REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, 27 May 2019

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 27 May 2019 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 47 participants, including Delegates and observers from 14 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: AOAD89, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Government of United Kingdom), FAO and ICFAW.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Elias Ibrahim, President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon, accompanied by Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Bahrain, Dr Mahmoud Alhanatleh, Secretary General of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Jordan, Dr Majid Al Qassimi, member of the OIE Council and Delegate of the United Arab Emirates, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019

Dr Al Qassimi confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Abu Dhabi from 10 to 14 November 2019.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements that the United Arab Emirates had made to start organising the conference. Dr Al Qassimi provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that they would be provided with all the details in a timely manner.

3. Selection of a Technical Item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

– Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for efficient sustainable animal health systems and Veterinary Services.

89 AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2021

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

– Practical application of biosecurity risk assessment at farm settings.

5. Proposition to establish an OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, presented the OIE Regional Commission with a proposal to designate a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi.

Dr Dop provided the Commission with brief details on the countries to be covered by this Representation and the activities to be developed, while Dr Al Qassimi confirmed the United Arab Emirates commitment in supporting the OIE by allocating in-kind and financial resources for the new office.

Dr Dop also explained the rationale for establishing this new OIE Sub-Regional Representation.

According to the Article 33 of General Rules, the Commission was consulted and unanimously approved the proposal presented by Dr Dop. The Delegates warmly thanked Dr Al Qassimi and the Emirati Authorities for their offer which will provide a significant support to the OIE for the implementation of its activities for the benefit of the countries in the region.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for adoption.

6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as Vice-President

Dr Elias Ibrahim reminded participants that the Delegate of Saudi Arabia had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the recently appointed Delegate of Saudi Arabia, Dr Sanad Alharbi, was unanimously proposed, for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which will be held in May 2021.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan

In the context of the development of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, the Delegates of the Region were presented with the preliminary results of the on-line open consultation undertaken by the OIE earlier this year. The results were presented by Dr David Sherman, Chargé de Mission at the OIE Regional Activities Department, through an interactive presentation during which Delegates were invited to actively comment on the preliminary results. The objective of this session was to get a greater understanding of the regional priorities to be taken into account in the development of the next Strategic Plan. Dr Al Qassimi facilitated the discussions. The draft Seventh Strategic plan will be discussed at the 2019 September Council meeting and then circulated to Members for comments.

The meeting officially ended at 5:40 p.m.
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Agenda

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7. Developing the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan