoplasmaology, Institute for Veterinary Medical Research, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, HUNGARY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine rhinopneumonitis
Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare, IRELAND

OIE Reference Laboratory for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie
Centro de investigación en Encefalopatías y enfermedades transmisibles emergentes,
Universidad de Zaragoza, SPAIN

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 33

High Throughput Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG)

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Developments in science and technology will continue to provide opportunities to improve animal and public health and welfare while reducing economic losses to animal production and enhancing food security and nutrition,
2. The technologies now available to the global animal health community and their rapid evolution are changing the way animal diseases are detected, predicted, controlled and eradicated,
3. Resolution No. 35 *Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimise the impact on food security*, adopted at the 81st General Session in May 2013, called on the OIE to evaluate opportunities for a more rapid validation and incorporation of new technologies into OIE animal health standards and guidelines,
4. Genetic sequence information is playing an increasing role in the diagnosis of bacterial and viral infections, including in the characterisation of infectious agents, their possible pathogenicity, the identification of the genetic basis of antimicrobial resistance and their likely spread from place to place and through time,
5. High throughput genetic sequencing (also called next generation sequencing), bioinformatics and computational genomics have advanced significantly in the past few years, resulting in a rapid reduction in DNA sequencing costs, and making the technology accessible to more diagnostic laboratories,
6. In response to the rapid development of new technologies for diagnosis and characterisation of pathogens, there is a need to harmonise global initiatives in the field of genetic sequence information with the involvement of all OIE Member Countries,
7. The network of OIE Reference Centres is unique worldwide and offers the opportunity for the Global Community to have access to a massive collection of pathogens from around the world,
8. Recommendation No. 14 from the Third Global Conferences of OIE Reference Centres in Incheon, Korea, October 2014, calls on the OIE to develop, with the collective support of OIE Reference Centres, the design of an OIE platform for the collection and management of partial and complete genomic sequences (including genotype assignment) in animal disease diagnosis and notification,
9. The OIE develops and updates standards and guidelines addressing new technologies through its standard process for adoption of new chapters in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*, and is currently working on a chapter on general aspects of HTS-BCG for future inclusion in the *Terrestrial Manual*, and on the design of an OIE platform for the collection and management of partial and complete genomic sequences (including genotype assignment),
10. Knowledge of natural genomes is a global public good,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE develop and update OIE standards and guidelines related to high throughput genetic sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics, taking into consideration horizontal issues of the technology such as appropriate validation, specific requirements for quality assurance, disease-specific implications and other relevant aspects of the technology.
 2. The OIE establish a platform for the collection and management of partial and complete genomic sequences (including genotype assignment) with the aim to integrate the reporting of genomic sequence data into the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), with the collective support of OIE Reference Centres, and involving all OIE Member Countries.
 3. The OIE address the challenges and opportunities to the OIE Member Countries' Veterinary Services posed by these new technologies and report back to the Member Countries regularly.
 4. The Network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and other partnering initiatives expand the provision of support to the OIE Member Countries, including the twinning programme, training and capacity building in the development, validation and implementation of high throughput genetic sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 34

Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays (test methods) for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,
2. The Resolution has established that ‘fitness for purpose’ should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of the procedure for diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised assays for OIE Member Countries and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,
4. OIE Member Countries need assays that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of assays, to ensure that the test can be used to correctly establish animal disease status and to enhance confidence in assays,
5. The OIE register of recognised assays provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that produce validated and certified tests in kit format,
6. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General add the following to the register of diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
BOVIGAM® <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Gamma interferon test kit for cattle	Prionics AG	Fit for the detection of cell mediated immune response to infection with <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> and other mycobacteria belonging to the tuberculosis complex on analysis of whole blood specimens in cattle, buffalo (<i>Syncerus caffer</i>), goat and sheep (provisionally) for the following purposes: 1. Historical freedom; 2. Re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks; 3. Certify freedom from infection or agent in

		<p>individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Eradication of infection from defined populations;5. Confirmatory diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (includes confirmation of positive screening test);6. Estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control);7. Ancillary test for eradication of tuberculosis.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 35

The use of information technology in animal health management, disease reporting, surveillance, and emergency response

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Information technologies now available to the global animal health community have the ability to revolutionise the way animal disease data and information are collected, integrated, reported, analysed, shared, and disseminated to stakeholders,
2. These new technologies offer substantial opportunities for enhancing animal, public and ecosystem health across the globe,
3. These new technologies can allow for more data collection and reporting at the local, national, regional, and global levels,
4. The power of information technology systems to collect, filter, process, and present information/data from a number of data sources greatly enhances the decision-making process, animal health situational awareness, anticipation and prediction, and the ability for timely detection and response to animal disease occurrences,
5. Their capabilities offer user-friendly, low-cost, and low-maintenance options for collecting, storing, and analysing trends in animal health, movements, and management,
6. As many of these new information and communication technologies are relevant to support animal health and welfare, approaches for accessing, implementing, standardising data quality and nomenclature, utilising, and harmonising these systems will be needed,
7. OIE is the world leader in collecting, analysing, reporting and disseminating information on global terrestrial and aquatic animal and zoonotic diseases,
8. OIE's support and/or involvement to promote the development, implementation, and integration of these technologies will be critical for establishing capacity for adoption and utilisation on the part of Member Countries,
9. OIE Member Countries are keen to take advantage of existing and emerging technologies to support animal health for active and passive surveillance data management, disease outbreak reporting and response,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE should continue to promote data sharing and cooperation within and between Member Countries and partner organisations, and the inclusion of public health counterparts in this process, especially as information technologies are implemented.

2. The OIE should work to support the development of data standards and guidelines for the use of these technologies in line with current international efforts to enhance data quality and allow for efficient data sharing and cooperation among Member Countries and the OIE.
 3. The OIE should help address limitations to adoption and implementation of new technologies through continued promotion of the OIE use of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway including Gap Analysis tool.
 4. The OIE should consider incorporating critical competencies for the use of information technologies in the PVS tool.
 5. The OIE utilise the PVS tool to help identify and develop a strategy for addressing gaps in information technology adoption and utilisation within OIE Member Countries.
 6. Once gaps are identified, the OIE should support technology guidance, training and capacity building through Reference Centre twinning opportunities, regional workshops, and technology demonstrations.
 7. The OIE should work to identify and implement incentives that encourage early reporting from both formal and informal data sources, including public and private sector collaboration. Methods for incentivising, incorporating and analysing ‘informal’ animal health reports within the WAHIS system should be maintained and further developed with input including verification from OIE Member Countries.
 8. The OIE should continue to modernise the WAHIS system including its interfacing and compatibility with other platforms using the General budget and, if needed, World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare financial resources.
 9. The OIE should, as a matter of due diligence, perform a robust ‘requirements gathering process’ to ensure clarity of objectives and outcomes prior to investing in further information technology development, including that of WAHIS.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 36

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the African Union / Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the Agreement adopted by the parties on 19 September 2001, be updated to take into account the enlargement of their cooperation,

The revised Agreement between the OIE and AU-IBAR was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 22 February 2015 (83 SG/19),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 37

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Customs Organization (WCO)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Customs Organization (WCO),

The Agreement between the OIE and WCO was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 22 February 2015 (83 SG/20),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 38

**Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL),

The Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and INTERPOL was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 22 May 2015 (83 SG/21),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 39

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Veterinary Association (WVA)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA), adopted on 29 May 2002, be updated to take into account the enlargement of their cooperation,

The revised Agreement between the OIE and WVA was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 22 May 2015 (83 SG/22),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this revised Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 40

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),

The Agreement between the OIE and the Secretariat of the CITES was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 22 May 2015 (83 SG/23),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf the OIE.

The provisions of this Resolution shall enter into force on 30 May 2015.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)

RESOLUTION No. 41

Appointment of the Director General

Taking note of the Basic Texts of the OIE, particularly Article 8 of the Organic Statutes, Article 11 of the Organic Rules and Article 29 of the General Rules,

CONSIDERING

The result of the election that took place on 26 May 2015,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To appoint Dr Monique Eloit as Director General of the OIE for a period of five years, beginning on 1 January 2016.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 1 January 2016)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2014**

**Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
on 28 May 2015**

**26th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Bern, Switzerland, 22 to 26 September 2014

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe

Recommendation No. 1

Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Disasters of all types have profound impacts on human and animal health, economy and trade, and societies;
2. Disaster management and risk reduction in animal health and welfare is a multifunctional responsibility involving multiple stakeholders;
3. Animals and animal related issues are part of disaster management and risk reduction due to their economic, health and welfare, and social aspects;
4. International frameworks including the Rio+20, Hyogo Framework for Action, and Millennium Development Goals all address disaster management, disaster risk reduction, and resilience;
5. Veterinary Services are highly variable in their disaster management and disaster risk reduction legal authorities, capabilities and capacities;
6. Knowledge of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals on disaster management and disaster risk reduction is not optimal;
7. OIE has a strong global leadership role in animal health and welfare and veterinary public health;
8. OIE has already established an *ad hoc* Group on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health; and
9. According to the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among Member Countries in the Region, the vast majority of responding countries agreed that there are actions or activities by OIE that would assist Member Countries to better plan and respond to animal health and welfare in disaster and bioterrorism events.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries foster the development of collaborative mutual support to augment the capacity of Member Countries to prepare for and respond to disasters;
2. The Member Countries assess and share lessons learned and best practices on animal disaster related events;
3. OIE identify and engage strategic partners in disaster management and disaster risk reduction;

4. OIE convene a Global Conference on Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health in disasters;
 5. OIE support the development of trainings for Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health in disasters including regional workshops, on line training, and table top exercises, considering existing tools such as the Livestock Emergency Guidelines Standards (LEGS) tools ;
 6. The OIE evaluate the inclusion of awareness of disaster management and disaster risk reduction in the OIE Recommendations on the Competencies of Graduating Veterinarians (Day 1 Graduates) and on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum;
 7. The OIE continue to develop guidelines on the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health disasters including bioterrorism and evaluate including these within the *Terrestrial Code*, taking into account existing relevant guidelines;
 8. The OIE explore the possibility to include the capability of management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health disasters including bioterrorism into the OIE PVS Tool;
 9. The OIE evaluate the creation of a database of lessons learned and best practices on the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters; and
 10. The OIE evaluate the establishment of a Collaborating Centre and/or a virtual network of expertise in the Europe Region on animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters including bioterrorism to give Member Countries in the Region easier access to a source of capacity building in this field.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 26 September 2014
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe

CONSIDERING THAT

1. At the present time, the emerging form of porcine epidemic diarrhoea, as notified by Canada, the United States of America, and other Member Countries (hereafter “PED”) has not been identified in Europe, and that its emergence poses a possible threat to Europe given the considerable impact on naive swine populations;
2. A collaborative approach between the Veterinary Services and the swine sector as well as proactive education and awareness programmes have already shown success for detecting and controlling PED in OIE Member Countries;
3. PED is a viral disease of pigs with no risk to human health or to food safety;
4. The disease can be transmitted directly or indirectly, often by contaminated faeces;
5. It is important to understand the PED epidemiological situation in the affected countries;
6. PED is not included on the OIE List but is notifiable as an emerging disease by all Member Countries;
7. Some European OIE Member Countries may not have the laboratory capability to confirm the clinical diagnosis of the disease;
8. Strict implementation of high biosecurity measures and surveillance at farm level has proved to be the best defence against PED; and
9. The OIE has convened an *ad hoc* Group to provide expert advice and is publishing a Technical Fact Sheet on PED.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of Member Countries adopt a collaborative approach to PED by proactively engaging with the swine sector and the various other relevant stakeholders to prevent the introduction in Europe of, or where appropriate control, PED;
2. Member Countries direct their efforts to building and enhancing the laboratory capability and capacity for rapid PED diagnosis in Europe;
3. Member Countries include PED in their animal disease education and awareness programmes with relevant stakeholders so as to assist with early detection of PED;

4. Member Countries emphasise the development and implementation of high biosecurity measures at all levels of the pig sector, including producers, processors, transporters, the feed industry, and border inspection posts;
 5. Where appropriate, Member Countries notify detections of PED to the OIE as an emerging disease;
 6. Member Countries minimise disruption to trade by adopting appropriate and proportionate protective mitigating measures when facing emerging diseases such as PED;
 7. The OIE, through its network of Reference Centres, encourage scientific research on routes of transmission of PED, such as feed, aerosols and contacts, and on the development of effective vaccines; and
 8. The OIE continue to provide guidance on PED and other emerging diseases to its Members as new scientific evidence becomes available.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 26 September 2014
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

**22nd Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Guadalajara, Mexico, 10 to 14 November 2014

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives

Recommendation No. 1

Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Rising global demand for food has led to exponential growth in aquaculture worldwide, especially in the Americas, where production growth over the past ten years reached 22% – the world's highest recorded increase;
2. Increasing demand for intensive aquaculture production systems increases the disease risk of such animals;
3. According to the answers to the questionnaire, less than half of the competencies recommended by the OIE are covered by either initial veterinary education or continuing education in the area of aquatic animal health in Member Countries in the region;
4. According to the answers to the questionnaire, more than half the Member Countries (51.8%) believe that Aquatic Animal Health Services do not have the skills required to control aquatic animal diseases; and
5. It is vital to strengthen the capacity of Veterinary Services, including the education of veterinarians based on the minimum competencies recommended by the OIE, given that veterinarians and animal health professionals from Aquatic Animal Health Services are responsible for the early detection of and rapid response to aquatic animal diseases.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries in the region include among their priorities the strengthening of initial and continuing veterinary education for aquatic animal health professionals, taking into account the OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') and the OIE guidelines on a veterinary education core curriculum;
2. Member Countries in the region establish minimum requirements for the continuing education of professionals working in public and private Veterinary Services in the area of aquatic animal health, based on the OIE recommendations on the basic competencies;
3. Member Countries in the region improve communication among themselves in the area of aquatic animal health by such means as strengthening the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health and strengthening the current regional network of National Focal Points for aquatic animals;

