

RESOLUTION No. XV

**Food Safety Mandate of the OIE**

CONSIDERING THAT

At the 68<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2000 the International Committee examined and approved the OIE Third Strategic Plan,

At the 69<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2001 the International Committee adopted the Director-General's Work Programme to implement the recommendations of the Third Strategic Plan for the period 2001–2005. The Work Programme indicated that new areas identified in the Third Strategic Plan would be given special attention,

The large majority of OIE Member countries favour co-ordination and integration of the food safety activities of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and their cooperation in capacity building activities. Many Member countries are strengthening both institutional structures and regulatory frameworks, and incorporating 'shared responsibility' for food safety that leads to a much greater co-ordination within national authorities,

An OIE Ad hoc Group on Food Safety met from 18 to 19 April 2002 and drafted recommendations for the consideration of the International Committee concerning the scope of OIE involvement, priorities for the OIE and a modus operandi, and on ways the OIE could work more effectively with the CAC,

The Ad hoc Group believed that a clear definition of the OIE's role in food safety, and the coordination and integration of the food safety activities of the OIE and the CAC would enhance the scope and scientific quality of international standards, guidelines and related texts, facilitate risk-based approaches, and genuinely address the 'production-to-consumption' exposure pathway for food-borne hazards,

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE's goal regarding animal production food safety be to reduce food-borne risks to human health due to hazards (a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect) arising from animals, in collaboration with appropriate international agencies.
2. The OIE establish and/or strengthen both formal and informal relationships with relevant international agencies, particularly FAO and WHO and their subsidiary bodies (including CAC) and relevant expert groups, regarding animal production food safety.
3. The OIE's strategy to achieve this goal include:
  - developing appropriate infrastructure (including a permanent Working Group on Food Safety) and providing resources,
  - establishing criteria for work priorities,

- ensuring pre-slaughter animal production food safety considerations are appropriately addressed in OIE activities,
  - reviewing, developing and/or contributing to international food safety standards and guidelines incorporating good animal production practice (including veterinary aspects) as it relates to food safety and taking into account a risk-based 'production-to-consumption' approach,
  - coordinating activities on horizontal issues (such as equivalence and risk analysis) with relevant international agencies and ensuring consistency in approaches and outcomes,
  - providing technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries, in collaboration with relevant international agencies,
  - harmonising, as appropriate, animal and relevant public health diagnostic and analytical methods,
  - ensuring transparency and appropriate consultation,
  - exploring and establishing to the extent possible the shared use of animal and public health information systems for food safety hazards, particularly by making use of data from ante- and post-mortem inspection at abattoirs.
4. The Director-General of the OIE establish a permanent Working Group on Food Safety to coordinate and advise on OIE pre-slaughter animal production food safety activities, with multidisciplinary membership and balanced regional representation, and with special consideration given to the needs of developing countries.
5. The terms of reference for the Working Group include:
- consideration of all food-borne hazards arising from animals before slaughter,
  - a primary focus on food safety measures applicable at the farm level,
  - consideration of food safety measures applicable elsewhere, for example during animal transport and harvesting of wild animals for food,
  - work criteria and priorities that take into account global food safety priorities and current work programmes of relevant international organisations, especially the CAC,
  - the taking into account of the food safety standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, especially the CAC,
  - support for the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions on pre-slaughter animal production food safety,
  - advising the Director-General of the OIE on the implementation of the OIE strategy regarding:
    - establishing Ad hoc Groups to address specific tasks,
    - linking at the working level with the CAC, FAO and WHO,
    - ensuring pre-slaughter animal production food safety is integrated in Specialist Commissions' and Ad hoc Groups' activities,

- providing technical input into the review of OIE disease notification criteria,
  - enhancing communications, information sharing and consultation.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2002)