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November 2008

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP
Paris, 4-6 November 2008**

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) met for the eighth time at the OIE Headquarters on 4 to 6 November 2008.

The members of the Working Group and other participants are listed at [Annex A](#). The Agenda adopted is provided at [Annex B](#).

Dr Kahn, Head of the International Trade Department, welcomed the members of the Working Group on behalf of Dr Vallat, OIE Director General. Dr Kahn emphasized the importance of the animal production food safety work programme of the OIE. Dr Kahn indicated that while it is clear that the OIE's role in food safety is largely focused on the farm production end of the continuum, there are areas where both OIE and Codex were involved (such as antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology). In those cross over areas it is important that OIE and Codex and its parent bodies continue to co-ordinate their activities and work to ensure that there are no contradictions between OIE and Codex standards and that cross references are used where appropriate. She encouraged members to consider the strategic issues for the future work programme, as well as the ongoing standard setting work on the agenda for this meeting.

Dr Kahn thanked members and especially the chairman for their ongoing support of the OIE.

1. Update on OIE / Codex / FAO / WHO activities

1.1. OIE

The Working Group was informed that the OIE had proposed to the WHO to add a new article to the existing OIE/WHO Agreement, to provide for the possibility of OIE and Codex developing joint standards as appropriate to the subject under consideration and the mandates of the two organisations. This matter had been discussed between the Directors General of the OIE and WHO and several letters have been exchanged. The proposed text to be added to the OIE/WHO Agreement already exists in the OIE/FAO Agreement.

The Working Group noted that the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011-2015) was under development.

Refer to agenda item 2 below for additional information.

1.2. FAO

Dr Domenech introduced Dr de Balogh as the leader of FAO's Veterinary Public Health work programme within the AGAH Service, which addresses food safety issues associated with animal production at the farm level in close collaboration with the Codex Secretariat and the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division of FAO. Dr Domenech advised that Dr Traoré, a veterinarian and former director of African Union Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) had been appointed as the new Assistant Director General of FAO's Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department.

Dr Domenech elaborated on the ongoing FAO reform process and its possible implications for Animal Production and Health Division. The FAO Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) position would remain. At present within the Animal Production and Health Division, the Animal Health Service includes the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) and the Veterinary Public Health (VPH) activities. In addition the CVO of FAO is also Head of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Diseases (ECTAD) and the Crisis Management Centre (CMC), integrating the technical and operational components of FAO and addressing highly pathogenic avian influenza and other transboundary animal diseases. In future it is expected that the Animal Health Service will become an Animal Health Programme, which will still include EMPRES and VPH groups and will follow a global multidisciplinary approach. The recently established CMC - Food Chain will integrate the animal health, plant health and food safety aspects of emergency responses.

Dr de Balogh introduced herself and presented the activities developed since her appointment in October 2007. Much work had been done to establish links with other related programmes within FAO (Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, Codex, Forestry and Fisheries Departments), with other international organizations (OIE, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank) and the private sector (SSAFE, IDF). The recruitment of an animal health officer working on food safety issues is being finalised. Two consultants (Eric Cardinale (CIRAD) and Gilles Salvat (AFSA)) have assisted in defining the Veterinary Public Health/Food Safety (VPH/FS) programme within the Animal Health Service through the definition of priority areas and activities in pilot countries. A meeting with OIE and WHO is planned for 2009 to define further the FAO VPH/FS work in coordination and cooperation with other programmes. So far a number of virtual networks on VPH/FS have been established at global and regional level for exchange of relevant information and as a platform for discussions.

Dr de Balogh has coordinated the development of the FAO/OIE/World Bank biosecurity documents for HPAI that were presented at New Delhi and Sharm-El-Sheik meetings as well as national and regional desktop-simulation exercises for HPAI to strengthen coordination, cooperation and communication between the different sectors (animal and human health, wildlife, emergency, police, border control) This approach could also be further developed for other zoonotic diseases. Dr de Balogh also participated in the joint FAO/WHO Expert meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety (October 2007) as resource person and member of the secretariat of the FAO/WHO/OIE Expert meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials (November 2007).

Dr Domenech further elaborated on the Good Farming Practice Guide that resulted from a FAO/OIE working group and FAO is developing specific aspects to address good farming practices for different animal species, animal products and production systems in developing countries. He further expressed the importance of FAO to collaborate in the organisation of the Traceability and Animal Identification Conference scheduled for March 2009 in Buenos Aires, as has been recommended by the Working Group last year. FAO has close links to the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and develops activities (e.g. workshops) in the field of animal identification in developing countries.

Dr Domenech further mentioned the One World – One Health strategy that was elaborated jointly by FAO, OIE, WHO, UNICEF, UNSIC and the World Bank and the FAO/OIE HPAI global strategy to prevent and control HPAI that were both presented in Sharm El Sheik at the Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (24-26 October, 2008) to set the scene to address avian influenza and beyond. The next steps will aim to secure ownership by countries and a more defined operationalisation, including funding options. Dr Domenech emphasized the adoption of the food chain approach and the need for interagency collaboration for addressing emerging diseases at the animal-human interface.