4. Member Countries in the region conduct simulation exercises to address emergency prevention, preparedness, and response to aquatic animal diseases;
 5. Member Countries seek opportunities for undertaking Twinning projects relevant to Aquatic Animal Health;
 6. Member Countries take advantage of the publication of the first edition of *OIE PVS Tool: Aquatic* (2013) to request PVS evaluation missions of Aquatic Animal Health Services;
 7. The OIE continue to support Member Countries in the region through the OIE PVS Pathway, including for Aquatic Animal Health Services, and make any relevant adjustments to the *OIE PVS Tool: Aquatic*, in light of experience gained from evaluating the Aquatic Animal Health Services of some Member Countries;
 8. The OIE strengthen the training of National Focal Points for aquatic animals in the area of veterinary education;
 9. The OIE continue to support capacity-building of Member Countries in the region in the area of aquatic animal health via the training programme for Focal Points for aquatic animals and prioritise the competencies least covered, which were identified when analysing the answers to the questionnaire such as: risk analysis; organisation of Veterinary Services; pharmaceuticals, certification procedures, and communication skills;
 10. The OIE promote the importance of veterinary education at the forthcoming OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, to be held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) on 20-22 January 2015; and
 11. The creation of an OIE Collaborating Centre for veterinary education on aquatic animal health in the region, with the ability to organise training courses, be considered. As well, to better use the existing OIE Collaborating Centres of the region, such as those dedicated to the capacity building of the Veterinary Services.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 14 November 2014
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE main mandate is to adopt standards and make recommendations on the prevention, detection, notification, control and eradication of diseases of importance to animal health, veterinary public health and trade, including zoonoses;
2. The challenges that Member countries face in achieving the eradication of transboundary animal diseases from the national territory and that the failure of one country to control disease presents a risk not only to countries in the region but also to the global community;
3. No country can exclude the entry of wild birds carrying avian influenza viruses and it may be very difficult, in certain situations, to eradicate diseases such as CSF, ASF and some aquatic animal diseases from wild animal populations. For diseases that have wildlife reservoirs, compartmentalisation can be used among others to mitigate the disease risks that arise from the exposure of domestic and captive wild animals to wild populations;
4. The globalisation of trade, the intensification of animal and human movements, climate change and other environmental and socioeconomic factors contribute to the spread of pathogens and vectors worldwide;
5. The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code (*Terrestrial Code*) and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code (*Aquatic Code*) set out standards for the quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services;
6. The *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code* indicate that the establishment of an animal sub-population of defined, favourable health status (using the concepts of zoning or compartmentalisation) is a tool in the prevention and control of diseases and can also be used to facilitate international trade in countries that experience disease outbreaks or endemic diseases situation;
7. A majority of Member Countries have made a strong commitment to strengthening the capacities of national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services by inviting the OIE to make an independent evaluation of quality using the OIE PVS Tool and that the PVS Tool includes Critical Competencies on the use of zoning and compartmentalisation;
8. The OIE grants official recognition of free country or zones in the case of foot and mouth disease, african horse sickness, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and classical swine fever, as well as risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy; and has developed procedures for self-declaration of disease free compartments;

9. While zoning is used rather commonly, but the use of compartmentalisation is less common and exporting countries generally face difficulties to obtain the recognition of compartments by trading partners for the purposes of international trade;
10. The Region of the Americas has been very actively involved in the use of zoning and compartmentalisation in comparison with other OIE Regions;
11. Compartmentalisation is potentially relevant to all species but to date the use of compartments has mainly been in poultry and swine production and it is rarely used in aquatic animals; and
12. The veterinary legislation of many Member Countries does not currently recognise the concept of compartmentalisation for domestic purposes nor for international trade (importation and exportation).

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries consider the use of compartmentalisation as a trade facilitating measure and as a tool to safeguard animal health through improved biosecurity and to reduce the likelihood and impact of disease outbreaks in infected countries as well as in countries free of specific diseases;
2. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services increase collaboration with the private sector, including the livestock and aquaculture sectors, and promote the sharing of information on disease prevention and control, including the results of applied research, so to facilitate compartmentalisation;
3. Governments review the national veterinary legislation as appropriate and establish a legal framework, based on standards and guidelines of the OIE, for the use of compartmentalisation within the country and for the recognition of compartments established in the country and by trading partners;
4. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services involve the private sector in the development and revision of animal health programmes, including consideration of the possible use of compartmentalisation;
5. In order to support the implementation of compartmentalisation, the Veterinary Authority and the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health ensure that they have legal authority to accredit or provide specific delegation of legal powers to private veterinarians, aquatic health professionals and diagnostic laboratories according to OIE standards and guidelines;
6. Member Countries of the Region of the Americas contribute to improve global knowledge on compartmentalisation by sharing information on experiences and best practices in its use;
7. Member countries continually strive to maintain and strengthen their Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, including through participation in the OIE PVS Pathway for Terrestrial and Aquatic sectors, as a basis to support the negotiation of export markets using zoning, compartmentalisation and other approaches endorsed by the OIE;

8. Member Countries and regional organisations consider a harmonised approach to the use of compartmentalisation as a mean to promote the recognition from trading partners;
 9. The OIE encourage the use by Member Countries of compartmentalisation, including by sharing information on their experiences on the use of this tool via publication in the OIE Bulletin and on the OIE website;
 10. The OIE make provision for expanded uses of compartmentalisation, by
 - including the concept in individual disease chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* (as appropriate);
 - the development of new approaches (e.g. the application of compartmentalisation to artificial breeding establishments and competition horses);
 - providing more guidance on its implementation in the aquatic sector;
 11. The OIE continue its work of supporting Member Countries by means of programmes such as the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services using the OIE PVS Tool, and other mechanisms and initiatives identified in the PVS Pathway, especially in the context of compartmentalisation; and
 12. The OIE continue to organise capacity building programmes directed to Delegates and National Focal Points and include compartmentalization in some of the programmes.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 14 November 2014
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

**21st Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Rabat, Morocco, 16 to 20 February 2015

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) The role of cross-border movement of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal diseases have important impacts on animal productivity, animal welfare, and on human health and wellbeing;
2. Little has been done to measure the impact of livestock diseases in Africa and credible estimates of the cost of animal diseases and their control are required to persuade policy makers to fund animal health control programmes ahead of other competing demands for public expenditure;
3. Antimicrobial resistance is an ever-increasing threat to both human and animal health and that Veterinary Services have the responsibility to ensure a responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials agents in animals in order to prevent the development of antimicrobial resistance in both animals and humans;
4. The control of transboundary animal diseases requires a coordinated regional approach;
5. Early notification, to the OIE, of changes in national disease situation is of great benefit to other countries, including trading partners;
6. Surveillance data is often incomplete and the prevalence of many important animal diseases, including zoonoses, is still not well known for many countries in the Africa Region;
7. Early detection and control of animal diseases requires cooperation of farmers as partners in disease control and improved productions;
8. The impacts on food security, public health, smallholders and pastoralists are the most important consideration points when Veterinary Services decide on overall priorities;
9. The most important drivers of change in the epidemiology of diseases are considered to be climate change and trade of animals and products of animal origin; and
10. The proportion of animals slaughtered in *approved slaughterhouses* is low, suggesting that large numbers of pathogens are not detected.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries consider the methodology published by the OIE as well as economic analyses in the prioritisation and planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;

2. The Member Countries improve the monitoring of the production, importation, distribution and use of veterinary medicines, including antimicrobial agents, for different livestock sectors, including aquaculture;
 3. The Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway, and especially the PVS Gap Analysis, to advocate for proper allocation of resources to Veterinary Services;
 4. The OIE and Member Countries explore options, including public-private partnerships, for increasing the participation of farmers as well as all the stakeholders of the livestock sector in disease surveillance and control;
 5. The OIE and Member Countries explore how to best improve the safety of food of animal origin, including those produced and sold in the informal sector;
 6. The OIE continue to advocate, at high level, on the economic benefit of animal disease control;
 7. The OIE strengthen its commitment, in particular with National Focal Points, to improve, among others, the notification of animal diseases;
 8. The OIE support Member Countries to develop contingency plans for important diseases that are present or could be introduced and also encourage sharing them between Member Countries; and
 9. The OIE continue, in collaboration with other organisations involved, to facilitate cooperation between the Member Countries to enhance early warning, rapid response and regional disease control.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 20 February 2015
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

The role of cross-border movement of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

1. There are several justifications for cross-border movement of animals which is a reality difficult to quantify due to its structured and complexed nature influenced by economic and socio-cultural practice in many African countries and presenting sanitary risks and non-sanitary constraints;
2. Unregulated cross-border movement of livestock and products of animal origin represents a major pathway for the spread of animal disease. Their impacts on the epidemiology of animal diseases, particularly transboundary animal diseases, and on public health, deserve the full attention of the governments, international organisations concerned, and Regional Economic Communities (REC);
3. In the Sahel and West Africa, transhumant pastoralism is a major component of livestock systems, accounting for an estimated 70%-90% of all cattle, 30%-40% of small ruminants, and a small percentage of dromedaries, and specialists agree that this practice preserves the environment, is profitable and competitive, and creates seasonal jobs;
4. Transboundary animal diseases often have serious consequences for farmers' livelihoods, which are often precarious, for public health, and for the economies of the countries concerned, whether they are the origin, transit or destination countries of the animals;
5. Many diseases are common to both wild and domestic animals and can be transmitted from one to the other in either direction;
6. The ability of Veterinary Services to manage the impact of cross-border livestock movements on health is often hampered by various factors. These constraints are mainly inadequate human and material resources, insufficient disease control infrastructure, the absence of national animal identification systems, and an often inappropriate or irrelevant regulatory framework;
7. Animal identification is a fundamental tool for monitoring livestock movement, surveillance of animal diseases and managing sanitary risks. It makes trade safer and ensures the traceability of animals and animal products;
8. Insufficient regional collaboration, the absence of common, harmonised strategies, and inappropriate, deficient or unwieldy laws regulating cross-border movements of livestock make it difficult to implement strategies of disease surveillance and control, and encourage informal and illegal practices;
9. African demand for products of animal origin is increasing rapidly and could be met by intra-African trade. This could become a lever of development in Africa if sanitary risks and non-sanitary constraints are lifted and all stakeholders, at national and regional level, make the appropriate contribution;

10. There are health risks at livestock-wildlife interface;
11. Some Member Countries in the Africa Region may benefit from the OIE recognition of their national official control programme or their sanitary status; and
12. Management of the cross-border movements of livestock and associated sanitary risks should be harmonised while taking into account regional characteristics and the animal health status of all the countries in the region.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION OF THE OIE FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Member Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Africa Region initiate or pursue their efforts towards long-term bilateral and regional collaboration, based on complementarity, harmonisation and adaptation of tools to control animal diseases and cross-border livestock movements, in accordance with existing OIE standards;
2. The Member Countries and the RECs in the Africa Region, taking into account the characteristics and factors common to the countries of each region, adopt common and harmonised approaches to:
 - the implementation of common strategies to prevent and control animal diseases associated with movements of livestock and their products in order to improve the animal health situation, make trade safer, and combat illegal practices;
 - the strengthening or establishment of networks of disease surveillance based on a regional approach to design operations, tools and mechanisms of disease monitoring and evaluation and animal health information exchange;
 - the creation of incentives to involve private sector veterinarians and other actors more fully in surveillance and control of transboundary animal diseases through innovative participatory approaches;
 - the implementation of national animal identification and traceability systems that can meet the need for regional harmonisation and facilitate management of livestock movements and sanitary risks;
 - the adaptation and update of the regulations on transhumance and trade based on sanitary risks;
 - the implementation of existing sanitary and non-sanitary standards and procedures governing trade in animals and products of animal origin.
3. The Member Countries in the Africa Region progress along the OIE PVS Pathway, particularly by requesting PVS Evaluation follow up missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, and support to laboratories;
4. Through the PVS Pathway, the OIE continue to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of the Member Countries in the Africa Region;
5. Through the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, the OIE facilitate the modernisation of the legislative instruments of the Member Countries and the RECs in the Africa Region to improve prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases so as to assist the Veterinary Services to comply with the standards of the organisation;

6. The OIE continue to provide technical assistance and support for actions to improve the animal health status of the countries and regions with regard to the main transboundary animal diseases;
 7. The OIE encourage the Member Countries in the Africa Region to apply for the endorsement of their official national disease control programme, with regard to foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and peste des petits ruminants, followed by official recognition of disease-free status;
 8. The Member Countries, the OIE, the relevant RECs and other stakeholders pay special attention to the role of livestock movements in the emergence and re-emergence of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in various sub-regions of the African continent that is reaching worrying proportion; and
 9. The OIE, through partnership with relevant international and regional organisations, initiate collaboration to study developments and trends in livestock systems, including transboundary movements of animals, and their epidemiological impacts with a view to anticipate the best strategic sanitary and budgetary choices.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 20 February 2015
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 83rd General Session
in Paris, 25 May 2015**

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 124 participants, including Delegates and observers from 39 Members of the Commission, 4 observer countries, and representatives from 15 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³³, AU-PANVAC³⁴, AVA³⁵, AVSF³⁶, CABI³⁷, CEBEVIRHA³⁸, EC³⁹, FAO⁴⁰, IAEA⁴¹, ICFAW⁴², ILRI⁴³, PATTEC⁴⁴, SADC⁴⁵, WAEMU⁴⁶, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

One minute of silence was observed in the honour of Dr Philip Salia, former Delegate of Ghana, and Dr Joseph Mubanga, former Delegate of Zambia, who passed away.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

³³ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
³⁴ AU-PANVAC: African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
³⁵ AVA: African Veterinary Association
³⁶ AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
³⁷ CABI: Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
³⁸ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
³⁹ EC: European Commission
⁴⁰ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
⁴¹ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
⁴² ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare
⁴³ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute
⁴⁴ PATTEC: Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
⁴⁵ SADC: Southern African Development Community
⁴⁶ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review on the meeting of the Commission during the 82nd General Session. She summarised the most important discussions during the meeting. She also reminded that the World Assembly of Delegates had approved in 2014 the membership application of two new countries from the Africa region: Liberia and South Sudan, raising to 180 the number of OIE Member Countries. She added that Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, had been elected Vice-President of the Council.

Dr Molomo then commented on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, reminding Members to study the document thoroughly to enable them to take part in the decision on endorsing the plan during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

She then discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015, which had been attended by 120 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 36 Member Countries, as well as numerous senior officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. She commented on the two Technical Items presented, saying that further topics of discussion had included: the animal health situation throughout the region and the efforts required to enable Member Countries in the region to progress with controlling animal diseases; the tsetse-transmitted trypanosomosis issue; and the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.

Dr Molomo explained that the recommendations adopted in Rabat would be presented for endorsement to the World Assembly of Delegates at the plenary on Thursday 28 May 2015 for subsequent implementation at regional and global level. She also mentioned that the next Regional Conference would be held in February 2017 in Swakopmund (Namibia), while Cameroon expressed interest in hosting the Conference to take place in 2019.

