

OIE-WAHIS 2nd STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The OIE has once again brought together its major partners and donors to ensure that innovative and strategic thinking, direction and priorities continue to guide the constant evolution of OIE-WAHIS

Since 2016, in the framework of the 6th Strategic Plan (2016-2020) the OIE has been developing an ambitious project in order to upgrade its World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). WAHIS is a fundamental part of the OIE's mandate and a vital tool for 182 OIE Members and a few non OIE-Members, which serves as the worldwide early warning system to inform the international community about animal disease threats, including emerging diseases that can spread rapidly if not reported and controlled.

The new WAHIS, which will be called **OIE-WAHIS** in the future, will be redesigned and upgraded in a technologically advanced and user-friendly form, providing even stronger capacities to improve animal health, strengthen food security, protect human health, prevent trade disruptions and enhance economic growth.

As a part of OIE-WAHIS governance, in December 2017, the Strategic Advisory Committee met for the first-time in order to provide medium and long-term strategic advice to ensure innovative and strategic thinking, directions and priorities will continue to guide the constant evolution of OIE-WAHIS. All the inputs and recommendations provided during the first Strategic Committee meeting by its Members were taken into consideration in the strategic vision of the OIE. Since the first meeting, several donors who share the strategic orientations of this project confirmed their commitment to support it.

On 12 December 2018, the second meeting of OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee was held in the OIE Headquarters. It focused on the progress of the project and aimed particularly at collecting Committee members inputs and contributions on the next steps, including the change management strategy, how to foster the use of the new tool and its new functionalities by an ever-increasing number of users, what orientations to take in terms of interconnectivity and interfacing.

This Committee gathers national Delegates and/or their representatives from the five regions of the OIE, as well as representatives of the WHO and FAO (within the framework of the Tripartite cooperation developed with the OIE), representatives of scientific and academic partners, as well as representatives of foundations and other partners. It is chaired by the Director General of the OIE (see the list of members in the appendix).

During the second meeting of the OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee, Committee members were provided with detailed information on the advancement and accomplishments of the project, technological solutions chosen for the platform foundation and on the two-phases roll-out strategy. In addition, the OIE presented ways to strengthen the success of the project via strong communication and advocacy strategy.

Exchanges among Committee members allowed to provide recommendations on the OIE-WAHIS project and to identify future critical steps to be considered, such as training of primary users entering information in OIE-WAHIS (ex. Delegates, national Focal Points), other data sources to be integrated in OIE-WAHIS and transparency issues in data sharing.

Members of the OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee confirmed the high expectations around this project and especially its aim to encourage transparency and better-quality data, highlighting OIE-WAHIS as a great source for risk assessment and for decision making.

The third meeting will be held in December 2019.

List of OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee Members

ORGANISATION / COUNTRY	POSITION / TITLE
Advisory Committee Chair	Director General, OIE
Mexico	Member of the OIE Council, Delegate of Mexico
United Arab Emirates	Member of the OIE Council, Delegate for the United Arab Emirates
Canada	Delegate of Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Japan	Delegate of Japan
Russia	Delegate of Russia
Swaziland	Delegate of Swaziland
Switzerland	Delegate of Switzerland, Multilateral Relations Sector
World Health Organization (WHO)	Global Capacities Alert & Response
World Trade Organization (WTO)	Agriculture and Commodities Division
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Director, Animal Production and Health Division
European Union (EU), Directorate General Health & Food safety (DG SANTE)	Directorate General, Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC)	Director, One Health Office
Defense Threat Reduction Agency (US DTRA)	Cooperative Biological Engagement Program
Agency for International Development (USAID)	Director, Global Health Security and Development
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Livestock team - Agricultural Development Global Growth and Opportunity
Academia Representative	Professor J. Rushton – Institute of Infection and Global Health University of Liverpool (UK)