Some relevant FAO weblinks are provided in [Annex C](#).

1.3. Codex

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima provided an update on the work of Codex. Detailed information is provided in [Annex D](#).

1.4. WHO

Dr Schlundt provided an update on the work of WHO. Further information is provided in [Annex E](#) and information on melamine toxicity is available from the WHO website at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/Melamine.pdf

Regarding the OIE's proposal to amend the OIE/WHO Agreement, Dr Schlundt indicated that the OIE should receive a final response from WHO shortly.

2. *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

Dr Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), outlined the discussions of the Terrestrial Code Commission at its October 2008 meeting. He indicated that the points of main importance to the Working Group include the division into two volumes of the *Terrestrial Code*; the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products ('commodities'); finalised texts on animal feed; control of salmonella species in broilers and egg-producing chickens, veterinary certificates and animal identification. Dr Thiermann also drew the attention of members to the next meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which would address OIE Members comments on the previously circulated text on biosecurity in poultry establishments.

Dr Kahn provided some additional information on current work of the International Trade Department. Key issues of interest to the Working Group include the OIE initiative on Veterinary Legislation (missions being undertaken at the request of Members, with linkage to the ongoing work on Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS)) and the production of a revised edition of the OIE Handbook on Import Risk Analysis, which will be undertaken by an *ad hoc* Group to be convened in 2009. The Working Group expressed interest in these new areas of work and members undertook to review and comment on the text of the revised Handbook on Import Risk Analysis.

Dr Kahn reported on the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products (commodities). The report of the first meeting of this Group will be released shortly, as an annex to the report of the October 2008 meeting of the Code Commission. This Group is looking primarily at animal diseases. The *ad hoc* Group recommended that the OIE undertake the following actions:

- a) Publications to communicate the OIE's commitment to animal origin commodity trade;
- b) Seek funds for research to support safe commodity trade;
- c) Feedback on Members' expectations on OIE standards in regard to commodity trade;
- d) The adoption in the *Terrestrial Code* of additional standards to facilitate commodity trade;
- e) Promotion of and technical support for commodity trade;
- f) Strengthening veterinary services to underpin commodity trade;
- g) Addressing antigenic variation within serotypes of FMD-SAT viruses in terms of vaccine and diagnostic tools improvement to help African countries to apply acceptable risk mitigation measures ensuring safety of commodity trade.

In light of the availability of funding from the UK government for targeted research into some animal diseases, the OIE is developing project proposals to establish the infectivity of pork for CSF and of matured, pH tested boneless beef for FMD, to ascertain if these commodities can be safely traded regardless of the disease status of the exporting country/zone.

The Working Group supported this work and requested that it be kept informed of ongoing work, specifically any potential changes to the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on food safety related zoonotic diseases.

The Working Group stressed the importance of a product based approach and the need to ensure that this does not act to the detriment of diseases control programmes, especially in developing countries. To avoid this, it was recommended that the OIE should continue to promote strengthening of the Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Tool including follow-up activities.

Although developing countries' Veterinary Services face many challenges, it is important that their role in inspection, certification and accreditation procedures is respected and priority given to strengthening them. In particular, approaches that are based on transferring the mandate of official Veterinary Services to the private sector and bypassing proper management and control of animal health and production and veterinary certification should not be supported.

Dr Domenech further suggested that the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products should be proactive in producing new proposals for commodity and processing standards and in conducting socioeconomic analysis of proposed approaches. The costs and benefits of taking a commodity based approach should be compared to other approaches and options.

There is a clear need for reliable data and good scientific research to define how to promote commodity trade without risking the transmission of pathogens to animals and consumers

Dr Domenech raised the need for OIE to include the socio-economic dimension in its standard setting process (for example to assess the cost-benefit of implementing specific standards and guidelines). The OIE could draw upon its partnership with FAO as this organisation has considerable expertise in multidisciplinary and multi-sector global approaches including socio-economics and long term interventions addressing the causes of disease emergence and can provide the developing country perspective.

3. OIE- FAO Guide to Good Farming Practices

The Working Group noted that the text for the Guide to Good Farming Practices has been finalised and will be published as a booklet in English, French and Spanish. The FAO is preparing the text for a publication which is due for release in late 2008. The text was published in a recent edition of the OIE Bulletin (No. 2008-3).

The Working Group noted that this text had been reviewed at its first meeting and that they were pleased to see that this work had been completed and noted that the Guide meets their expectations and will be useful to Members.

The Working Group discussed the possibility of conducting further work, for example the production of a Guide to Good Practices in specific sectors. Dr Domenech noted that FAO has already produced several sector specific Guides to Good Practice. He reported that FAO will continue to work on the elaboration of guides especially for developing countries and consider different production systems (e.g. commercial/village level), specific products (meat/milk/eggs) and animal species (ruminants/pigs/poultry).

The Working Group did not conclude it a high priority for the OIE to develop additional Guides at this time, preferring to await feedback from Members.

4. Animal Identification and Traceability

Dr Atagi of the International Trade Department joined the meeting for this item.

The Working Group noted that *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 4.2. Design and Implementation of Identification Systems to achieve Animal Traceability, on which members had provided comment, was adopted at the 76th General Session in May 2008. No specific further work is planned for the *ad hoc* Group that developed Chapter 4.2. but new issues may arise at the OIE International Conference (see below).

Dr Kahn reported on progress in the organisation of the OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, drawing attention of members to the changed dates for the conference, now to be held 23-25 March 2009, in Buenos Aires. The preliminary draft programme is now available on the OIE website (in English, translation in progress) and the OIE is in the process of drawing up a list of speakers.

Dr Miyagishima noted that Codex wishes to maintain high visibility at this important event. Dr Domenech requested that the recommendations from the 2007 meeting of the Working Group be taken into account and that FAO's ongoing work on animal identification in developing countries be considered. It was agreed that there is scope for the OIE to collaborate with FAO in the organisation of the Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability.

The EU has provided a significant financial contribution to support this conference and considers identification and traceability of animals and animal products to be very important. The EC has organised training seminars for countries exporting animal products to the EU. The next such seminar will take place in November 2008 and Dr Atagi will represent the OIE at the seminar.

The Working Group discussed with Dr Vallat their proposal that the OIE collaborate with FAO in the organisation of the International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability to be held in Buenos Aires 23-25 March 2009. Dr Vallat indicated that he supported this approach and that he sees the role of FAO in this context as supporting developing countries to apply the OIE international standards. With this in mind, Dr Vallat indicated that he has encouraged FAO to become involved in the conference, including via the provision of financial support to developing countries to participate.

The Working Group agreed to revisit the need for any additional standard setting work on animal identification and traceability at its next meeting, in light of discussions at the conference.

5. Revision of OIE Model Veterinary Certificates

The Working Group noted that *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 5.10. Model Veterinary Certificates for International Trade in Live Animals, Hatching Eggs and Products of Animal Origin, on which members had commented previously, had been adopted at the 76th General Session in May 2008.

Dr Miyagishima reported that the Codex proposed draft Generic Model Health Certificate will be discussed at the next meeting of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems in November 2008. He indicated that Codex had worked to ensure consistency with work of the OIE and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business when developing the Certificate.

6. Terrestrial Animal Feed

The Working Group noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission had reviewed Member comments on the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed. The Terrestrial Code Commission accepted the recommendations made by the Working Group at their November 2007 meeting. The revised draft will be sent out to Members as part of the Terrestrial Code Commission's October 2008 report and the text will be proposed for adoption at the 77th OIE General Session in May 2009.

The Working Group noted that the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in June 2009 will make a decision on possible new work in relation to animal feed.

Dr Domenech reported that FAO and WHO organised a joint FAO/WHO Expert meeting on the Impact of Animal Feed on Food Safety (October 2007).

Dr Thiermann reported that the OIE will develop recommendations on feed for animals that are not used for food production (i.e. pets) in 2009. The Working Group supported this new area of work and requested that members be kept informed of developments and be invited to review text in regard to relevant food safety issues. In doing so it noted the potential risk that controls over the use of raw materials and other ingredients in pet food may fail, that food intended for human consumption may be contaminated by ingredients/materials intended for pet food and that there are situations where humans consume food intended for pets.

7. Aquatic Animal Feed

Dr Kahn reported that the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAHSC), at its October 2008 meeting, had finalised a text on aquatic animal feed. This text addresses aquatic animal health risks but not food safety issues.

The AAHSC also recommended that the OIE consider extending its mandate to address the food safety implications of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. Topics that may need to be addressed include identification and traceability, biotechnology and antimicrobial resistance but the first priority for the OIE will be the development of advice on the food safety implications of feed for aquatic animals. The OIE plans to convene an *ad hoc* Group to develop this text. This *ad hoc* Group will report to the Working Group and texts will then be submitted to the AAHSC for possible inclusion in the Aquatic Animal Health Code. The expansion of the AAHSC mandate will be considered by the International Committee in May 2009.

The Working Group noted this positive development and agreed to review draft text prepared by the *ad hoc* Group. Dr Miyagishima indicated that the Codex Secretariat would be willing to participate in the *ad hoc* Group to ensure consistency with the existing work in Codex.

8. Salmonellosis

The Working Group noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission at its October 2008 meeting had reviewed Member comments on a draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in poultry and would issue the revised text for Member comments with a view to possible adoption in May 2009.

The Working Group recommended that the Terrestrial Code Commission consider the inclusion of the following text in this chapter, Article X.X. 5., as a new point after the current point 6:

‘While *Salmonella* in general contaminates poultry flocks through a number of (environmental) sources, *Salmonella* Enteritidis is characterised by its ovarian transmission pattern. Some countries have succeeded in and others have targets for eradicating (or significantly reducing) *Salmonella* Enteritidis from egg-producing flocks through a guided policy for eradication from the top of the production pyramid, i.e. from grandparent flocks through breeder flocks to layer flocks.’

The Working Group noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission had received extensive comments from Members on the revision of Chapter 6.3. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production and that these comments had been forwarded to the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis for review at its February 2009 meeting. The Working Group undertook to review a further text once this is available.

The Working Group requested to be kept informed of progress on work in the above areas. It also recommended that the OIE continue to collaborate with Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, particularly in regard to the work on food safety aspects of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis. The Working Group's attention was drawn to document CX/FH 08/40/6 "Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken Meat at Step 3", which was due to be discussed at the Fortieth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, to be held in Guatemala City on 1-5 December 2008.

Dr Domenech reported that FAO, OIE and the World Bank developed a report on biosecurity for poultry which was presented at the Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (<http://www.imcapi2008.gov.eg/>). This work will be followed up to test different options for the implementation of biosecurity in developing countries under different conditions. The feasibility/acceptability of different options and their cost-effectiveness will be investigated with the aim of elaborating specific guidelines on what can be implemented in developing countries under various production systems and in compliance with OIE norms.

9. Antimicrobial resistance

Dr Erlacher-Vindel and Dr Diaz, of the Scientific Department, joined the Working Group for this item. Dr Erlacher-Vindel reported on the work done by the OIE over the last 5 years on the issue of antimicrobial resistance. In 2003, three chapters were developed for the *Terrestrial Code* (Chapter 6.5. Harmonisation of National Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Monitoring Programmes; Chapter 6.6. Monitoring of the Quantities of Antimicrobials used in Animal Husbandry, and Chapter 6.7. Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine). In 2004, an additional chapter was developed for the *Terrestrial Code* (Chapter 6.8. Risk Assessment for Antimicrobial Resistance arising from the Use of Antimicrobials in Animals). In 2005, Chapter 6.7. was revised in light of Codex recommendations. In 2006/2007, a list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance was developed. The relevant principles were adopted by the OIE International Committee at the 74th General Session in May 2006 and the list was unanimously adopted in its current form by the International Committee at the 75th General Session in May 2007.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel also reported on OIE work aimed at helping countries to implement effective legislation to ensure quality of veterinary medicinal products. In this context, the first OIE Regional Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products was held in Africa in 2008 with the aim to support harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control of these products. The next OIE Regional Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products is planned to take place in the Middle East in late 2009.

Dr Diaz provided an update on the 2nd Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20-24 October 2008), where the OIE was invited to participate as an observer. At this meeting the Task Force agreed to consolidate three Codex documents (on Risk Assessment, Risk Profiles and Risk Management Guidance to Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms) into a single document entitled "Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance" and to send the document to Codex Steps 2 for redrafting by an electronic working group led by the USA. This working group will prepare a revised document by the end of May 2009 on the basis of the comments received by the end of February 2009 from Members and Observers. The revised version will then be circulated for comment at Step 3 and will be further considered at the third session of the Task Force, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in November 2009.

The Working Group encouraged the OIE to continue to engage closely with Codex, FAO, WHO and VICH on the important topic of antimicrobial resistance.

Dr Domenech reported that the FAO/WHO/OIE Expert meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials took place in November 2007.

10. Biotechnology

Dr Erlacher-Vindel and Dr Diaz, of the Scientific Department, joined the Working Group for this item. Dr Slorach, who attended the 26-29 November 2007 meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology, provided a summary of the OIE's proposed approach to biotechnology issues. In future the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology will be divided into two separate groups: one focused on vaccinology and the other on molecular diagnostic tests. The priority issues for the *ad hoc* Group on vaccinology, which meets for the first time in November 2008, will be the use of biotechnology derived vaccines on animals. The OIE will first consider the animal health implications then the food safety implications of the use of this technology.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel explained that the OIE would examine the animal health implications of biotechnology derived vaccines (including DNA vaccines) using its established *ad hoc* Group procedure. Dr Schlundt raised concerns about the process that the OIE intends to follow, urging that a tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) expert group be convened to address the food safety implications of the use of recombinant DNA vaccines.

The Working Group noted that broad scientific expertise would be needed to address possible food safety implications of biotechnology derived vaccines, including both vaccine experts and experts in human health. This work could be done via the established OIE *ad hoc* Group process or via another process, such as a tripartite OIE/FAO/WHO expert meeting. Regardless of which approach is taken, the key consideration is that appropriately qualified experts be involved in this procedure and the Working Group recommended that FAO, OIE and WHO all be involved in nominating appropriate experts for this work.

Dr Domenech reported that the FAO/AGN and WHO will organise an expert meeting on Nanotechnology in Food and Agriculture, to be held in Rome in early 2009.

The Working Group recommended that insofar as food safety issues related to the use of nanotechnology in animal vaccines are concerned, the OIE and the Working Group should be involved.

11. Application for OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis

The Working Group noted the application of a Japanese institute for recognition as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis and asked the OIE International Trade Department to forward the application according to the OIE's established procedures.

12. World Bank Study - Livestock and Slaughter Waste Management

Dr Kahn briefly summarised the discussions held at the June 2008 meeting on the World Bank project on Livestock and Slaughter Waste Management. The World Bank may wish to conduct some further work on the environmental impacts of livestock and slaughter effluent in collaboration with the OIE and FAO. Dr Domenech commented that the FAO's LEAD programme has collected extensive information on the issue of livestock production/ processing waste in developing countries. FAO would be interested to collaborate in this work, should it proceed.