Dr Molomo said that the Conference had been preceded by a one-day seminar for African national Delegates to the OIE on the development of public-private-partnership in support of Veterinary Services. It was co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Molomo said that the seminar had emphasised the need to strengthen partnerships between official Veterinary Services and private veterinarians, and the vital collaboration between Veterinary Services, livestock producers and other stakeholders.

Dr Molomo reminded participants about the elections to be held during the General Session to select the new Director General and members of the Bureau of the Commission, Council, and Specialist Commissions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and Vice President of the Council, began his presentation by informing Delegates that two meetings of the OIE Council had taken place after the 82nd General Session (October 2014 and February 2015). These meetings looked at major issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which will be presented during the 83rd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in the form of draft resolutions, as well as further discussions concerning the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan (2016-2020). He reminded Delegates that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at various meetings including the Regional Commission meetings, at the 82nd General Session and at the Regional Conference.

Regarding the General Session, Dr Modisane gave details on the various issues discussed and proposed by the Council in order to improve organisational matters, such as dispatching information and documentation to participants. The Council also requested the OIE to improve media coverage of the General Session.

Referring to the elections, Dr Modisane said that the Council had agreed to monitor systematically the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process about the importance of attending for the purposes of forming a quorum.

In view of the important elections to take place during the 83rd General Session, he said that, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of the Specialist Commissions' work, the Council had supported the proposal that critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were some of the key elements for this improvement to take place. He explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

He also reported that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the sole candidate for the position of Director General.

Regarding official agreements between the OIE and other organisations, Dr Modisane said that the Council had stressed the need to review the relevance of existing agreements and some proposed agreements and had decided that future agreements must include a renewal clause. New proposals will be presented to the 83rd General Session including a new version of the Agreement between OIE and AU-IBAR.

He also referred to several finance and administration issues, including the validation of the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane finally commented on the regional and global conferences planned for 2015, some of which have already taken place.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2015, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He began by reporting on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (RRA), which had focused on providing support to Member Countries in general and, in particular, to countries affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria) and those at risk of its introduction (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo), as well as to countries affected by rabies.

He added that the RRA continued to strengthen its collaboration with WHO-Africa within the "One Health" framework and with African Union institutions (AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, PATTEC), as well as with Regional Economic Communities – particularly WAEMU, CEBEVIRHA and ECOWAS⁴⁷ – and international partners such as the FAO.

The Regional Representation for Africa is continuing to support the development of the regional project on pastoralism in the Sahel (*Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme dans le Sahel - PRAPS*) in liaison with CILSS⁴⁸ and ECOWAS.

Referring to the OIE PVS Pathway, Dr Samaké said that it continued to be very successful in Africa, with all countries being currently engaged at different stages.

He went on to report that the RRA had attended the seventh Pan African Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers in Nairobi (Kenya) from 4 to 6 May 2015. The RRA continues to act as temporary secretariat for the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako (Mali) until ECOWAS become operational and as permanent secretariat of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa, in

⁴⁷ ECOWAS : Economic Community of West African States

⁴⁸ CILSS : Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

preparing the 2015 meetings for GF-TADs/Africa (tenth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa) and for Global GF-TADs (eighth meeting of the Global Steering Committee).

The Regional Representation for Africa also attended the meetings of CILSS from 9 to 15 April 2015; the 22nd meeting of the Regional Programming and Monitoring Committee; the 50th Ordinary Session of the CILSS Council of Ministers; and the 17th Conference of Heads of State and Government of CILSS Member States.

Dr Samaké reported that the RRA, together with the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations, had helped to prepare and successfully hold the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rabat (Morocco) from 17 to 20 February 2015 and the OIE-FAO International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) from 31 March to 2 April 2015.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa (SRR-NA) continues to support OIE Member Countries in the region to strengthen animal disease surveillance and control by implementing relevant recommendations and strategies.

Dr Samaké said that the SRR-NA had participated in the 10th meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), in Heraklion (Greece) from 16 to 17 March 2015, which was attended by around 30 people, including Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs/Delegates), representatives of international and regional organisations and experts from OIE Reference Laboratories for avian influenza and foot and mouth disease (FMD). The agenda of the meeting focused on the priority diseases identified by the region, including FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR), as well as avian influenza on account of its recent upsurge. Lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox were also on the agenda, as these diseases are attracting increasing attention in the Mediterranean region. A session was dedicated to the good governance of Veterinary Services, emphasising the importance of continuing education for public and private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Next he referred to the third Executive Committee meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), which had been scheduled in parallel with the First Edition of the International Veterinary Forum held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National School of Veterinary Medicine in Sidi Thabet (Tunisia).

At the 40th anniversary celebrations, the OIE was represented by Dr Monique Eloit (OIE Deputy Director General) and Dr Rachid Bouguedour (OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa), who delivered presentations highlighting the OIE's missions, especially in the field of veterinary education.

More specifically, the third REEV-Med Executive Committee meeting focused on such issues as the status of REEV-Med members' commitment, which was to be evaluated with a view to improving the quality of veterinary education. In this connection, there was a discussion on how to strengthen collaboration with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) in order to promote a process for evaluating veterinary establishments in the region.

Dr Samaké also reported that the farmers' crop and livestock health association (Groupement de Défense Sanitaire – GDS France) had invited the SRR-NA to present REMESA and to provide an overview of the main diseases observed in the Mediterranean basin. Around 150 people attended this event and the OIE presentation was well received.

The SRR-NA also participated in the preliminary technical meeting on the FMD vaccine bank for the REMESA region, held on 13 April 2015 at OIE Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to prepare a concept note – with the support of experts from OIE

Reference Laboratories for FMD – to select, in accordance with the epidemiological situation, what can be considered as “core strains” and “optional strains” for inclusion in the vaccine bank. This concept note will be discussed with the CVOs/Delegates in the region to check whether the preliminary selection meets their expectations.

The SRR-NA also participated in the Inter-regional Conference on “Rift Valley fever: new options for trade, prevention and control”, held in Djibouti from 21 to 23 April 2015, to present a review of the recent outbreaks of Rift Valley fever that had occurred in North Western Africa.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (SRR-SA) continued to conduct activities and make contributions to the sub-region’s development.

During the reporting period, the SRR-SA participated in several conferences and planned to host a number of training workshops.

The SRR-SA participated in the Conference on Policies for Competitive Smallholder Livestock Production in Botswana on 4 and 5 March 2015, where the Representative presented the OIE intergovernmental standards, providing background on standard-setting and explaining how standards assist Member Countries in controlling animal diseases, animal welfare and veterinary public health, thereby facilitating market access for livestock products. The topic is particularly relevant to Southern Africa where smallholder farmers, who are in the majority, are able to access international markets for livestock products by applying OIE concepts such as zoning (disease-free country/zones). The support given by OIE to the Veterinary Services of its Member Countries by such means as capacity-building, twinning projects, and the overall PVS Pathway was also highlighted.

Dr Samaké commented on the SRR-SA’s participation in the FAO-ICAR African Symposium on “Animal identification and recording (AIR) systems for traceability and livestock development in sub-Saharan Africa”, held from 14 to 16 April 2015 in Pretoria (South Africa), where the SRR-SA presented the OIE standards on animal identification and traceability. OIE’s contribution to animal identification and traceability since the late 1990s, when Member Countries requested the OIE to set standards on animal identification and traceability, was outlined.

The SRR-SA is at an advanced stage of organising two workshops in the sub-region: one on the harmonisation of veterinary legislation (6-8 July 2015) and the other on the preparation of application dossiers for disease freedom (28-30 July 2015). The workshop on harmonisation of veterinary legislation is being led by OIE Headquarters, along with AU-IBAR’s Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET GOV) programme, and its objective is to assist SADC member countries in modernising and harmonising their veterinary legislation to facilitate integration and comply with OIE standards. The workshop on preparing disease-freedom dossiers is designed to equip Member Countries with the skills to prepare an application for disease freedom recognition by the OIE, using FMD and PPR as examples.

Dr Samaké then listed the following activities in which the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (SRR-EA) was involved:

- AU-IBAR Advisory Committee meeting;
- Steering Committee meeting of AU-IBAR’s project for the participation of African nations in sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting organizations (PAN-SPSO) (standard-setting, SPS Agreement);
- National policy framework on disaster risk reduction for livestock: a scoping study commissioned by World Animal Protection (WAP) and Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA);

- Launch of the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook (2nd edition);
- “One Health: impacts, measures and metrics”. Vetworks Eastern Africa in cooperation with the Livestock Development Group at the University of Reading (United Kingdom), with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- Project on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in Uganda by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). Makerere University;
- “Linking veterinary para-professionals and veterinarians in Africa”. Three coordination meetings with GALVmed and the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) with a view to the upcoming regional seminar on veterinary para-professionals in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2015;
- Response to the epizootic ulcerative syndrome situation in the Congo River basin and preventive measures in the immediately threatened surrounding countries. Coordination meetings with the staff of the AU-IBAR’s FishGov project;
- FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
- Rift valley fever: FAO/OIE Inter-regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East: new options for trade, prevention and control (jointly with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East);
- Berbera II export quarantine station in Berbera (Somalia). Official OIE visit, together with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East;
- Annual CVO meeting to prepare for the OIE General Session (common position). AU-IBAR (PAN-SPSO);
- Steering Committee meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) project “Breaking barriers, facilitating trade”, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF);
- Steering Committee meeting of the European Commission-funded Bee Health Project (International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology [ICIPE] and AU-IBAR); and
- Joint training on sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade by WTO and the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Dr Samaké said that SRR-EA activities had been significantly affected by the absence, for health reasons, of the Regional Representative, Dr Walter Masiga, between January and March 2015. Dr Masiga resumed his duties at the beginning of April.

He concluded by reporting that the no-cost extension of the VET GOV project had recently been approved.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Making the global eradication of dog mediated rabies an achievable goal”

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services”

7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, described the outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Regional Commission.

Dr Rutagwenda listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two Technical Items.

The subject of Technical Item I, prepared by the speaker in collaboration with OIE Headquarters on the basis of Member Countries’ answers to a questionnaire, was “*Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa*”. It led to the adoption of a recommendation suggesting a number of actions, including: Member Countries should consider the methodology published by the OIE, as well as economic analyses, in the prioritisation and planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes, and Member Countries should take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway, especially PVS Gap Analysis, to advocate proper allocation of resources to Veterinary Services; the OIE and Member Countries should explore options, including public-private partnerships, for increasing the participation of farmers, as well as all livestock sector stakeholders, in disease surveillance and control; the OIE should strengthen its commitment, in particular with National Focal Points, to improve animal disease notification, among other things.

With respect to Technical item II on “*The role of cross-border movements of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa*”, a recommendation was adopted by all Delegates suggesting that the OIE, through the PVS Pathway, should continue to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries in the Africa region and that the OIE should continue to provide technical assistance and support for actions to improve the animal health status of countries and regions with regard to the main transboundary animal diseases. It was recommended that OIE Member Countries in the Africa region should progress along the OIE PVS Pathway, particularly by requesting PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme missions and laboratory support, and that Member Countries and Regional Economic Communities in the Africa region should initiate or pursue efforts towards long-term bilateral and regional collaboration, based on complementarity, harmonisation and adaptation of tools to control animal diseases and cross-border livestock movements, in accordance with existing OIE standards.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement at the seventh plenary session of the 83rd General Session on 28 May 2015, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017

Dr Yacouba Samaké asked Namibia to confirm the proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Representative of Namibia, informed the Regional Commission that her country had agreed to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017.

9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, veterinary epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on the compliance with the reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by the countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Awada also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Awada highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region, and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Africa.

10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Prof. Ahmed Elsawalhy, AU-IBAR Director, began by saying that, following the recommendation of the ministers responsible for livestock in Africa, the Executive Council of the African Union had requested the African Union Commission to develop a Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

He added that AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC had led the development of LiDeSA, a long-term framework for transforming Africa's livestock sector.

Prof. Elsawalhy reported that LiDeSA had been approved by the African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2015. He said that LiDeSA was aligned with the goals of Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation in the Malabo Declaration (June 2014) and with the results framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

He added that AU-IBAR had secured a financial commitment from the European Union for a three-year Continental Livestock Development Programme (LIVE2) to strengthen the systemic capacities of continental, regional and national livestock sector stakeholders in order to lay the foundation for the implementation of LiDeSA. A complementary programme for coordinated interventions at national and regional levels is under preparation to mobilise resources from African Union Member States and development partners.

He reported that AU-IBAR and its partners had formulated a strategy for African swine fever and a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases (PROCNADA) with a view to ensuring coordinated and harmonised control of transboundary animal diseases. AU-IBAR assisted the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in formulating a regional strategy for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and is currently aligning the pan African PPR strategy with the global strategy.

Prof. Elsawalhy concluded by saying that AU-IBAR continued to support African Union Member States in maintaining animal health information systems and in compiling and disseminating information on their animal health status by means of training and the provision of information and communication equipment. AU-IBAR also continues to support disease surveillance and control activities, the coordinated participation of Africa in animal health standard-setting and the development of responsive policy and regulatory environments for the delivery of Veterinary Services.

European Commission (EC)

Dr Bernard Rey, Representative of the European Commission, highlighted the European Commission's long-standing cooperation with developing countries in the field of animal health.

He said that animal health contributed to major European Union (EU) development objectives, such as building the resilience of the livestock-dependant population and reducing stunting.

He also described the status of the EU livestock portfolio, which met the EU's strategic objectives on food security and nutrition and addressed key challenges and trends in the livestock sector. Dr Rey mentioned that the scenario could change quickly, given that nearly 60 countries had chosen food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as the main focal sector for the EU programming period 2014-2020.

Finally, Dr Rey emphasised the EU's specific support for a major 2015 initiative namely the implementation of the African Union's Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Cheikh Ly, Regional Animal Production and Health Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, explained that FAO was implementing projects in the Africa region in line with its strategic objectives, regional initiatives and country programming frameworks. He added that early-warning and capacity-development work were ongoing and were specifically targeted in the upcoming periods at: PPR control and eradication; control of anthrax, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever and other diseases; and support for the assessment and strengthening of veterinary laboratories.

Dr Ly added that multidisciplinary approaches had been mainstreamed into FAO's work on animal health and zoonosis control. He explained that dynamic agri-businesses and stronger value chains for animal-source foods were promoted, in addition to livestock sector coordination through sound national and regional livestock development policies.

Dr Ly concluded by saying that FAO supported networks and platforms by various means, depending on the priorities of beneficiaries. Action is aimed at improving the performance of livestock production systems at country level, with appropriate consideration of the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

World Bank

Dr Stephane Forman, World Bank representative for Africa region started his presentation by introducing his colleague, Dr Myriam Chaudron, who joined the World Bank in 2014 and is participating to her first OIE General Session. Then, he recalled the role that livestock and animal health play to achieve the World Bank twin goals of eradicating poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

However, he highlighted that this should materialise more in World Bank operations and investments. Worldwide, and following the 2008 World development Report on Agriculture, investments by the World Bank in agriculture more than doubled, from less than US\$2 billion in 2007 and 2008 to between US\$3 to 5 billion yearly from 2009 to 2014. Unfortunately, livestock investments did not follow the same trend and only increased slightly worldwide.

With 39% of projects and more than US\$1 billion (out of 3.3 billion worldwide) over the past 10 years, Africa is the region investing the most in livestock development, even if animal health, welfare and “One Health” represent less than 10% of these investments.

Dr Forman reminded the participants that the World Bank continues recognising the OIE PVS Pathway as the only pre-operational tool to invest in strengthening the Veterinary Services and that the efforts by the CVOs and Ministries in charge of livestock to convince decisions-makers, including Ministries of Finance, using the OIE PVS Pathway should further continue. He highlighted that the trend was changing, and that, for instance, in the two recent Regional Pastoralism Project (for the Horn of Africa (RPLRP) and the Sahel (PRAPS), interventions in animal health represent 20% of the total investments.

Dr Forman ended his presentation by underlining what the World Bank has done recently to support Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger to control the recent re-occurrence of HPAI in West and Central Africa, and how existing ongoing projects can be mobilized to finance preparedness and rapid response.

11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS⁴⁹ countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD⁵⁰ in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU⁵¹ in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADCin Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE Ad hoc Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This

⁴⁹ ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

⁵⁰ IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

⁵¹ AMU: Arab Maghreb Union

model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging the special situation of many countries in Africa due to the endemic presence of African Horse Sickness.

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group has given special attention to this situation and made provision in the HHP Veterinary Certificate for importation of horses from AHS affected countries. However, more work to strengthen the scientific basis of the proposed measures is needed, such as the validation of PCR testing of horses destined for export and the development of a vaccine acceptable for use in non-endemic countries. She added that it is hoped that the studies previously mentioned will assist in this regard.

13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election: (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President:	Dr Komla Bataste Batawui (Togo)
Vice-President:	Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda)
Vice-President:	Dr Karim Boughalem (Algeria)
Secretary General:	Dr Gaston Djonwe (Cameroon)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa)
Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof Emmanuel Couacy Hymann (Côte d'Ivoire)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa)
Dr Baptiste Dungu (Congo (Rep of))

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Mehdi El Harrack (Maroc)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Maxwell Barson (Zimbabwe)

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda ;
2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
3. Report on OIE Council meetings ;
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa ;
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017 ;
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015 ;
8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017 ;
9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Africa ;
10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE ;
11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) ;
12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies ;
13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 ;
14. Proposal of candidates for the election.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 107 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: CVP⁵², FAO, IFAH, IICA⁵³, IMS, OIRSA⁵⁴, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁵⁵, SSAFE⁵⁶, WAP⁵⁷, WFO⁵⁸, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded participants that members of the OIE Council act as the conduit for putting the region's concerns to the OIE to ensure they are properly addressed, including matters pertaining to the logistics of the current General Session.

He also urged countries to participate actively in the process of standard-setting and adoption of OIE standards by sending their comments on the reports of Specialist Commissions and, in particular, by continuing to participate in the online conferences organised by the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.

⁵² CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁵³ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁵⁴ OIRSA: *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria*

⁵⁵ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

⁵⁶ SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere

⁵⁷ WAP: World Animal Protection

⁵⁸ WFO: World Farmers' Organisation

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford reminded participants about the elections to be held during the 83rd General Session to select the new OIE Director General and members of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional Commissions.

Finally, they commented on the list of candidates for Specialist Commissions, which had been discussed at the latest Council meeting in the week prior to the General Session, saying that the Commission would approve the proposed list of candidates during the candidate selection process later in the meeting.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, reported that the Bureau had met face to face twice in the last period. The meetings had addressed administrative and technical matters and followed up the outcomes of the 22nd Regional Conference in Mexico.

The President of the Regional Commission informed that the latest meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission had been held on 5-7 August 2014 and 12-13 March 2015. He added that the videoconferencing system provided by the Regional Representation continued to be used for technical meetings concerning specific issues and for promoting greater involvement by Delegates in issuing comments on OIE texts.

On the technical side, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that it had been agreed to circulate to all Delegates the schedule of meetings held and planned in the region for 2015, including: workshop for Focal Points for animal welfare (Bolivia); workshop for Focal Points for animal production food safety (Mexico); and seminar of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET) (Guatemala). Other events organized by countries in the region include: sub-regional meeting on antimicrobial resistance for Delegates and Focal Points of OIE Member Countries and health ministers of countries in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) in April 2015; seminar on avian influenza to be held by the United States of America in June 2015; and 17th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians in Canada, also to be held in June 2015.

Among the activities to support Members, Dr Figueiredo Marques highlighted the virtual meeting on avian influenza, sponsored by the Delegates of the United States of America and Canada, which had led to speedy dissemination of first-hand information on the status of avian influenza on the continent, and he reiterated the need for countries in the Americas to play an active part in the discussions. He also took the opportunity to comment briefly on the discussions regarding progress with foot and mouth disease (FMD) status across the continent, with the ultimate goal of achieving FMD freedom without vaccination.

He added that, as in previous years, a meeting had been held on the Sunday prior to the General Session (in this instance, on 24 May 2015) to discuss the standards under review and adopt a regional position.

He concluded by commending the excellent efforts being made by Dr Luis Barcos, Dr Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña and Dr Martín Minassian, together with the team working to strengthen the actions of countries in the Americas.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented a summary of the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

Dr Barcos reported that regular meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission would be organised in order to follow up on: the work programme for the Americas; the conclusions of the Regional Conference in Mexico in 2014; and the organisation of the next regional conference to be held in Bolivia from 14 to 18 November 2016.

He said that the participation of Member Countries in updating OIE standards would be promoted by building the capacity of Veterinary Services, including in the area of aquatic animal health, through seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points and by promoting the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions. He also underlined the usefulness of teleconferencing for holding meetings to resolve specific issues.

Dr Barcos reviewed the status of the Laboratory Network of the Americas and the future changes to the database, asking Delegates to support their Focal Points in providing and updating information to make it operational.

He described the favourable outcomes of the sub-regional meeting on antimicrobial resistance for OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for veterinary products and MERCOSUR health ministries, and stressed the need for joint action between Veterinary Services and ministries of health in the Americas.

He reported on efforts to encourage membership by countries in the Caribbean sub-region that are not yet OIE Members, including future visits to these countries for meetings with senior officials, all with the support of the Regional Commission. He announced Brazil's decision to financially support the cost of membership for these countries for at least two years.

Dr Barcos reviewed the outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), at which the updated performance indicators were presented. He reported on activities to ensure the effective implementation of OIE standards on FMD, involving on-site expert missions and interaction with regional and international organisations based on the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy.

He described the results of a survey relating to the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, which had pointed to the need to build the region's capacity for effective implementation of the strategy.

He also reported on veterinary education-related actions in the region, which continue to require participation and liaison with universities and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs).

He presented a novel project for the OIE – the OIE Knowledge Olympics – which will be open to students and private practitioners in the Americas in collaboration with universities and VSBs. The “Olympics” will consist of qualifying rounds of questions leading to the selection of an overall winner for the continent in each category. The winners will be invited to the General Session and will have the opportunity to undertake scientific and educational visits in May 2016. This project is awaiting the approval of the OIE's hierarchy.

On the subject of communication, he presented the latest version of the Regional Representation website, which provides a platform for disseminating information relevant to countries in the region.

Dr Barcos concluded by detailing the programme of activities for the current year and by thanking Member Countries that help to fund OIE's activities in the region.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Traceability of veterinary products as part of a responsible use strategy”

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- “Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability: a challenge for international trade”

7. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 10 to 14 November 2014

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil, said that the recommendation stemming from Technical Item I entitled “*Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region*” had been based on the need to promote compliance with OIE-recommended competencies in the area of veterinary education on aquatic animal health, at both initial and continuing education level.

The recommendations for Veterinary Authorities included the need to strengthen initial veterinary education and continuing education for aquatic animal health professionals, as well as participation in existing regional networks, coupled with implementation of the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of the Aquatic Animal Health Services. The recommendation for the OIE was to strengthen training for National Focal Points for aquatic animals in such areas as: risk analysis; organisation of Veterinary Services, pharmaceuticals; certification procedures; and communication skills.

With regard to Technical Item II entitled “*Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives*”, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that it was important to promote the use of compartmentalisation as a useful tool for defining and managing animal sub-populations with a specific health status, in compliance with OIE standards. He added that compartmentalisation could also be used as a tool for the prevention, management and eradication of animal diseases, as well as to provide a basis for the continued export of animals and animal products in the event of a country experiencing a disease outbreak.

Member Countries were recommended to consider using compartmentalisation as a trade facilitation measure and as a tool for safeguarding animal health through better biosecurity and for reducing the likelihood and impact of disease outbreaks. The OIE was

recommended to promote the use of compartmentalisation in Member Countries by participating in capacity-building and by disseminating success stories and best practices on the establishment of compartments in accordance with OIE standards.

8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2016

The Delegate of Bolivia confirmed his country's offer to host the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Conference will be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) from 14 to 18 November 2016.

9. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, in collaboration with Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and member of the Council, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

They started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. They also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

They went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

They then briefly described the OIE's projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the period covered by the Plan.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, they stressed the need for modernising the Organisation's governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

They presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries' expectations effectively. They also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE's work. Dr Correa and Dr Clifford underlined the Organisation's commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

They reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres-Soto, Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by the countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Cáceres-Soto also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Cáceres-Soto highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Cáceres-Soto presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Americas.

The Delegates of Mexico, Haiti, Canada and Brazil thanked Dr Paula Cáceres and the technical staff of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department for their support and willingness in resolving countries' difficulties with disease reporting, by remaining in direct contact at all times with both Delegates and Focal Points for animal disease notification.

11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

Proposal by the United States of America

Dr Michael David, on behalf of Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) of Iowa State University as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Online veterinary education".

Dr Michael David provided a brief review of the Centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission provided its support to the proposal by the United States of America, which will be presented for endorsement of the Council and then by the World Assembly of Delegates in 2016.

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)

Dr Edgardo Vitale, Technical Secretary of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), began by explaining that the CVP comprises the official Veterinary Services of its member countries. He added that the CVP's 12 years of uninterrupted work had enabled it to position itself as a lead agency for animal health and food safety in the sub-region.

Dr Vitale reported that one of the CVP's main activities had been preparing stage two of the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Programme (PAMA), which had been presented to MERCOSUR for approval in late April 2015. He affirmed that stage one had been a success.

He said that the CVP's activities had been carried out on the basis of transparency and region-wide progress with respect to the FMD situation. He pointed out that the latest FMD outbreak had occurred more than three years earlier (January 2012) and that this progress had to be accompanied by actions to consolidate the favourable animal health situation. Dr Vitale explained that a final stage for FMD eradication was planned and that, as 85% of the region was free of the disease with vaccination, countries tended to adopt more intensive, risk-based FMD surveillance measures that included official and private veterinarians and farmers, to move towards FMD freedom without vaccination.

As part of the effort to strengthen official Veterinary Services, Dr Vitale reported that 42 professionals been trained in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), in order to provide a mechanism for systematically evaluating official Veterinary Services. He added that the OIE was conducting PVS Pathway follow-up missions in CVP countries, with CVP experts participating as observers.

Referring to the work of the CVP's *ad hoc* groups, Dr Vitale reported that the efforts of its *ad hoc* group on food safety (GIdEA) had led the CVP to schedule a training and knowledge-sharing workshop in the second half of 2015, to reduce contamination with Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) organisms. He said that the CVP *ad hoc* group on poultry health would be convened to analyse the avian influenza outbreaks in the north of the continent. Back in April 2014, this group had revised the national programmes currently being implemented by CVP countries for avian influenza prevention and emergency action, as well as the CVP's regional strategy for the prevention of avian influenza, which dates from 2008 and needs to be updated.

Dr Vitale concluded by saying that, with the aim of strengthening the Committee, CVP focal points (appointed by the Chief Veterinary Officers) were developing a Strategic Plan 2016-2020 with methodological support from the IICA.

Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

Ing. Efraín Medina Guerra, Executive Director of OIRSA, said that OIRSA's mission was to support its member countries in their efforts to develop plans for agricultural health, quarantine services and food safety, thereby contributing to their people's economic and social development through healthy and environmentally friendly agricultural production that facilitates trade.

He reported that in 2015, OIRSA had established its Strategic Plan 2015-2025 with the following objectives: strengthening and developing health programmes defined for animals of different species and alternative livestock; preventing the introduction of emerging and transboundary diseases in the region; early detection and implementation of rapid-response animal health measures; controlling, and where possible, eradicating endemic diseases that undermine the productivity of economically important animal species and public health; supporting the implementation of biosecurity, traceability and animal welfare programmes that enhance production management and market access for economically important species; maintaining cooperation agreements with international organisations and friendly countries to promote actions for the benefit of OIRSA member countries.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA)

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), presented the veterinary public health activities conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through PANAFTOSA, specifically in the areas of zoonoses, food safety and food security. He said that PANAFTOSA was a unique network that integrates both the public health and animal health sectors, including government administrations, academia, the private and philanthropic sectors, and non-governmental and international organisations.

Dr Cosivi explained that PANAFTOSA's technical cooperation was implemented by a technical team based in Brazil, coupled with two advisors based in the Andean and Caribbean sub-regions and one senior adviser based at PAHO headquarters in Washington DC.

With regard to food safety, Dr Cosivi said that a growing number of institutions in the region were contributing to regional inter-sectoral food safety networks for the prevention of foodborne diseases, including: the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL); the Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN); and the PulseNet Latin America and Caribbean network. In particular, they were addressing the impact of antimicrobial resistance and promoting an integrated approach involving different stakeholders and sectors.

Eight Latin American countries and six Caribbean countries are working to implement integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance under the GFN.