Dr Domenech proposed that the OIE and the World Bank liaise with FAO and take into account the work done under the LEAD programme.

13. Other business

No other business was raised.

14. Work Programme for 2009

The Working Group considered that to a considerable degree it had achieved many of the goals established at its first meeting and that the time had come to re-examine the Working Group's mandate and *modus operandi* with a view to ensuring its ongoing relevance. It agreed that this should be a major item of discussion at its next meeting. As a special case, the Working Group requested the Director General prepare a discussion paper on identifying the priority pathogens for standard setting activities in the animal production food safety area.

Dr Vallat joined the Working Group to discuss the work carried out at the meeting. Dr Slorach provided an overview of the Working Group's deliberations with a focus on the recommendation for a review of the Working Group's terms of reference and *modus operandi*. Dr Vallat supported this recommendation. The Working Group members agreed to develop the terms of reference and *modus operandi* prior to the next meeting via email and teleconference discussions.

The timing of release of the Working Group report was also discussed. Dr Vallat agreed with the Working Group's proposal to release the report shortly after it has been approved by the Terrestrial Code Commission. This would allow for focal points in Member countries and territories, especially those responsible for veterinary public health, to receive the report in a more timely manner. This change will take effect immediately, i.e. the report of this meeting will be placed on the OIE internet site once it has been discussed and approved by the Terrestrial Code Commission, whose next meeting will take place on March 2009.

The Work programme for 2008/09 is presented at [Annex F](#)

15 Next meeting

3-5th November 2009

Annexes/...

MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**Paris, 4-6 November 2008****List of participants****MEMBERS OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP**

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MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**Paris, 4-6 November 2008**

Adopted Agenda**Welcome from the OIE Director General****Adoption of the Agenda****1. Update on OIE / Codex / FAO / WHO activities**

- OIE
- FAO
- Codex
- WHO

2. *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

- New Structure
- New Veterinary Public Health section: future work
- Work of the OIE on trade in animal products (commodities).

3. Guide to Good Farming Practices

- Update on status of publication
- Future work

4. Animal Identification and Traceability

- New *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 4.1 Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability
- OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, Buenos Aires

5. Revision of OIE Model Veterinary Certificates

- Revised *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 5.10. Model veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin

Annex B (contd)

6. Terrestrial Animal Feed

- Draft *Terrestrial Code* Chapter X.X. The control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed - Terrestrial Code Commission amendments

7. Aquatic Animal Feed

- Future **work**

8. Salmonellosis

- Draft Chapter X.X.X. The detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in poultry – Review Member comments and Terrestrial Code Commission amendments
- Draft Chapter 6.3. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production including member comments
- Future work

9. Antimicrobial resistance

10. Biotechnology

- Report of the *ad hoc* Group meeting
- Future Work

11. Application for OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis

12. World Bank Study - Livestock and Slaughter Waste Management

13. Other business

14. Work Programme for 2009

15. Next meeting

Relevant FAO Web links:

1. FAO/WHO Expert meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety (October 2007):
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1507e/a1507e00.pdf>
 2. FAO/WHO/OIE Expert meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials (November 2007):
http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_vph.html
 3. FAO/OIE/WB Biosecurity for HPAI: issues and options:
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0359e/i0359e00.pdf>
 4. FAO/OIE/WB Biosecurity advocacy document:
<http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//249466/aj132e00.pdf>
 5. FAO/OIE/WHO/UNICEF/WB One World One Health
http://www.fao.org/avianflu/documents/OWOH_14Oct08.pdf
-

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO OIE APFSWG SINCE ITS LAST MEETING (October 2007 – October 2008)

A. 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (30 June - 4 July 2008)¹

In accordance with the “Guidelines for Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts” and its decision at the 28th Session, the Commission was informed of the OIE activities relevant to Codex work². In replying to the statement of Dr Vallat, Director-General of OIE, delegations pointed out that strengthened collaboration with OIE was important to ensure that the risk-based approach be applied in the pre-harvest sector of the food chain, especially in addressing the control of microorganisms in animal products, currently undertaken by the Committee on Food Hygiene. It was also pointed out that this strengthened collaboration would minimize potential overlaps in the work of the two organizations, would prevent the setting of contradictory standards, and was consistent with Goal 4 and Activity 4.4 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013. The Commission concluded its discussion by noting that collaboration with the OIE had considerably enhanced over the years and needed to continue to be strengthened, in particular in the area of control of microorganisms in animal products (ALINORM 08/31/REP paras 190-195).

The 31st Session of Commission adopted 35 new or revised Codex standards or related texts, several amendments to the Procedural Manual and a number of new work proposals.

i) **Texts adopted**

Texts adopted, relevant to the OIE, include:

- Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs and relevant Definitions for inclusion in the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003)³
- Standard for Raw and Live Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008)
- Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/GL 67-2008)⁴
- Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (colistin and erythromycin) (CAC/MRL 2)⁵
- Annex II on the Guidance on Microbiological Risk Management Metrics to the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management* (CAC/GL 63-2007)⁶
- Appendix to the *Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 53-2003)⁷

¹ Report of the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is available on Codex website :

<http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/698/al31REPE.pdf>

² CAC/31 INF/4 “OIE Contribution to the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission”

³ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/10273/CXP_052e.pdf

⁴ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/11027/cxg_067e.pdf

⁵ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/45/MRL2_e.pdf

⁶ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/10741/cxg_063e.pdf

⁷ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/10047/CXG_053e.pdf

Annex D (contd)

- Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals (CAC/GL 68-2008)
- Revised Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (CAC/RCP 8-1976)⁸

ii) New work

New work items approved by the 31st Session of the Commission, relevant to the OIE, include:

Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance:

- Science-based Risk Assessment Guidance Regarding Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (job number N01-2008);
- Risk Management Guidance to Contain Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (job number N02-2008); and
- Guidance on Creating Risk Profiles for Antimicrobial Resistant Food-borne Microorganisms for Setting Risk Assessment and Management Priorities (job number N03-2008).

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene:

- Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* Species in Seafood (job number N05-2008).

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems:

- Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign on-Site Audits and Inspections (job number N07-2008); and
- Annex to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001): Generic Model Health Certificate (job number N08-2008).

iii) Officers of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Commission elected Ms Karen HULEBAK (USA) as the new Chairperson and Mr Sanjay DAVE (India), Mr Ben MANYINDO (Uganda), and Mr Knud ØSTERGAARD (Denmark) as vice-Chairpersons.

B. Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products

The Committee on Fish and Fishery Products continues to work on the development of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products, which integrates the revision of all existing Codes of Practice applying to fish and fishery products and several new sections. The revision was intended to reflect a risk-based approach and to integrate the application of the HACCP system, while ensuring consistency of food hygiene provisions with the General Principles of Food Hygiene and other relevant Codex texts. All existing codes have been integrated into a single Code, which covers both food safety and quality provisions. The general sections and many sections corresponding to previous codes have been finalised and adopted by the Commission between 2003 and 2008. The Code of Practice includes a Section on Aquaculture in which reference is made to the OIE International Aquatic Animal Health Code. The sections remaining to be finalised are the Draft Sections on Lobsters and Crabs, and the Proposed Draft Section on Smoked Fish.

⁸ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/285/CXP_008e.pdf

The two texts adopted by the 31st Session of the Commission i.e. Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs; and Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs) provide guidance on microbiological contamination, biotoxins, control measures and methodology and is based on scientific advice provided by FAO/WHO. Further scientific advice is being sought from FAO/WHO on the estimation of risk mitigation for *Salmonella* in bivalve molluscs when different sampling plans and microbiological criteria are used, for future review of the criteria and sampling plans for *Salmonella* in the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs.

The next 30th session of the Committee will be held on 28 September - 2 October 2009 in Morocco.

C. Codex Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology

The 7th Session of the Task Force (24-28 September 2007) completed, among others, its work on the Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals, which was adopted by the 31st Session of the Commission.

The Task Force welcomed the recommendations from the 2007 FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Safety of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals, especially those addressed to FAO, WHO and OIE, which, among others, called for a joint FAO/WHO/OIE expert group to consider the animal health and food safety issues raised by recombinant-DNA vaccines. The Task Force noted that these agencies would further discuss priorities and concrete modalities for conducting joint activities, including issues on food safety assessment of recombinant-DNA vaccines.

The Task Force was later informed by the Representative of the OIE that as a follow-up to the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA animals, the OIE would convene an expert meeting, jointly with FAO and WHO, probably in 2008, to consider the issues related to the animals with non-heritable recombinant-DNA constructs including recombinant-DNA vaccines.

The Task Force, having completed its work (one year ahead its schedule) was dissolved by the 31st Session of the Commission (ALINORM 08/31/REP para. 214).

D. Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (29-30 November 2007), completed its work on Appendix to the *Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 53-2003). The Appendix, adopted by the 31st session of the Commission, provides guidance to assist exporting and importing countries in undertaking an equivalence determination of sanitary measure and clarifies certain aspect of the Guidelines.

The Committee also forwarded to the 31st Session of the Commission for approval two project documents for new work on the development of: i) Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign Audit Team Inspections; and ii) Generic Model Health Certificate as an Annex to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001). It further agreed to revise the discussion papers on the Need for Guidance for National Food Inspection Systems and Guidance on Traceability/Product Tracing for consideration at its next session.

Annex D (contd)

A report on OIE activities relevant to the work of the Committee will be included in document CX/FICS 08/17/3.

E. Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Task Force was established by the 29th Session of the Commission (2006) in order to develop science based guidance, taking full account of Codex risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk.

The 2nd Session of the Task Force (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20-24 October 2008), will start working on the elaboration of three texts (listed below) on the basis of the reports of three working groups and comments from Codex members and observers.

- i) Science-based Risk Assessment Guidance Regarding Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms;
- ii) Risk Management Guidance to Contain Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms; and
- iii) Guidance on Creating Risk Profiles for Antimicrobial Resistant Food-borne Microorganisms for Setting Risk Assessment and Management Priorities.