With regard to zoonoses, Dr Cosivi reported that PANAFTOSA was implementing an Action Plan to eliminate human rabies transmitted by dogs that included: inter-laboratory exercises and proficiency testing; capacity-building on post-exposure prophylaxis; direct technical cooperation to priority countries; definition of dog surveillance indicators; development of a decision support tool; advocacy; and inclusion of the dog rabies vaccine in the PAHO revolving fund.

He added that PANAFTOSA also provided technical cooperation and promoted and supported research and capacity-building in the fields of: echinococcosis/hydatidosis; leptospirosis; leishmaniasis; sylvatic rabies; and surveillance of the animal reservoirs and vector of yellow fever.

He also described the region's historic achievement with respect to FMD, saying that, for the first time since PANAFTOSA's establishment in 1951, more than three consecutive years had elapsed without any reported cases of FMD in the region.

Dr Cosivi said that the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) had called for the establishment of a regional FMD antigen and vaccine bank, and that options were being developed for the bank's operation.

He added that PANAFTOSA continued to provide direct technical cooperation to key countries for strengthening national FMD programmes. He reported that, as a result, Bolivia and Paraguay had received official OIE recognition of FMD freedom in 2014, and Ecuador was expected to receive it in 2015.

Dr Cosivi concluded by stating that the challenges were now to: maintain this accomplishment and move towards an FMD-free hemisphere without vaccination; continue supporting countries, in particular by introducing new surveillance and emergency response tools and mechanisms in order to address the growing susceptibility of the population to the FMD virus; and strengthen Venezuela's national FMD programme.

The Delegate of Haiti commented on the worrying canine rabies situation in his country. Dr Cosivi and the Delegates of Brazil, Mexico and Cuba expressed their willingness to help remedy this situation.

World Bank

Dr Laurent Msellati, Manager for Agriculture Global Practice in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, summarised the World Bank's programmes in the region, with special emphasis on the livestock subsector. He confirmed that, in late 2014, the agricultural portfolio in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region included 29 active operations in 15 countries, with a total commitment of around USD 2.5 billion, supplemented by 10 major trust operations worth a total of USD 100 million. This portfolio includes a specific project for livestock (Colombia – Mainstreaming sustainable cattle ranching). However, virtually all the lending projects have a livestock component (27 of the 29 projects).

Dr Msellati added that the projects funded were aimed at pasture restoration and improvement, traceability, food safety, animal welfare and land tenure. He gave three examples: a project worth USD 1 billion for better linking small farmers with markets; support for low carbon agriculture in Brazil; and support for the private sector through the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for investment projects aimed at poultry farmers in Mexico, pig farmers in Ecuador, and meat and dairy farmers in Brazil and Paraguay. He added that the World Bank's ever increasing investment in animal health and food safety took into account the OIE PVS Pathway and gave examples of projects conducted in the past three years in Paraguay, Argentina, Haiti and Peru. He ended his presentation by providing a list of publications on the livestock sector between 2010 and now, saying that the World Bank was likely to increase financial support for the sector and to develop closer cooperation with all partners involved in livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE.

World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Dr Luis M. Etchevehere, President of the Argentine Rural Association (SRA), President *pro tempore* of the Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR (FARM) and Director of the World Farmers' Organisation for the Latin American Region, began by stating that producers in the Expanded MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil; Uruguay, Paraguay; Chile and Bolivia) had a strong commitment to producing safe and nutritious food for a population whose demand for more and better quality protein was growing continually.

Dr Etchevehere emphasised that, as it represents producers of all animal species, WFO considers health to be one of the cornerstones of successful animal production, which is why it promotes the full range of measures to care for, protect and preserve the health of animals as effectively as possible.

He added that WFO recommended the need for effective, technologically proficient animal health services able to implement all provisions for diagnosing, preventing and reducing the incidence of infections and to establish all necessary steps for guarding against potential outbreaks of infectious, contagious or parasitic diseases.

He highlighted WFO's active participation in the activities of national and international organisations working in the field of animal health, including the OIE, COSALFA, Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and CVP.

With regard to FMD, he underlined the significant progress achieved in recent decades by FMD control and eradication programmes, which has transformed territories and cattle populations with endemic or epidemic FMD and a high incidence of outbreaks caused by several types of virus into FMD-free ones, based on effective systematic vaccination campaigns. This has led to international recognition of most of the regional bloc as FMD-

free with vaccination, while consolidating the Southern Cone as a trustworthy supplier of beef to the world.

Dr Etchevehere expressed concern over the ability of several Expanded MERCOSUR member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and associate member Chile) to maintain their current FMD-freedom in view of the fact that, across South America as a whole, only 85% of countries are FMD-free. He felt that this posed a risk to countries, especially as PHEFA was considering suspending FMD vaccination by 2020.

He concluded by explaining that producers in the region saw it as a priority to consolidate the animal health status achieved by countries by pursuing risk characterisation actions and enhancing vaccine coverage through routine vaccination. The feasibility of eventually discontinuing use of the vaccine as an FMD control tool should be assessed against the risk of reintroduction of the disease, with its adverse impact on countries' economic and social development.

13. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed candidates:

President: Dr Guilherme Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President: Dr Miguel Azañón (Guatemala)
Vice-President: Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General: Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)

Council:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates:

Dr Joaquín Delgadillo (Mexico)
Dr Hugo Idoyaga (Paraguay)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina)
Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Juan Antonio Montaña Hirose (Mexico)
Dr Ernesto Mendoza Mainegra (Cuba)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Dr Ana María Nicola (Argentina)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile)
Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada)

The meeting officially ended at 7:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda ;
 2. Report on OIE Council meetings ;
 3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas ;
 4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America ;
 5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017 ;
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas ;
 7. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 10 to 14 November 2014 ;
 8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2016 ;
 9. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan ;
 10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas ;
 11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre ;
 12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE ;
 13. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 122 participants, including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 1 international organisation:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: FAO

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, gave a brief presentation regarding the main issues addressed by the Council. He stated that the Council meets three times per year.

Regarding the 83rd General Session, Dr Schipp indicated that the Council had validated the agenda, the list of Guests of Honour invited to the Opening Ceremony and the list of International Organisations invited to present their activities. The Council examined three new draft agreements with Interpol and the World Customs Union, and a revised agreement with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Referring to the elections, Dr Schipp commented that the Council had agreed to systematically monitor the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process on the importance of being present for purposes of forming a quorum.

With regard to the major elections that would be taking place during the 83rd General Session, he said that the Council, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of work of the Specialist Commissions, had supported the proposal that, amongst other things, critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were important for this improvement to take place. He explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

He also stated that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the only candidate for the position of Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, the official candidate of France and the European Union, and acknowledged her professional merits for this post.

Regarding the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, he indicated that the Council had worked closely on drafting the document. The document was reviewed in detail, to ensure both the overall content and the consistency between the different chapters. He reminded participants that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at the meeting of the Regional Commission during the 82nd General Session and had been discussed within the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions, whenever possible with the contribution of the members of the Council from these regions. The Council validated the final version of the draft Sixth Strategic Plan at the Council meeting in February 2015 with a view to its presentation to the Assembly for approval this year.

Dr Schipp also informed participants that, at the meeting of the Council in October 2014, the Director General had suggested that a Resolution be prepared with a view to increasing the number of members of the Specialist Commissions from six to eight, to enable a better distribution of the workload between the experts, improve the geographical balance within the Commissions and ease the current constraint for all of the elected members to be systematically physically present throughout all of the meetings. The Council decided not to adopt the proposal to increase the number of experts, but validated the proposal for a draft Resolution establishing a system of evaluation, to be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval.

Dr Schipp also referred to several financial and administrative matters, including the validation of the Director General's report on activities and the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates. He also stated that the Council had validated the principle of creating a Pension Fund for the staff of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The proposed increase in contributions for the year 2016 was discussed in light of the budgets for the previous years and the draft Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Finally, he commented that the Council had approved the OIE's interest in the topic of reptiles, both with regard to the welfare aspects and with regard to the animal health and food safety aspects. This dossier would only be taken on if the OIE were to develop a partnership with the private sector to fund an ad-hoc Group and a chargé de mission be devoted to this new topic.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including the development of Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission.

Dr Zhang explained that the Regional Core Group, established pursuant to a recommendation in the Regional Work Plan Framework 2010-2015, continued to have meetings/teleconferences on an *ad hoc* basis while maintaining communication through email, to enhance communication and coordination between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Members in the Region. The discussion items included the nomination of experts in the region for the election of Specialist Commissions.

Dr Zhang reported that he had attended the 7th Global Steering Committee (GSC) Meeting of GF-TADs, held in Paris in October 2014 in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. He explained that, in that occasion, he had provided an update on the activities of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific. The GSC had reported on their activities including that it is in process to revise various indicators in the Five Year Action Plan; that the document on Cost-Effectiveness of Investments in Prevention of TADs was being improved; that the committee agreed on the final draft of GF-TADs Website; for prioritizing diseases, that a guideline had been developed but needed to be improved.

He touched upon several important Global or Regional meetings that took place after the 82nd OIE General Session to which Members of the Region participated, including:

- OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on early detection and prevention of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface, Paris, France, 30 June - 1 July 2014;
- Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 14-16 October 2014;
- Third OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: Riding the Wave to the Future, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 20–22 January 2015;
- FAO & OIE International Conference on the control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 31 March - 2 April 2015; and
- 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Guadalajara, Mexico, 10-14 November 2014.

He encouraged Regional Commission Members to take steps to action the recommendations adopted by OIE Member Countries during these important Conferences. He also thanked the Republic of Korea and Vietnam for hosting these important OIE events, which had certainly helped to improve regional participation.

Dr Zhang explained the progress of the discussions on the Regional Work Plan Framework (RWPF) 2016-2020. In particular, Dr Zhang listed the timeframe for the adoption of the plan at the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission.

As proposed at the Regional Commission meeting during the 82nd General Session in May 2014, the Regional Core Group had commenced working on the RWPF to ensure continuing alignment with the 6th OIE Strategic Plan and to reflect the current needs and priorities in the Region. A discussion document had been developed by the Regional Core Group by reviewing the current RWPF in order to facilitate discussion among Members. He had distributed the document to Members and requested to consider more particularly nine questions identified and to submit comments.

Dr Zhang introduced some comments from members: Australia proposed to address engagement on aquatic animal health matters in the region; the People's Republic of China proposed adding activities relevant to "Scientific excellence" as it was the key element of "cross-cutting areas" in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan; Japan proposed including a progress review mechanism of the work plan; Malaysia proposed adding emerging and re-emerging diseases to the objectives.

He informed the Delegates of the steps to be further taken towards the adoption of the second RWPF at the upcoming 29th Regional Conference in September 2015 and encouraged the Regional Commission Members to review draft to be distributed soon and send comments to improve our RWPF to address the regional needs and priorities.

Dr Zhang then explained the improvement of communication among regional Members. As the Delegates had been already informed in the past Regional meetings, the Regional Delegate website had been developed and was soon to be launched within the regional website. He expected that the Regional Delegate website would become a good fora for improving communication among the Members.

He concluded by reminding the Commission that the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania would be held in Mongolia in September 2015, and that the OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction in Paris, France, on 30 June - 2 July 2015. He urged Delegates to participate in these important events.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP), started his presentation by summarising RR-AP activities and informing the Commission on the recent staff changes at the Regional Representation.

He reported on RR-AP's role as secretariat for the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and touched upon the Regional Commission's major activities, including coordinating members with regard to nominations for the Specialist Commissions at the 83rd General Session and reviewing the current Regional Work Plan Framework taking into account the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Dr Kugita then reported on progress at RR-AP under the technical programmes. As the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, RR-AP is co-organising with FAO the GF-TADs sub-regional meetings for each sub-region, namely ASEAN⁵⁹, SAARC⁶⁰ and SPC⁶¹, with the one for ASEAN having been held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) in March 2015.

He informed the Commission about the various activities conducted under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) projects, including: "Advanced training on FMD⁶² laboratory data analysis for Mongolian laboratory staff"; "FMD vaccination campaigns using donated vaccine from Japan in Laos and Myanmar"; "Regional joint risk assessment for H7N9⁶³ under FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite collaboration"; "Influenza surveillance in live bird markets in Cambodia"; and "Regional rabies scientific conference in China". "Regional hands-on laboratory training on PRRS⁶⁴ and other swine disease diagnosis" was also held in Beijing (China) in April 2015 with the support of the China Veterinary Bureau and OIE Reference Laboratory for PRRS in China (People's Rep. of).

⁵⁹ ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

⁶⁰ SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

⁶¹ SPC : Secretariat of the Pacific Community

⁶² FMD: foot and mouth disease

⁶³ H7N9: avian influenza A (H7N9) virus

⁶⁴ PRRS: porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome

Dr Kugita went on to describe aquatic animal health activities, which had included publishing quarterly aquatic animal disease reports and a related year publication in collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific Region (NACA), as well as holding the third round seminar for National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) in January 2015.

He added that RR-AP served as the secretariat for the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (RAWS CG) and that the ninth meeting of RAWS CG had been held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in March 2015.

Dr Kugita informed the Commission about planned activities for the rest of 2015, including the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held from 14 to 18 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), where the Regional Work Plan Framework for 2016-2020 will be discussed for adoption. He also took the opportunity to confirm the Delegates that, thanks to the financial support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a Seminar on the “Development of public private partnerships to support Veterinary Services” would be held on Monday 14 September 2015, just before the start of the Regional Conference.

The following activities were also listed, some of which are still under development.

- The OIE and FAO will jointly hold sub-regional meetings of GF-TADs for SAARC and SPC;
- Under the OIE/JTF Project on FMD Control in Asia, the fourth Coordination Committee meeting and 2nd scientific meeting will be held in Tokyo in June 2015;
- The Regional Workshop on Prevention and Control of Neglected Zoonoses will be held jointly with APHCA⁶⁵ in Japan in July 2015;
- As a part of the FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite coordination mechanism in the region, the sixth Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multisectoral Collaboration for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses will be held in Japan in October 2015;
- Under the JTF Project for Controlling Zoonoses in Asia under the One Health Concept, further coordination or capacity-building activities on highly pathogenic avian influenza, rabies and antimicrobial resistance will also be considered;
- Regional Workshop on Safe International Trade in Aquatic Animals and Aquatic Animal Products to be held in Japan in July 2015; and
- Training seminar on the OIE PVS Tool will be organised in 2015 for selected regional members.

To conclude, he reported that, in order to facilitate regional members’ involvement in OIE activities, the OIE would soon introduce a section dedicated to Delegates on the RR-AP website.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the role and responsibilities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA). He described the three programmes of the Sub-Regional Representation under the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, funded by the

⁶⁵ APHCA: Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Australian Government's overseas aid program (AusAID): the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Campaign; the Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services (STRIVES); and the One-Health programme with a focus on rabies.

Dr Abila provided details of the following activities of the Sub-Regional Representation.

SEACFMD (South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign)

SRR-SEA has undertaken a range of activities in 2015 in support of SEACFMD member countries' goals of control, prevention and eradication of FMD, or maintenance of FMD freedom. These include control activities, studies of factors contributing to disease spread, capacity-building, drafting the third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap, coordination meetings, and developing projects and partnerships for the future.

Following the launch of the northern Laos FMD Vaccination Project in 2014, vaccinations have been administered to more than 330,000 animals in 4,000 villages, across 80 districts in 10 provinces. In order to monitor the efficacy of the vaccinations and protection of the livestock population against FMD in these hot-spots and high risk areas, a post-vaccination monitoring programme is underway based on measuring antibody titres to FMD in livestock in selected villages. SRR-SEA also developed a database, which has been provided to project staff to integrate all data concerning vaccinations, villages and post-vaccination monitoring.

A similar FMD vaccination project has commenced in the Mandalay and Sagaing districts of central Myanmar, which are major livestock production areas. Vaccinations began in February 2015, with over 230,000 cattle and buffalo vaccinated in the first round within less than two weeks. The second round of vaccinations was completed within a similar time frame in late March/early April. SRR-SEA will be coordinating a post-vaccination monitoring programme as part of this project, to monitor vaccination responses and the FMD protection conferred by the vaccination campaign. The database developed by SRR-SEA has also been rolled out for this project, to capture vaccination and township data to support effective analysis of the project.

A study of animal movements in the Upper Mekong Sub-Region commenced following a planning workshop held by SRR-SEA in Bangkok in January 2015. Study sites in northern Vietnam, northern Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and China were identified, and national consultants were appointed to conduct surveys of traders and key industry personnel in these areas. Preliminary results have identified significant market factors that are driving animal movements across South-East Asia and China, with the direction of trade changing in some areas since a previous study six years ago.

The third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap, covering the period from 2016 to 2020, has been drafted and presented to the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission on FMD in South-East Asia and China. The draft roadmap was endorsed by the Sub-Commission, and will be finalised and published during the course of 2015.

Coordination meetings have been completed successfully with the Upper Mekong Working Group meeting held in Vietnam in February 2015 and the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission on FMD in South-East Asia and China held in the Philippines in March 2015.

One Health and rabies

SRR-SEA's One Health Programme under the STANDZ Initiative focuses on advancing rabies elimination and promoting One Health coordination in South-East Asia.

The STANDZ One Health programme continues to support and strengthen regional inter-sectoral coordination in South-East Asia. One of the highlights for this period is its continuing support for the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES), the concept and drafting of which has been one of the programme's contributions to the region. ARES was endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in September 2014, and is now at the implementation stage. On 30-31 March 2015, ASEAN – supported in part by the STANDZ Initiative – held the AEGCD⁶⁶-ASWGL⁶⁷ joint consultative workshop for the plan of action of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy. Together with other international rabies partners (FAO, GARC⁶⁸, WAP), the workshop developed a work plan and identified lead countries and supporting partners for its implementation.

Another major regional coordination activity of SRR-SEA, in conjunction with RR-AP, Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, and China Working Dog Management Association, is the 2015 Regional Scientific Conference held in Wuhan (China) on 16-17 April 2015. The two-day conference covered: (a) rabies prevention and control; (b) rabies epidemiology and surveillance; (c) rabies vaccines and vaccination; (d) dog ecology and population management; and (e) advances in rabies diagnosis. It was attended by around 350 participants, including leading global rabies experts.

The benchmarking document on rabies and rabies elimination activities in ASEAN Member States has been finalised, printed and distributed. Now in circulation, the document compares the current situation and practices in South-East Asia with international standards relevant to dog rabies elimination.

SRR-SEA also presented the OIE's views on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and highlighted international standards on AMR during panel discussions on "Challenges and control keys for AMR in Asian Livestock" as part of the seminar on "Food Safety Strategy: Antimicrobial Resistance in ASEAN Livestock (AMRAL)" at VIV Asia (12 March 2015).

In support of mass dog vaccination in the Philippines, SRR-SEA is also developing a post-vaccination monitoring plan for the pilot areas, in coordination with the Project Coordination Office (PCO) in the Philippines for the STANDZ Rabies Project. Guidance from the OIE Reference Laboratory has also been sought, and the study in the pilot areas will soon commence under the STANDZ Rabies Project. In addition, a knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) survey is also underway in the pilot areas to determine progress in these areas following public awareness initiatives.

Currently, the major rabies intervention work of SRR-SEA is the STANDZ Rabies Project in the Philippines, which commenced on 1 September 2014 and will last until June 2016. The first progress report of the project has been submitted and, having complied with all other requirements, the Philippines have been advised that the second tranche will soon be

⁶⁶ AEGCD: ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases

⁶⁷ ASWGL: ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock

⁶⁸ GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control

transmitted. Project orientation and rabies fora in the four pilot provinces (Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate) have been conducted targeting field officers and other stakeholders involved in mass dog vaccination, rabies surveillance and dog population management. Utilising the first delivery of 300,000 doses from the OIE vaccine bank funded by STANDZ, along with funding support for implementation, the pilot areas also started to prepare and conduct mass dog vaccination during this period, with a combined total of 149,942 dogs vaccinated as of February 2015 in Albay, Masbate, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte.

STRIVES (Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services)

SRR-SEA has continued to support the strengthening of the Veterinary Services of South-East Asian countries through the OIE PVS Pathway. Using findings from PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis Reports, SRR-SEA has been able to provide specific technical assistance, financial support, workshops and seminars for supporting the report recommendations.

In connection with the OIE PVS Pathway, Myanmar made an official request for an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission, which was then conducted and completed in January 2015. In addition, the OIE laboratory twinning project on brucellosis between France and Thailand has led the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) in Thailand to apply for OIE Reference Laboratory recognition. The application is currently being processed by the OIE.

High-quality veterinary education is key to equipping future veterinarians with the necessary competencies for entry into the national Veterinary Services. In an effort to strengthen the provision of veterinary education in SEA, SRR-SEA organised the OIE information seminar for veterinary education establishments (VEEs). This half-day seminar was held first at Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) on 20 March 2015 and then at Universiti Putra Malaysia on 10 April 2015.

SRR-SEA is providing OIE information seminars to public and practising veterinarians in South-East Asia in order to encourage partnerships between these two sectors while, at the same time, enhancing their knowledge of these standards. SRR-SEA collaborated with the Thai Veterinary Medical Association and the Department of Livestock Development to organise the OIE information seminars for practising veterinarians in Thailand on 3 April 2015. It also collaborated with the Veterinary Association of Malaysia and the Department of Veterinary Services to organise another seminar in Malaysia on 11 April 2015.

Acknowledging the importance of training laboratory staff on occupational health and safety, SRR-SEA is continuing to provide such training to veterinary diagnostic laboratory staff. The first training course was held at NIAH in Thailand from 21 to 23 April 2015. During the training, laboratory members learned about health and safety in the laboratory, as well as how to conduct their own risk assessment and to draft an updated health and safety policy for NIAH. SRR-SEA will work with NIAH to ensure that these health and safety guidelines be developed and implemented.

SRR-SEA held a sub-regional workshop on the OIE PVS Pathway in Bali (Indonesia) from 28 to 30 April 2015. The workshop objectives were successfully achieved and included: (a) discussion of recommendations and conclusions from previous PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis missions; (b) acknowledgement and discussion of progress and outcomes, as well as best practices and approaches in strengthening their Veterinary Services; (c) facilitation and promotion of collaboration amongst the Veterinary Services of ASEAN

Member States in bridging and strengthening common sub-regional gaps; and (d) recommendations for the consideration of OIE and countries on the subject of current and future OIE PVS Pathway activities in the sub-region.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Veterinary Education: a pathway to international accreditation.” (Building upon the 2013 Global conference, examine veterinary school standards and accreditation with a view to building international accreditation)

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 29th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- “How can we progress the cooperation between animal health sector and public health sector?”

8. Organisation of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015

Dr Bolortuya Purevsuren, Delegate of Mongolia, informed the Regional Commission on the arrangements being made by the authorities of her country to host the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held from 14 to 18 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. She mentioned that OIE had already sent invitation letters to all Delegates of the region.

She invited all Delegates of the region to the conference and underlined the importance of attending this event which, together with the General Session, is one of the OIE statutory meetings and thus one of the OIE Delegates’ obligations.

She also mentioned the Seminar on private public partnership of Veterinary Services organised back to back with the Regional Conference.

The Delegate of Afghanistan confirmed that the invitation for Afghanistan to participate in the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania should be delivered through diplomatic channel.

9. Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila, Philippines, from 10 to 13 March 2015

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, gave a brief presentation regarding the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila (Philippines) from 10 to 13 March 2015. He said that the purpose of the meeting had been to review recent developments in FMD in the region and worldwide, assess programme progress, disseminate key developments, and make recommendations on policy, strategic, technical and governance matters.

He reported that the meeting had been opened by Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director-General of the OIE, and Dr Davinio Catbagan, Assistant Secretary for Livestock at the Philippines Department of Agriculture.

Dr Abila explained that an update on the global FMD situation and on the activities of the World Reference Laboratory for FMD had been presented. Specific information had also been given on the FMD situation in the Asian region. The continuing risk of serotype A epidemic in some countries in South-East Asia was highlighted.

He said that the meeting had presented the debut screening of a video produced by SRR-SEA with the assistance of prominent regional figures in the area of FMD prevention and control. The video emphasises the importance of FMD in the region and details the role of SEACFMD and its partners in fighting the disease.

Apart from the customary country reports and partner's presentation on the first day, Dr Abila mentioned the various technical papers that had been presented on the second day, including: (a) proficiency testing; (b) FMD-related research; (c) vaccine matching and post-vaccination monitoring; (d) OIE standards on FMD and endorsement of national control plans; (e) FMD control projects supported by OIE in Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (f) the Philippines's experience in achieving and maintaining freedom from FMD. He said that these presentations had highlighted aspects that SEACFMD needs to address in order to advance FMD control in the region. He added that, during the discussions, countries had asked for further assistance in preparing their national plans for OIE endorsement.

Dr Abila said that a session based on risks for FMD control in South-East Asia and China had updated participants on progress with a recent animal movement study in the Upper Mekong Region. A presentation had been made on FMD risk factors within South-East Asia and China, including the different serotypes and their spread over time, price factors, production systems and changing r-values in vaccine matching tests. Strategies to mitigate risks, including vaccination and interventions at source and critical points were also presented.

He reported that the last session on the second day had focused on revisions to the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap. Participants were informed of the rationale used when developing the roadmap, the various iterations, and the framework and major strategies of the roadmap. A resource mapping exercise was then presented, with members being provided with examples of what can be done with resource mapping in the region and its uses.

Dr Abila noted that the following issues had been highlighted at the workshop on the third day: need for a multi-disciplinary approach to analysis and intelligence-gathering and synthesis; need to engage policy makers from the top-down and across the range of relevant government departments; importance of contingency planning (particularly for free countries); need to ensure consistency of national FMD plans with the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap; and importance of bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

He reported that a special session had been held on One Health, with presentations on updates to OIE standards on rabies and the Regional Rabies Control Strategy, bridging the OIE PVS Pathway and WHO International Health Regulations Monitoring Framework, tripartite activities, and ASEAN animal health activities. A presentation on OIE vaccine banks (FMD and rabies) was also given.

Finally, Dr Abila commented on the key recommendations that emerged from the meeting, which will help to guide the SEACFMD Campaign's work in the coming year. Key recommendations included: endorsement of the strategic framework of the third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2020 and timeframe-related components; agreement to develop an application for OIE recognition of national FMD control programmes; organisation of a meeting of Directors General in mid-2015 to review the final report of the Upper Mekong animal movement study; agreement to maintain and promote the OIE FMD vaccine bank; encouragement of Member Countries to pursue PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions; and agreement to pursue high-level advocacy at the ASEAN and national levels and for private sector engagement to be furthered.

10. Report on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the RAWS Coordination Group, began his presentation by saying that RAWS, now in its second edition, provided an overarching approach to supporting the implementation of OIE animal welfare and related standards in the region. He added that it also provided a useful framework for the development of national animal welfare strategies and noted, with satisfaction, that the model had been used by other OIE regions, in particular Europe, the Middle East and the Americas.

He added that Australia, through the (now) Department of Agriculture, had funded the development of RAWS, including RAWS Coordination Group meetings, under an agreement with the OIE.

He reported that funding support for the RAWS initiative would cease at the end of May 2015.

Given the value of RAWS, Dr Murray stressed that the Regional Commission needed to consider its future, build on the successes achieved so far, and support a sustainable approach to regional implementation of good animal welfare practices.

He mentioned that a full copy of the RAWS Coordination Group 9 meeting report had been sent to all Member Countries of the Regional Commission and was also available in the working document provided to all participants.

Dr Murray then referred to the options considered by RAWS Coordination Group 9 to support the continuation of RAWS. These included, but were not confined, to: (a) abolish the RAWS Coordination Group and promote acceptance of RAWS by countries in the region with general Regional Commission overview; (b) the Regional Commission assumes full responsibility for RAWS and establishes an appropriate management framework; and (c) a country assumes responsibilities for RAWS as per the Australian model, while noting that, to date, there had been no expressions of interest on such an approach.

Dr Murray noted that, on balance, RAWS Coordination Group 9 was of the view that the Regional Commission should assume full responsibilities for ongoing RAWS activities and should develop terms of reference based on the existing terms of reference, as well as a *modus operandi*. He added that the RAWS Coordination Group had suggested that an advisory group be formed to advise the Regional Commission and the OIE, that the advisory group members be nominated by the OIE Director General, and that members be rotated after a period in office.

Should this option be chosen, Dr Murray explained that the Regional Commission would need to examine funding support for meetings and, if necessary, small projects. Self-funding is an option, as are contributions from individual Regional Commission Members and the holding of meetings in association with other relevant OIE activities. The secretariat will continue to be provided by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia Pacific (Tokyo). Should funding be available, the RAWS Coordination Group was of the view that a

regional workshop for selected participants should be held to develop specific proposals for RAWs continuation and transitional arrangements.