The Task Force will also be updated on recent work done and/or being done by FAO, WHO and OIE on antimicrobial resistance (CX/AMR 08/2/3).

F. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

The 40th Session of the CCFH (Guatemala 1-5 December 2008) will consider at Step 4 the following texts:

- i) Commodity-Specific Annexes to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003); and
- ii) Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* Species in Seafood.

The proposed draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is being prepared by a working group led by the United States of America.

The proposed draft Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* Species in Seafood, elaborated by a working group led by Japan, has already been circulated for government comments. This Code covers seafood, including finfish and shellfish that are marketed in a live, raw, undercooked and cooked state. The target microbiological hazards of this Code are pathogenic *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and cholerae *V. cholerae*. This Code is intended for seafood and is applicable throughout the food chain, from primary production through consumption. Based on the results of FAO/WHO risk assessment, as well as other available risk assessments and epidemiological evaluations, this Code will focus on control measures that can be used, where appropriate, to minimise and/or prevent the contamination and/or the growth of pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. in seafood. This Code highlights the key control measures that influence the frequency and extent of contamination with pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. and thus the risk of foodborne diseases caused by these pathogens. In many instances, these control measures are articulated in a general manner in the *Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CAC/RCP 1-1969) as part of the general strategy for the control of foodborne pathogens in all foods. In providing this Code, it is assumed that these *General Principles of Food Hygiene* are being implemented. The proposed draft Code is available from: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfh40/fh4003ae.pdf>

The OIE will present a document (CX/FH 08/40/3-Add.1) to the Committee describing its activities relevant to the work of the CCFH.

G. Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products

The 8th Session of the Committee (4-8 February 2008) completed, among others, its work on the Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products, adopted by the 31st Session of the Commission.

The 9th Session of the Committee (New Zealand, February 2010) will continue its discussion on drinks based on fermented milk and on processed cheese. It is expected that, after this session, the Committee will be adjourned *sine die*.

H. Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

The 31st Session of the Commission decided to return the new work proposal on the elaboration of Risk Management Recommendations for Veterinary Drugs without ADI and/or MRLs due to Specific Health Concern, proposed by the 17th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, back to the Committee for further consideration (ALINORM 08/31/REP para. 93). The Commission took this decision in noting a proposal from the Delegation of United States of America to revise the project document to broaden the scope of new work on risk management decisions to also include substances for which no ADI/MRL were set because the information needed to evaluate human health concerns was lacking.

In addition the Commission, after an extensive discussion, agreed to hold the MRLs for ractopamine at Step 8 for further discussion at its 32nd Session. It requested Members to submit relevant information on the availability of scientific data to the 18th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (May 2009) thus allowing for a decision by the Committee regarding the inclusion of ractopamine in the priority list of substances for re-evaluation by JECFA. The Commission further agreed that at its 32nd Session, it would decide on the adoption of the MRLs for ractopamine based on the report of the 18th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (ALINORM 08/31/REP para. 58).

The 18th Session of the Committee will be held in Brazil on 11-15 May 2009. The Committee will consider: the recommendations of the 70th Meeting of JECFA (October 2008); report of OIE activities including VICH; Draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals; and the reports of the electronic working groups on: (i) Methods of Analysis for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods; (ii) Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation; and (iii) Risk Management Topics and Options. The Committee will also consider the proposal to revise the project document to broaden the scope of new work on risk management decisions to also include substances for which no ADI/MRL were set because the information needed to evaluate human health concerns was lacking.

I. Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding

The 31st Session of the Commission discussed new work on animal feeding and agreed to postpone decision of possible new work on animal feeding until its 32nd Session. In order to facilitate discussion and decision at its 32nd Session, the Commission agreed to establish an electronic working group, hosted by Denmark and co-chaired by Mexico, to prepare: (i) proposal for the scope and terms of reference of future work on animal feeding. In doing so the working group should take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety; and (ii) a proposal as to suitable mechanisms for Codex to carry out this work, including, but not limited to, the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force (ALINORM 08/31/REP paras 177-178).

Annex D (contd)

J. Other Future Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission, 32nd Session, Rome (Italy) 29 June – 4 July 2009

RECENT WHO INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES ON FOOD SAFETY

Department of Food safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases (FOS)

Foodborne disease burden estimations

Foodborne diseases threaten international public health security and economic development. As trade, travel and migration increase, so does the spread of dangerous pathogens and contaminants in food across borders. Diarrhoeal diseases alone - a considerable proportion of which is foodborne - kill 1.9 million children globally every year, but the true full burden of foodborne diseases is clearly larger and results from a variety of diseases arising from both microbiological and chemical contamination. The heaviest share of the human as well as animal burden occurs in poor countries and jeopardizes international development efforts, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (particularly those relating to poverty and child mortality).

The full extent of the burden and cost of unsafe food, however, is currently unknown. Although several initiatives are under way in the area of enteric diseases, no consistent global information has ever been assembled to describe the full spectrum of foodborne diseases.