He reported that RAWs Coordination Group 9 had considered the action plan to support RAWs and had agreed that it should be simplified to improve clarity. A small writing group was established to refine the existing document.

Dr Murray pointed out that reports from RAWs Coordination Group members and observers had indicated that significant progress was being made on animal welfare by those countries that had reported. However, he noted with concern that not all countries reported, making it difficult, if not impossible, to assess overall progress. He added that countries were strongly recommended to produce short annual reports, even if only a page in length. Dr Murray considered that OIE Animal Welfare National Focal Points could play a key role in this regard.

Finally, Dr Murray said that RAWs is an innovative and significant regional and global initiative and that all those involved in its development, past and present, should be thanked for their efforts. The Australian Government should be thanked for funding the initiative.

The Delegate of New Zealand thanked Australia and stated that all forward looking opportunities should utilise existing structures and capacities in place, so that future funding from donors be used to finance activities.

The Delegate of Bhutan recognised Australia's financial support to RAWs and posed the following questions in view of the fact that funds are coming to an end: What are the strategies? What have governments of the Region done to ensure its sustainability?

Dr Murray cited examples from different countries, for example in the field of legislation and strategy development as well as the implementation of training activities. He furthermore underscored various actions which overall illustrate countries' commitment to improve animal welfare, consistent with national priorities and OIE standards.

11. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the Council, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

He started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. He also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Schipp went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

He then briefly described the OIE's projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Schipp placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, he stressed the need for modernising the Organisation's governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

He presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries' expectations effectively. He also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE's work. Dr Schipp underlined the Organisation's commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

He reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Schipp concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. He went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Mapitse also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Mapitse highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Mapitse presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

13. Proposals for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Services Capacity Building”

Dr Ayuth Harintharanon, OIE Delegate of Thailand, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Department of Livestock Development (DLD) in collaboration with the Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia-Pacific, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiangmai University (CMU)” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Services Capacity Building”.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Thailand.

14. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

15. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE Ad hoc Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging and commending Korea (Rep. of) for its demonstration of leadership in the adoption of the principles for the HHP concept, in its formulation of import measures and the exemplary approach to setting up of an EDFZ for the hosting of the Asian equestrian games.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, began her presentation by

explaining that the Asia-Pacific region faced the risk of the emergence and spread of high-impact diseases affecting animal production and public health – stemming from growth in human populations, rapid urbanisation, intensification of farming systems, forest encroachment and globalisation of trade in animals and animal products – while continuing to shoulder the burden of some endemic diseases.

She noted that, with the overall goal of ensuring food security and safety, including the livelihoods of poor communities, and of promoting animal health and public well-being, five animal health thrusts had been identified for the region: (a) support for national efforts to control select high-impact diseases/syndromes present in the region, such as FMD, swine diseases, rabies and animal influenza; (b) generic enhancement of national disease control systems; (c) fostering regional cooperation and the development of regional approaches and coordination capacity for the management of priority transboundary and emerging diseases, which includes regional epidemiology and laboratory capacity development and networking programmes; (d) promotion of human-animal sector collaboration through multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches to address a broader range of drivers of zoonotic diseases; and (e) information generation and dissemination.

She concluded by mentioning that, in implementing the above activity thrusts, FAO continued to engage with partners like OIE, WHO, ASEAN, APHCA and SAARC to support the strengthening of existing animal and public health surveillance, prevention and preparedness, and response systems.

17. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

18. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (P. R. China)
Vice-President: Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia)
Vice-President: Dr Keshav Prasad Premy (Nepal)
Secretary General: Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand)

Council:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)
Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)
Prof. Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Jef Hammond (Australia)
Dr Zhiliang Wang (P.R. China)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Peter Daniels (Australia)
Dr Hualan Chen (P.R. China)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)
Prof. Dato' Dr Mohammed Shariff bin Mohamed Din (Malaysia)

The meeting officially ended at 7 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
 2. Report on OIE Council meetings;
 3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including the development of Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020;
 4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific;
 5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia;
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
 7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far;
 8. Organisation of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015;
 9. Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila, Philippines, from 10 to 13 March 2015;
 10. Report on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS);
 11. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan;
 12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
 13. Proposals for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre;
 14. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP);
 15. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
 16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
 17. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
 18. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 121 participants, including Delegates and observers from 46 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: Council of the European Union, European Commission, EEC⁶⁹, FAO, FEEVA⁷⁰, FESASS⁷¹, FVE⁷², IZSAM⁷³, IZSLER⁷⁴, IZSVE⁷⁵.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, assisted by Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia), Secretary General of the Commission, Professor Nikola T. Belev, Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Honorary President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, and Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. However, the topic on Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 was added.

⁶⁹ EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission

⁷⁰ FEEVA: Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

⁷¹ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁷² FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁷³ IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise

⁷⁴ IZSLER : Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna

⁷⁵ IZSVE : Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, gave a brief presentation regarding the main issues addressed by the Council. She stated that the Council meets three times per year.

Regarding the 83rd General Session, Dr Schwabenbauer indicated that the Council had validated the agenda, the list of Guests of Honour invited to the Opening Ceremony and the list of International Organisations invited to present their activities. The Council examined three new draft agreements with Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, and a revised agreement with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Referring to the elections, Dr Schwabenbauer commented that the Council had agreed to systematically monitor the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process on the importance of being present for purposes of forming a quorum.

With regard to the major elections that would be taking place during the 83rd General Session, she said that the Council, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of work of the Specialist Commissions, had supported the proposal that, amongst other things, critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were important for this improvement to take place. She explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

She also stated that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the only candidate for the position of Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, the official candidate of France and the European Union, and acknowledged her professional merits for this post.

Regarding the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, she indicated that the Council had worked closely on drafting the document. The document was reviewed in detail, to ensure both the overall content and the consistency between the different chapters. She reminded participants that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at the meeting of the Regional Commission during the 82nd General Session and had been discussed within the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions, whenever possible with the contribution of the members of the Council from these regions. The Council validated the final version of the draft Sixth Strategic Plan at the Council meeting in February 2015 with a view to its presentation to the Assembly for approval this year.

Dr Schwabenbauer also informed participants that, at the meeting of the Council in October 2014, the Director General had suggested that a Resolution be prepared with a view to increasing the number of members of the Specialist Commissions from six to eight, to enable a better distribution of the workload between the experts, improve the geographical balance within the Commissions and ease the current constraint for all of the elected members to be systematically physically present throughout all of the meetings. The Council decided not to adopt the proposal to increase the number of experts, but validated the proposal for a draft Resolution establishing a system of evaluation, to be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval.

Dr Schwabenbauer also referred to several financial and administrative matters, including the validation of the Director General's report on activities and the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates. She also stated that the Council had validated the principle of creating a Pension Fund for the staff of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The proposed increase in contributions for the year 2016 was discussed in light of the budgets for the previous years and the draft Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Finally, she commented that the Council had approved the OIE's interest in the topic of reptiles, both with regard to the welfare aspects and with regard to the animal health and food safety aspects. This dossier would only be taken on if the OIE were to develop a partnership with the private sector to fund an ad-hoc Group and a chargé de mission be devoted to this new topic.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the Regional Commission, presented a report on the activities of the Regional Commission and listed the current members of the Bureau: President, Dr A. Pärtel (Estonia); Vice-President, Dr I. Bisiuk (Ukraine); second Vice-President, Dr L. Carbajo Goñi (Spain); and Secretary General, Dr B. Plavšić (Serbia). He also pointed out that the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe based in Sofia (Bulgaria), the Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia), the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Belgium) and the Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana (Kazakhstan) would be providing an overview of their activities.

Dr Pärtel commented that, in compliance with the OIE Basic Texts, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe had held its 26th Conference in Berne (Switzerland) in September 2014, where it examined and discussed animal health, animal welfare and animal food production safety issues within Europe. The Conference was well attended, with 36 Member Countries (out of 53) represented, as well as other key stakeholders in the region. The main outcomes of the Conference included two technical recommendations: one on "Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism" and the other on "Porcine epidemic diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe". The two recommendations were scheduled for submission to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval in May 2015, after which they were expected to become important roadmaps for the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

It was decided that the continuing coordination mechanism for a common regional position would be managed through a Task Force. This Task Force is comprised of the Delegates of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission as well as the Delegates of Russia, Serbia, Norway, Austria, France and a representative of the European Commission. The Regional Commission has organised two meetings of the Task Force – one in Madrid (Spain) in December 2014, and the other in Oslo (Norway) in April 2015 – to discuss the modus operandi of the Task Force and possible topics for a joint regional position.

In addition, Dr Pärtel, in his capacity of President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, participated in: (i) an OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points on Communication, held in Tallinn (Estonia) from 1 to 3 July 2014; (ii) the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European region under the auspices of GF-TADs:– first meeting, on the topic of ASF control in wild boar, held in Minsk (Belarus) on 2 and 3 December 2014; second meeting on the topic of biosecurity in commercial pig production and smallholdings, held in Tallinn (Estonia) on 11 and 12 February 2015.

Dr Pärtel concluded by mentioning that the main tasks of the OIE Regional Commission are: (i) to present OIE technical and capacity-building activities in the region; (ii) to select the Technical Items (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agendas of the General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates and the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Portugal, September 2016); (iii) to propose new Collaborating Centres; and (iv) to coordinate the proposal of regional candidates for the election of the new Bureau of the Regional Commission. This agenda will be implemented in close collaboration with the OIE Representations of the region.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the work programme of all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Office in Europe, on behalf of Prof. N. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria), Dr K. Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow (Russia), and Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan (SRO-Astana).

She started by describing the activities carried out by the OIE Regional Representation in Eastern Europe, highlighting the work of Prof. N. Belev in maintaining regular dialogue with the highest authorities in the region.

She explained that the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe is staffed by Prof. N. Belev (Regional Representative), Dr A. Miteva (technical assistant) and Mrs R. Kostova (secretary).

Next she described the different activities in which the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe had participated, including: 62nd General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Bulgaria in April 2015; a seminar at Bulgaria's Trakia University as part of its Veterinary Administration Master's programme – participation in the Animal Welfare Workshop "Improving animal welfare: a practical approach", organized by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) in co-operation with the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANTE), the Union of Veterinarians in Bulgaria (UVB) and the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (25-26 March 2015, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria); participation in the meeting of the Veterinary Consultative Council of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 2 April 2015.

Dr Leboucq reported that, during the second semester of 2015, the activities of the OIE Regional Representation in Eastern Europe would focus mainly on supporting National Focal Point activities and on participation in OIE Global Conferences.

Dr Leboucq went on to discuss the work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (SRR-Brussels) for 2015. She started by mentioning that the SRR-Brussels team, which had previously consisted of Dr S. de la Rocque, Dr S. Ralchev and Dr N. Leboucq, had been strengthened by the addition of Mr O. Stucke, placed at the disposal of the OIE by the World Health Organization (WHO) for matters relating to risk communication.

She explained that the work programme of SRR-Brussels for 2015 carried on from the work of previous years and focused on the following main areas of intervention:

- Participation in OIE regional activities in Europe, where appropriate, in collaboration with the OIE Representations and Office in Sofia, Moscow and Astana. SRR-Brussels, in its capacity as secretariat for the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, continued to implement the Platform's 2014-2016 Action Plan and, in this connection, it had: (a) prepared and organised a first series of 'train the trainers' workshops on animal welfare during transport and slaughter (Georgia, March-April-May 2015) for six Russian-speaking countries, based on the OIE's flagship Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP); (b) prepared and organised the fourth meeting of the Platform's Steering Group (SG4, Serbia, May 2015), which served to validate the programmes for the ongoing six-month period (first semester 2015) and the forthcoming one (second semester 2015); and (c) updated the Platform's website (<http://rpawe.oie.int>), including the addition of examples of country best practices and experiences in the field.

- Interfacing with institutions and organisations with headquarters in Brussels, through work meetings primarily on European (but sometimes also global) issues. During the first semester of 2015, SRR-Brussels has taken part in some 20 coordination meetings with its partners (including the European Commission, FVE, WCO⁷⁶ and NATO⁷⁷). SRR-Brussels also helped to prepare the revised agreement with WCO and the exchange of letters with NATO.
- Implementation of the OIE/WHO joint work programme within the framework of the ‘One Health’ approach: based on the document “WHO-OIE Operational framework for good governance at the human-animal interface: bridging WHO and OIE tools for the assessment of national capacities”, which was published in 2014. The two organisations are preparing national workshops in various regions of the world.
- Implementation of the activity programme of GF-TADs for Europe, in particular with regard to African swine fever (ASF): SRR-Brussels provides the secretariat for the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European aimed at defining coordinated control measures between the seven infected countries. The group’s second meeting (Estonia, February 2015) focused on biosecurity in pig production systems (including backyard systems); during the meeting, it was decided to organise expert missions to the seven countries involved to gain a clearer understanding of the control measures being implemented locally and, where appropriate, to put forward recommendations for improvements.
- Contribution to the work of the Global GF-TADs Working Groups on foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Within this framework, SRR-Brussels participated in the regular meetings of these two groups, leading to the following: (a) organisation of the sixth West Eurasia FMD Roadmap Meeting (Kazakhstan, April 2015); (b) organisation of a meeting of FMD experts to develop a guide for countries to evaluate the socio-economic impact of FMD ; and (c) drafting of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, which was adopted at the first International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR (Côte d’Ivoire, March 2015).

Dr Leboucq explained that, during the second semester of 2015, the SRR-Brussels’ activity programme would include the following: (a) technical support as and when required for the four seminars for National Focal Points (aquatic animals; animal welfare; animal production food safety; veterinary laboratories); (b) continuation of the activities of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, and especially the organisation of a workshop on stray dog population management for West Eurasia countries (Kyrgyzstan, October 2015) and the launch of an awareness campaign on stray dogs in Balkan countries, focusing on responsible dog ownership to reduce dog abandonment. Lastly, SRR-Brussels will play a leading role in organising an event at the European Parliament in October 2015 to continue to bring the OIE’s mandate and activities to the attention of members of the European Parliament.

Regarding the activities of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (RR-Moscow) for 2015, Dr Leboucq explained that the Regional Representation in Moscow provided technical advice and had participated in several meetings, including the meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European region, and the workshop on the OIE procedure for the official recognition of Member Countries’ disease status and for the endorsement of official national control programmes with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD), held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 26-27 March 2015.

As regards the planned activities of RR-Moscow for 2015, Dr Leboucq noted that the focus was on supporting National Focal Point activities.

⁷⁶ WCO: World Customs Organization

⁷⁷ NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Dr Leboucq said that the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Unit Office in Astana (SRO-Astana) had been involved in several activities during the reporting period, including: the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for cooperation in the veterinary field between Chief Veterinary Officers of member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held in Sochi (Russia) on 19 and 20 February 2015; participation in the press conference on World Health Day “Food Safety 2015” in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 7 April 2015; and the sixth Regional FMD West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 28 to 30 April 2015.

5. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

She started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. She also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Schwabenbauer went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

She then briefly described the OIE’s projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Schwabenbauer placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, she stressed the need for modernising the Organisation’s governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

She presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries’ expectations effectively. She also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE’s work. Dr Schwabenbauer underlined the Organisation’s commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

She reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation’s credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Schwabenbauer concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

6. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VETGOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

The United Kingdom raised a question about the coordination on veterinary legislation with other international organisations such as the FAO and the World bank, referring notably to the outcomes of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation held in Djerba (Tunisia) in 2010.

Dr Sherman indicated that there was no formal agreement to work on veterinary legislation with other organisations but pointed out that several OIE VLSP experts conducting PVS legislation missions are coming from various organisations including the FAO and the World Bank. Experts from the FAO and the World Bank were notably trained during the recent VLSP training organized by OIE in March 2015.

7. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the HHP concept is in line with the free movement of registered horses in the European Union (EU) and that the intention is to expand this movement beyond the 28 EU Member States and its approved third countries, particularly into the Eastern, non-EU region.

She finally reminded that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools had been given to the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Bern (Switzerland) in September 2014.

8. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Global action to counter the threat of antimicrobial resistance: a review of progress and opportunities for future activities under the One Health initiative”

10. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Portugal:

- “Control and elimination of rabies in Europe: challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe”

11. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Bern, Switzerland, from 22 to 26 September 2014

Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi, Delegate of Spain and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, described the outcomes of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which had been attended by a total of 98 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 36 Members and senior officers from 10 regional and international organisations.

Dr Carbajo Goñi listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two technical items.

The subject of Technical Item I, prepared by the speaker in collaboration with OIE Headquarters on the basis of Member Countries' answers to a questionnaire, was “Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism”. It led to the adoption of a recommendation suggesting a number of actions, including: Member Countries should foster the development of collaborative mutual support to augment the capacity of Member Countries to prepare for and respond to disasters, and Member Countries should assess and share lessons learned and best practices on animal disaster related events; the OIE should support the development of training on animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters, including regional workshops, online training, and table-top exercises, considering existing tools such as the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS).

Regarding Technical Item II on “Porcine epidemic diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe”, a recommendation was adopted by all Delegates suggesting that the OIE should: through its network of Reference Centres, encourage scientific research into routes of transmission of porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED), such as feed, aerosols and contacts, and into the development of effective vaccines; continue to provide its Members with guidance on PED and other emerging diseases as new scientific evidence becomes available. It was recommended that OIE Member Countries should: direct their efforts to building and enhancing the laboratory capability and capacity for rapid PED diagnosis in Europe; and include PED in their animal disease education and awareness programmes with relevant stakeholders so as to assist with early detection of PED.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement during the 83rd General Session, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2016

Dr Ago Pärtel asked the Delegate of Portugal to confirm his country’s proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Prof. Álvaro Mendonça, Delegate of Portugal, informed the Regional Commission that his country agrees to host the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Porto, Portugal, in September 2016.

13. Initiative regarding the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Representative of the European Commission, began his presentation by introducing the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region (SGE). He informed participants that the Standing Group had been created in September 2014 on the initiative of the European Commission and organised with the support of the OIE.

Dr Van Goethem explained that the SGE is a Standing Group under the umbrella of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe. It brings together on a regular basis the Chief Veterinary Officers / OIE Delegates of the following countries concerned by ASF in the region: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

Regarding the objectives of the Standing Group, he mentioned that they were to strengthen mid-term regional cooperation on this disease by, inter alia, regular exchange of information on the ASF situation and control measures applied (with regard to both the domestic pig sector and wild boar), and by a regular review of national control strategies by experts, based on scientific risk assessments, experience and best practice in the region, with a view to harmonising control policies and building a science-based regional control strategy.

He then stated that two regular meetings of the SGE had taken place so far, in December 2014 and February 2015, which were facilitated by renowned European experts on ASF and on wild boar management, and dealt with the topics of ASF management in wild boar, and biosecurity in commercial and the so-called backyard pig sectors, respectively.

Dr Van Goethem also stated that, further to a common decision by all participating countries, a series of expert country missions is currently on-going in the seven countries concerned, which will gather data and allow the formulation of expert recommendations on ASF disease management. The results of these country missions will be presented by the experts at the third meeting of the SGE, which is scheduled to take place in Vladimir, Russia, in late June 2015.

14. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe

Dr Marija Popovic, chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Popovic also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Popovic highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Popovic presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Europe.

15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

OIE Collaborating Centre for Infectious Reproductive Diseases of Europe

Dr Loic Evain, OIE Delegate of France, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “National laboratory for health controls in breeding stock (LCNR)” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Infectious Reproductive Diseases of Europe”.

He provided a brief review of the Centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission unanimously approved the proposal by France.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

Dr Subbotin informed that the Eurasian Economic Union (the EEU, the Union) is an international organization of regional economic integration with international legal personality. On 1st January 2015 the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union entered into force.

He presented the Member States of the Union comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. On 8 May 2015, the final documents on accession of Kyrgyzstan to the Union were signed. After its ratification by Member-States, Kyrgyzstan will become the fifth full member of the Union.

He underlined that the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is a permanent supranational regulatory body of the Union, EEC decisions being binding within the territory of the Union Member-States.

The main task of the EEC in the sphere of SPS measures is to elaborate (in the development of the EEU Treaty) normative legal acts of the Union in the epizootic and veterinary-sanitary field of its territory.

European Commission

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs at the European Commission, highlighted the activities of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers in the area of animal health and animal welfare in Europe, including; transboundary animal disease control programmes in the EU and neighbouring countries; activities relating to the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme; the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and other OIE capacity-building activities financed by the European Commission.

He also gave an update on the state of play of the EU Animal Health Law.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy, FAO Animal Production and Health Officer, explained that FAO was implementing its assistance programmes within a context marked by decentralisation, merging emergencies and development action in line with renewed strategic framework and regional initiatives.

He commented on the Country Priority Frameworks jointly developed by individual countries and FAO as drivers for effective action to assist member countries in planning and implementing priorities.

He added that, in the animal health and livestock sector, FAO cooperates extensively with the OIE, WHO, European Commission of the EU, United States of America (USDA⁷⁸/USAID⁷⁹/other), the EBRD⁸⁰, and other partners.

Dr Rozstalnyy underlined the following key areas for assistance: prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (e.g. ASF, FMD, PPR, animal influenza) and neglected zoonoses (e.g. brucellosis); animal identification and traceability; risk assessment and information provision; capacity-building of public and private veterinarians; strengthening of professional and community-based organisations, such as private veterinarians', farmers' and dairy producers' associations; technical assistance with food safety; emergency assistance to livestock farmers affected by floods; conservation and sustainable management of animal genetic resources.

To conclude, he said that Veterinary Services in the region were also provided with advice and capacity development for good emergency management practice and for reinforcing the existing efforts to control brucellosis and FMD in the framework of the West Eurasia Roadmap.

17. Proposal of candidates for the election (Closed session)

This session was chaired by Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE General Assembly of Delegates and Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, member of the OIE Council.

⁷⁸ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

⁷⁹ USAID: United States Agency for International Development

⁸⁰ EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia)
Vice-President: Dr Siala Rustamova (Azerbaijan)
Vice-President: Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)
Secretary General: Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)
Dr Taras I. Aliper (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)
Dr Viktor Irza (Russia)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Franck Berthe (France)
Dr Anthony Fooks (United Kingdom)
Dr Alexei Zaberezhny (Russia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom)

The meeting officially ended at 6:15 p.m.

/Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Report on OIE Council meetings;
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana;
5. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan ;
6. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) ;
7. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
8. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
10. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
11. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Bern, Switzerland, from 22 to 26 September 2014;
12. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2016;
13. Initiative regarding the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe;
14. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe;
15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre;
16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
17. Proposal of candidates for the election.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 40 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, 1 observer, and representatives from 2 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates.

Observer countries/territories: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO and WAP.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President, assisted by Dr Abdulghani Y. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia), Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern.

He encouraged Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development in order to better support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding OIE activities in the region.

Dr Al-Qahtani reminded the meeting of the main objectives of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East which are to tackle specific issues relating to the region's animal health situation and to establish cooperation at regional level in order to improve the quality of Veterinary Services, in compliance with OIE standards, through active and efficient collaboration. He said that regular seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity were a vital part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services in the region.

He explained that the Regional Commission will prepare its 13th Regional Conference to be held in Beirut (Lebanon) from 10 to 14 November 2015. He also took the opportunity to confirm the Delegates that, thanks to the financial support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a Seminar on the “Development of public–private partnerships to support Veterinary Services” would be held on Monday 9 November 2015, just before the start of the Regional Conference.

Dr Al-Qahtani concluded by inviting Member Countries to participate in the regional conference on vector-borne diseases to be held in Doha (Qatar) tentatively scheduled from 14 to 17 September 2015, back to back with a one-day seminar dedicated to foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

3. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation during the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory twinning projects (Kuwait-CIRAD⁸¹ for PPR, Yemen-South Africa for RVF⁸², and ADFCA⁸³-IZS⁸⁴ for camel diseases).

He presented the conclusions of the “OIE Inter-Regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever: new options for trade, prevention, and control” held in Djibouti; the Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance held in Cairo; and two meetings on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (*MERS-CoV*), held respectively in Doha and Cairo.

He also provided a brief summary of activities planned over the coming seven months, including: seminars for OIE Focal Points for communication and veterinary products (Byblos, October 2015); 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission (Beirut, November 2015); vector-borne diseases conference and FMD/PPR Roundtable (Doha, September 2015); and Sub-regional Conference on Camel Diseases (Abu Dhabi, December 2015).

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

– “Biosecurity risk assessment at farm level”

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Since a Regional Conference on Vector-Borne Diseases will be most likely held in Doha (Qatar) on September 2015, few weeks before the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, the President of the Regional Commission requested Member Countries to propose a new topic for the Technical Item I to avoid redundancy.

⁸¹ CIRAD: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

⁸² RVF: Rift Valley fever

⁸³ ADFCA: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

⁸⁴ IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (Italy)

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Lebanon:

- “Control of rabies in the Middle East region, with emphasis on stray dog control”

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Lebanon:

- “The use of non-structural proteins in vaccination”

7. Organisation and confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2015

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Delegate of Lebanon, informed the Regional Commission about the arrangements being made by his country’s authorities to host the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held from 10 to 14 November 2015 in Beirut.

He invited all Delegates of the region to the conference and underlined the importance of attending this event which, together with the General Session, is one of the OIE statutory meetings and thus one of the OIE Delegates’ obligations.

The Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon invited, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, OIE Member countries to attend this important Conference. He emphasised the experience of his Ministry in logistical and security aspects for international meetings.

8. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

She started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. She also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Eloit went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

She then briefly described the OIE’s projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Eloit placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, she stressed the need for modernising the Organisation’s governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

She presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries’ expectations effectively. She also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE’s work. Dr Eloit underlined the Organisation’s commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

She reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy. Dr Eloit concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

The Delegate of Jordan supported the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and stressed the importance of addressing the issue of zoonotic diseases for its implementation in the Middle East Region.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of Palestinian Autonomous Territories raised the importance of transparency between countries regarding notification of animal diseases to OIE. Dr Eloit replied that transparency remains one of the founding objectives of the OIE.

9. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification

missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

The CVO of Palestinian Autonomous Territories asked about the availability of the VLSP Manual for experts on the OIE website. Dr Sherman replied that, for the moment, it is only available for OIE VLSP certified experts.

10. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by informing participants that a Regional Conference on the HHP Concept was held in Dubai in September 2014 for the countries of the Middle East and North Africa during which the currently existing conditions for horse movement were analysed and the use of the HHP concept to overcome the identified shortcomings promoted.

Dr Yehia emphasized that the implementation of the HHP concept in the Middle East Region will certainly need further support.

11. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East

Dr Aziza Mustafa, chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Aziza also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Aziza highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Aziza presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region, and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Middle East.

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Markos Tibbo, FAO Livestock Officer from the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began by explaining that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity in: disease surveillance; prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, LSD⁸⁵, PPR) and zoonoses (highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1, MERS, brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and assessing the status of animal genetic resources.

He added that interrupted Veterinary Services in countries affected by conflict and an increase in unregulated animal movements are two of the factors that have heightened the threat of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the region. Dr Tibbo said that, in

⁸⁵ Lumpy skin disease

response, FAO had provided training in: good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; and preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. In addition, FAO had provided a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

He reported that FAO also provided direct support in animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, LSD, RVF, H5N1 avian influenza, Newcastle disease).

Dr Tibbo added that FAO, in collaboration with the OIE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, had organised several meetings and relevant events on such issues as PPR eradication, RVF, and “MERS-CoV and One Health”.

Dr Tibbo concluded by saying that FAO provided technical, institutional or policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and mobilising experts in specialised fields to transfer technologies for sustainable livestock production; assisted countries in assessing the status of local breeds and animal feed resources; and assisted smallholders engaged in dairy and small ruminant production to improve their output, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

The Delegate of Sudan asked whether strengthening public-private partnerships (PPP) was supported by specific FAO programmes. Dr Tibbo replied that PPPs are not specific programmes of FAO, but are encouraged when appropriate.

13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Kassem N. Al-Qahtani (Qatar)
Vice-President: Dr Abdulghani Y. Al-Fadhl (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-President: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)
Secretary General: Dr Salah F. Abbas (Iraq)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Hadi Al Lawati (Oman)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr George Khoury (Syria)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Hassan Aidaros (Egypt)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Prof Ahmad Al-Majali (Jordan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

No candidate was proposed.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
 2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
 3. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East ;
 4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
 5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
 6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
 7. Organisation and confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2015;
 8. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan;
 9. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP);
 10. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
 11. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East;
 12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
 13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
 14. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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