WHO therefore launched the Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases from all major causes (of microbiological, parasitic and chemical origin) which operates through the *Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)*. The FERG - which is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary group - took up its work in November 2007. In addition to eminent international academics, the FERG includes UN sister organizations (FAO, OIE, UNEP, IARC, among others) and operates through Task Forces working in the area of enteric, parasitic and chemical foodborne diseases. One Task Force is dedicated to assisting countries to conduct national burden of disease studies to complete the burden picture.

While FERG is focusing on the human burden of foodborne diseases, it will be using and describing the animal burden data particularly in parasitic diseases of livestock origin. The FERG will provide the very first global burden of foodborne diseases assessment using traditional epidemiology as well as summary measures of population health (DALYs) by 2011. This report will form the much-needed basis for the evaluation of prevention, control and intervention efforts in foodborne diseases at country level.

Antimicrobial resistance

Joint WHO, FAO and OIE activities on non-human use of antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance continue. The second session of the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance took place 20-24 October 2008 in Seoul, Korea. Good progress was achieved, with the main outstanding issue still remaining the a definition of relevant management options

FOS will establish a WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). This multidisciplinary group of experts (medical doctors, veterinarians, food safety specialists) will provide guidance to WHO on a framework that promotes surveillance integrating antimicrobial resistance data from enteric/zoonotic bacteria isolated from animal, food and human sources. In addition to selected experts representatives from FAO and OIE are invited to take part in AGISAR's activities.

Annex E (contd)

The Global Alliance for Patient Safety has established a coalition of WHO internal and external partners to address antimicrobial resistance, as the topic of its third Global Patient Safety Challenge. An international working group consisting of experts in various areas (surveillance, drug regulation, animal husbandry, research and development of new drugs, vaccines, infection control) will develop guidance for addressing the driving forces of antimicrobial resistance. The launch of the third Global Patient Safety challenge is scheduled in 2010.

Training and education in food safety - Global Salm-Surv

Food safety is the assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten. The provision of this assurance covers an incredibly complex area of work and responsibilities. It involves multiple sectors of government, including Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Trade, and requires the involvement of multiple professional disciplines and a broad array of stakeholders.

An effective food safety system, national and international, requires the sharing of information and expertise in order to face the global nature of modern food safety issues. An increasingly important role for food safety systems is the delivery of information, education and advice to stakeholders across the farm-to-consumption continuum.

WHO Global Salm-Surv is a global capacity-building network of institutions and individuals working in veterinary, food and public health disciplines committed to enhancing capacity of countries to detect, respond and prevent foodborne and other enteric infectious diseases. WHO Global Salm-Surv promotes integrated, laboratory-based surveillance and fosters inter-sectoral collaboration among human health, veterinary, and food-related disciplines, through international training courses, workshops, projects and external quality assurance.

To date, WHO Global Salm-Surv has conducted 55 international training courses in Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian for more than 1000 microbiologists and epidemiologists from over 120 countries around the world.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

The Working Group discussed issues that had been identified at its previous meeting and that still needed to be addressed at some stage. The following issues for 2008/2009 were agreed:

1. Horizontal issues

- a) Animal identification and traceability (including animals and animal products derived from biotechnological interventions):
 - Animal Identification and Traceability Conference 2009 – issues arising
- b) Antimicrobial resistance – Working Group to monitor Codex (Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance), FAO, WHO and OIE developments
- c) Good farming practices – await the reaction to the publication of the *Guide to Farming Practices*, developments in CAC (CCRVDF and possible new work on animal feed), and FAO (guidelines in specific farming production systems in developing countries with a focus on biosecurity matters).
- d) Draft *Terrestrial Code* Chapter X.X. The control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed - addressing the food safety issues and complementing the existing Codex international standards – underway through the Terrestrial Code Commission.

Follow developments within this area including FAO work.

- e) Petfood - be kept informed of developments within this area and review text for any relevant food safety issues.
 - f) Food safety implications of aquatic animal feed – review text produced by an OIE *ad hoc* Group, taking into account relevant FAO work (Fisheries Department).
 - g) Biotechnology – animals and animal products derived from biotechnological interventions – review text on potential food safety implications of biotechnology vaccines when this work is undertaken.
 - h) Revision of OIE Handbook on Import Risk Analysis – review draft text.
- ### 2. Disease-specific OIE texts
- a) Chapters of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on brucellosis. A further *ad hoc* Group meeting is to be held in 2009.
 - b) Foodborne zoonoses
 - salmonellosis in poultry – ongoing development of *Terrestrial Code* chapters covering eggs and broilers.
 - campylobacteriosis in broilers – taking into account progress in Codex

Annex F (contd)

- OIE develop a discussion paper on identifying the priority pathogens for standard setting activities in the animal production food safety area (including E.coli O157:H7, parasites such as *Taenia solium*, *Trichinella spiralis*, and parasites in fish).

3. Continue to strengthen relationship between OIE and Codex by:

- a) Encourage enhanced OIE input into Codex texts and vice versa.
 - b) Encourage continued close collaboration between the Codex secretariat and the OIE Headquarters.
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